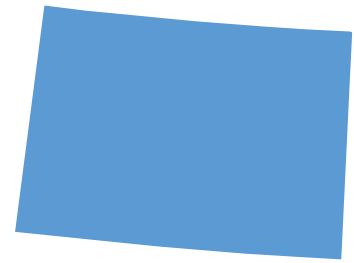


# RENEWABLE POWER IN COLORADO

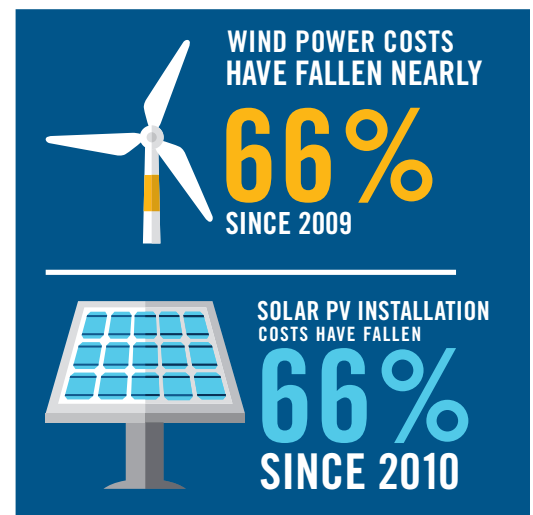


Renewable power is a growing part of the Colorado economy. There are now more than **458 wind and solar companies** in the state providing a wide array of services, including manufacturing components,

## Declining costs make renewable power a cost-effective option for Colorado

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



## Economic benefits of renewables in Colorado

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 **\$5.5 billion in new investment** to the state since the first wind project was developed. **In 2015, \$305 million was invested on Colorado solar installations**, a 44 percent increase over the prior year. 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 4,998 workers** in the state, while the **wind industry employs over 6,000 workers**.

**>10,998**   
**RENEWABLE  
JOBS**

**\$7.7 BIL**   
**IN TOTAL  
INVESTMENT  
IN CLEAN ENERGY**

**\$5-10 MIL**   
**ANNUAL  
LANDOWNER  
PAYMENTS**

## Examples of recent low-cost renewable power purchases

- Located in Logan County, the Colorado Highlands Wind Project signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) for **2.7 cents per kilowatt-hour** (¢/kwh), which is about one-quarter the national average price of electricity.<sup>1</sup>
- The 600 megawatt (MW) Limon I, II and III wind farms located in Arapahoe, Elbert, and Lincoln counties combine to form **one of the largest wind installations in the nation**. Each phase of the project signed an incredibly low-cost PPA with the Public Service Company of Colorado for 2.43, 2.75, and 2.93 ¢/kwh respectively, in 2012 and 2014.

## Colorado's renewable sector has a bright future

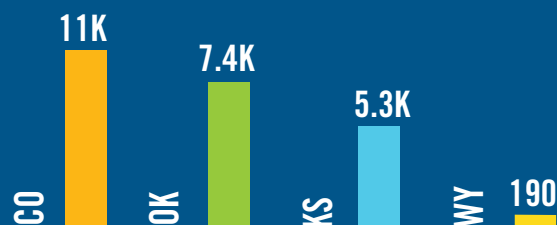
- Colorado currently has **2,965 MW of installed wind capacity**, with more than 630 MW of wind power under development.<sup>3</sup>
- Expanding wind power in the state could result in more than **\$18.7 million in annual property tax revenue**, and over **\$7.6 million in annual land lease payments** to rural landowners by 2030.<sup>4</sup>
- There are many Colorado companies have begun supplying the wind industry, such as Vestas Wind Systems. There are now **20 in-state companies** manufacturing components for the wind industry.<sup>5</sup>

### HOW DOES COLORADO COMPARE TO NEIGHBORING STATES?

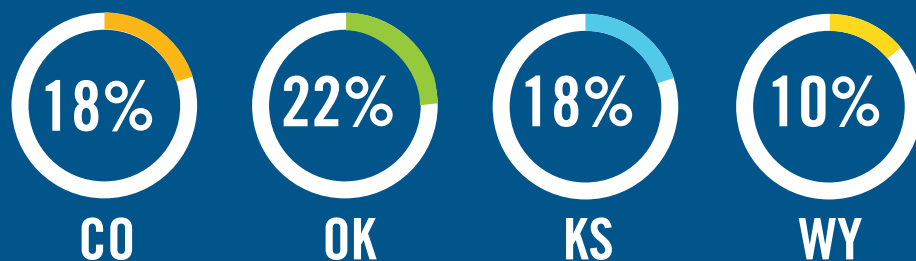
#### INVESTMENT IN RENEWABLE PROJECTS<sup>6</sup>



#### RENEWABLE JOBS<sup>7</sup>



#### POWER FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY<sup>8</sup>



1. Sources, page 1: (1) American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), Colorado Wind Energy (Q1 2016); (2) Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA), Solar Spotlight: Colorado (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) The Solar Foundation (TSF), Fact Sheet, State Solar Jobs Census 2015.
2. Sources, page 2: (1) AWEA; (2) SEIA (2015); (3) AWEA; (4) US Department of Energy, Wind Vision; (5) AWEA; (6) AWEA, SEIA, note that state-level investment data for hydropower was not available; (7) AWEA, TSF, Clean Energy Trust; (8) EIA, Electric Power Monthly with Data for December 2015 (February 2016).

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**A Renewable America**

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