CONTROLLING YOUR ELECTRICITY BILL

For a wind energy project to be successful, there must be a buyer for the power it will produce. Generally, this electricity is purchased by utilities, manufacturers, universities, or municipalities that demand large amounts of energy.

These large-scale customers buy wind power because:

- Unlike coal, gas, and other fuels, the cost of wind doesn't change. The fuel for wind energy is free.
- Once a project is built, the cost of producing energy remains constant, so power purchase contracts "lock in" a predictable, steady rate for 20 to 25 years.

Wind Is Price Competitive

In many locations, the cost of wind power is already competitive with other energy sources. In fact, in some parts of the country, consumers are saving significant sums of money because utilities are buying power from wind energy projects.

> **"Wind energy costs are lower than ever, with steady advances in technology and better wind turbine performance."**
>
> **—U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)**

Wind Power Installation Is Increasing Substantially

Wind power constituted 25% of all capacity additions in 2017. Over the past decade, wind represented 30% of all U.S. capacity additions, and an even larger fraction of new capacity in the Interior (55%) and Great Lakes (44%) regions.*

Wind Energy and Tax Incentives

Tax incentives to encourage domestic energy production are nothing new. Some oil industry tax incentives are over 100 years old. Incentives have played a major role in developing new technologies that have reduced natural gas prices and commercialized shale-oil production, helping to drive America's current energy boom.

> **"Wind power additions continued at a rapid pace in 2017. ... Wind power capacity additions have also been driven by continued improvements in the cost and performance of wind power technologies, yielding low-priced wind energy for utility, corporate, and other power purchasers."**
>
> **— U.S. Department of Energy, 2016 Wind Technologies Market Report**

The Renewable Electricity Production Tax Credit (PTC) is an income tax credit of 2.2 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for electricity from wind turbines. Unlike a grant or direct payment to wind energy companies, the PTC reduces income tax for wind project owners based on the amount of energy produced in the first 10 years of operation. This savings allows a project to charge lower rates for its energy. Thus, like all energy incentives, the PTC helps save money for consumers while also creating American jobs in construction, turbine component manufacturing, supply industries, trucking companies, and more.

*U.S. Department of Energy, *2017 Wind Technologies Market Report*

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