

# Supporting Agriculture Through Renewable Energy

As Iowans, we take pride in the agricultural commodities that feed a demanding world. Renewable energy plays a vital role in diversifying farmers' income and ensuring family farms continue to be sustainable.

Iowa's resource-rich land allows Iowa's farmers to produce essential foods and jobs that support the rural communities that make Iowa a very special place to call home. When agriculture succeeds, Iowa succeeds.

## FARMERS' RIGHTS AND LAND USE

The choice to harvest the sun or wind is voluntary and should be up to landowners. Farmers have the opportunity to take advantage of the commodity of their choice to benefit their bottom line.

The average wind farm leaves **98% of land undisturbed and free for other activities like farming**. As renewable energy projects are explored, experts work with rural communities and farmers to carefully approach projects by taking measures to:

- Preserve and reset soil
- Minimize impact on current and future agriculture production
- Develop on land with a low Corn Suitability Rating (CSR) to avoid interfering with high productivity farmland



## DIVERSIFYING FAMILY FARMS

Wind and solar projects provide Iowa's family farms with diversified and stable income to keep them in the black – keeping farms in the family generation over generation.

- The average lease payments for farmers and landowners range **\$4,000 to \$13,000 per wind turbine per year**.
- In Iowa, solar lease payments for farmers and landowners are approximately **\$5,360 per MW per year**.
- In 2024, wind and solar projects provided drought and flood-proof land lease payments to farmers and landowners totaling **\$91.4 million**.

## ECONOMIC BENEFIT FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Renewable energy provides rural communities with jobs, increased tax revenue, and long-term growth opportunities. 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. As of 2021, the average wind farm generates:

- **200 jobs during construction**
- **10 highly technical full-time jobs, making \$57,320 a year**
- **\$21 million in land lease payments over the life of the project**
- **\$240 million generated in property and tax revenue**

As farmers benefit from increased income from wind and solar energy projects, Iowa's rural communities benefit from diversification of job opportunities and increased tax revenue so they can continue to thrive.

## 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 other resources. Wind and solar costs have fallen **65% and 85%** over the last decade and are the most affordable new electricity source.



## TAKE ACTION!

Join Power Up Iowa, advocate for clean power in your community, and engage on social media.

[powerupiowa.com](http://powerupiowa.com)

**POWER UP**  **IOWA**