

Wind Energy in

COLORADO

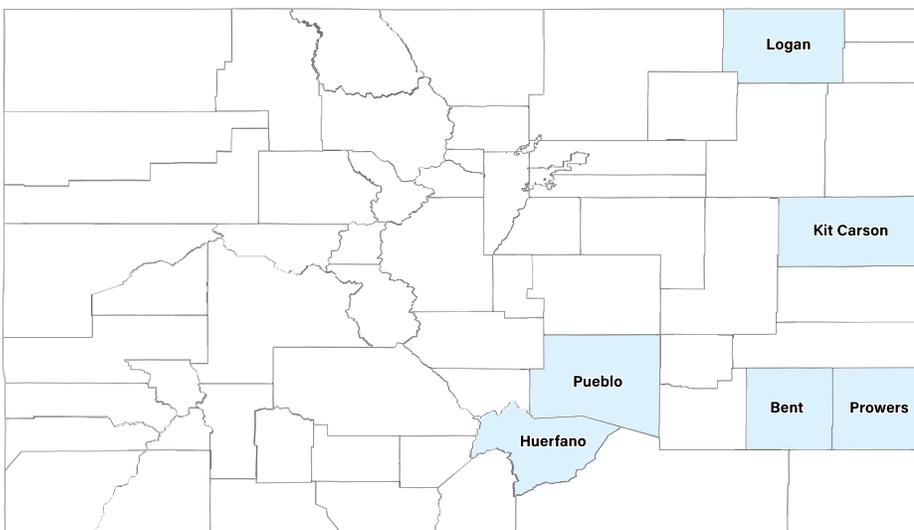


Wind energy brings Coloradans a host of economic benefits at the state and local level, boosting job creation and contributing immensely to the local tax base. Colorado leads the nation in wind energy generation, with wind energy producing 27.9% of all electricity in the state. These projects provide a secure, local source of energy, save water, and reduce residents' exposure to harmful pollutants like nitrous oxides and sulfur dioxide. In addition to these benefits, wind energy also brings considerable economic growth to the states and localities that host projects. To date, total wind energy investment in Colorado is \$9.8 billion. More than \$10 million state and local tax dollars are generated by these projects and more than \$18 million annually goes to Colorado residents directly in the form of land lease payments.

Across the state, wind energy provides economic benefits to workers, residents, governments, and local economies. Colorado wind energy produces enough electricity to power over 2 million homes and this growing area of the energy sector brings construction and long-term operations and management jobs which provide homegrown economic opportunity. These jobs are locally based, often in rural communities, providing economic opportunity within hometowns. Additionally, the wind energy industry creates American manufacturing jobs; in Colorado alone, there are 17 manufacturing facilities that create parts for the wind industry, providing good-paying jobs. Those not directly employed by the wind energy sector also benefit from this type of development, as projects contribute property tax payments to local communities, allowing for investment in infrastructure, schools, and roads. In Kit Carson County, of the top twenty property taxpayers in 2021, 18% of tax payments came from the wind energy industry.

Wind energy in Colorado provides about:

Selected Colorado counties with top property tax payments from utility-scale wind energy



27.9%

Share of all electricity produced in Colorado that came from wind power



5,198^{MW}

Operating wind capacity in Colorado

The clean power industry is an important job creator in Colorado with a wind energy workforce of

7,649



In Logan County Colorado, where there are seven operating utility-scale wind farms, the benefits are felt by many in the county. Trae Miller, Economic Development Director in Logan County says that “these projects benefit Logan County with an increase in tax base, but also provide a great revenue stream to local small businesses.” The benefits to the local tax base are considerable: in Logan County, property taxes from top wind energy producers provided 14% of the county’s total revenues for 2021. Says Miller, “with the nation’s premier wind technician training program..., access to strong wind and solar resources, and local support, Logan County has gained a reputation as one of the best places to develop new energy projects in the country.”



“For people in agriculture, diversification is always good. Whether you grow crops or raise livestock, you are always at the mercy of the weather. The wind towers provide some financial stability in the years when the wind just blows hot and dry...” - Mark Hillman, Landowner in Cheyenne County

“We’re kind of a unique community in Colorado because our population has been declining since the 1960s. This [wind] project will help us create the lifestyle infrastructure that we need to draw younger residents back into the county.” - John Galusha, Huerfano County Commissioner

Of the top 20 property taxpayers per county

County	Online Capacity (MW)	Property Taxes Paid by the Wind Energy Industry	# of Wind Energy Taxpayers in Top 10	% of Top 10 Property Tax Payments from Wind Energy	% of Wind Energy in Total County Budget
Pueblo	0.0*	\$2,726,089	2	4%	1.4%
Logan	1004.05	\$1,510,820	5	16%	14%
Kit Carson	813.66	\$1,308,754	5	18%	6%
Prowers	247	\$469,613	2	13%	1.4%
Bent	75	\$324,457	1	8%	7%
Huerfano	103.79	\$99,095	2	2%	.4%

Source: Publicly Available County Treasury Data

*Property taxes paid by wind manufacturer

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