



THE WESTERN WAY

Conservative Stewards of the Western Environment

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Utah's Rural Renewables Generate \$5.3 Billion in Construction and Investment Activity

Salt Lake City, UT (October 6, 2021), The Western Way released, "[The Economic Benefits of Utah's Rural Renewable Energy Industry](#)." The economic impact study was conducted by Development Research Partners and analyzed rural utility scale renewable energy projects constructed in 11 counties in Utah. These projects account for 2,275 megawatts of nameplate capacity from solar, wind, and geothermal facilities over 10 megawatts. The report analyzed 31 projects built in Utah (5 under current development or construction slated for completion by 2023) which result in significant economic benefits to rural Utah including:

- **\$5.3 billion** in total output from construction and investment activity in from 2007 to 2023.
- **9,051 total jobs** (Direct and Indirect employees) earning **\$442.8 million in wages**.
- **\$4.1 billion from construction and investment** with **4,368 full-time** constructions jobs.
- **\$154.4 million** in total annual economic output with **568 employees** earning **\$32.1 million annually**.
- **\$24.6 million** in annual property taxes paid to local governments.
- **\$6.3 million** in annual lease payments to ranchers, farmers, and other landowners.

"During my time as Governor, I was in strong support of an All-Of-The-Above approach to energy development," said former Governor Gary Herbert. "This is the first time I have seen quantified the state-wide economic benefit of renewable energy projects of all types in Utah. It's impressive when you consider the megawatt output from the 31 utility-scale projects that encompass solar, wind and geothermal. The Western Way has done an excellent job guiding and sponsoring this study and our rural counties especially are benefiting greatly from this economic driver that I suspect is just going to grow.



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Mark Whitney
Commissioner, Beaver County

“The new report sponsored by The Western Way highlights the economic impact of renewable energy development and projects throughout the state. I’m really pleased to see what’s happening in Iron County and quantified here in this report. We are also excited about some of the geothermal activity that’s taking place over in New Castle. This could be really exciting in terms of additional job creation and positive economic activity for Iron County.”

Paul Cozzens
Commissioner, Iron County

“This new report provides a comprehensive assessment of the economic impacts renewable energy – solar, wind, and geothermal – are making in Utah, fostering a rural renaissance across the state in terms of investment and monetary impacts, local jobs, and tax revenues. This report should give state, county and city policymakers the assurance that local projects will benefit their neighbors and communities.”

Edwin R. Stafford Ph.D. Professor of Marketing
Jon M. Huntsman School of Business
Utah State University

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[Link to Report Website](#)

[Link to Executive Summary](#)

[Link to Full Report](#)

The Western Way is a non-profit organization focused on fiscal conservative, market-competitive solutions to environmental and conservation challenges facing our country. www.thewesternway.org