



RENEWABLE NORTHWEST  
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## **Report on Montana wind energy employment reveals huge potential for growth**

### **Wind energy jobs are high-paying, in steep demand, and nowhere to be seen in Montana**

**Montana** — Following Governor Gianforte’s announcement that his administration aims to add more than 10,000 new, high-paying Montana jobs over the next year, Renewable Northwest has released a data-driven report on the potential for wind energy employment in Montana. A clean energy economy could double Montana’s statewide energy jobs by 2030 while also growing wages. The median salary for U.S. wind electricity jobs is \$85,000, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The report, entitled “Montana Wind Jobs,” found that Montana ranked 48th out of the 50 states for the number of jobs in wind energy production, despite being 5th in the nation for land-based wind potential. Further, while North and South Dakota both manufacture components for wind turbines, Montana has no manufacturing in the rapidly-growing wind energy sector. As a result, North Dakota has twenty times more jobs in wind energy, compared to Montana.

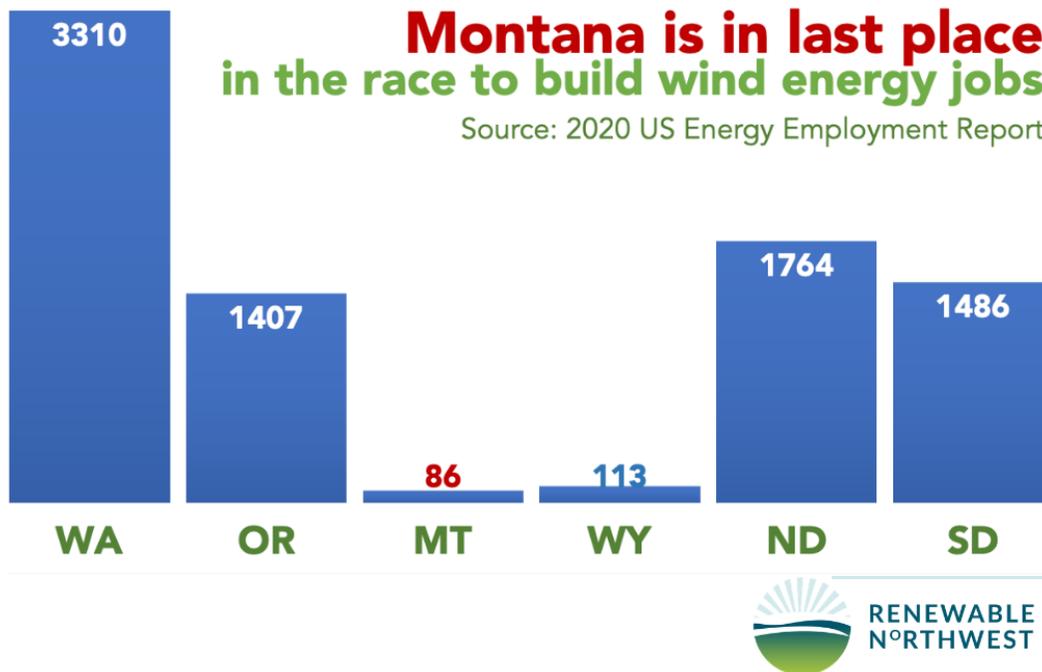
“The report highlights the potential for Montana to realize the benefits of high-paying, sustainable jobs associated with solar, wind and storage technologies that we are seeing come to fruition in other states in the region,” said Nicole Hughes, Renewable Northwest’s Executive Director.

Hughes added that the organization is eager to support the state of Montana in the transition to renewable energy generation.

“The thing that stood out to me was how badly Montana lags the rest of the country in developing wind jobs,” said Karin Kirk, a Bozeman-based science journalist who compiled data for the report. “Montana has enormous natural potential and a direct connection to energy markets that are looking to replace coal with cleaner energy sources. Unfortunately, we have little to show for it.”

Wind isn't the only energy producer with potential in Montana. According to the report, Montana ranks 47th out of 50 in the U.S. for jobs in solar energy production.

[Find and download a copy of the report here.](#)



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**About Renewable Northwest:**

*Founded in 1994, Renewable Northwest has grown to become one of the nation's most impactful renewable energy advocacy organizations. Our strength comes from our members, a unique and powerful coalition of renewable energy professionals, energy buyers and marketers, ratepayer advocates, and environmental NGOs. Together, these groups contribute their respective talents towards the socially and environmentally responsible advancement of clean energy projects across our region.*

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