



THE GREAT PLAINS ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN ENERGY

Renewable Energy and Economic Growth

Renewable energy is a fast-growing industry that Kansas stands poised to lead and benefit from if we make smart policy decisions immediately.

- Wind developers pay direct lease payments to landowners of \$5,000-\$10,000 per turbine sited.
- Wind developers make payments in lieu of taxes to counties where turbines are sited. This is money counties can then use for roads, schools, health services, business recruitment...whatever priorities they have.
- Renewables offer long-term, highly-skilled jobs for young Kansans (engineering, design, maintenance, etc.).
- Many jobs created by energy efficiency measures (HVAC, plumbing, installation, maintenance, sales, etc.) are by definition local and long term.
- Wind farm construction crews fill hotels, restaurants, and retail stores in rural communities.
- Wind is a dispersed energy source, so the economic benefits of developing wind energy are also dispersed across many communities and counties in a broad region.
- Solar energy especially helps utilities reduce peak demand (and their most expensive fuel purchases) as solar energy is greatest at the times of highest demand.
- Solar and (especially) wind energy industries are booming. Wind developers in particular are already faced with domestic shortages of turbine components. Economic development opportunities abound along the entire supply chain for wind energy (from siting to manufacturing to construction/implementation to maintenance).
- In general, in Kansas, the wind resource is greatest in our most rural regions, so investments in wind are largely (by default) investments in rural Kansas.

There are examples of rural revival throughout the Midwest due to growth in the renewable energy industry.

- The US Dept. of Energy (DOE) reports that in 2007 the wind industry exceeded expected growth (45% growth in a single year).
- Sweetwater / Nolan County Texas
 - Nolan County total residents: 15,000. Nolan County residents employed in jobs directly related to the wind industry: 1,100.
 - 480 permanent workers for wind farms.
 - Total property tax base expanded from \$500 million in 1999 to \$2.4 billion in 2007
 - The tax base swelled so much that Nolan County actually CUT TAXES last year.



THE GREAT PLAINS ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN ENERGY

- According to the DOE, a single 240 MW wind project in Iowa produces \$640,000 in lease payments to local farmers ANNUALLY.
- DOE also reports a local steak house near a 162 MW wind project in Colorado experienced a 30% increase in business.

Kansas has the potential to be the nation's third greatest producer of wind energy (and a significant solar energy producer), yet derives only 1% of its energy from wind.

Progress to date has been achieved without policy support and despite continued incentives rewarding outdated, polluting fuel sources.

Over the past decade, Kansas has lost thousands of potential jobs in the renewable energy sector to bordering states because our renewable energy policies are so unfriendly (or non-existent).

- 1,000-job Clipper manufacturing plant went to Arkansas (the 27th windiest state).
- Vestas opened a turbine blade manufacturing plant in Colorado - 400 jobs and \$60 million investment in a single project.
- Currently, Vestas employs over 2,000 people in Colorado.
- Siemens is opening a 224,000-square foot, 127-acre blade manufacturing facility in Ft. Madison, Iowa - 200 jobs.