



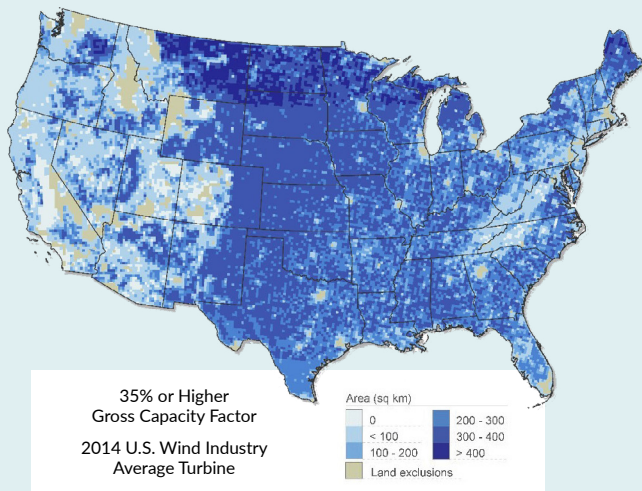
RENEWABLE NORTHWEST

MONTANA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY

ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND BENEFITS

What does expanded renewable energy production mean for Montana communities? This factsheet summarizes economic impacts associated with Montana's expanding renewable energy industry and opportunities to further expand wind and solar production. It details the ripple effect from wind energy investments and purchasing and the industry's contributions to critical local services—especially in some of Montana's most rural and economically hard-hit areas.

The headline? Montana communities that host wind and solar projects will enjoy increased revenue for local services and expanded economic activity.



Potential wind capacity at 140-meters hub height, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

A GROWING RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY

Montana enjoys a world class wind energy resource, ranking fifth in the nation for its estimated wind energy potential. Already, wind projects in Montana produce over 1,100 megawatts of electricity, bringing much-needed electricity and economic activity to rural counties. Nearby states like Oregon and Washington have less wind energy potential but far higher demand—creating a market opportunity for Montana resources.

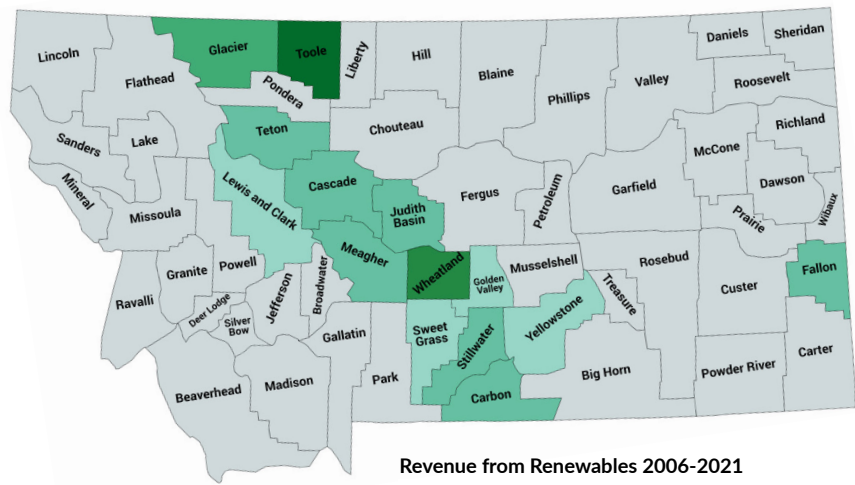
Montana's solar energy potential is akin to that of Minnesota, a state that already generates 1,600 megawatts of solar electricity—enough to power 243,000 homes. In comparison, Montana has installed just 17 megawatts of solar. For both wind and solar, there is tremendous potential for expanded production throughout Montana, especially in economically hard-hit parts of the state.



CONTRIBUTIONS TO PUBLIC SERVICES

Between 2006 and 2021, Montana wind and solar projects provided \$101 million in revenue to state and local governments. The vast majority of these payments came from Montana's growing wind industry. These funds help offset local property taxes and are used to support local schools and critical county and city services.

