

Laredo Students Build Wind Turbines for Colonias

High school students from Laredo's two engineering magnet schools are working with researchers in the Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) and wind experts from West Texas A& M University. The State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) is funding the hands-on wind energy engineering program, which has the potential to provide electricity to colonias residents along the U.S.-Mexico border. SECO has a long history of clean energy education but this is the first that takes a classroom design through the construction to a fully operational wind energy system.

TEES Texas Center for Applied Technology in San Antonio is working with students and staff in the United High School Engineering and Technology Magnet School and the Laredo ISD Magnet for Engineering and Technology Applications to build and install four wind turbines in the next two years - one a year from each school.

- Students will build the wind turbines from existing plans.
- Students will participate in the installation of two demonstration turbines.
- Students and project staff will generate a set of instructions that will be translated into Spanish for colonia residents in the U.S.-Mexico border region.

The end-product of the collaboration is not the turbines themselves but rather the set of instructions that the students create on how to build and install the turbines and how that information is then shared with the residents in the colonias.