North Dakota is a national leader in wind resources.
Wind energy provided more than 17 percent of the electricity generated in the state in 2015. North Dakota has rapidly grown its wind capacity for several years, but is still only using a fraction of its wind resource potential. Developing the state’s incredible wind resource has led to jobs in the construction, operations and manufacturing sectors, with at least four active manufacturing facilities in North Dakota producing components for the wind industry.

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: 2,001 to 3,000
- Total capital investment: $4.2 billion
- Annual land lease payments: $5-10 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: 5

Note: Calculations based on national and state averages.
Wind Projects

• Installed wind capacity: 2,143 MW
• State rank for installed wind capacity: 11th
• Number of wind turbines: 1,177
• State rank for number of wind turbines: 11th
• Wind projects online: 24
• Wind capacity under construction: 600 MW

Current Wind Generation

In 2015, wind energy provided 17.69% of all in-state electricity production.
• Equivalent number of homes powered by wind: 597,000

Wind Generation Potential

The DOE Wind Vision Scenario projects that North Dakota could produce enough wind energy by 2030 to power the equivalent of 1.6 million average American homes.
• Land based technical wind potential at 80 m hub height: 742,276 MW
• Land based technical wind potential at 110 m hub height: 394,519 MW (Source: NREL)

Environmental Benefits

Generating wind power creates no emissions and uses virtually no water.
• 2014 annual state water consumption savings: 1.5 billion gallons
• 2014 equivalent number of water bottles saved: 11.7 billion
• 2014 annual state carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions avoided: 2.8 million metric tons
• 2014 equivalent cars worth of emissions avoided: 595,000

Renewable Portfolio Goal

In 2007, North Dakota set a non-binding, voluntary target that by 2015, 10% of all retail electricity sold in the state would be obtained from renewable sources. Wind energy has historically been the renewable resource chosen to meet renewable standards targets, fulfilling 86% of RPS requirements through 2011 and driving economic development in the state as a result.