

RENEWABLE POWER IN ILLINOIS

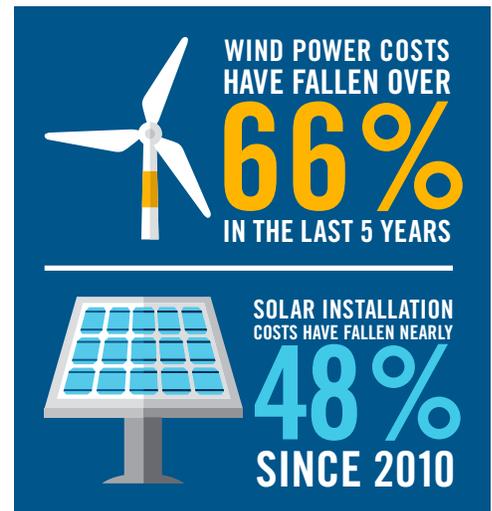


Renewable power is a growing part of the Illinois economy. There are now more than 309 wind and solar companies in the state providing a wide array of services, including manufacturing components, and developing and installing renewable energy projects.

Declining costs make renewable power a cost-effective option for Illinois

Innovations in the American wind and solar industries continue to drive down costs. As a result, a combination of wind energy, energy efficiency, and solar power played the three largest roles in creating the optimal compliance mix for the U.S. EPA's Clean Power Plan rules.

Although wind and solar are already cost competitive in certain regions, both industries expect costs to further decline in the years to come, as long-term extensions of the federal Production and Investment Tax Credits at the end of 2015 will allow for additional innovation and long-term planning.



Economic benefits of renewables in Illinois

Renewable power projects attract private investment, create local jobs, and typically provide property tax payments for the surrounding communities. The wind industry has attracted more than \$7.7 billion in new investment to the state since the first wind project was developed in 2000. In 2015, \$24 million was invested on Illinois solar installations. Both industries are also experiencing significant job growth. Wind turbine technician was the fastest growing job in the nation in 2015, and the U.S. solar industry has experienced 20 percent national job growth for each of the past three years. The solar industry now employs 4,272 in-state workers, and more wind developers and manufacturers have their global or North American headquarters in Chicago than any city in the nation.

12,868 
**RENEWABLE
JOBS**

\$7.9 BIL 
**IN TOTAL
INVESTMENT
IN CLEAN ENERGY**

\$38-43 MIL 
**ANNUAL
LANDOWNER
& TAX PAYMENTS**

Examples of recent low-cost renewable power purchases

- Located in Grundy, Livingston, and LaSalle counties, the second phase of the Top Crop Wind Farm signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) for 2.53 cents per kilowatt-hour (¢/kwh) in 2010, less than one-quarter the national average price of electricity.¹
- The Pioneer Trail Wind Farm in Ford and Iroquois counties signed 3.04 and 4.05¢/kwh PPAs in 2011.²
- Wind power is often cost competitive with fossil fuel sources in the state, and typically provides price certainty with long term, fixed-rate contracts.

Illinois's renewable sector has a bright future

- Microsoft's 20-year wind power purchase agreement with the Pilot Hill Wind Project in Kankakee and Iroquois counties will power 100% of their data center's energy needs.³ Microsoft's purchase is an example of a growing trend of large corporations, military, and other entities directly procuring renewable power, with a focus on controlling long-term energy costs.
- Expanding wind power in the state could result in more than \$155 million in annual property tax revenue, and over \$63 million in annual land lease payments to rural landowners by 2030.⁴

HOW DOES ILLINOIS COMPARE TO NEIGHBORING STATES?

INVESTMENT IN RENEWABLE PROJECTS⁵



RENEWABLE JOBS⁶



TOTAL POWER FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY⁷



1. Sources, page 1: (1) American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), Illinois Wind Energy (Q1 2016); (2) Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA), Solar Spotlight: Illinois (March 2016); (3) US Department of Energy, Wind Technologies Market Report (August 2015); (4) US Energy Information Administration, Analysis of the Impacts of the Clean Power Plan, (May 2015); (5) Clean Energy Trust, Clean Jobs Midwest, Illinois (2016).
2. Sources, page 2: (1, 2) EIA, Electricity Explained; AWEA; (3) EDF Renewables; (4) US Department of Energy, Wind Vision (2015); (5) AWEA, SEIA, note that state-level investment data for hydropower was not available; (6) AWEA, TSF, Clean Energy Trust; (7) EIA, (2015).

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**A Renewable
America**

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