

## Wind Energy in

# INDIANA



Wind energy brings Hoosiers a host of economic benefits at the state and local level, boosting job creation and contributing immensely to the local tax base. Indiana ranks 12th in the nation for installed wind energy capacity, and wind energy produces 9.1% 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. Total wind energy investment in Indiana to date is over \$6.8 billion of which approximately \$23.4 million is in state and local taxes and \$22 million is in land lease payments.

Across the state, wind energy provides economic benefits to workers, residents, governments, and local economies. Utility-scale wind energy farms currently operating created approximately 15,558 construction jobs during development and continue to support nearly 550 long-term operations and management jobs. These jobs are locally based, often in rural communities, providing economic opportunity within hometowns. Additionally, the wind energy industry creates American manufacturing jobs; in Indiana alone, there are 15 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 White County, of the top ten property taxpayers in 2021, 74% of tax payments came from the wind energy industry.

### Wind energy in Indiana provides about:

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



**9.1%** Share of all electricity produced in Indiana that came from wind power



**3,468 MW** Operating wind capacity in Indiana

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

**6,882**



The seven operating utility-scale wind farms in White County, Indiana provide benefits that are felt across the community. Gayle Rogers, the White County Auditor, notes that “White County residents continue to see benefits from local wind and solar energy projects in the form of low-cost electricity, increased economic activity, and additional revenue for public services – all of which are critical for the community.” The total benefits to the local tax base from wind projects are considerable: in White County, top property taxes from clean energy provided 11% of the county’s total revenues for 2021. Additionally, it is estimated that these projects support approximately 4,272 short-term construction jobs and 150 operations and maintenance jobs that will last for the full lifetime of the project, all while powering over 325,000 homes.



*“After receiving some of the company’s tax abatement payments, the county has been able to pay off all debt...With the money received from the tax abatement, the county has made a huge impact financially in helping our schools by contributing 2 million...and...a full-time economic development director and full-time administrative assistant position was created. Through this department was the creation of the Tourism Center, which is providing tours of the windfarms and making money for the county.”*

- Kelly Kepner, former Director of Economic Development in Benton County

### 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
White	1,005.25	\$3,073,573.10	8	74%	11%
Tipton	111.78	\$930,351.56	2	25%	9%
Madison	293.22	\$ 599,051.22	1	5%	1%
Jay	232.74	\$159,149.70	1	3%	1%
Benton	1,257.2	\$18,361.34*	1	5%	.32%

Source: Publicly Available County Treasury Data

\*Low-range estimate due to county-level data compilation procedure

**Sources Cited:**

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