

Wind Energy Production Tax Delivers \$12 Million to Rural Minnesota Counties for 2018

Kelley Welf, Communications Manager • Apr. 17, 2019



MORE THAN \$106 MILLION PAID SINCE 2004

The Minnesota Department of Revenue Property Tax Division compiled the amount of wind energy production tax revenue that is paid to counties earlier this month. Since 2004, wind companies have paid \$106,814,805 in such payments, which are funneled back to the rural Minnesota counties that host wind developments.

Statewide, Mower County ranks first in the state for the amount of wind energy production tax revenue, with \$2.14 million coming their way this year. Mower County has maintained its first place rank since 2010. Since 2004, Mower County has received \$19.3 million in production tax revenue from wind projects.

Lincoln County will receive more than \$1.6 million in 2019 for 2018 production, reflecting a 49 percent increase over last year. This is the largest increase in the state, and is due to the 200 megawatt Red Pine project that came online in 2017 and had a full year of operation in 2018. Statewide, Lincoln County now ranks third for the amount of wind energy production tax revenue for 2018, behind Mower County and Jackson County, respectively. Since 2004, Lincoln County has received \$12.9 million in production tax revenue from wind projects. Jackson County has received \$15.4 million in production tax revenue from wind projects, and received \$2.13 million for the year.

Nearly 30 percent of the counties in Minnesota receive wind energy production tax revenue. These funds go a long way toward road and bridge improvements, schools and emergency services, as well as holding down property taxes in small towns where attracting big businesses and other sources of new revenue are hard to come by. [Click here to learn more about how communities benefit from wind.](#)

Nationally, wind farms pay more than \$1 billion annually to rural communities according to the American Wind Energy Association's (AWEA) [2018 Annual Market Report](#). This massive financial investment reflects a combination of \$761 million per year paid by wind farms in state and local taxes that may be used to help support schools systems, fix roads, invest in emergency services, and even hold down property taxes. Another \$289 million annually is paid in wind farm land lease payments, which provides a valuable cash-crop for farmers and ranchers.

In Minnesota, more than \$12 million in wind energy production tax revenue is going to counties that host wind farms this year. In addition, another \$10 - \$15 million was paid in land lease payments to landowners last year, according to AWEA. Rural communities around the country are benefiting from the development and growth of our renewable energy sector. Wind energy is a low-cost, clean, and reliable form of renewable energy that is just smart for Minnesota.

County	Tax Payable Year 2019	Cumulative Taxes Payable 2004-19
Becker	\$11,616	\$60,440
Chippewa	\$4,665	\$4,665
Clay	\$174,764	\$916,589
Cottonwood	\$712,866	\$3,751,993
Dodge	\$129,793	\$725,427
Faribault	\$143,936	\$932,118
Freeborn	\$609,078	\$5,176,709
Grant	\$65,274	\$602,479
Jackson	\$2,131,884	\$15,416,383
Lincoln	\$1,614,419	\$12,994,837
Lyon	\$68,724	\$495,848
Martin	\$330,976	\$4,182,972
McLeod	\$0	\$312
Meeker	\$117,898	\$1,077,150
Mower	\$2,141,038	\$19,358,955
Murray	\$1,236,112	\$16,115,779
Nobles	\$1,039,050	\$8,934,449
Otter Tail	\$0	\$0
Pipestone	\$535,727	\$8,015,473
Redwood	\$3,333	\$6,580
Rice	\$0	\$3,195
Rock	\$754,441	\$5,047,025
Sherburne	\$91	\$1,701
St. Louis	\$60,976	\$733,731
Stearns	\$345,669	\$754,663
Steele	\$138,814	\$1,073,361
Todd	\$1,655	\$16,376
Watonwan	\$32,095	\$386,832
Winona	\$2,348	\$28,762
TOTALS	\$12,407,239	\$106,814,805