



PRESS RELEASE

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New Report: Wind Energy Creates Jobs, Boosts Maine Economy

PORTLAND – A new economic report predicts that 2015 will be a banner year for job creation associated with Maine’s wind energy industry, which is poised to create 4,200 jobs in 2015.

An analysis of wind energy in Maine released today shows that the industry has made a significant positive impact on the state’s economy, generating nearly \$1.3 billion in investment, employing more than 1,500 people per year and helping to open new markets for Maine companies.

Conducted by Charles Colgan, Ph.D., and the Maine Center for Business & Economic Research at the University of Maine in conjunction with Wind for Maine and the Maine Renewable Energy Association, the report’s major findings include:

- New investment of nearly \$1.28 billion between 2006-2013;
- \$1.14 billion in employee earnings over the same period;
- Creation of 1,560 jobs per year, peaking in 2013 at 4,200; and
- Development of new markets for 23 Maine-based companies that led to nearly \$89.6 million in sales in 2011-2013 and 390 jobs in Maine.

“The development of wind energy generation has become a significant industry in Maine,” Colgan said. “The industry has brought substantial new investment into the state and created thousands of jobs, helping to diversify and strengthen Maine’s economy.”

The report also predicts that 2015 will be a peak year for job creation from wind power in Maine when more than 4,200 jobs will be created as a result of the industry’s activities.

The average number of jobs created per year for 2015-2018 is estimated at 2,756.

“Looking at the last few years, one of the only bright spots in the private-sector development has been in the energy sector. The report today highlights the benefits of wind energy on Maine’s construction economy. The report indicates 6 percent of construction jobs, 1,400 will be supported by wind energy projects. There are very few other industries investing \$1.28 billion in development,” said Matt Marks, the chief executive officer of the Associated General Contractors of Maine.

In addition to job creation and economic impact, by 2018 clean, emission-free wind energy projects are predicted to account for more than 1,300 megawatts of electricity production, larger than any other single electric generating facility in Maine.

“Maine wind farms generate clean, renewable energy that can help to hold down electricity costs for consumers while reducing air pollution and our region’s dependency on fossil fuels,” said Jeremy Payne, the executive director of the Maine Renewable Energy Association. “We know it’s critical for this investment to experience a predictable and fair regulatory climate that will encourage new investment in wind, hydro, solar and other renewable energy resources.”

About Wind for Maine:

Wind for Maine is a growing coalition of Maine people, businesses and communities that support the responsible development and growth of wind energy in Maine as a way to strengthen the state’s economy, reduce our dependence of fossil fuel and protect the environment.

For more information, visit: www.windforme.org.

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