



Ohio Utility-Scale Solar Economic Impacts Primer

More and more communities across the country are welcoming utility scale solar projects and the significant economic impacts they bring. Dramatically declining costs, increased corporate demand for clean energy, and stable, predictable fuel pricing, are all factors for the increase in solar projects developed each year, which in turn deliver revenues to communities, farmers, and schools.

This document is intended to provide a generalization of economic impacts a community can expect from a utility scale solar development. Utility scale solar is typically defined as a solar project that is at least 5 megawatts (MW), however, this document uses 500 MW as its baseline to capture some of the economies of scale of larger developments and to make calculations easier for other project sizes.

Economic Impact per 500 MW Utility-Scale Solar Development (estimated for Ohio counties)

Total Capital Investment

- **\$500,000,000**

Job Creation

- **400-500 Construction jobs**
- **10-12 full time, permanent jobs**

PILOT Revenue Top Line Impacts

- **\$9,000 per MW annually**
 - **500 MW = \$4,500,000 annually**
 - **40 year PILOT = \$180,000,000**
- **Local school district typically collects more than 50% of the annual payments**
- **PILOT revenue from a solar project will significantly exceed the current tax revenues from the existing property.**

Additional PILOT Information

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) was created by the Ohio General Assembly to spur renewable energy development and bring significant new revenue to Ohio communities.

Revenue Recipients

Key annual revenue recipients include:

- County & Township General Funds
- County School Districts
- Youth, Senior, & Mental Health Services
- Emergency Medical Services
- County Roads

PILOT Provisions

The PILOT requires a developer to:

- Maintain & improve infrastructure affected by construction
- Provide local first responder training
- Establish a training partnership with local vocational schools
- Employ a workforce of 80% Ohioans

**Becomes 70%, effective October 2023*

Local Supply Chain Impact

- Injection of millions of dollars into the local economy during development, including:
 - Lodging & lodging taxes, restaurants
 - Fleet vehicles & maintenance
 - Excavators, electricians, landscaping
 - Engineering, surveying service

Possible Use of Revenue

- Infrastructure improvements
- Education investments
- Small business & entrepreneurial services
- Job creation programs
- Funding for local chamber of commerce and/or economic development organizations

Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy works with chambers of commerce and economic development organizations to amplify the economic benefits of clean energy. Our nationwide network represents more than 1,300 chambers and economic development organizations.