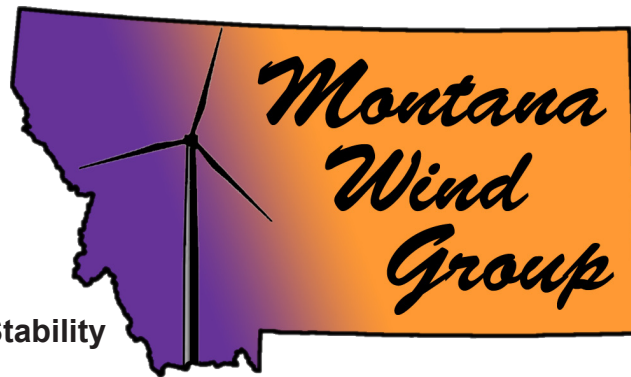


Getting the Facts Straight:

# THE TRUE COST OF WIND ENERGY

Least-Cost, Least-Risk Choice for Long-Term Stability



**Fact:**

**Adding renewable power to the mix does not increase energy rates.** In fact, investments in renewable resources are least-cost and least-risk and provide long-term rate stability.

The Judith Gap wind project serving Montana customers is a proven cost-effective project at \$41.60 per MWh. By comparison, the average price of the PPL-MT contracts serving Northwestern customers is \$49.90 per MWh.

**Fact:**

From 1999-2009, the price of wind power has decreased by over 30% and is likely to decrease further in coming years.<sup>1</sup>

**Fact:**

Despite being mature industries, fossil fuel industries receive nearly six times the amount of federal subsidy as renewable energy industries.<sup>2,3</sup>

**Fact:**

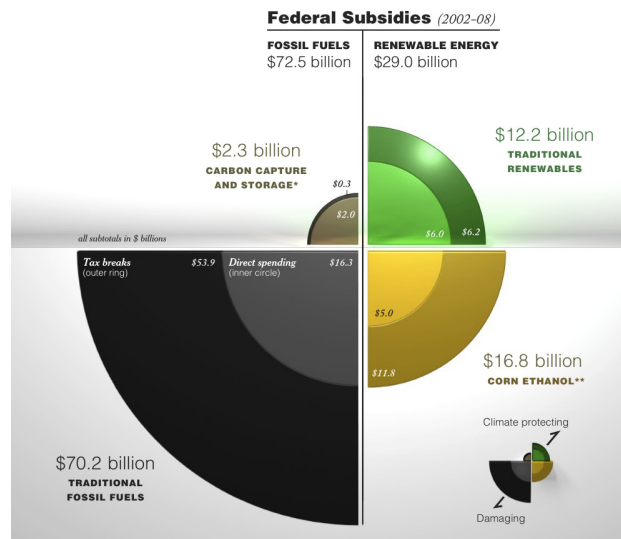
Tax credits for renewable energy encourage clean, low-risk energy development and job creation in the United States.

**Fact:**

The largest tax credit for energy goes toward fossil fuel subsidies for energy development overseas.<sup>4</sup> From 2002-2008, fossil fuel industries received over \$15 billion in U.S. tax breaks to do business overseas.

**Fact:**

From 2002-2008, the U.S. gave over \$14 billion in tax breaks for the production of fuel from shale, tar sands, and coal. During the same time, the total U.S. subsidy for clean renewable energy options was \$12.2 billion.<sup>5</sup>



[http://www.eli.org/pdf/Energy\\_Subsidies\\_Black\\_Not\\_Green.pdf](http://www.eli.org/pdf/Energy_Subsidies_Black_Not_Green.pdf)

## REFERENCES

### Montana Wind Group

#### Getting Things Straight: The True Cost of Wind Energy

January 6, 2011

- 1) Wiser, R. and Bolinger, M. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. 2009 Wind Technologies Market Report. August, 2010. Available from: <http://eetd.lbl.gov/ea/emp/reports/lbnl-3716e.pdf>.
- 2) Renewable energy industries here are assumed not to include fuel alcohol (i.e. corn ethanol). The total subsidy for fossil fuel industries from 2002-2008 was \$72.5 billion while the total subsidy for renewable energy was \$12.2 billion after subtracting \$16.8 billion for fuel alcohol.
- 3) Environmental Law Institute. Estimating U.S. Government Subsidies to Energy Sources: 2002-2008. September 2009. Available from: [http://www.elistore.org/reports\\_detail.asp?ID=11358](http://www.elistore.org/reports_detail.asp?ID=11358).
- 4) Ibid.
- 5) Ibid.



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