

Wind Energy and Economic Development in Alabama

Jobs and Economic Development

The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, a regional nonprofit group, recently carried out analysis on how wind farm development in Cherokee County might affect jobs and the economy. Using a reputable model, the number of jobs and the amount of money spent on salaries and economic activities generated were estimated for the construction and operation of a 18 megawatt wind power plant.* The analysis can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/AlabamaJEDI>

By The Numbers

According to the analysis, 18 megawatts of wind power development in Cherokee County could:

- Generate approximately 113 full-time-equivalent jobs during construction periods with a total payroll of \$4.7 million
- Support approximately 4 ongoing operations jobs with a total annual payroll of \$200,000
- Generate more than \$11 million in economic activity during the construction period of the wind project
- Generate \$500,000 in annual economic activities during operating years
- Generate more than \$100,000 in annual property taxes
- Generate approximately \$60,000 annually in extra income for farmers/households or others who lease their land to developers

* The model was the Jobs and Economic Development Impact (JEDI) model, developed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). More information about the JEDI model is at <http://bit.ly/jedimodel>. Alabama specific analysis at <http://bit.ly/AlabamaJEDI>.



Photo Courtesy of NREL

Project Costs

Total Construction Costs: \$36.8 million+
(This includes the cost of wind turbine equipment and the remaining systems, components, and structures that comprise a complete power plant)

Total Wind Plant Annual Operating & Maintenance Costs: \$6 million+
(This includes labor costs and materials and services)

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