



The Most Difficult Selfie You'll Ever Take?

A wind turbine blade the length of four buses parked nose to tail will be carefully backed into the bus parks in front of Te Papa early in the morning of Monday 14 April. Over the next two days, passers-by will be able to get a close look at this enormous piece of technology before it continues the journey to help power Wellington homes.

Wellingtonians are being challenged to take a selfie with the blade and post it to Twitter using the hashtag #selfiewithwindblade. The best tweet will win a trip up a wind turbine*.

“If there were no wind farms in New Zealand, and the electricity they currently generate came instead from fossil fuels, the carbon pollution would cover Wellington Harbour in a six metre deep layer every year,” said Eric Pyle, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Wind Energy Association.

“In ten years that’s enough to nearly bury the hurry-cranes and leave only the top floor of the Beehive poking out.”

Lying flat, the Siemens wind turbine blade is 40 metres long, 3 metres wide and 2.5 metres across. Sitting on a 1.7 metre high trailer, it will loom over the selfie-takers.

“It may be the trickiest selfie people have ever attempted,” said Mr Pyle. “However, we think it’s a great way to get people thinking about renewable energy and climate change. We’re hoping to use it as a reminder of New Zealand’s bi-partisan commitment to reaching 90 per cent of our electricity from renewable sources by 2025. We have three politicians coming to the conference and we’re hoping they all have a go.”

The blade ‘parked’ in front of Te Papa is destined for Meridian Energy’s Mill Creek Wind Farm in Ohariu Valley, but is on loan for the New Zealand Wind Energy Conference.

To put its size and capacity in perspective, the blade is three times the length of the Brooklyn Wind Turbine’s blades and will be erected on a tower more than double the height of the Brooklyn Turbine. Once commissioned the turbine this blade will help power will provide enough electricity for 1,130 family homes over the course of a year. The Brooklyn Turbine, which is coming up to its 21st birthday, powers 80 households.

“West Wind Wind Farm out by Makara already produces enough electricity to power all of the homes in Wellington City. Once Mill Creek Wind Farm is completed, wind will be able to provide all the electricity for Porirua households as well,” said Mr Pyle.

NZ Wind Energy Conference is organised by New Zealand Wind Energy Association (NZWEA) and sponsored by Siemens

NZWEA is a membership-based industry association that works towards the development of wind as a reliable, sustainable, clean and commercially viable energy source. We aim to fairly represent wind energy to the public, government and the energy sector. Our focus is on utility-scale wind generation (generally over 100 kilowatts). Our members include over 65 companies involved in NZ’s wind energy sector.

www.windenergy.org.nz | info@windenergy.org.nz | +64 4 499 5046 | Level 7, 114 The Terrace, Wellington

Media Release

date



“Electricity production is the second highest per capita source of CO₂ in this country,” said Mr Pyle. “But the CO₂ emissions that our wind farms save equate to taking 265,000 vehicles off the road. That’s 6 per cent of all New Zealand’s cars.”

-ends-

Lyall Bay School, and their wind powered projects, will visit the turbine blade from 9.45am on Monday 14 April.

*** Terms and conditions apply:** Turbine climbs are weather dependant. Climber must be over 18 years, weigh less than 100kg and be in reasonably fit, physical health. Winners who are under 18, over 100kg or who are unfit will receive a VIP family or class tour of West Wind.

NZ Wind Energy Conference

Wind: A Safe Future

www.windenergy.org.nz/conference-2014

14-16 April 2014

Te Papa, Wellington

Contact

For more information, please contact Ceridwyn Roberts, Communications Manager at the New Zealand Wind Energy Association on 021 243 6995 or ceridwyn@nzwea.org.nz.

NZ Wind Energy Conference is organised by New Zealand Wind Energy Association (NZWEA) and sponsored by Siemens

NZWEA is a membership-based industry association that works towards the development of wind as a reliable, sustainable, clean and commercially viable energy source. We aim to fairly represent wind energy to the public, government and the energy sector. Our focus is on utility-scale wind generation (generally over 100 kilowatts). Our members include over 65 companies involved in NZ's wind energy sector.

www.windenergy.org.nz | info@windenergy.org.nz | +64 4 499 5046 | Level 7, 114 The Terrace, Wellington