



REPORT RECAP

POWERING IOWA: RURAL PERSPECTIVES ON IOWA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSFORMATION

Development of transmission lines, wind, and solar energy has the potential to be a huge economic opportunity for rural communities in Iowa. With the implementation of any new infrastructure, residents need to know their rights and how to negotiate benefits to receive the best, most cost effective outcomes of the proposed projects.

Information outlined is from a survey administered by the Center for Rural Affairs. More detailed survey results can be found in the Center's report, "Powering Iowa: Rural Perspectives on Iowa's Renewable Energy Transformation."

SOLAR

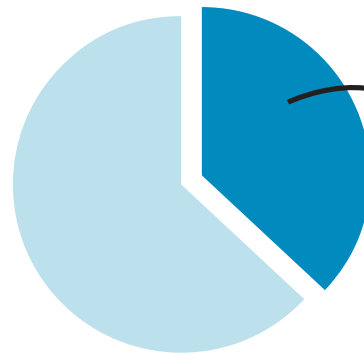


Solar power in Iowa has room to grow.

Iowa is the **16th highest state** for solar production potential, but ranks 36th for installed megawatts (MW) of solar energy. Currently, solar energy provides **550 jobs** in Iowa.

WIND

Wind energy is one of the cheapest sources of electricity in the U.S.



Accounts for more than **37%** of Iowa's electricity production.

• **6,952 MW** installed

• **8,000 to 9,000** jobs supported

Saves almost
• **four billion gallons** of water each year

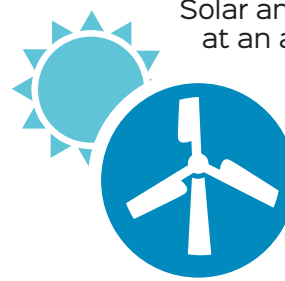
Enough power for
• **1.85 million homes**

• Provides **\$20 to \$25 million** in annual land lease payments





RENEWABLES



Solar and wind continue to grow at an astounding rate in the U.S. In 2016, solar accounted for

1 of every 50
new U.S. jobs.

TRANSMISSION



Benefits are larger than the costs for electricity customers when transmission lines are updated in their market.

The average consumer will pay
**\$12 per year in return
for \$32 per year**
in direct economic benefits.

**As of 2016,
Iowa imported
more than twice the
energy it produced.**

Increasing wind and solar in Iowa allows more Iowa energy dollars to stay in local economies.

SURVEY KEY FINDINGS

We surveyed county supervisors and auditors across Iowa to gauge their opinions on wind, solar, and transmission line development.

- A majority was supportive of wind and solar development and viewed it as an economic opportunity to benefit their community. Leaders were more likely to support wind and solar if they knew the economic benefits to their community.
- Those supportive of wind and solar did not necessarily also support new transmission lines. Transmission lines were seen as important for grid reliability and efficiency, and to create new opportunities for wind and solar. Physical transmission lines are not viewed as an economic benefit.
- Top concerns were fair treatment from developers and preservation of agricultural land.
- Landowners were encouraged to ask transmission developers these questions before negotiating an easement:
 - Where will the pole be placed?
 - How much compaction should I expect on my field?

VIEW THE ENTIRE REPORT:

“Powering Iowa: Rural Perspectives on Iowa’s Renewable Energy Transformation,” a report published in 2018 by Stephanie Enloe, Katie Rock, and the Center for Rural Affairs, can be found at cfra.org.

