



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY

## RENEWABLE ENERGY FACT SHEET

### MARCH 2017

## OVERVIEW

Los Angeles County has the largest amount of [distributed generation](#) capacity of any county in California. The world's largest solar photovoltaic installations, the 579 megawatt (MW) [Solar Star Projects](#), are being built on lands in Los Angeles and Kern County. The county's [2035 General Plan](#) and [Renewable Energy Ordinance \(REO\)](#) are meant to guide the future development of renewable energy projects within unincorporated Los Angeles County.

## POLICIES AND OVERSIGHT

Los Angeles County's [Department of Regional Planning](#) oversees the development of renewable energy in the county's unincorporated areas. The County's REO amends Title 22 of the County Code (Planning and Zoning) to provide a set of definitions, procedures and standards for review and permitting of solar and wind energy projects. The REO facilitates the development of solar and wind energy projects that generate energy for on-site use. While utility-scale wind projects are not allowed within unincorporated areas, small-scale wind, solar, and utility-scale solar projects are. The county's REO is meant to help California meet energy demand using renewable resources while minimizing environmental impacts.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors also adopted the [Antelope Valley Area Plan on June 16, 2015](#) that will guide renewable energy development in unincorporated Antelope Valley in a way that is consistent with the conservation goals and policies of the Antelope Valley Area Plan.

## PROJECTS AND GENERATING CAPACITY

The Energy Commission's December 2016 [Renewable Energy Tracking Progress report](#) shows that Los Angeles County (incorporated and unincorporated) had 157 wholesale renewable energy projects on-line with a combined capacity of 1,127 megawatts (MW). In addition, there were over 60,000 distributed generation systems, like rooftop solar, capable of providing 548 MW of capacity, installed at homes and buildings in the county. Also, there are 27 solar PV projects with a combined capacity of 617 MW, a 4 MW hydroelectric project, and a 27 MW bioenergy project with environmental permits in the county that could become operational in the future.

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

Los Angeles 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 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.

Los Angeles County was part of the Stakeholder Committee that informed the DRECP's development, and it submitted [comments](#) on the draft DRECP and environ-

mental study that was released in September 2014.

It was one of five counties—along with Imperial, Inyo, Riverside and San Bernardino—in the DRECP area that applied for and received a [Renewable Energy Conservation Planning Grant \(RECPG\)](#) 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.

Los Angeles County used its \$518,398 grant to support the development of the REO and corresponding Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for its unincorporated areas. The Final EIR was approved by the Board in July 2015 and the REO became effective January 12, 2017.

The County has also identified additional measures to bolster the REO, including a number of implementation programs in its General Plan. These include strategies to expand conservation opportunities and incentives and preserve habitat connectivity in the County’s [Significant Ecological Areas \(SEAs\)](#). The DRECP used Los Angeles County’s SEAs in the development of its conservation strategy.

For additional information, please visit [planning.lacounty.gov/energy](http://planning.lacounty.gov/energy).

## On-line Renewable Energy Projects in Los Angeles County (as of October 31, 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     | 4                               | 146           | 9                                    | 76            |                                |
| Small Hydro   | 2                               | 115           | 18                                   | 101           |                                |
| Solar PV      | 2                               | 316           | 121                                  | 365           |                                |
| Solar Thermal | -                               | -             | 1                                    | 8             |                                |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>8</b>                        | <b>577 MW</b> | <b>149</b>                           | <b>550 MW</b> | <b>548 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” (March 2016), and SB1 Solar Program Status Reports.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

Robert B. Weisenmiller  
Chair

Commissioners  
Karen Douglas  
David Hochschild  
Andrew McAllister  
Janea A. Scott



**CALIFORNIA  
ENERGY COMMISSION**

CEC-700-2015-005-FS