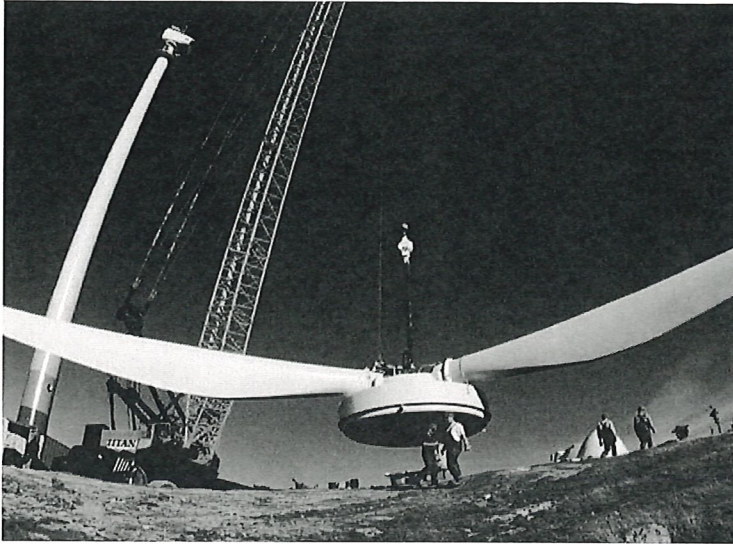


New Zealand's first wind operational

6 June 1996

MCH, 2016y
Nation Dates
FINAL



Commissioned by Genesis Energy, New Zealand's first commercial wind farm opened in the windy hills of Wairarapa. Named Hau Nui Farm, meaning Big Wind, this location was wisely chosen due to the ideal wind currents that are funnelled and accelerated from nearby Cook Strait and the Rimutaka Ranges.

Stage one of the project was constructed at the northern end of Range Rd and saw the installation of seven E-40 wind turbines, a third generation wind-energy technology. Each turbine has three 20-metre blades, making the overall height of each turbine an impressive 46 metres. This allows each turbine to generate electricity in wind speeds anywhere between 10 and 120 km per hour. When the wind exceeds 120 km/hr, the turbines automatically shut down to avoid damage.

Eight more turbines were installed in stage two of the project, which was completed in December 2004. With 15 turbines, the farm produces enough energy to power 4200 homes in the Martinborough region.

External links

[Wind and solar power \(Te Ara\)](#)

[Hau Nui Wind Farm \(Genesis Energy\)](#)

HOW TO CITE THIS PAGE

'New Zealand's first wind farm becomes operational', URL: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/page/new-zealand%E2%80%99s-first-wind-farm-becomes-operational>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 21-Dec-2016

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