

## Wind Energy in

# ILLINOIS



Wind energy brings Illinoisans a host of economic benefits at the state and local level, boosting job creation and contributing immensely to the local tax base. Illinois ranks 5th in the nation for installed wind energy capacity, and wind energy produces 11.1% 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 Illinois is over \$13.7 billion. More than \$57 million state and local tax dollars are generated by these projects and more than \$47 million annually goes to Illinois residents directly in the form of land lease payments.

Across the state, wind energy provides economic benefits to workers, residents, governments, and local economies. Illinois wind energy produces enough electricity to power nearly 3 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 Illinois alone, there are 33 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 Logan County, of the top ten property taxpayers in 2021, 73% of tax payments came from the wind energy industry.

### Wind energy in Illinois provides about:

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



**11.1%** Share of all electricity produced in Illinois that came from wind power



**7,037 MW** Operating wind capacity in Illinois

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

**9,126**



In McLean County Illinois, where there are five operating utility-scale wind farms, the benefits are felt by many in the county. Mark Jontry, the regional superintendent for McLean and Dewitt Counties, says that the operations in his county "...really [give] those districts a lot of flexibility on how to spend that money. Whether it's increasing the type of programming that they might want to offer in their districts for students..." or "... [allowing] them to do some facility repairs or enhancements." The benefits to the local tax base are also considerable: in McLean County, property taxes from wind energy provided 24% of the county's total revenues for 2021.



On the Bishop Hill wind energy project being sited in his school district:  
*"It really is like winning the lottery. It's the equivalent of putting up 53-million-dollar homes in your backyard within a year. What this will do is make us financially stable for quite a few years."*

- Shannon Bumann, AlWood School District Superintendent

### Of the top 10 property tax payers 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
McLean	1,012.12	\$9,373,950	5	33%	24%
Logan	495.78	\$5,358,929	5	73%	59%
Henry	424.48	\$3,754,758	3	47%	32%
Macon	305.8	\$3,158,919	1	28%	4%
Iroquois	249	\$2,096,069	3	53%	9%
Ford	375.6	\$1,498,875	1	37%	7%
Kankakee	155.7	\$1,061,969	1	12%	1%

Source: Publicly Available County Treasury Data

**Sources Cited:**

Schick, Austin. 2021. "14,000-acre McLean County wind farm could bring \$43.7 million to local schools." Accessed at: <https://www.centralillinoisproud.com/news/local-news/14000-acre-mclean-county-wind-farm-could-bring-43-7-million-to-local-schools/>  
 Wadas, Elizabeth. 2017. "Wind farm Phase 3 well underway in Henry County." Accessed at: <https://www.wqad.com/article/news/local/drone/8-in-the-air/wind-farm-phase-3-well-underway-in-henry-county/526-07006339-7d71-4868-942c-db71f777d68b>

