

# COLLEGE INNOVATES

## with Wind on Oil Field

**T**he installation of a 6-kW wind turbine on a historic oil field in Wyoming is the latest initiative for Casper College and the Rocky Mountain Oil Testing Center as they foster the next generation of energy innovation. The wind turbine, manufactured by Proven Energy, will serve as a training tool to educate college students on their quest to become renewable energy technicians.

“This project, designed to support students as they learn about wind energy technology, is ambitious and exciting,” said Clarke Turner, RMOTC director. “It has resulted in a remarkable event: a wind turbine, the very image of new energy generation, is operating at Teapot Dome, one of the most historic oil fields in the world. This project represents new thinking in a time of great challenge in the energy arena.”

The turbine is much smaller than the ones most people associate with wind energy. The blades are just nine feet long. It is a manageable size that can easily be lowered on its

49-ft tilt-down tower allowing for hands-on maintenance and training. The RMOTC will benefit from the energy produced by the wind turbine against their total electric consumption. A wind turbine of this size can offset the electric load for the home of a typical family of four.

Next year, Casper College and the RMOTC expect to commission a second small wind turbine designed to demonstrate the potential for wind energy in remote industrial and agricultural applications. Casper College, which has offered renewable energy classes for several years, will begin offering a renewable energy degree in Fall 2009. Funding for these small wind projects come from a grant issued by the U.S. Department of Energy in January 2008.

Proven Energy wind turbines also operate on oil rigs in the North Sea where 16 2.5-kW turbines provide power for eight off-shore platforms. For more information, visit [www.provenenergy.co.uk](http://www.provenenergy.co.uk).



**Top:** Jim Nations, PR manager for Rocky Mountain Oil Testing Center, describes basic wind-power concepts to seventh-graders from Midwest School prior to the commissioning of a 6-kW wind turbine. (Courtesy Casper College)  
**Bottom:** A Proven Energy 6-kW wind turbine is raised during a ceremony hosted by Casper College and the Rocky Mountain Oil Testing Center in a Wyoming oil field. (Courtesy Casper College)