



*Renewable energy is **homegrown, low-cost** and provides **economic benefits***

Homegrown Natural Resources for Indiana

Renewable energy like solar and wind is growing in Indiana – but we can do better.

- Electricity generation from renewables is now lower than the cost of natural gas or coal, and will bring widespread economic growth to Indiana, according to a study from Ball State University.
- As of August 2020, there are over 60 operational and planned solar and wind developments in Indiana.
- In 2009, slightly more than 1% of Hoosier electric generation came from renewable energy; and by 2019 that number was up to 6.95%, primarily from local wind projects.
- Indiana is ranked 36th in the U.S. for renewable energy generation, behind other states in the region, including Illinois, Michigan, Iowa and Minnesota.
- Indiana's ability to offer renewable energy gives us a competitive edge in attracting industries that bring jobs and revenue to our towns. In 2019 nine of Indiana's biggest companies requested better access to renewable energy.
- According to a recent [IU study](#) examining preferences for renewable energy among different ideological groups (liberal, conservative and moderate), "... the broad consensus favored a future in which the nation primarily relied on renewable energy and used much less fossil fuel..."
 - ⇒ **Keep Indiana competitive and our economy growing with renewable energy.**
 - ⇒ Solar generation is expected to grow thirtyfold in Indiana to 16 gigawatts, compared to 500 megawatts we have now, but none of that is guaranteed without community and statewide support.

Low Cost, Reliable Energy – a Common Sense Approach to Our Energy Future

Affordable and reliable energy for our families

- Electricity generation from renewable energy sources is now lower than the cost of natural gas or coal.
 - ⇒ In 2019, coal generation was \$109/megawatt hour and natural gas was \$56/megawatt hour.
 - ⇒ Over the past ten years, wind energy costs fell from \$135 to \$40/megawatt hour.
 - ⇒ Over the same period, solar energy prices dropped from \$369 to \$40/megawatt hour.
- NIPSCO has said that "...in addition to the economic benefits that projects like these add, the transition we're making in our electric generation equates to an **estimated \$4 billion in cost-savings for customers** over the long-term."
- With an increased use of wind and solar in the years to come, Vectren officials state "...the switch will **save customers an estimated \$320 million over 20 years...**"
- **With growing renewable energy, reliability of the electric grid is unchanged**
 - ⇒ In 2018 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) concluded that grid reliability has been unchanged with older generation retirements and newer additions of renewable energy generation.
 - ⇒ Indiana is part of the 15 state MISO region, which monitors and coordinates supply and demand of energy generation. "One result of this is that energy reliability is now mostly a problem of unplanned interruptions resulting from major events, such as storms, which account for the vast majority of all service interruptions."
 - ⇒ In nearby Iowa, they have achieved 40% electricity generation from wind power.

Renewable Energy Delivers Local Benefits, Revenue, and Jobs for Your Community

Millions in additional tax revenue for schools, hospitals, first responders and roads.

- Renewable energy projects **generate large tax gains for the communities**, supporting services and reducing the burden on local taxpayers.
 - ⇒ Between 2008 and 2018, taxes on Benton County wind farms have allowed the county to give \$3 million to schools, more money to medical services and \$35 million for new roads.
 - ⇒ A proposed solar farm in Lake County will invest at least \$200 million in the project, and over the life of the project will generate \$40 million in property taxes.
 - ⇒ The proposed Brickyard Solar Project in Boone County is a \$210 million investment projected to bring in \$27 million in tax revenue.
 - ⇒ In Warren and Benton Counties, the [Jordan Creek Wind Project](#) will pay local taxes of \$1.6 million per year.
 - ⇒ In Howard County, the proposed Emerald Green Solar Project, projects \$30 million dollars in tax revenue for Howard County over the life of the project with \$19.8 million going to the Eastern Howard School Corporation
- Renewable projects provide **direct cash support to farmers**, providing a steady, reliable income for decades.
 - ⇒ Landowners leasing their land for turbines will receive more than \$2.5 million per year at the [Jordan Creek Wind Farm](#).
 - ⇒ Through 2018, EDP wind farms have paid over \$59.1 million in lease payments to Hoosier landowners.
 - ⇒ Statewide, Hoosier family farms receive between \$5 and \$10 million annually in lease payments.
- Renewable energy investments **benefit local schools** and first responders, help build and improve roads and provide other resources for local government.
 - ⇒ In Randolph County, they are embarking on project to bring equal access to broadband throughout the county thanks to \$4 million from wind farm payments.
 - ⇒ [Speedway Solar](#) will make a **\$1.6 million economic development payment** to Shelby County once the project is built, that includes a **\$600,000 for Shelby Eastern Schools**.
 - ⇒ An economic development fund generated by wind farm revenue in White County provided \$3 million in incentives to save a cherished local amusement park, which provided local jobs and tax revenue.
 - ⇒ In August 2020, EDP Renewables committed \$300,000 to support local community projects in White county, which will go to support volunteer fire departments, community parks, downtown beautification, and more

Thousands of direct and indirect jobs are created by renewable projects and the revenue supports continued economic growth.

- A recent study says that if the expected demand for renewable energy from commercial and industrial customers is met, Indiana could see \$5.78 billion in new investment and up to 25,000 new jobs.
- With the growth of renewable energy, Hoosiers will see geographic distribution of energy generation, creating jobs and local benefits in many counties rather than just concentrated in a few counties.
- Renewable projects often use local resources and support local jobs.
 - ⇒ [Benton County](#) has already seen the benefits of multiple wind farms with lower property taxes for residents and almost **100 new jobs**.
 - ⇒ The Meadow Lake Wind Farm in White County created 429 full-time equivalent jobs during construction and another 48 permanent jobs in the community.
- Colleges and Universities are retooling to prepare Hoosiers for jobs in this growing industry.
 - ⇒ Ivy Tech Community College Lafayette developed the [Porter Energy Center](#) to help students complete certificates and degrees in the advanced energy field, such as the Renewable Energy Technology Technical Certificate and the Industrial Wind Technology Technical Certificate.

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