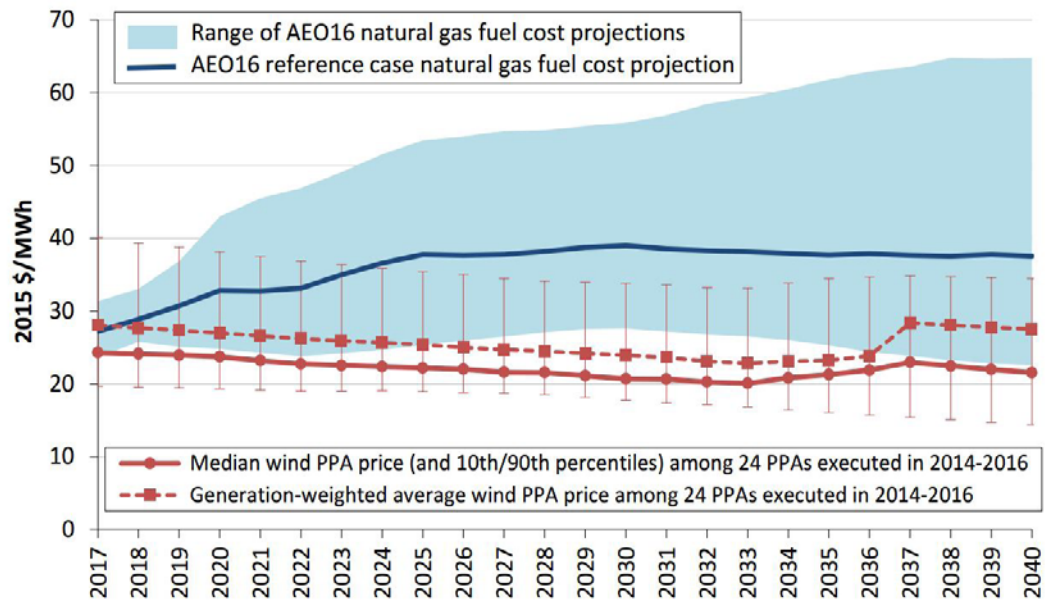


Wind offers no fuel costs, less risk for customers

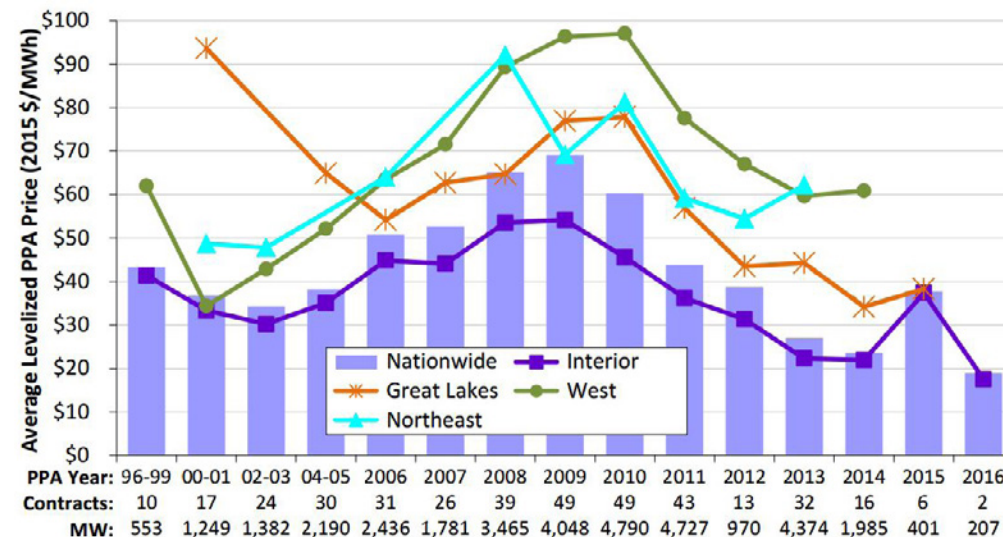
The energy sector is changing, and fossil fuels have become a more risky investment. Wind power offers a hedge against that risk, giving customers reliable electricity with no fuel cost.

With no fuel cost, wind energy is a lower-risk investment than natural gas, whose prices fluctuate and may be more expensive. Dave Raatz, Basin Electric's vice president of cooperative planning, sees wind power as "a cheap, assured, known energy resource."¹



Source: Berkeley Lab, EIA²

Wind power is cost-competitive



Source: Berkeley Lab²

With more efficient turbines & installation practices, the price consumers pay for wind energy has fallen 66% in the last 6 years.³

In fact, new wind projects are now cheaper than new natural gas plants -- and those savings are passed to consumers.⁴

