



## A Renewable America

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### Report Finds Expanding Michigan's Renewable Power Sector Could Create \$9 Billion in New Wages and Benefits

*Analysis comes as the EPA works to finalize new power sector rules*

DETROIT, MI. (December 16, 2014) – A [new report](#) released today by A Renewable America (ARA), a project of the Wind Energy Foundation, finds that Michigan's renewable electricity sector could create \$9 billion in wages and benefits from new project investment by 2030, with more than \$750 million in annual wages, benefits, and tax revenues once the projects are operational. The report also found the sector was responsible for \$2.2 billion in investment in the state's economy since 2008, and could create over 160,000 construction and operations jobs as the sector continues to grow.

"Wind and other renewable sectors are reviving Michigan's manufacturing industry," said **Dan Scripps, President of Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council (MEIBC)**. "Simply put, renewable energy is good for business in Michigan."

Significant cost declines in renewable electricity prices – especially for wind and solar power - have spurred rapid growth in the renewable industries in recent years. This boom is creating jobs and providing reliable, affordable energy across the state. The ARA report demonstrates the state's potential for new job creation, investment and tax revenue under several different scenarios, using new modeling based on the National Renewable Energy Laboratory data.

"Renewable energy is more affordable than it's ever been before." said **Kim Walton, Program Director, of the Michigan Alternative & Renewable Energy Center at Grand Valley State University**. "The report validates what many have known for a while – there is real potential and economic returns for renewable energy in Michigan."

The report, produced by ARA in collaboration with David Gardiner and Associates, also features four companies or projects that are representative of the current and future potential for Michigan's renewable power industries. Included are utility-scale projects, including the **Viking Energy** biomass facility in McBain, the **Kent County Waste-to-Energy** facility and the **Apple Blossom Wind Farm** in Huron County, as well as projects by large institutions, including **General Motors**.

"Our research found that Michigan has enough renewable resources to meet 48 percent of the state's electricity needs by 2030," said **Ryan Hodum, Vice President, David Gardiner and Associates**. "Maximizing the state's renewable electricity potential will allow Michigan to reduce carbon emissions well ahead of targets set by the EPA's Clean Power Plan."

Under the report's "high renewables" scenario, Michigan can expect to add more than 5,000 additional annual jobs. With this would come \$276 million in annual wages and benefits, \$425 million in annual tax revenue and \$50 million in annual land leasing revenue.

One visible example of the growth in the state's renewable energy industry is at General Motor's Detroit-Hamtramck facility. In partnerships with DTE and Detroit Renewable Energy, the facility installed a 516 kilowatt ground solar array and a 16 megawatt waste-to-energy facility. These projects provide more than half (58 percent) of the assembly plant's energy needs. Additionally, the automaker's solar and landfill-electricity projects at its Orion Township vehicle assembly plant are featured in an ad currently running online: <http://vimeo.com/114602235>

"For us, renewable energy is a smart business discussion. Our company saves with renewable power," said **Rob Threlkeld, Manager of General Motors' Renewable Energy Initiatives**. "With our solar array, we are saving \$15,000 a year in energy costs."

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### ***About A Renewable America***

*A project of the Wind Energy Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, A Renewable America provides education about the many benefits of American-made renewable electricity. A Renewable America raises public awareness of how each of the six major US renewable electric technologies – biomass, geothermal, hydro, solar, waste-to-energy and wind power – are already providing a substantial amount of clean, affordable and reliable electricity. For more information, visit [www.arenewableamerica.org](http://www.arenewableamerica.org) and follow #ARenewableAmerica on Twitter.*

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