Summary of the 2018 Kansas KidWind Challenge
Manhattan, Kansas (April 6, 2018)

Seventeen teams from eight schools competed in the 2018 KidWind Challenge. The winning Kansas middle school team was Oxford Middle School (Oxford Air Sharks), followed by Solomon Junior High (Windbreakers) in second place, and Paola Middle School Team 1 in third. Hope Street Academy of Topeka (The Hoodlums) took top honors in the high school category followed by Sterling High School (Team Wind Advisory II). The Furious and The Panthers, both from Hope Street Academy, tied for third place.

Prior to the competition, each team built their own wind turbine using their knowledge of wind generated energy. The turbines were put to the test in a 48" × 48" wind tunnel for 60 seconds at a wind speed of approximately three meters/second. Wind turbine performance was only 40% of the score. Teams also had to demonstrate wind energy knowledge (15%), and discuss their wind turbine design and documentation with a panel of judges (40%). A bonus for wind turbine efficiency (5%) rounded out the scoring criteria.

Participating schools included – Buhler High School (Buhler), Chase County Middle School (Cottonwood Falls), Hope Street Academy (Topeka), Oxford Middle School (Oxford), Paola Middle School (Paola), Riverbend International School (Atchison), Sterling High School (Sterling), and Solomon Middle School (Solomon).

Judges for the event were Lynn Retz, Kansas Corporation Commission Energy Director; Bruce Snead, K-State Engineering Extension Department Head; Michelle Milburn, Stanion Electric Clean Energy Program, and Jacob Meyer, president of the Kansas State University Wildcat Wind Power Team.

The 2018 KidWind Challenge was sponsored by the Kansas Corporation Commission, Kansas State University, U.S. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, EDF Renewable Energy, and NextEra Energy Resources.

A Few Photos from the 2018 Kansas KidWind Challenge
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