



ECONOMIC BENEFITS ARE A BREEZE THANKS TO RUSH CREEK WIND

The Rush Creek Wind Project in Eastern Colorado spans Elbert, Lincoln, Arapahoe, Kit Carson, and Cheyenne counties, making it the largest wind farm in the state. Operated by Xcel Energy, the 600 MW installation spans a whopping 95,000 acres and generates enough electricity to meet the annual power needs of approximately 325,000 households.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **600 MW** wind capacity
- **324,000** homes powered
- **1M** metric tons of CO₂ eliminated annually

COMMUNITY IMPACT

A case study from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory found that Rush Creek provided significant economic benefits for rural communities. [67% of business](#) in the region experienced an increase in revenue from the previous year. Hiring across local businesses also increased following construction in 2018, and the farm is estimated to generate approximately \$62.5 million in property taxes for the region.

Launched in 2018, Rush Creek Wind is expected to generate \$800 million in energy cost savings over the 25-year lifetime of the project, with the majority of savings accrued during the first 10 years of operation. The wind farm is also projected to contribute \$20 million to the state's economy annually, with local governments, business owners, and ranchers seeing the benefits. Revenues from the land lease payments paid to ranchers and farmers total an estimated \$45 million, providing an invaluable buffer for local economies suffering strain from the current pandemic.

Colorado leads the Mountain West for advanced energy investments and innovation. Rush Creek capitalized on in-state manufacturing and installation for its wind turbines, reducing transportation costs and supporting the local manufacturing supply chain. The farm currently supports 180 jobs and created another 350 during the turbines' installation. Two new substations and a 345-kilovolt transmission line also spurred added jobs in the region.

SUPPORT MORE PROJECTS LIKE THESE

Making the production tax credit (PTC) for wind refundable, supporting transmission deployment through tax credits or other financial incentives, supporting domestic manufacturing through incentives like the 48C tax credit, and encouraging advanced energy development in rural areas can bring more projects like this to Colorado.