



# KERN COUNTY

## RENEWABLE ENERGY FACT SHEET

### MARCH 2017

## OVERVIEW

Kern County produces more renewable energy than any other county in California. In 2011, its Board of Supervisors established a goal to have 10,000 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy in production by 2015 and to date the county has permitted over 11,000 MW of all types and sizes of renewable energy resources. Over \$28 billion has been invested in the county by companies that are developing renewable energy projects.

## POLICIES AND OVERSIGHT

Kern County's Planning and Natural Resources Department oversees land use planning and community development programs—including renewable energy projects and conservation measures. The Energy Element of the Kern County General Plan defines energy-related issues in the county and identifies goals, policies, and implementation measures to protect energy resources while encouraging energy development. In 2015, Kern County updated its [zoning ordinance](#) to make it easier for building owners to install on-site energy systems and streamlined the requirements for energy storage projects. This revised zoning ordinance is designed to help the county achieve its renewable energy goal. The county plans to start a comprehensive overhaul of its [General Plan](#) in 2017, including its energy and land use elements.

## PROJECTS AND GENERATING CAPACITY

The Energy Commission's December 2016 Renewable Energy Tracking Progress [report](#) shows that Kern County (incorporated and unincorporated areas) had 142 wholesale renewable projects on-line with a total generating capacity of 5,293 megawatts. In addition, there are over 24,000 distributed generation systems, such as rooftop solar, capable of providing up to 305 MW of capacity, installed at homes and buildings in the county. Also, there are 25 solar PV projects with a combined capacity of 1,540 MW and 12 wind energy projects with a combined capacity of 1,519 MW with environmental permits in the county that could become operational in the future.

## EFFORTS TIED TO DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN (DRECP)

Kern County is one of seven counties working with state and federal agencies on the development of the [DRECP](#), a major component of California's renewable energy planning efforts. The DRECP is a landscape-scale, multi-agency planning effort for 22.5 million acres in California's desert. It will provide for the conservation of desert ecosystems while facilitating the appropriate development of renewable energy projects.

Kern County was part of the Stakeholder Committee that informed the DRECP's development, and it submitted [comments](#) on the draft DRECP and environmental study that was released in September 2014.

Kern County will take up the issues of renewable energy development and conservation, among other issues, in its upcoming General Plan update.

More information on renewable energy in Kern County can be found on the [web pages](#) of its Planning Department.

## On-Line Renewable Energy Projects In Kern County (As Of October 31, 2016)\*

Type	Utility-Scale Capacity (>20 MW)		Distributed-Scale Capacity (1-20 MW)		Behind-the-Meter Capacity (MW)
	No. of Projects	Total MW	No. of Projects	Total MW	Total MW
Wind	33	3,126	22	184	
Small Hydro	1	25	4	50	
Solar PV	11	1,254	68	530	
Biomass	2	122	1	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>4,527 MW</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>766 MW</b>	<b>305 MW</b>

\* The information provided in this table is based on data from the Quarterly Fuel and Energy Report (QFER), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) RPS Project Status Table, Energy Commission S2/S5 Forms, CPUC "Currently Interconnected Data Set" (October 2016), and SB1 Solar Program Status Reports.

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