



# INYO COUNTY

## RENEWABLE ENERGY FACT SHEET

### MARCH 2017

## OVERVIEW

Inyo County is home to a number of renewable energy resources and projects, the largest of which is the Coso Geothermal Plant at [Coso Hot Springs](#), a resource that is on the [National Register of Historic Places](#). Inyo County's General Plan and [Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment \(REGPA\)](#) designates solar energy development areas on private lands within the county and establishes standards and processes for projects that are seeking county approval.

## POLICIES AND OVERSIGHT

Inyo County's [Planning Department](#) oversees the county's renewable energy development. The county's renewable energy goals and policies: encourages the sound development of any and all energy resources including but not limited to geothermal, biomass and solar; the development of adequate corridors necessary for the transmission of newly generated energy; maintaining energy opportunities on state and federal lands; and encourages treating renewable energy sources as natural resources." The [REGPA](#) approved by the [Inyo County Board of Supervisors in March 2015](#) guides renewable energy development in the County by identifying solar energy development areas (SEDA) and corresponding total capacity caps, and providing guidelines for solar facility development.

## PROJECTS AND GENERATING CAPACITY

The Energy Commission's December 2016 [Renewable Energy Tracking Progress report](#) shows that Inyo County (incorporated and unincorporated areas) had 14 wholesale renewable energy projects on-line with a capacity of 383 megawatts (MW). In addition, there were 334 distributed generation systems, such as rooftop solar, capable of providing up to 4 MW of capacity, installed at homes and buildings in the county. The county has permitted one renewable energy project capable of generating 4 MW that is not yet on-line.

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

Inyo County is one of seven counties that are 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.

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

It is one of five counties—along with Imperial, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino—in the DRECP area that applied for and received a [Renewable Energy Conservation Planning Grant](#) from the Energy Commission. Under MOUs signed with the state and in a manner consistent with goals set forth in a planning agreement, these five counties formed cooperative relationships to effectively plan for and promote renewable energy development in a way that advances the counties' and state's renewable energy policies and initiatives.

Inyo County was awarded two grants totaling \$1.1 million. The first grant for \$700,000 supported the development of an update to its previously rescinded REGPA, including the preparation of the corresponding Environmental Impact Report. The second grant for \$400,000 was used to prepare a study in the Owens Valley and Owens Lake area to support future planning efforts.

The study includes the collection and development of detailed geospatial data, and the engagement of public, private and tribal partners to study the area for the appropriateness of renewable energy resource development. The final Study provides an inventory of land use issues related to renewable energy development in the Owens Valley and on Owens Lake – including areas not analyzed under previous planning efforts at a finer scale - and can be accessed from the [DataBasin webportal](#).

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

## ON-LINE RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS IN INYO COUNTY (AS OF OCTOBER 30, 2016)\*

Type	Utility-Scale Capacity (>20 MW)		Distributed-Scale Capacity (1-20 MW)		Behind-the-Meter Capacity (MW)
	Number of Projects	Total MW	Number of Projects	Total MW	Total MW
Geothermal	3	302	-	-	
Small Hydro	1	38	10	43	
Solar PV	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>340 MW</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>43 MW</b>	<b>4 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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