

CALIFORNIA WIND ENERGY



California led the world in wind energy development through much of the 1980s and 1990s.

Today, California remains a national leader in the wind industry, ranking second in the U.S. for wind power installations while boasting at least 15 wind-related manufacturing facilities. California's well-known wind resource areas include Altamont Pass, outside San Francisco in Alameda and Contra Costa County; San Geronio Pass, near Palm Springs in Riverside County; and Tehachapi Pass, near Tehachapi in Kern County. One of the largest wind projects in the United States, the Alta Wind Project, is also located in Tehachapi.



 Online Wind Project  Manufacturing Facility

Note: Calculations based on national and state averages.

BENEFITS Jobs & Economic

An investment in wind power is an investment in jobs, including jobs in operations and maintenance, construction, manufacturing and many support sectors. In addition, wind projects produce lease payments for landowners and increase the tax base of communities.

- 2014 direct and indirect jobs supported: 2,001 to 3,000
- Total capital investment: \$11.7 billion
- Annual land lease payments: \$17.8 million

Wind-Related Manufacturing

The United States has over 500 manufacturing facilities producing products for the wind industry that range from blade, tower and turbine nacelle assembly facilities to raw component suppliers, including fiberglass and steel.

- Number of active manufacturing facilities in the state: 15

Wind Projects

- **Installed wind capacity: 6,022 MW**
- **State rank for installed wind capacity: 2nd**
- **Number of wind turbines: 11,946**
- **State rank for number of wind turbines: 1st**
- **Wind projects online: 123**
- **Wind capacity under construction: 86 MW**

Current Wind Generation

In 2014, wind energy provided 6.97% of all in-state electricity production.

- **Equivalent number of homes powered by wind: 1.3 million**

Wind Generation Potential

The DOE Wind Vision Scenario projects that California could produce enough wind energy by 2030 to power the equivalent of 2.4 million average American homes.

- **Land based technical wind potential at 80 m hub height: 16,019 MW**
- **Land based technical wind potential at 110 m hub height: 65,752 MW** (Source: NREL)

Environmental Benefits

Generating wind power creates no emissions and uses virtually no water.

- **Annual state water consumption savings: 3.4 billion gallons**
- **Equivalent number of water bottles saved: 25.6 billion**
- **Annual state carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions avoided: 7.8 million metric tons**
- **Equivalent cars worth of emissions avoided: 1.7 million**



California

The California legislature increased the state's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) in 2015, requiring 50% of all utility retail sales to come from renewable resources by 2030. SB 350 strengthens previous RPS policy that was enacted in 2002 and extends the timeline to comply with the requirements, with interim targets included.