

What Good Are Renewables?

**Saving consumers 2.4 Billion dollars per year
according to ERCOT**

Texas leads the nation and the world in wind capacity

Over the past decade, clean energy has taken on new importance as a social and economic priority. In fact, the US now leads the world in wind capacity and **Texas leads the nation**. These investments have led to a notable stimulus to business activity.



This creates investments and Jobs.



The Perryman Group (TPG) estimated the total impact of construction of wind capacity prior to recent initiatives to include

- \$26.1 billion in total spending (in constant 2009 dollars),
- \$12.6 billion in output (gross product), and
- 157,728 person-years of employment
(full-time equivalent jobs during the build-out period).

Ongoing operations of these facilities lead to gains of

- \$1.6 billion in annual total spending,
- \$530.9 million in output each year, and
- 3,876 permanent jobs.

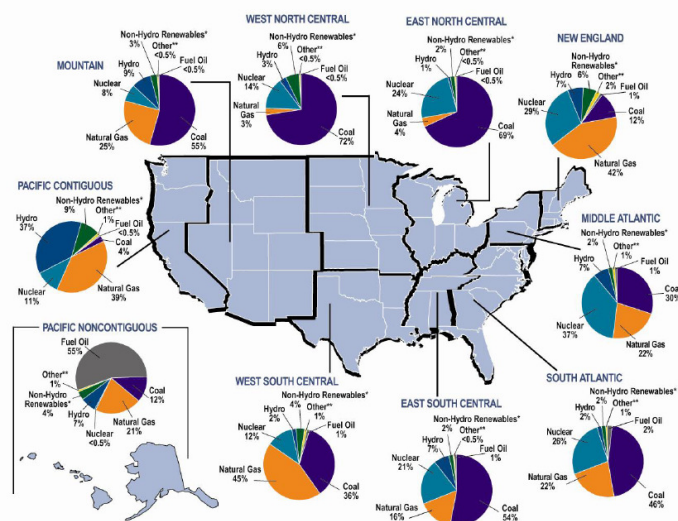
When current manufacturing and related activity is included, the total effects rise to almost 10,000 jobs.

Additional renewables are good for the health of the state.

Increased transmission infrastructure connecting the CREZ zones with the ERCOT grid will allow for greater development and utilization of the state's wind capacity as well as conservation of crucial resources such as water. In fact, the build-out of CREZ is predicted to conserve approximately 17 billion gallons of water annually and lead to reductions in emissions, including up to 16% in CO₂ and 13% in NO_x.

Renewables help keep our fuel mix diverse and electric prices low.

As the mix of fuels used for power generation in Texas becomes more diverse, cost savings can be expected. Because wind turbines never have to pay for fuel, their cost of operation does not increase the more they are used. So, as more wind power becomes available on the market, it has a greater influence on wholesale market prices. The net result is a lower overall cost of electricity. This results in reductions in rates for residential, commercial, and industrial customers.



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, Power Plant Operations Report (EIA-923); 2009 preliminary generation data.

New 2010 Study Shows Wind Energy Responsible for Nearly 10,000 Jobs in Texas

Perryman Group also estimates CREZ will create 40,000 jobs, \$30.6 billion in economic output.

The Perryman Group found sizable positive economic impacts of the **Competitive Renewable Energy Zones (CREZ)** transmission investment on business activity. These benefits are realized across the entire Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) region, both near the transmission route and elsewhere. They are also enjoyed by Texans in many occupations far removed from power generation.

Clearly, this ambitious and enlightened investment stands to pay notable dividends to Texans and permit the state to enjoy the “winds of prosperity” for generations to come.

As ERCOT found in its Texas Renewable Integration Project Report, increased wind does not pose any additional stability risks to the ERCOT system.