



Impact of Clean Power on Iowa Agriculture

Iowa's farmland and thriving agricultural industry are the cornerstones of what makes the state home for many. The clean energy industry enhances the livelihood of Iowa's beloved farmers and landowners by offering them the choice to add a renewable energy cash crop to their operations. Iowa's commitment to renewable energy has provided stability in the face of economic uncertainty and a boost for farmers and rural communities.

Rural Way of Life:

Iowans take pride in the idyllic landscape, quiet surroundings, and unobstructed views that rural living provides. To ensure preservation of this rural way of life, clean energy developers work with rural communities and landowners to carefully approach their projects by:

- Taking measures to preserve and reset soil, mitigate erosion, and have minimal impact on agriculture production.
- Maintaining landowners' control of their land and the decision of whether they harvest crops, the wind, or the sun on their property.

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Our state has greatly benefited from clean energy. Iowa now ranks FIRST in the nation for its share of all electricity produced by renewable sources at 59 percent. Our state's electricity comes from our home-grown resources: the wind and the sun. Iowa runs on affordable, reliable, clean energy.

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Governor Kim Reynolds





Property Rights

It should be the decision of the property owner whether they want to continue farming traditional agriculture or whether they want to diversify their income with a stable funding source by harvesting the sun or wind. The decision should be in their hands – not the governments' or their neighbors'. Participation in clean energy projects is voluntary, with developers working directly with landowners who voluntarily seek to harvest the natural commodities of their choosing.

Comprehensive studies show solar and wind projects don't affect property values in the long-term. In fact, solar power is a driver for economic development in host communities and supports local municipal services that benefit all property owners by driving economic investment and tax revenue. These funds improve community infrastructure and services while also keeping local taxes low – all factors that can positively influence property values.



Land Use

The average wind farm leaves 98% of land undisturbed and free for other activities like farming and ranching. In fact, you can raise crops and livestock nearly up to the base of a wind turbine.



THE AVERAGE WIND FARM LEAVES

98%

OF LAND UNDISTURBED AND FREE FOR
OTHER ACTIVITIES





Affordability & Resiliency



Clean energy projects serve as a cash crop for landowners with lease payments that do not fluctuate based on market value.

Renewable energy is uniquely able to offer fixed-price contracts because it has no risk related to fuel costs. Therefore, the cost of wind and solar power does not change with the market volatility of oil and natural gas prices.

Wind and solar costs have fallen 47% and 71% over the last decade, holding down the price of other fuels than they otherwise may be. Renewables are also the most affordable new electricity source.

Economic Impact



The positive economic impact renewable energy creates is unparalleled.

The renewable industry is supporting jobs in the heart of rural Iowa, enabling young people to make a good living in the communities they grew up in.

Clean power projects provide extra income to farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners. In 2021, these drought and flood-proof land lease payments totaled \$70 million.

- Land lease payments in Iowa range from \$4,000 to \$13,000 per turbine per year.
- Steady income keeps farmers in the black in the face of uncertainty in commodity markets.
- Financial security can help to maintain land in a family for generations to come.



Job Creation



Solar and wind developments create jobs during construction and permanent jobs during operation. Beyond direct jobs for a project, the industry supports jobs along the supply chain including manufacturing, transportation, and construction. The economic activity spurred by construction supports local businesses such as convenience stores, restaurants, hotels, and retail.

Renewable projects provide tax revenue for local governments to improve infrastructure and public services, such as roads, bridges, schools, and emergency services – leading to even more jobs.

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Clean energy is good for Iowans. It brings new jobs, revenue for communities, and reliable income for rural landowners. While the growth we have seen in wind and solar across our state is phenomenal, there is still much to be done. Let's work together to strengthen our storage and transmission capabilities, build up our blossoming solar industry, and help the established wind industry in our state seek new heights.

——— **Congressman Randy Feenstra**

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Health & Safety



Millions of people safely live and work near solar development every day.

Solar and wind projects make the air we breathe cleaner and healthier. The use of solar power reduces U.S. healthcare costs through avoided air pollution and smog that triggers asthma attacks.

In 2021, the value of avoided carbon emissions from Iowa's renewable energy projects had an economic value of an estimated \$3,000-\$7,000 in health benefits. These benefits range from avoided asthma-related emergency room visits, lost workdays, and other pollution-related health impacts.

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