



SAN BERNARDINO

RENEWABLE ENERGY FACT SHEET

MARCH 2017

OVERVIEW

San Bernardino County has a history of renewable energy development. The county's desert region is home to a number of large-scale solar projects built in the 1980s and 1990s. Two of the largest solar projects in California are in San Bernardino County: Ivanpah (370 megawatts MW) and Abengoa Mojave (250 MW).

POLICIES AND OVERSIGHT

San Bernardino County's [Planning Office](#) administers land use and planning policies and codes adopted by its Board of Supervisors. The county is creating a [Renewable Energy and Conservation Element for its General Plan \(REC Element\)](#). The purpose of the project—referred to as the 'San Bernardino County Partnership for Renewable Energy and Conservation' (SPARC)—is to provide a framework that supports appropriate renewable energy development while protecting community and natural resources.

SPARC is designed to help the county manage resources for habitat preservation, recreation opportunities, alternative energy, future growth and water and air quality using a framework that serves as a foundation for the pending General Plan update.

PROJECTS AND GENERATING CAPACITY

The Energy Commission's December 2016 Renewable Energy Tracking Progress report shows that San Bernardino County (incorporated and unincorporated) had

106 wholesale renewable energy projects on-line with a total generating capacity of 1,526 MW. In addition, there were over 40,000 distributed generation systems, like rooftop solar, capable of providing 273 MW of capacity, installed at homes and buildings in the county. Also, there are 21 solar PV projects with a combined capacity of 604 MW and a 50 MW solar thermal project with environmental permits in the county that could become operational in the future.

EFFORTS TIED TO DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN (DRECP)

San Bernardino 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 covering 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.

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

It was one of five counties—along with Imperial, Inyo, Los Angeles and Riverside—in the DRECP area that [applied](#) for and received a [Renewable Energy Conservation Planning Grant \(RECPG\)](#) from the California Energy Commission. Under MOUs signed with the state and in

a manner consistent with goals set forth in a planning agreement, these 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.

San Bernardino County received two grants totaling \$1.1 million. The first for \$700,000 supported the development of the SPARC project, one of several projects funded by the Energy Commission to strengthen the ability of local jurisdictions to enable and permit appropriate renewable energy that is compatible with natural resources. The second grant for \$400,000 built off the SPARC project and enabled the development of a system that evaluates the costs, benefits, and best opportunities for renewable energy resource development. The results have informed the county's Renewable Energy and Conservation Element proposed policies.

One outcome of the planning grant projects was public interest in developing community-scale renewable energy projects that provide local benefits. Community-scale projects provide energy directly to local facilities, campuses and neighborhoods.

More information on renewable energy in San Bernardino County can be found on the [SPARC Forum](#) website and the county's [Land Use Services Planning Renewable Energy](#) web page.

On-line Renewable Energy Projects in San Bernardino County (as of June 30, 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
Bioenergy	-	-	1	3	
Small Hydro	1	24	10	14	
Solar PV	1	186	79	265	
Solar Thermal	11	999	-	-	
Wind Energy	-	-	3	7	
Total	13	1,209 MW	93	318 MW	273 MW

* 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" (March 2016), and SB1 Solar Program Status Reports.

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CEC-700-2015-007-FS