Illinois has been successful in attracting investment for wind energy manufacturing and large wind energy projects.

Illinois ranks sixth in the nation for installed wind capacity with 4,861 MW, representing $9.9 billion in private investment. Illinois also ranks fourth in the nation in wind industry employment, with over 7,000 wind jobs in 2018. The state has attracted investment from major wind industry players, including developers E.ON Climate & Renewables and Invenergy, as well as tower manufacturer Arcosa and gearbox manufacturer Winergy. The investment of large companies has allowed many smaller manufacturers to get involved in the wind energy supply chain.

**Jobs & Economic Benefits**

The U.S. wind industry is a major economic development driver. In addition to job creation and billions of dollars in project investment, the wind industry invests heavily in local communities, providing significant revenue in the form of property, state, and local taxes.

- Direct wind industry jobs in 2018: 7,001 to 8,000
- Capital investment in wind projects through 2018*: $9.9 billion
- Annual state and local tax payments by wind projects: $40 million
- Annual land lease payments*: $10 - $15 million

*Source: Based on state and national averages from LBNL, NREL

**Wind-Related Manufacturing**

Over 500 manufacturing facilities in the U.S. make products for the wind industry, from blades, towers, and turbine nacelles to raw components such as fiberglass and steel.

- Number of active manufacturing facilities in the state: 34
Wind Projects as of 3Q 2019
- Installed wind capacity: **4,886 MW**
  » State rank for installed wind capacity: **6th**
- Number of wind turbines: **2,778**
  » State rank for number of wind turbines: **6th**
- Wind projects online: **50** (Projects larger than 10 MW: 29)
- Wind capacity under construction: **971 MW**
- Wind capacity in advanced development: **481 MW**

Wind Generation
In 2018, wind energy provided **6.8%** of all in-state electricity production.
- State rank for share of electricity: **17th**
- Equivalent number of homes powered by wind in 2018: **1,231,900**

Wind Energy Potential
- Land-based technical wind potential at 80 m hub height: **191,349 MW**
  (Source: AWS Truepower, NREL)
- Offshore net technical wind potential at 100 m hub height: **4,528 MW** (Source: NREL)

Environmental Benefits
Generating wind power creates no emissions and uses virtually no water.
- 2018 annual state water consumption savings*: **5.7 billion gallons**
- 2018 equivalent number of water bottles saved: **43 billion**
- 2018 annual state carbon dioxide (CO$_2$) emissions avoided: **10.7 million metric tons**
- 2018 equivalent cars’ worth of emissions avoided: **2.3 million**
*Based on national average water consumption factors for coal and gas plants.

Renewable Portfolio Standard
The Illinois RPS requires utilities and retail electric suppliers to generate 25% of their electricity sales from renewables by 2025. Illinois made changes to its RPS in December 2016, including adding a requirement for the procurement of 4 million RECs from new wind projects by 2030. The new law also changed the 75% carve-out for wind to 75% for wind and solar combined.