

## Wind Energy in

# IOWA

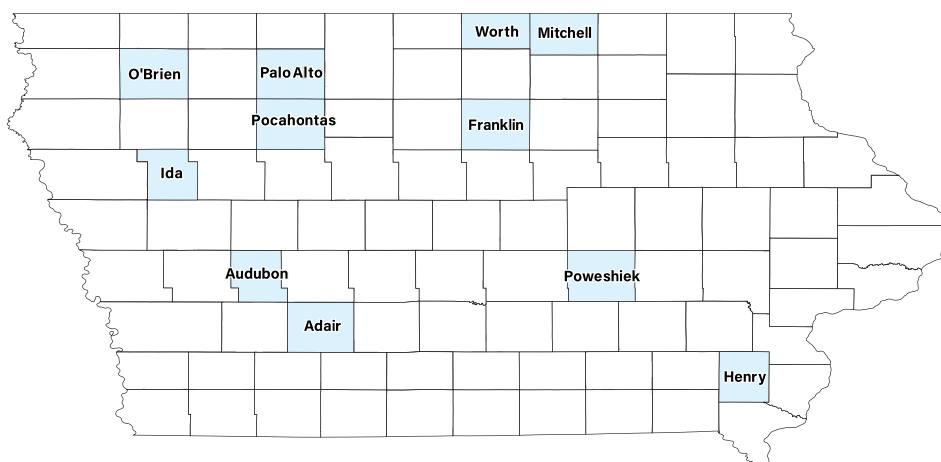


Wind energy brings Iowans a host of economic benefits at the state and local level, boosting job creation and contributing immensely to the local tax base. Iowa leads the nation in wind energy generation, with wind energy producing 58.7% of all electricity in the state. These projects provide a secure, 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 Iowa is over \$22 billion. More than \$57 million state and local tax dollars are generated by these projects and more than \$68 million annually goes to Iowa residents directly in the form of land lease payments.

Across the state, wind energy provides economic benefits to workers, residents, governments, and local economies. Iowa wind energy produces enough electricity to power over 3.9 million homes and this growing area of the energy sector brings construction and long-term operations and management jobs which provide hometown 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 Iowa alone, there are ten 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 Pocahontas County, of the top ten property taxpayers in 2021, 82% of tax payments came from the wind energy industry.

### Wind energy in Iowa provides about:

#### Iowa counties with top property tax payments from wind energy



**58.7%** Share of all electricity produced in Iowa that came from wind power



**12,428 MW** Operating wind capacity in Iowa

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

**3,909**



In O'Brien County Iowa, where there are two operating utility-scale wind farms, the benefits are felt by many in the county. Nancy McDowell, vice chair for the O'Brien County Board of Supervisors says that in her county, "...the turbines have allowed a lot of farmers and landowners to generate alternative income, which then circulates through our community businesses and Main Streets." The benefits to the local tax base are also considerable: in O'Brien County, property taxes from clean energy provided 20% of the county's total revenues for 2021. Says McDowell, "turbines and associated infrastructure have provided increased tax revenues, land valuations and have broadened our tax base. As a result, we have been able to lower tax levy at a time when many farmers and residents are struggling with a sluggish ag economy."



*"Many counties across the state have harnessed the power of wind energy as an opportunity to educate future generations, to create jobs, to support farmers, grow their tax base and stimulate their local economies."*

- Debi Durham, Director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority

### 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
Adair	1,145.75	\$4,694,709	2	79%	28%
Franklin	499.91	\$3,873,204	2	69%	18%
Pocahontas	349.3	\$1,268,119	2	82%	22%
O'Brien	745.269	\$3,601,196	1	55%	20%
Mitchell	494.55	\$2,769,128	1	37%	16%
Ida	503.42	\$1,385,107	2	42%	13%
Worth	485.3	\$1,268,119	3	28%	8%
Poweshiek	518.1	\$1,134,360	3	26%	6%
Palo Alto	340	\$804,472	1	19%	5%
Audubon	358.1	\$221,692	1	14%	2%

Source: Publicly Available County Treasury Data

**Sources Cited:**

Paulson, Randy. 2022. "O'Brien County honored for wind energy." NWestIowa. Accessed at: [https://www.nwestiowa.com/news/obrien-county-honored-for-wind-energy/article\\_7ed1b60c-e8a9-11ea-bd92-47cedfc0162c.html](https://www.nwestiowa.com/news/obrien-county-honored-for-wind-energy/article_7ed1b60c-e8a9-11ea-bd92-47cedfc0162c.html)

