



SOUTHERN IDAHO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION

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[SOUTHERNIDAHO.ORG](http://southernidaho.org)



Southern Idaho

RENEWABLE ENERGY

The five primary sustainable energy sectors - hydro, wind, geothermal, biomass, and solar - each utilize a different form of natural resources. A community's geographic location, elements, and weather pattern largely dictates which green energy sector can be developed there.

It's rare that any region can boast the ability to produce commercial energy in all of these categories. But southern Idaho is one of those unique areas currently producing commercial power in four of the five categories. This region is ideally located in an area of the United States where all five renewable energy elements can be tapped and utilized for energy production.

This nine-county region recently announced that a major solar farm is planned for this area, so southern Idaho will soon produce green energy in all five sectors.

HYDROELECTRIC

- * The Snake River, locally known as the "mighty Snake" and "the lifeblood of southern Idaho," is credited with turning dry sagebrush desert into fertile soil for a massive and vital agriculture industry in southern Idaho.
- * The strong flows of the Snake have been harnessed to produce hydroelectric power, providing electricity for communities all along the Snake River.
- * Idaho Power operates 17 hydroelectric power plants. It also purchases power from 30 wind projects, 24 solar projects, 2 geothermal projects, 10 biomass projects, and 70 small hydro projects. Because of the large amount of electricity produced by hydro power, Idaho has some of the lowest utility rates in the west.

WIND ENERGY

- * Wind power is one of southern Idaho's leading sources of alternative energy. Atop the Snake River lies the Snake River plain that produces average wind speeds of 13 mph, making this area the states windiest and an ideal spot for wind farms.
- * The area's natural wind flow, consistent wind patterns, and open areas has attracted the attention of numerous developers. Thanks to the close proximity of existing transmission facilities and high voltage transmission lines, developers have an easy tie-in with locations in Northern Nevada.
- * Atlantic Power Corporation, in partnership with Idaho Wind Partners, operates 11 southern Idaho wind farms, the state's largest wind power project. The \$500 million, 122 turbines can generate 183 megawatts of energy, enough to power 39,700 average Idaho homes.

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Winter 2017



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GEOTHERMAL

- * Harnessing steam power from the earth, geothermal is another major player in the area's alternative fuel market.
- * Geothermal hotspots are plentiful in this region, less than 100 miles from Yellowstone National Park Geothermal.
- * The utility-scale Raft River geothermal project is located in southern Idaho at the site of a former U.S. Department of Energy geothermal installation. The site is attractive because of the proven 300 degree Fahrenheit hot water resource that has been developed and tested, and because of the significant infrastructure facilities that are currently in place.

BIOMASS/BIOFUELS

- * Over 525,000 dairy and feedlot cattle in the area equates to ample biomass-generating material.
- * Dairies and local businesses are working together to develop and purchase anaerobic digesters that take cow waste and convert it into natural gas which is either used commercially or converted into electricity. The gas is used to heat dairies and as a supplemental energy source to Intermountain Gas.
- * Intrepid Technology and Resources, Inc. and Cargill operate anaerobic digesters at several southern Idaho dairies producing both pipeline-quality gas and electricity.

SOLAR

Idaho is blessed with abundant high-quality solar resources and southern Idaho is ramping up with solar projects for utility-scale electricity generation. 13 projects in the region add up to about 400 MW, enough to power up to 400,000 homes.

EDUCATION/TRAINING

The College of Southern Idaho (CSI) has been powering up the work force with education and training in renewable energy since 1981. Their Renewable Energy Training Center - including the Environmental Technology Program and Wind Energy Technical Program - is designed to give students a broad range of skill sets to work in any renewable energy area.

Southern Idaho is an ideal location for development of green energy and green talent.

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