

# 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.

Chambers for Innovation and Clean Energy works with chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, and other community stakeholders to outline the economic benefits of such projects, create messaging to the business community and residents, and advocate for projects.

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 100 MW as its baseline to capture some of the economies of scale of larger developments and to make calculations easier for other project sizes.

## **Impact per 100 MW solar development (estimated for Clark County, Kentucky):**

### **Jobs**

- 278 new local jobs construction phase- county
- 510 new jobs during construction- state
- 5.5 new long-term jobs- county
- 6.5 new long-term jobs- state

### **Output (GDP)**

- \$31 MM+ local output construction phase- county
- \$62 MM+ local output construction phase- state
- \$715,000+ local long-term output- county
- \$1 MM+ local long term output- state

### **Possible Uses of Revenues**

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

### **Revenue**

- \$23 MM+ new revenue during construction- county
- \$42 MM+ new revenue during construction- state
- \$238,000+ annual long-term revenue- county
- \$371,000+ annual long-term revenue- state

### **Property Taxes (life of project)**

- \$1.5 MM+ in total school district revenue
- \$3.3 MM+ property taxes for the state
- \$5.5 MM+ property taxes for all taxing districts

### **Supply chain output examples**

- Fleet vehicles and maintenance
- Excavators, electricians, laborers, security
- Engineering/surveying services
- Construction purchases and services
- Landscaping/grass maintenance
- Garbage disposal, portable restroom rentals

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