



Press Release

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Wichita State Study: Rainbow Springs Solar Strengthens Cherokee County's Economy

- Wichita State University Center for Economic Development and Business Research (CEDBR) report says construction will create over \$500 million in direct economic impact
- Wichita State CEDBR projects Rainbow Springs will directly contribute \$38 million in new revenue to the Cherokee County government over 20 years

COLUMBUS – A newly released Wichita State University economic impact study shows that the proposed Rainbow Springs Solar project will deliver a major, positive economic boost to Cherokee County. Benefits include \$38 million in new revenue for local government and nearly \$532 million in growth across the local economy during construction.

"The Rainbow Springs Solar Project brings significant steady revenue for Cherokee County, its government, and residents," says principal investigator Craig Compton for CEDBR.

A key benefit to the county, says Compton, is the additional revenue the project will provide to local government, totaling \$33 million over 20 years from property and sales taxes paid to the county government. In addition, Rainbow Springs will make a \$5 million direct cash "community benefit payment" to the Cherokee County Government during the first 10 years of the project, bringing the total 20-year direct contribution to \$38 million.

"County Commissioners can use these funds as they wish," says Compton. "For example, they could invest in road and bridge repair, support law enforcement salary increases, purchase needed public safety equipment, or lower future tax payments for local taxpayers."

"The economic impact will be felt across the county as the solar project hires workers and purchases local goods and services. Companies that supply and support the project grow from the increased activity. And the workers hired spend their wages locally, helping businesses on main street grow," says Compton. CEDBR estimates the value of economic expansion to total nearly \$532 million during construction, and \$50 million per year for 20 years during operations.

The Rainbow Springs Solar Project is a planned 225-megawatt solar energy facility located in Cherokee County, Kansas, with construction scheduled to commence in 2028. This proposed energy generation facility is designed to meet the growing energy demand within Southeast Kansas and Southwest Missouri.

The developer is Clearway Energy, a leading clean energy company with the 5th largest renewable operating fleet in the US.

"Rainbow Springs Solar is an investment in Cherokee County. We want to make Cherokee County stronger for generations. Through economic investment, using local labor and vendors, supporting Cherokee family farms, Rainbow Springs Solar is committed to becoming a member of Cherokee County for years to come," says Josh Framel, the Rainbow Springs project developer for Clearway Energy.

The Full CEDBR report [can be found here](#).

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About Rainbow Springs Solar: Rainbow Springs Solar is a proposed 225-megawatt solar energy project in Cherokee County, Kansas, designed to meet the growing demand for electricity in Kansas and Missouri.

About Clearway Energy: Clearway Energy Group's vision is a world powered by clean energy. Along with our public affiliate Clearway Energy, Inc., our portfolio comprises approximately 11.8 GW of gross generating capacity in 26 states, including 9.1 GW of wind, solar, and battery energy storage assets, and over 2.8 GW of flexible dispatchable power generation providing critical grid reliability services. As we develop a nationwide pipeline of new energy projects for the future, Clearway's operating fleet generates enough reliable electricity to power more than 2 million homes today. Clearway Energy Group is headquartered in San Francisco with offices in Denver, Houston, Phoenix, Princeton, and San Diego. For more information, visit clearwayenergygroup.com.

About Center for Economic Development and Business Research: Since 1968, the Center for Economic Development and Business Research (CEDBR) has served the Wichita area and beyond as a premier resource for economic forecasting, impact analysis, and business data. We strive to empower businesses, developers, and change-makers with the data and insights needed to drive meaningful and sustainable economic growth.