

HOMEGROWN ENERGY EQUALS JOBS & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



Fact: Renewable energy projects mean jobs for Montanans.

A typical 100 MW wind energy project supports between 100 and 155 construction phase jobs and 10-11 permanent operation and maintenance jobs (normally 20-25 years).^{1,2} Judith Gap, a 140 MW wind project, currently employs 12 full-time staff and 75% of the construction costs for building the Judith Gap wind farm went to Montana based contractors.³ Glacier Wind phases 1 (106.5 MW) & 2 (103.5 MW) each generated 150 construction jobs and each currently employ 10 full-time staff.⁴

Fact: Montanans prosper by leasing their land for wind development.

A typical lease is \$4,000-\$10,000 per turbine per year (\$2,000-\$5,000 per MW).⁵ Families can continue traditional ways of working their land while diversifying their incomes and securing their future.

Fact: Wind projects generate new state and local tax revenues.

The four commercial wind projects currently operating in Montana, which total 384 MW, generated \$5.4 million in property taxes in 2010. By 2018, this amount will grow to \$9.0 million annually.⁶ On average, 65.5% of this goes to local governments while 34.5% goes to the state.⁷

Fact: The total state & local benefits of Montana wind projects are important.

Economic benefits of the Judith Gap project's five-year life thus far are real and significant, totaling over \$30,000,000.⁸ The planned 309 MW Rim Rock project will bring another \$800 million in local capital investment, 500 construction jobs, and 30 permanent local jobs to Glacier and Toole Counties.⁹

Fact: 1,000 MW of wind power means prosperity for Montana.

1,000 MW of wind development would create 1,000 – 1,550 construction phase jobs and over 100 permanent jobs. In addition, it would generate between \$4 million and \$10 million in annual lease payments, and \$5 million - \$10 million in annual property tax payments.¹⁰

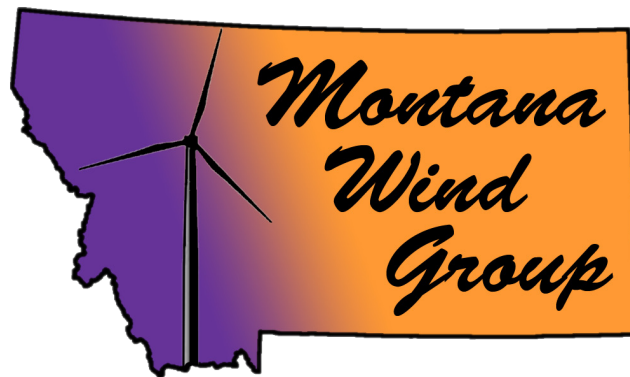


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- 5) Costanti, Mike and Beltrone, Peggy. US Department of Energy and National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Wind Energy Guide for County Commissioners. November, 2006. Available from: <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy07osti/40403.pdf>.
- 6) Montana Department of Commerce, Energy Promotion and Development Division. Montana Means Energy. Volume 1, Issue 7. December 2010.
- 7) Montana Department of Commerce. Personal communication.
- 8) Calculated as sum of: Royalty payments (\$5,000 x 90 turbines x 5 years), Jobs (12 jobs x \$50,000 average salary), Taxes and Fees (\$2,000,000 x 5 years), Construction dollars (\$17,000,000).
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