

# Wind Energy - Epicenter of 2008 Farm Bill Energy Title

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“Farm and rural use of Section 9006 via the Farm Bill Energy Title IX began with the 2002 farm bill. Section 9006, or its 2008 successor sections, will provide the tools to further wind energy development at the rural and community level.”

## Quote From U. S. Secretary of Ag Ed Schafer at March 6, 2008 WIREC Conference

“As demand for energy rises, these renewable energy loans and grants help farms and rural businesses increase their investment in renewable energy initiatives.”

## For FY 2008, the following are the funds provided by Congress for the Section 9006 program:

For Grants: \$ 15,888,000

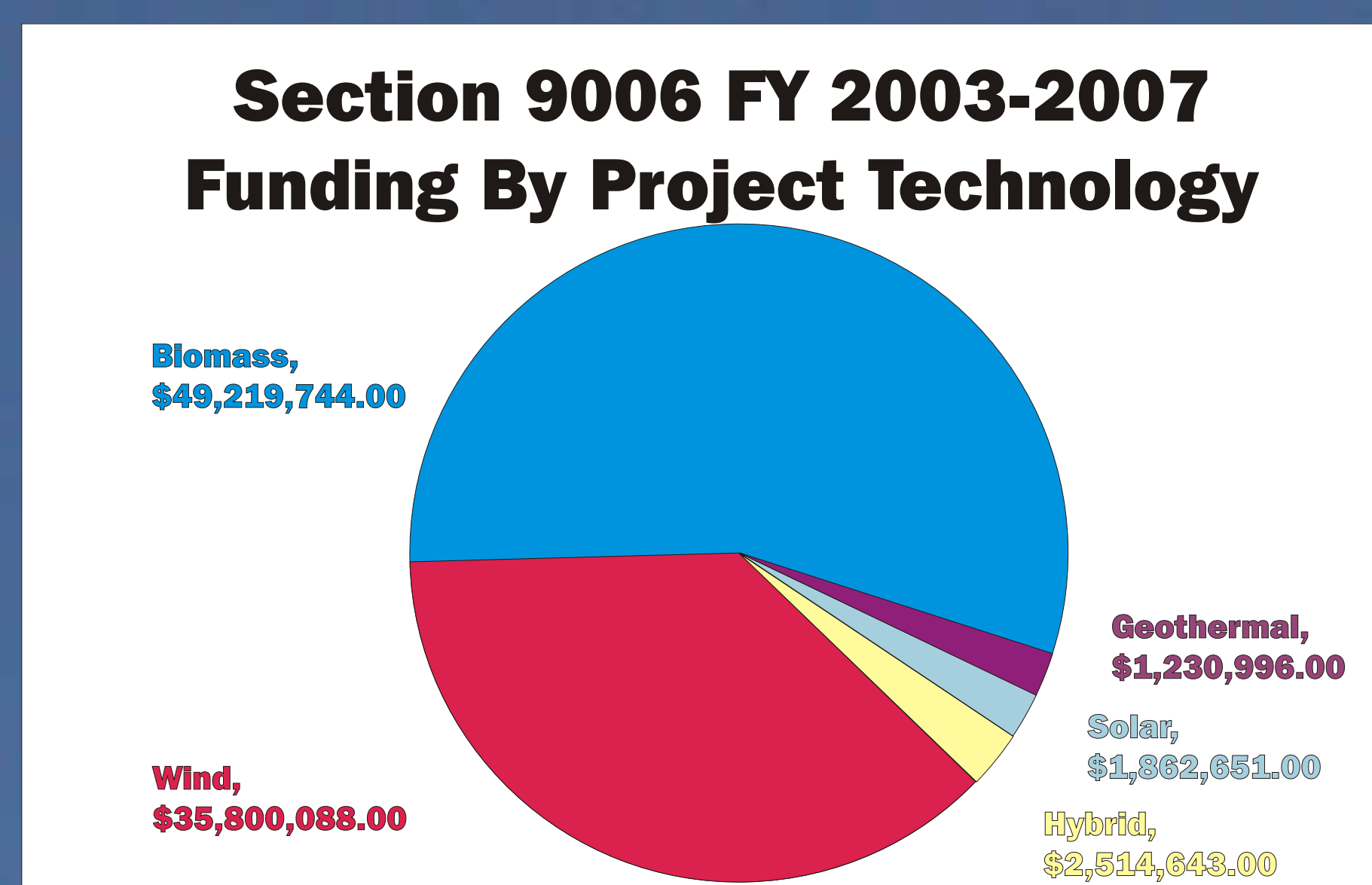
For Loans: \$204,953,560

## For Renewable Energy Systems:

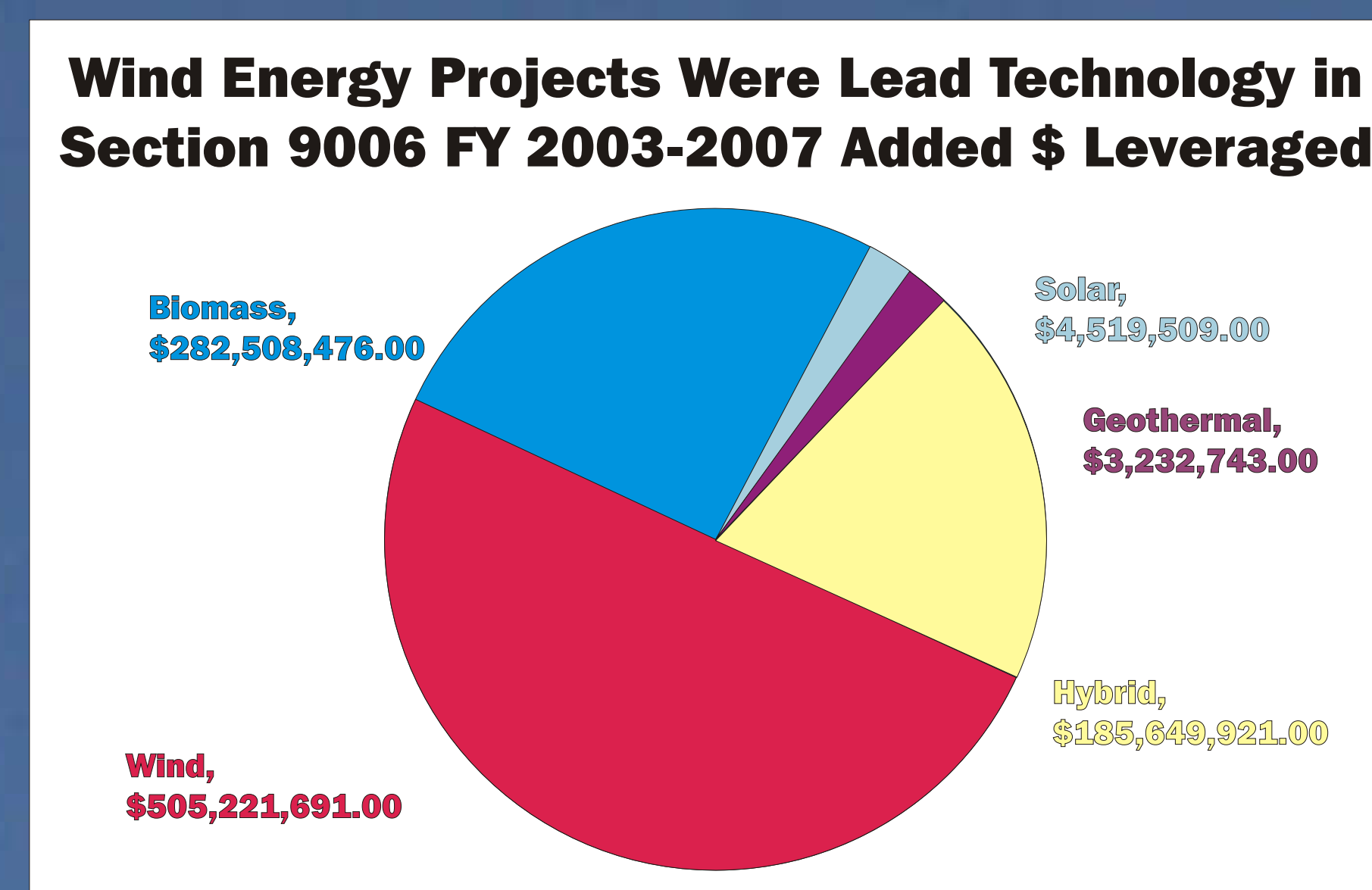
Minimum Grant: \$ 2,500

Maximum Grant: \$500,000

## Section 9006 Wind Projects Leveraged More Millions of Dollars Than Other Technologies



Source: USDA Rural Development March 2008



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## Outreach Is The Foundation For Wind Energy's Future In Rural America



L-R: Gale (ACGF Chair) & Laurie Lush & Dan McGuire at ACFA 2008 National Convention - with ACGF WINDPOWER 2007 Poster. McGuire's outreach message to the convention included Section 9006 information and was carried live on talk radio to thousands.

