

Economic Benefits of Renewable Energy in Washington

Across Washington, renewable energy (utility-scale wind and solar) is generating millions for counties, creating revenue streams that power schools, roads, and community growth.

Since 2003, renewable energy has generated

\$239,043,251

for Washington Counties

In 2024, renewable energy projects in Washington counties earned

\$13,874,839

in tax revenues

As of 2024, Washington has

26 utility-scale solar and **5 utility-scale wind**

projects across 12 counties

In 2024, nearly half of all counties with renewable energy earned

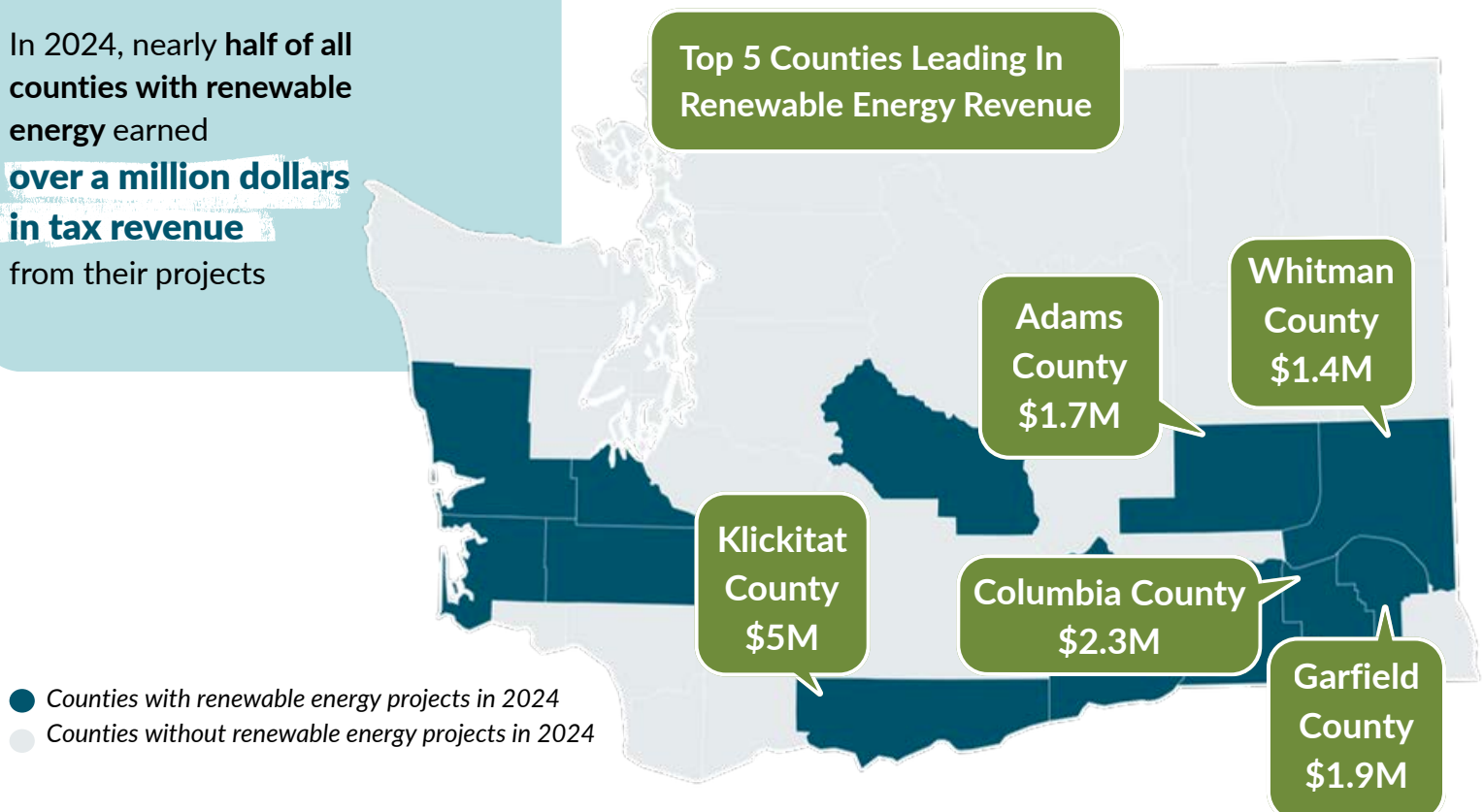
over a million dollars in tax revenue

from their projects

A note on property taxes:

Renewable Northwest recently championed legislation that will change how wind, solar, and battery projects are taxed moving forward. Under the personal property tax regime, Washington counties have faced budgeting challenges as projects depreciate and yield diminishing taxes over their lifespans. Starting in 2028, new clean energy projects will be taxed on a per-megawatt basis, ensuring stable tax revenue for counties. A portion of the tax will also fund a grant program, which will provide counties and tribes with additional resources if they adopt a model ordinance that enables the siting of these projects.

The data presented here shows the millions of tax dollars that clean energy projects have already provided, even under the personal property tax system. We worked closely with counties to enhance this taxation system, creating a predictable and convenient revenue schedule for county planners.



Community Growth Through Renewable Energy in Washington's Counties



In Thurston County, Renewable Energy Renovates Schools

A \$17,000 donation from the Skookumchuck Wind project enabled Yelm Community Schools to upgrade seven schools, including a major renovation of the high school football field.

Adams County: Expanding Community Programs With Renewable Energy

The owners of the Rattlesnake Flat Wind Farm have donated to a multitude of local nonprofits, such as the Adams County Fire Protection District #7, the Washtucna Heritage Museum, and the Lind Senior Center. These contributions help strengthen essential services, preserve local history, and support residents of all ages.

Beyond charitable giving, the wind farm has also boosted the local economy by creating 10 family-wage jobs in Adams County; jobs that provide long-term stability for families while keeping dollars circulating in the community. These investments demonstrate how renewable energy projects can power both the grid and the growth of rural communities.



Wind Farm Funds Wildlife Protection in Columbia County

Since 2015, PGE's Tucannon River Wind Farm Habitat Project Fund has provided grants of up to \$20,000 to protect local habitats to help wildlife thrive and create spaces for the community to enjoy.



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