Counties generating the largest share of clean energy payments include some of Montana's most sparsely-populated and economically hard-hit areas.



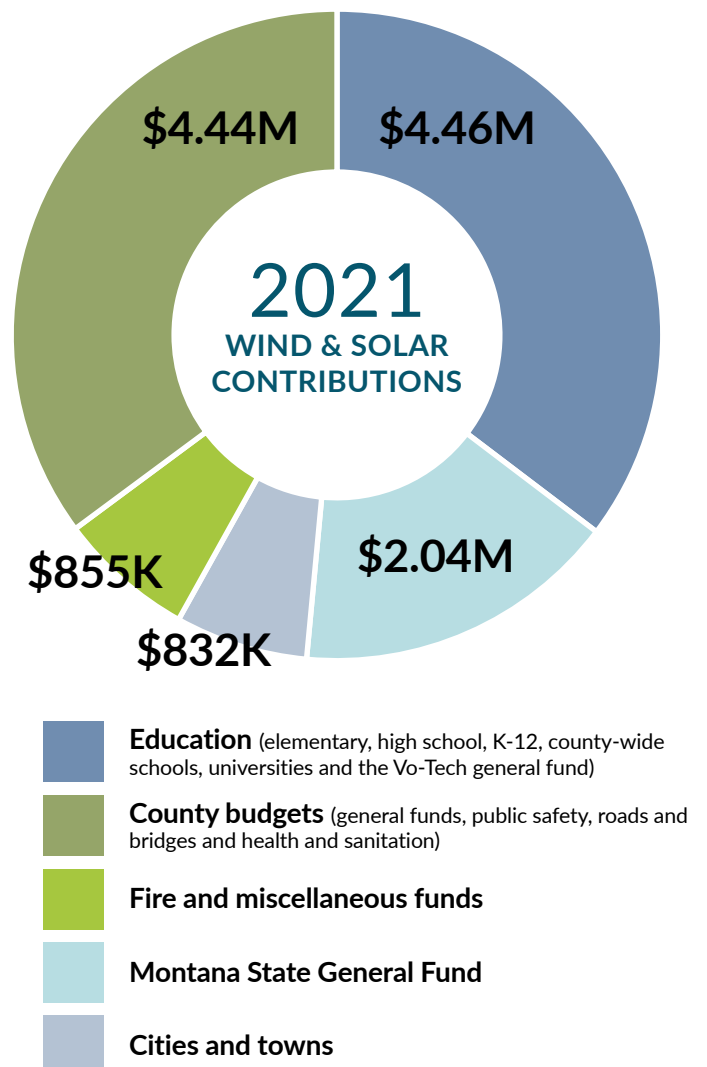
Revenue from Renewables 2006-2021

< \$1 million \$1 million - \$5 million \$5 million - \$20 million > \$40 million

RENEWABLE ENERGY PAYMENTS: TOP MONTANA COUNTIES

County	2021 Contributions
Cascade	\$2,496,870
Toole	\$2,471,435
Wheatland	\$1,248,407
Judith Basin	\$1,216,391
Carbon	\$989,466
Sweet Grass	\$786,669
Stillwater	\$706,696
Teton	\$601,516
Glacier	\$453,889
Fallon	\$340,799
Meagher	\$274,949
Lewis and Clark	\$85,256
Golden Valley	\$35,501
Yellowstone	\$34,682

For communities across the state, tax revenue from wind and solar production is used to build roads, fund schools and hospitals, maintain emergency services and support city and county services—all taking the pressure off of local taxpayers.

