

# WIND ENERGY

*Powering Rural Economies*



## WIND ENERGY POWERS LOCAL ECONOMIES ACROSS THE U.S.

- Wind energy is a job creator. The industry employs more than 120,000 Americans across all 50 states, including nearly 24,000 wind manufacturing jobs at over 500 facilities.
- Wind turbine technician is among the country's fastest-growing jobs.
- Wind has delivered \$135 billion of investment in the last decade throughout the U.S., mostly in rural communities. Last year alone, the industry invested \$12 billion in new projects.
- Wind projects deliver an estimated \$1.9 billion in state and local tax payments and land-lease payments across the country each year.
- Wind costs have fallen 47% over the last decade, making it one of the most affordable new electricity sources in the U.S.
- Made-in-the-USA manufacturing contributes to wind's affordability. Over 500 factories in 41 states in the U.S. supply chain help avoid shipping large, heavy turbine components over longer distances.
- Wind energy is holding down consumers' electric bills across the country, as utilities flock to add more to their portfolio at fixed prices for up to 20-25 years and hedge against uncertain fuel costs. It's like having a fixed-rate mortgage instead of an adjustable-rate mortgage.

## WIND ENERGY IS A WIN-WIN FOR AMERICAN FARMERS

- In an ever-fluctuating commodity market, wind projects provide farmers and landowners with a reliable source of income to hedge against uncertainties.
- Farmers are able to farm right up to the base of the turbine, giving them dual income potential for their land.

## WIND ENERGY IS SAFE AND RECYCLABLE

- No form of energy generation is free from impact. However, studies have shown wind energy's impacts to be the lowest, as it emits no air or water pollution, requires no mining or drilling for fuel, uses no water in the generation of electricity, and creates no hazardous or radioactive waste requiring permanent storage.
- When wind turbines eventually reach the end of their lifespan, up to 95% of the turbine is recyclable. The industry is committed to finding the right recycling solutions for the final 5% as well.