## Section 9006 Wind Projects Help Facilitate More Progressive State Policies

Realization that Iowa and Minnesota were effectively using supportive policy and Section 9006 grants to facilitate wind energy projects helped lead the Nebraska Legislature to unanimous passage of the progressive Rural Community Based Energy Development (CBED) Act in 2007.

## Wind Energy Outreach Message Is Key To Rural Acceptance

- Local ownership income via community-owned wind projects builds support for upgrading existing and building new electric transmission infrastructure
- New income streams via land lease payments is the most common project model
- Substantially increased property tax base from wind energy projects
- No water withdrawal for power plant cooling vs. thermal power plants
- Wind energy is clean and produces no emissions that lead to acid rain or snow, global climate change, smog, regional haze or mercury contamination
- AWEA notes one 1 MW wind turbine displaces 1,800 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually
- Wind energy helps make the U.S. less dependent on foreign energy sources
- Wind energy relieves pressure on large thermal generation load center plants
- Wind energy makes the U.S. more energy independent and more secure through diverse, dispersed and decentralized sources of energy generation



L-R: Larry Flowers-NREL; Dan McGuire-ACGF; John Hansen- NEFU, Co-Chair NE Wind Working Group- Feb. 2008 NE WWG Tour. Section 9006 was part of the outreach message to Nebraska.



L-R: Larry Pearce, NEO; Larry Flowers, NREL; Debra Yocum, USDA-NE Rural Development; John Hansen, NEFU & NE WWG; Dan McGuire, ACGF at NPPD Ainsworth Wind Farm Feb. 19, 2008, during the February 2008 Nebraska Wind Working Group Tour