

Cargill | Agribusiness Reduces Emissions with Farmer-Friendly Wind

FAST FACTS:

Renewable Energy Type

Wind

Contract Volume

50 MW of a 200 MW wind farm - equivalent to ~110,000 RECs

Goals

Reduce absolute GHG emissions from operations by 10% by 2025 against a 2017 baseline

Unique Feature

Cargill's first renewable energy Virtual Power Purchase Agreement



ABOUT CARGILL

For more than 150 years, Cargill has worked relentlessly to achieve its purpose of nourishing the world in a safe, responsible and sustainable way. Every day, Cargill connects farmers with markets, customers with ingredients, and people and animals with the food they need to thrive.

Industry

Food, Agriculture

Size

160,000 employees

Purpose

Cargill will be the leader in nourishing the world in a safe, responsible and sustainable way.

COMMITTED TO NOURISHING THE WORLD

As a company with over 150 years in business, Cargill is committed to nourishing the world in a safe, responsible way. Cargill's sustainability and corporate responsibility efforts focus primarily on bringing people together to make a positive impact on the planet, through the products and services Cargill offers.

As part of its dedication to taking on climate change, Cargill has committed to reduce absolute greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) emissions in the company's operations by 10 percent by 2025 against a 2017 baseline. Cargill believes that one way to achieve this goal is to increase its use of renewable energy sources.

Renewable energy is used at over 100 Cargill locations worldwide and represents 15.5 percent of Cargill's total energy consumption (as of January 2020). Wind energy is one of nearly 20 renewable energy sources Cargill uses around the world.

FIRST TIME VPPA: WIND ENERGY IN SOUTH DAKOTA

In 2018, Cargill wanted to increase its commitment to renewable energy and began the process of evaluating projects for potential Virtual Power Purchase Agreements (VPPA). Cargill recognized that an off-site wind energy project would exponentially increase access to higher volumes of energy and Renewable Energy Credits (REC). A large-scale wind project would allow Cargill to leverage the company's scale to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy at a faster rate, as compared to onsite generation.

After much evaluation and analysis, Cargill selected Geronimo Energy's Crocker Wind Farm. Crocker is located in Clark County, South Dakota and is a 200 megawatt (MW) wind energy project. Cargill contracted for 50 MW of the total project's installed capacity through a VPPA. Crocker was an attractive project for Cargill due to its advanced stage of

development, its position in the interconnection queue, and its proximity to Cargill plant locations. Additionally, Cargill saw synergies in working with Geronimo Energy, whose core value as “farmer-friendly” aligned with Cargill’s focus on agriculture and rural American farms.

“Cargill is a strong and outspoken advocate for climate action,” said Jill Kolling, Cargill Global Sustainability Leader, in a press release announcing Cargill’s commitment to Crocker. “We cannot ignore the impact of a changing climate on our global food system. We believe business has a critical role to play. That’s why we are investing in renewable energy to reduce emissions from our company’s operations, while contributing to the renewable economy. Long-term purchase agreements like this one with Geronimo Energy allow Cargill to leverage our scale to accelerate the production of renewable energy.”

The Crocker Wind Farm began operations in November 2019. As an additive project, Crocker produces Green-e Certifiable Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for Cargill.

THE IMPACTS

Cargill’s VPPA with Crocker Wind Farm afforded the project the ability to move forward with construction and operation and to positively impact the local economy and community members. The total 200 MW project is anticipated to impact the local and global communities significantly over the first 20 years of operation through an estimated*:

- \$54 million in direct economic impact during development and construction
- \$24 million in local landowner payments
- \$18 million in tax revenue (state, schools, county, townships)
- \$800,000 in charitable giving through the project’s Community Fund
- creation of 140 construction and 10 permanent jobs
- 600,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions offset annually
- 400,000 gallons of water saved annually

*Figures based on installed project capacity of 200 MW

GERONIMO ENERGY

Geronimo Energy, a National Grid company, is a full-service renewable energy company headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Geronimo has developed over 2,400 megawatts of wind and solar projects that are either operational or currently under construction throughout the United States. Geronimo has a multi-gigawatt development pipeline of wind and solar projects throughout the United States. Geronimo provides custom solutions for utilities and corporations looking to harness renewable energy for business growth. With deep roots in agriculture, Geronimo prides itself on developing renewable energy projects that are farmer-friendly, community-driven, and beneficial for rural communities.

