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Wind energy gusting ahead in Muenster

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MUENSTER, Tex. -- Wind power is becoming increasingly popular in Texas thanks to [A](#) | [A](#) | [A](#) consistent winds that blow across the Lone Star State. While you may typically associate wind farms with west Texas, that's about to change. Stephanie Brletic has more.

You may have noticed 18-wheelers carrying big blades down the highway recently. Those blades are on their way to the wolf ridge wind farm in Muenster where workers have been busy since the beginning of the year.

They say seeing is believing, but you do not have to see wind to know how powerful it is. It is power that will soon be harnessed by wind towers in Muenster.

It's a project that was once met with some resistance. Local residents had expressed concern about the effect of the windmills on the environment.

"Prior to the project there were lawsuits filed and a lot of opposition to it, but I think all those were settled and everything. And now that the project is underway, I do not hear any opposition," Cooke Co. Judge Bill Freeman says.

People are moving on, and the project is moving forward. The bases are ready and the 13,000-pound, 128-foot long blades have arrived. By the end of the summer, all 75 wind turbines should be operational, with each providing enough energy to power 250 homes without harming the environment like other resources.

"One of the benefits here is that you don't consume water, you don't create any emissions, so you have no air pollution from them. At the end of the day, it's just an incredibly clean resource for producing power that we desperately need here in Texas."

Experts from wind farm owner Florida Power and Light Energy say while the turbines will be visible. They are not audible, being virtually undetectable unless you are standing right beneath them. They also say north Texas is a great place to set up shop.

"We're here because we have tremendous wind resource, the land, the availability to get on transmission lines. All those components all aligned in this place and it makes it a very unique place

in the country to develop wind energy," says Ned Ross of Florida Power and Light Energy

FPL energy officials say the first wind tower should be up by the end of April. The project should be completed and start generating power by the end of summer, and while it may be tempting to try to sneak a peek, officials say no one is allowed on the property without a company escort.

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