

REDUCING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

A report on wind energy by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, an international scientific body established by the United Nations, found that numerous studies report that the average energy payback time of wind power plants (i.e., the amount of time a wind power plant must operate in order to produce the amount of energy required to build, operate, and decommission it) is 5.4 months, with a 25th-to-75th-percentile range of 3.4 months to 8.5 months.¹

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), electricity production in the United States accounted for 29% of the country's carbon emissions in 2015; 33% of that electricity production is used for residential and commercial buildings.² That means that the energy used to power our homes is an important contributor to carbon emissions and to the entire carbon footprint of the United States.

In addition, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) states that in 2016, "emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) by the U.S. electric power sector were 1,821 million metric tons, or about 35% of the total U.S. energy-related CO₂ emissions of 5,171 million metric tons."³

One of the ways the EPA suggests we reduce our carbon emissions from electricity is by "[u]sing renewable energy sources rather than fossil fuel to generate electricity." This can be done by "[i]ncreasing the share of total electricity generated from wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal sources and from certain biofuel sources."³

If you are looking to reduce your carbon footprint and the carbon footprint of our country, the opportunity is right at your fingertips: support the the development of clean, sustainable energy. Beyond reducing carbon emissions, wind energy is a catalyst for long-term investment, tax revenue, purchasing, and employment.



1. http://srren.ipcc-wg3.de/report/IPCC_SRREN_Ch07.pdf

2. <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions#electricity>

3. <https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=77&t=11>