

# Renewable Energy Tax Incentives Program

- Calendar Year 2020 Annual Report

Prepared by the:

**ARIZONA**  
COMMERCE AUTHORITY

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## Incentive Overview

The goal of the Arizona Renewable Energy Tax Incentive Program (RETIP) is to encourage business investment that will enhance Arizona's position as a center for production and use of renewable energy products. The program accomplishes this goal by providing a property tax reclassification to businesses in the solar, wind, geothermal and other renewable energy industries expanding or locating in Arizona. RETIP was sunset on December 31, 2020. This will be the final report for the Program.

*The following is a summary of the incentive provided under the RETIP program:*

### REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION

All real and personal property primarily dedicated to renewable energy manufacturing and/or headquarters operations can be reclassified as Class 6 property, potentially constituting a greater than 72 percent annual savings in property taxes. Businesses making new qualifying investments of \$25 million or more in manufacturing and/or headquarters operations in Arizona in renewable energy industries are eligible for:

- **10 years** of property tax savings, if the business pays at least 51% of the net new full-time employment positions between 125% and 199% of the annual median wage, or
- **15 years** of property tax savings, if the business pays at least 51% of the net new full-time employment positions at least 200% of the annual median wage.

There is no limitation on the amount of property tax savings available to a qualified business in any calendar year under the RETIP. Property tax benefits, however, cannot be claimed until a project is operational. As mentioned above, the RETIP sunset on December 31, 2020.

## Reporting Requirements

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1511(O), Commerce is required to prepare and publish an annual report, not later than April 30 of each year, providing the following Program information in respect to the preceding calendar year:

1. The name of each renewable energy business receiving pre-approval,
2. A percentage comparison of (i) the annual amount of monies credited by Arizona to qualifying renewable energy businesses with (ii) the estimated amount of monies spent in Arizona in the form of qualifying investments and
3. Data on growth in Arizona of renewable energy businesses and industry employment and wages.

## Calendar Year 2020 Program Activity

During calendar year 2020, no pre-approvals or post-approvals of Program income tax credits were issued by Commerce.

## Comparison of Program Tax Credits with Qualifying Investments

No activity for the program occurred during calendar year 2020.

During the tenure of the Program, Commerce has issued one post-approval in which the post-approved tax credits represented approximately eight percent of the qualifying investment in new renewable energy facilities: \$1,633,333 in aggregate post-approved credits in relation to \$21,354,439 in aggregate qualifying investment.

## Industry Developments

In 2020, Arizona ranked third in the nation for new installations by solar energy capacity, adding 911.81 MW (direct current) of new solar capacity in the previous year, according to GTM Research and the Solar Energy Industries Association's U.S. Solar Market Insight. 787,133 homes in Arizona are powered by solar. Over the next five years, SEIA projects more than 2,300 MW of solar energy generation will be added in Arizona. The Arizona solar industry employs approximately 7,777 people, representing 3.1 percent of the nation's 249,983 total solar jobs, per the Solar Foundation.

Employment in Arizona's solar energy industry increased by 3.4 percent in 2019.

In 2006, the Arizona Corporation Commission adopted the Renewable Energy Standard and Tariff (REST). The REST rules require that regulated electric utilities generate a specified percentage of their total energy from renewable energy technologies. As reflected in the chart below, by 2025, regulated utilities must generate at least 15 percent of their total energy from renewable energy technologies. The REST rules also require a growing percentage of the total renewable energy resource portfolio to come from distributed generation (i.e., residential or on-site installation); as reflected in the chart below, beginning in 2011, at least 30 percent of the total renewable energy resource portfolio must come from distributed generation.

<b>Requirements for ACC Regulated Electrical Utility Companies</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Renewable Energy Requirement</b>	<b>Distributed Energy Requirement*</b>
2010	2.50%	20%
2015	5%	30%
2020	10%	30%
2025	15%	30%

\*Percentage of total renewable energy requirement  
Source: Arizona Corporation Commission

**Forecast:**

<b>Arizona Solar Employment Forecast</b>		
<b>Sector</b>	<b>2019 Employment</b>	<b>2020 Projected Employment</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,777</b>	<b>8,251</b>

Source: Arizona Solar Jobs Census 2018, March 2019

**Wages:**

<b>U.S. Median Solar Installer Wages</b>		
<b>Wage Level</b>	<b>Unlicensed Installer</b>	<b>Licensed Installer</b>
<b>Entry-level wage</b>	<b>\$16.00</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Mid-level wage</b>	<b>\$23.00</b>	<b>\$28.00</b>
<b>Senior/Crew-lead</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>\$37.50</b>

Source: National Solar Jobs Census 2019, February 2020. Hourly wages.

**Establishments:**

<b>Arizona Companies</b>	
<b>Total Solar Companies</b>	<b>344</b>

Source: Solar Energy Industries Association, June 2020

ARIZONA COMMERCE AUTHORITY  
April 30, 2021