Wind energy means economic development for New Mexico.

New Mexico stands out as an emerging wind powerhouse, adding wind capacity at a higher growth rate than any other state in 2017. New Mexico now has 1,953 MW of wind online, representing a total capital investment of $3 billion. Wind projects under construction or in advanced development are enough to double the state’s current installed wind capacity, while creating jobs and helping diversify the economy. To unlock New Mexico’s full wind power potential, the state will need to expand transmission line infrastructure and continue to implement successful renewable energy policies.

Jobs & Economic Benefits

The U.S. wind industry is a major economic development driver. In addition to job creation and billions of dollars in project investment, the wind industry invests heavily in local communities, providing significant revenue in the form of property, state, and local taxes.

- Direct wind industry jobs in 2018: **2,001 to 3,000**
- Capital investment in wind projects through 2018*: **$3.0 billion**
- Annual state and local tax payments by wind projects: **$8.5 million**
- Annual land lease payments*: **$5 - $10 million**

*Source: Based on state and national averages from LBNL, NREL

Wind-Related Manufacturing

Over 500 manufacturing facilities in the U.S. make products for the wind industry, from blades, towers, and turbine nacelles to raw components such as fiberglass and steel.

- Number of active manufacturing facilities in the state: **0**
Wind Projects as of 3Q 2019
- Installed wind capacity: **1,953 MW**
  » State rank for installed wind capacity: **16th**
- Number of wind turbines: **1,110**
  » State rank for number of wind turbines: **15th**
- Wind projects online: **19** (Projects larger than 10 MW: 17)
- Wind capacity under construction: **1,227 MW**
- Wind capacity in advanced development: **1,328 MW**

Wind Generation
In 2018, wind energy provided **18.7%** of all in-state electricity production.
- State rank for share of electricity: **7th**
- Equivalent number of homes powered by wind in 2018: **593,100**

Wind Energy Potential
- Land-based technical wind potential at 80 m hub height: **652,575 MW**
  (Source: AWS Truepower, NREL)
- Offshore net technical wind potential at 100 m hub height: **NA MW** (Source: NREL)

Environmental Benefits
Generating wind power creates no emissions and uses virtually no water.
- 2018 annual state water consumption savings*: **360 million gallons**
- 2018 equivalent number of water bottles saved: **2.7 billion**
- 2018 annual state carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions avoided: **806,000 metric tons**
- 2018 equivalent cars’ worth of emissions avoided: **172,000**
  *Based on national average water consumption factors for coal and gas plants.

Renewable Portfolio Standard
New Mexico first passed a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) in 2007, requiring utilities to generate **20%** of their electricity from renewable resources by 2020. In 2019, the state raised its target to **50%** by 2030 and **80%** by 2040, one of the highest standards in the country. New Mexico also established a new requirement for the state to obtain **100%** of its electricity from zero carbon resources by 2045.