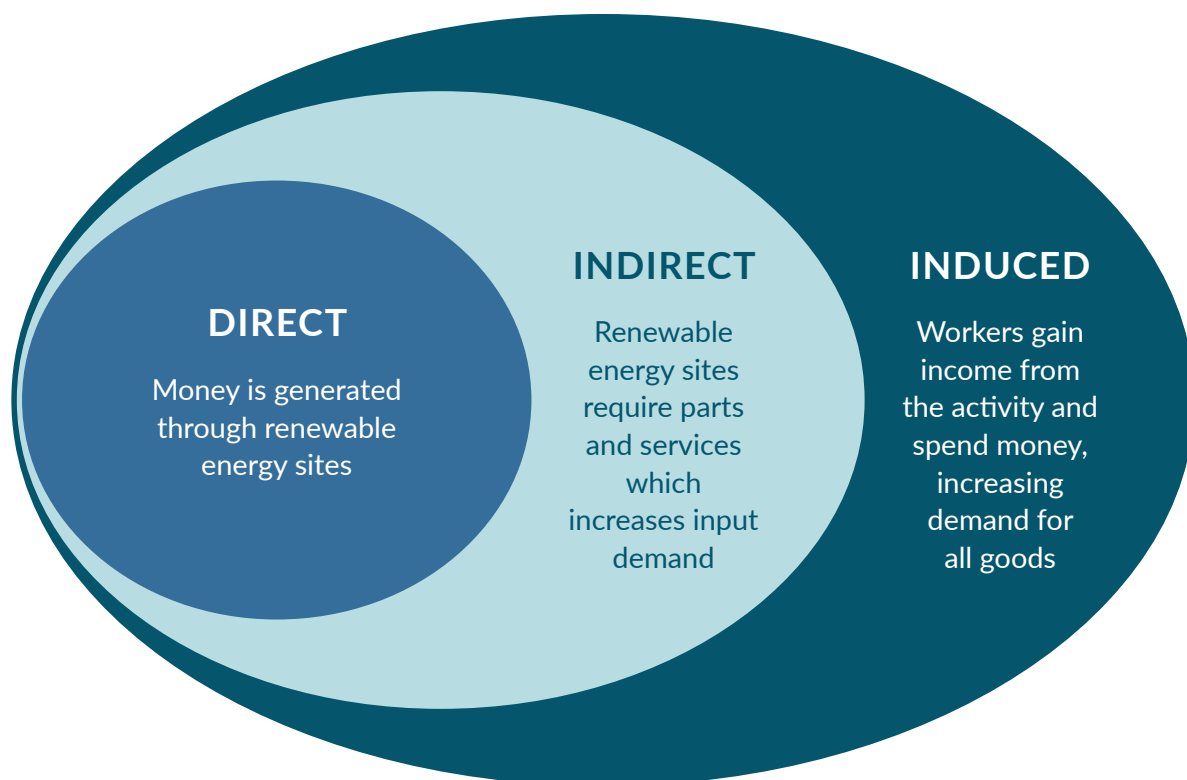




THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Money invested in wind and solar production creates a ripple effect in communities. This includes purchasing of goods and services by wind and solar companies and economic expenditures by employees and contractors and the local businesses and workers those expenditures support. While data are not yet available for Montana's relatively young wind industry, a recent analysis in Texas demonstrated that 1,000 MW of wind energy in the state is associated with the following:

- 2100 FTE equivalent jobs
- Nearly \$260 million in economic activity during construction and nearly \$35 million in annual economic activity during operating periods
- Over \$7 million in annual property taxes
- Nearly \$5 million annually in income for Texas landowners who lease land for wind projects.



METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES CITED

In preparing this fact sheet, Renewable Northwest compiled information from the Montana Department of Commerce, Montana County Clerks, and Montana County Treasurers, and consulted the following sources:

[Building Back Better: How Big Are Green Spending Multipliers?](#)

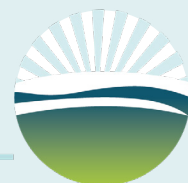
[Economic Development Impact of 1,000 MW of Wind Energy in Texas](#)

[Montana Department of Revenue Biennial Report](#)

[Solar Resource Maps and Data | Geospatial Data Science | NREL](#)

[WINDEXchange: Wind Energy Maps and Data](#)

[National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#)



**RENEWABLE
NORTHWEST**