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(S.D.)-Study Looks At Wind Energy Boost For Counties



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 10/08/2012 11:18 AM

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) - A new federal study concludes that wind energy projects have provided a big economic boost to counties in wind-rich states such as the Dakotas.

Researchers with the Economic Research Service, National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory studied economic data from about 1,000 counties in a dozen states. They concluded that each megawatt of wind power led to an additional \$11,000 in personal income and half a job per county.

The economic benefits can come in the form of direct employment during construction and operation, lease payments to landowners, demand for local goods and services, tax payments or other spending.

The future of wind power development is uncertain because a federal tax credit is expiring at the end of the year.