



MONTANA- STATE ENERGY PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

U.S.-India State and Urban Initiative

Montana's Energy Profile and Priorities

Electricity generated in Montana largely comes from coal and renewable energy. In January 2018, coal made up 51 percent of the state's electricity generation, followed by renewables at 45.7 percent and natural gas at 1.2 percent. About 82 percent of the generation from renewable energy in Montana comes from hydropower, and most of the rest comes from wind. There are no nuclear power plants in Montana. Montana has the largest recoverable coal reserves in the U.S. and is the country's fifth largest producer of hydroelectric power.

Potential Opportunities

Companies, Organizations, & Research Institutions

[Absaroka Energy](#): Absaroka Energy is a developer pursuing innovative solutions in clean energy deployment. The company is looking to build a pumped hydro storage project, a transmission line to increase interconnection between the interior West and Midwest, and geothermal projects in Montana.

[Big Sky Carbon Sequestration Partnership](#): The Big Sky Carbon Sequestration Partnership, a project of the Montana State University Energy Research Institute, is a collaboration among universities, the U.S. Department of Energy's national labs, oil and gas companies, and community and tribal groups. The partnership runs projects to prove the viability of storing captured carbon dioxide underground.

[Climate Smart Missoula](#): Climate Smart Missoula is a community group in Missoula that seeks to eliminate the city's carbon footprint by 2050. In its energy-related efforts, the group has worked with partners to run workshops on financing rooftop solar, conduct a city-level greenhouse gas inventory, and advocate for policies encouraging renewable energy.

[Energy Keepers](#): The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes run Energy Keepers, Inc., which manages the Sêliš Ksanka Qlispè Dam (formerly known as Kerr Dam) and the 194 MW hydroelectric plant it contains. Last year, the company captured 50 percent market share in Montana's wholesale power market. This company is one of the only major tribal-owned power producers in the country.

[Montana Weatherization Training Center](#): The Montana Weatherization Training Center at Montana State University, established as part of the national Weatherization Assistance Program, provides continuing education courses to those seeking to become weatherization professionals. Trainings cover topics such as energy efficient lighting, appliances, insulation, and regulatory compliance.

[MSU Energy Research Institute](#): The Energy Research Institute at Montana State University conducts research into various energy technologies, such as biofuels, carbon sequestration, fuel cells, batteries, and wind. In addition to fundamental research, the institute has helped bring energy technologies from the laboratory to the field.



[NorthWestern Energy](#): NorthWestern is a utility serving much of Montana as well as South Dakota and Nebraska. In Montana, NorthWestern is piloting a community solar project with the city of Bozeman and Montana State University and a microgrid project with solar and battery storage in Beck Hill.

State Programs

[Montana Energy Office](#): The Montana Energy Office carries out energy planning and analysis to ensure that energy needs are met through sustainable means that are protective of the state's natural and human resources. The office administers various programs and initiatives to increase access to energy efficiency and renewable energy, and improve the state's energy security, through innovation, education, and technical and financial assistance.

[Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology](#): The MBRCT, run by the state Department of Commerce, provides funding for research and commercialization projects in Montana. This includes innovative renewable energy technologies with a clear path to commercialization.

[Montana Solar Powered Community Transportation Initiative](#): The Montana Energy Office is participating as a stakeholder in a project with the Montana Renewable Energy Association, city governments, and local advocacy groups to identify the possibility to co-locate solar energy with electric vehicle charging stations.

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