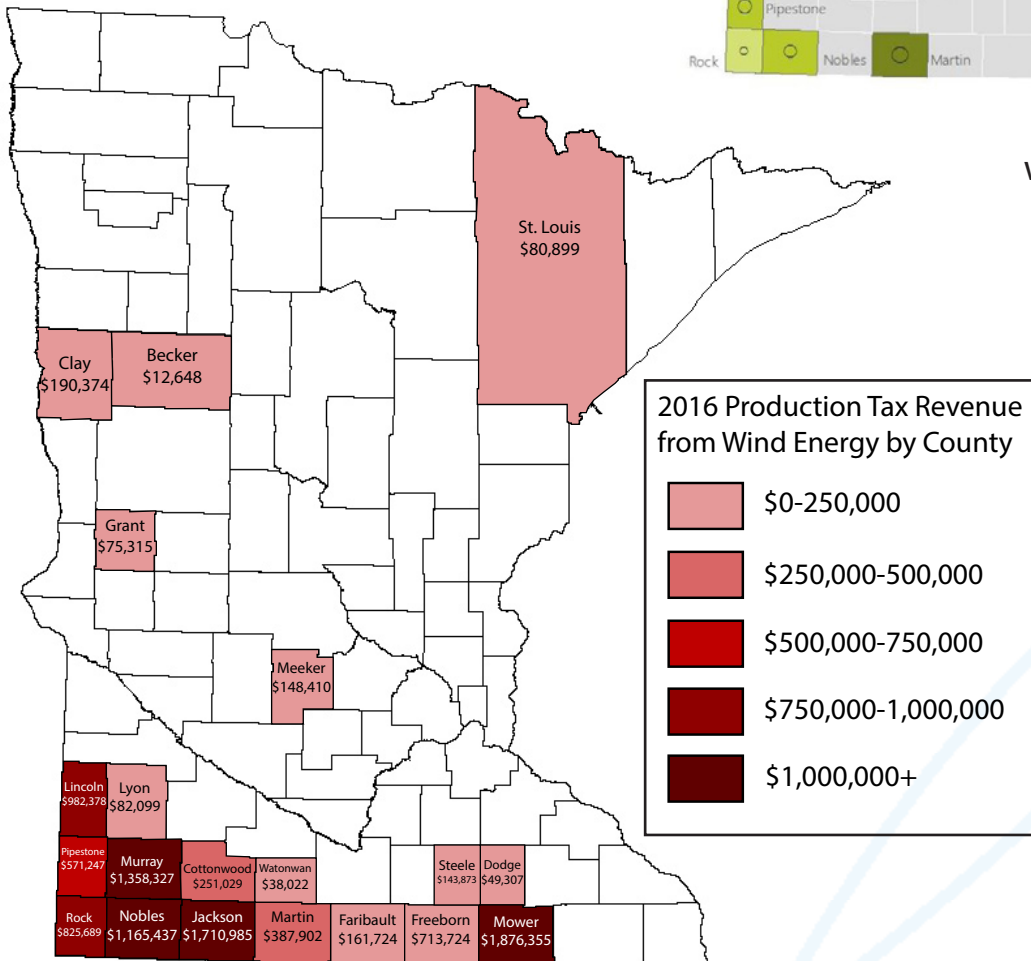
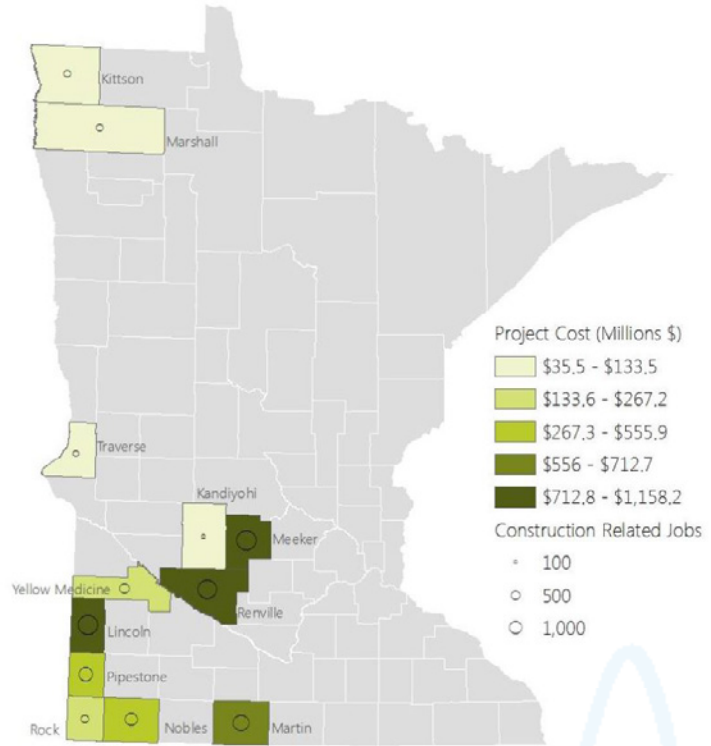
1. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, "A Time of Testing," <https://www.mpls.frb.org/publications/fedgazette/a-time-of-testing>
 2. U.S. Dept. of Energy, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, "2015 Wind Technologies Market Report," <https://emp.lbl.gov/publications/2015-wind-technologies-market-report>
 3. SmartBrief, "AWEA: Cost of wind energy has fallen 66% in past 6 years," <http://www.smartbrief.com/s/2016/06/awea-cost-wind-energy-has-fallen-66-past-6-years>
 4. Lazard, "Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis 9.0," <https://www.lazard.com/perspective/levelized-cost-of-energy-analysis-90/>

Wind projects bring jobs and investments to local communities

Figure 5: Economic Impacts of Proposed Wind Developments³⁴

Wind projects inject tax revenue into the communities that host them, allowing towns to upgrade roads, fund schools and senior care, and keep property taxes low.

Wind developers utilize local construction companies and benefit the local economy, especially restaurants, hotels, and many other local services.



“We’re happy to see new wind development in Jackson County. It will be [a] **win-win for the taxpayers** of Jackson County and **further add to our tax base** and be good for the landowners participating in the project. It will also bring jobs during construction.”

*-Janice Fransen, County Coordinator, Jackson County, MN
prairiebizmag.com, Aug. 7, 2013*