Wind energy means economic development for Maine.

Maine has strong wind energy resources that can be harnessed to help the state meet its renewable energy goals while supporting economic development in the state. Maine generated over 23% of its electricity from wind power in 2019, ranking sixth in the nation for wind energy as a share of total electricity generation. The state has 923 MW of wind online, representing $1.9 billion in capital investment. There are also five wind-related manufacturing facilities in the state producing components for the wind industry and supporting high-quality jobs.

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 2019: **1,001 to 2,000**
- Capital investment in wind projects through 2019*: **$1.9 billion**
- Annual state and local tax payments by wind projects**: **$17 million**
- Annual land lease payments: **$6.3 million**
  *Based on state and national averages from LBNL, NREL.
  **Based on member data. Includes PILOT payments.

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: **5**
Wind Projects as of Q2 2020
- Installed wind capacity: **923 MW**
  » State rank for installed wind capacity: **22nd**
- Number of wind turbines: **386**
  » State rank for number of wind turbines: **26th**
- Wind projects online: **18** (Projects larger than 10 MW: 13)
- Wind capacity under construction: **73 MW**
- Wind capacity in advanced development: **27 MW**

Wind Generation
In 2019, wind energy provided **23.60%** of all in-state electricity production.
- State rank for share of electricity: **6th**
- Equivalent number of homes powered by wind in 2019: **220,900**

Wind Energy Potential
- Land-based technical wind potential at 80 m hub height: **69,797 MW**
  (Source: AWS Truepower, NREL)
- Offshore net technical wind potential at 100 m hub height: **94,498 MW** (Source: NREL)

Environmental Benefits
Wind energy reduces emissions and water consumption by avoiding generation from fossil-fuel power plants.
- In-state carbon dioxide emissions avoided in 2019*: **650,000 metric tons**
  » Equivalent cars' worth of emissions avoided: **140,000**
- In-state water consumption savings in 2019**: **314 million gallons**

*Estimated using Aurora power sector model.
**Based on national average water consumption factors for coal and gas plants.

Renewable Portfolio Standard
Maine increased its RPS in June 2019, requiring electricity providers to supply 80% of their total electric sales from renewable resources by 2030, including a 50% target for new renewables. The state also established a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050.