

2013 TEEA Winner Technical/Technology Category: Valero McKee Refinery, Sunray

Narrator

For 80 years, the Valero McKee Refinery has turned this region's crude oil into the fuels that power our economy.

Greg Corcoran, VP & General Manager, Valero McKee Refinery

Gasoline, jet fuel, diesel fuel....we even make some asphalt here at the refinery.

Narrator

Five years ago, they decided to capture another of the Panhandle's natural resources, the wind. Valero spread 33 turbines over 1900 acres of land surrounding the refinery.

Jim Gillingham, Senior VP Specialty Projects, Valero Energy Corporation

The wind farm is capable of generating around 50 megawatts and the refinery uses up to about 60 megawatts, so usually the wind farm is doing about 90% of the refinery's requirement.

Narrator

In addition to contributing to cleaner air, the wind farm also helps the region to conserve water.

Shelly Williamson, Manager Environmental Engineering, Valero McKee Refinery

A typical power plant uses one gallon of water for every two and a quarter kilowatts of electricity they produce for us. By utilizing our turbines here at the refinery, we've reduced the water consumption by about 70 million gallons per year.

Narrator

Valero estimates the investment in the wind farm will pay itself off in about a decade, but already, it's an important symbol of a company's commitment to innovative, clean technology.

Lisa Trowbridge, Director Environmental/Safety Affairs, Valero McKee Refinery

Valero is leading the way; they are setting the example for traditional refining. And I'm proud to work for a company that has excellent environmental stewardship.