

## Wind Energy in

# MICHIGAN



Wind energy brings Michiganders a host of economic benefits at the state and local level, boosting job creation and contributing immensely to the local tax base. Michigan ranks 15th in the nation for installed wind energy capacity, and wind energy produces 7.3% 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 Michigan to date is over \$5.8 billion of which approximately \$52.8 million is in state and local taxes and \$38.7 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 12,330 construction jobs during development and continue to support 435 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 Michigan alone, there are 26 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 Sanilac County, of the top ten property taxpayers in 2021, 15% of tax payments came from the wind energy industry.

### Wind energy in Michigan provides about:

#### Michigan counties with property tax payments from utility-scale wind energy



**7.3%** Share of all electricity produced in Michigan that came from wind power



**3,231<sub>MW</sub>** Operating wind capacity in Michigan

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

**4,993**



In Gratiot County Michigan, where there are seven operating utility-scale wind farms, the benefits are felt by many in the county. Jim Wheeler, president at Greater Gratiot Development says that “wind development has unquestionably brought increased economic prosperity to Gratiot County. The area economy also benefits from increased consumer spending at restaurants and retail shops by temporary construction workers and permanent maintenance technicians, in addition to increased spending from local landowners who receive lease payments.” The benefits to the local tax base are also considerable: in Gratiot County, property taxes from clean energy have increased tax revenue by \$70.9 million since 2012. Says Wheeler, “In addition to tax revenue that benefits the County, townships, and schools, investment from wind development was used to leverage a grant for infrastructure in the Breckenridge Industrial Park, which now houses five companies and over 100 jobs.” It is estimated that these wind projects support nearly 2,820 short-term construction jobs and 100 operations and maintenance jobs that will last for the full lifetime of the project, all while powering nearly 215,500 homes.



*“Both the direct economic benefits and the indirect economic benefits are substantial, and counties, local governments, townships, and local schools receive a lot of monetary support from wind project development.”*

- Skip Pruss, former director of Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth

### Of the top 10 property tax payers per county

County	Online Capacity (MW)	Number of Projects	Estimated State and Local Tax Payment
Huron	754.05	9	\$12,340,133.82
Gratiot	735.36	7	\$12,034,269.35
Tuscola	498.48	5	\$8,157,694.99
Isabella	472.52	2	\$7,732,855.95
Hillsdale	166.08	1	\$2,717,922.45
Mason	100.8	1	\$1,649,606.11
Sanilac	90	1	\$1,472,862.60
Delta	72.45	1	\$1,185,654.39
Saginaw	11.2	1	\$183,289.57

Source: Survey of ACP Member Companies

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