

# RENEWABLE POWER IN IOWA



Renewable power is a growing part of the Iowa economy. There are now 122 wind and solar companies in the state providing a wide array of services, including manufacturing components, and developing and installing renewable energy projects.

## Economic benefits of renewables in Iowa

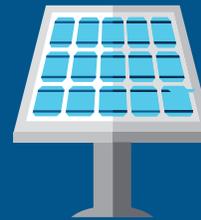
Renewable energy projects attract private investment, create local jobs, and typically provide property tax payments for the surrounding communities. The wind industry has attracted more than \$11.8 billion in new investment to the state since the first wind project was developed. In 2015, \$16 million was invested on Iowa solar installations, and it is projected that the state will install another 170 megawatts over the next five years.

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 626 workers in the state, while the wind industry employs over 6,000 workers.



WIND POWER COSTS  
HAVE FALLEN NEARLY

**66%**  
SINCE 2009



SOLAR PV INSTALLATION  
COSTS HAVE FALLEN

**66%**  
SINCE 2010

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

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.

**7,866**   
**RENEWABLE  
JOBS**

**\$11.8 BIL**   
**IN TOTAL  
INVESTMENT  
IN CLEAN ENERGY**

**\$15-20 MIL**   
**IN ANNUAL  
LANDOWNER  
& TAX PAYMENTS**

## Examples of recent low-cost renewable power purchases

- The Rippey wind project in Greene County signed a power purchase agreement with the Central Iowa Power Cooperative in 2012 for 4 cents per kilowatt hour (¢/kwh), less than half the average cost of electricity in the state.<sup>1</sup>
- The Hawkeye Wind Farm in Fayette County also signed a 4 ¢/kwh PPA in 2012 with the Central Iowa Power Cooperative.<sup>2</sup>
- Wind power is often cost competitive with fossil fuel sources in the state, and typically provides long-term price certainty with fixed-rate contracts.

## Iowa's renewable sector has a bright future

- Iowa currently has 6,364 MW of installed wind capacity, with another 58 MW of wind capacity under construction.<sup>3</sup>
- Expanding wind power in the state could result in more than \$136.9 million in annual property tax revenue, and over \$55.5 million in annual land lease payments to rural landowners by 2030.<sup>4</sup>
- Tech industry companies such as Google and Facebook have been drawn to the state by low-cost, fixed rate wind power contracts. Google has contracted to purchase 521 MW of wind power from the Highland I and Story II wind farms to provide electricity to its data centers.<sup>5</sup>

### HOW DOES IOWA COMPARE TO NEIGHBORING STATES?

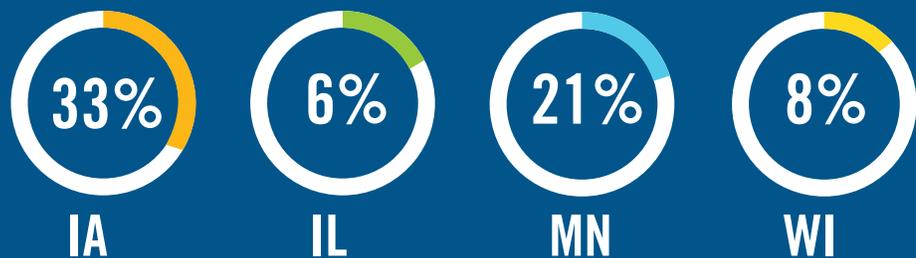
#### INVESTMENT IN RENEWABLE PROJECTS<sup>6</sup>



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



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



1. Sources, page 1: (1) American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), Iowa Wind Energy (Q1 2016); (2) Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA), Solar Spotlight: Iowa (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, Iowa (2016).
2. Sources, page 2: (1),(2) AWEA; (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).



**A Renewable America**

For more information please contact the ARA IA team:

John Cacciatore, JohnC@policyworksllc.com  
 Jessica Maldonado, jessicam@policyworksllc.com  
 Mary Earnhardt, maryearnhardt11@gmail.com

[www.arenewableamerica.org](http://www.arenewableamerica.org)

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