

# IDAHO WIND ENERGY



## Wind energy means economic development for Idaho.

Idaho's growing number of wind farms add up to economic growth and clean energy generation for the state. Wind power now generates more than 16 percent of Idaho's electricity. Idaho's proximity to important wind energy areas, combined with manufacturing expertise, could make Idaho a major manufacturing player for the wind industry. There are currently at least three manufacturing facilities in Idaho producing components for the wind industry.



 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.

- 2015 direct and indirect jobs supported: 101 to 500
- Total capital investment: \$1.9 billion
- Annual land lease payments: \$1-5 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: 3

## Wind Projects

- Installed wind capacity: 973 MW
- State rank for installed wind capacity: 19th
- Number of wind turbines: 541
- State rank for number of wind turbines: 19th
- Wind projects online: 15
- Wind capacity under construction: 0 MW

## Current Wind Generation

In 2015, wind energy provided 16.20% of all in-state electricity production.

- Equivalent number of homes powered by wind: 225,000

## Wind Generation Potential

The DOE Wind Vision Scenario projects that Idaho could produce enough wind energy by 2030 to power the equivalent of 640,000 average American homes.

- Land based technical wind potential at 80 m hub height: 3,368 MW
- Land based technical wind potential at 110 m hub height: 73,863 MW (Source: NREL)

## Environmental Benefits

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

- 2014 annual state water consumption savings: 125.1 million gallons
- 2014 equivalent number of water bottles saved: 947 million
- 2014 annual state carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions avoided: 259,000 metric tons
- 2014 equivalent cars worth of emissions avoided: 55,000



## Idaho

The state of Idaho does not currently have a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) or goal set in place to require utilities to generate a certain percentage of electricity from renewable sources.