



# UTAH AND WYOMING: Economic Opportunities in PacifiCorp's Renewable Energy Transition

## Key Takeaway

Investing in renewable energy resources in Wyoming and Utah will create long-lasting, good-paying jobs. Those investments also drive increased economic activity and tax revenue which can fund schools, hospitals, and more in both states, more than making up for any lost economic activity and tax revenue from retiring fossil fuel operations

---

## Background

While PacifiCorp's 2023 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) included significant investments in various renewable energy resources and planned retirement dates for coal power plants, its 2023 IRP Update as well as its draft 2025 IRP drastically scale back these investments and delay coal plant retirement dates indefinitely.

A new report by Current Energy Group analyzes the impacts of PacifiCorp's energy transition in Wyoming and Utah [through three resource investment portfolios](#): Low Renewables investment, High Renewables investment, and High Renewables investment with a focus on improving transmission to Utah and Wyoming. Each portfolio exceeds the renewable energy investments outlined in PacifiCorp's draft 2025 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP).

Utah and Wyoming are well suited for renewable energy. According to the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), Utah's high solar irradiance, arid climate, and vast open spaces make the state a prime beneficiary for [solar energy](#), while Wyoming's expansiveness and high-altitude prairies and ridges make the state ideal for [wind energy](#).

Utah's current electricity generation is driven through coal power (47%) and natural gas (36%). Wyoming is the largest coal-producing state in the country, with ten major coal fields and eight of the largest coal mines in the U.S. Pollution from coal plants have [well-documented](#) adverse health effects, and a third of Berkshire Hathaway-owned plants ([the dirtiest in the country](#)) are in Wyoming.

---





# UTAH AND WYOMING: Economic Opportunities in PacifiCorp's Renewable Energy Transition

## Report Results

Under the High Renewables plan, PacifiCorp would produce 18,247 more job-years in Wyoming and Utah relative to the Low Renewables investment plan. Additional investments in workforce training programs would further mitigate the effects of coal plant retirements on workers.

Workers under the High Renewables portfolio would be expected to earn salaries of approximately \$97,000 per year for Utah and \$85,000 per year for Wyoming, compared to the current annual average of \$61,070 in Utah and \$57,930 in Wyoming.

Renewable energy deployment also drives significant economic activity through metrics like worker benefits, sales taxes, and rent from properties. The High Renewables portfolios would generate billions more in value added than the Low Renewables portfolio.

While retiring coal resources would initially decrease tax revenue, incremental tax revenue from renewables would offset or exceed this reduction depending on deployment. The UT/WY-focused High Renewables plan, which combines high renewable energy investments with increased transmission infrastructure, would generate 12% more in tax revenue than the Low Renewables plan contributing to public school funding, road operations, and other public services.

|         | Low Renewables Investment   | High Renewables Investment  | High Renewables + Transmission  |
|---------|---|---|---|
| Utah    | Jobs created: 20,525<br>Tax revenue (\$M): \$121.73<br>Economic output: \$3.4bn | Jobs created: 32,157<br>Tax revenue (\$M): \$228.74<br>Economic output: \$4.9bn | Jobs created: 41,483<br>Tax revenue (\$M): \$274.00<br>Economic output: \$6.2bn |
| Wyoming | Jobs created: 7,600<br>Tax revenue (\$M): \$63.74<br>Economic output: \$1.1bn   | Jobs created: 15,018<br>Tax revenue (\$M): \$83.78<br>Economic output: \$2.6bn  | Jobs created: 16,627<br>Tax revenue (\$M): \$126.48<br>Economic output: \$2.8bn |
| Total   | Jobs created: 28,125<br>Tax revenue (\$M): \$185.47<br>Economic output: \$4.5bn | Jobs created: 47,175<br>Tax revenue (\$M): \$312.52<br>Economic output: \$7.5bn | Jobs created: 58,110<br>Tax revenue (\$M): \$400.48<br>Economic output: \$9.1bn |

