Renewable Energy in Texas:
Providing Well-Paying Jobs
Executive Summary

With the advent of cost-competitive wind and solar energy, Texas has become a leader in renewable energy. As renewables assume an increasing role in the Texas energy mix, their economic value manifests itself in a variety of ways. One such contribution is through the creation of well-paid jobs. In Texas, the renewable energy industry has grown to support 33,000 jobs, a threefold growth since 2013. Renewables directly account for at least $2 billion in annual Texas wages paid.

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Industry-Related Employment

The growth of renewable energy production in Texas has inevitably led to rising levels of related employment in the state. AWEA has tracked the number of jobs related to wind energy for some time, reporting just over 24,000 jobs during 2017, compared to less than 10,000 as recently as 2013. The Solar Foundation, meanwhile, conducts the Solar Census on an annual basis. Texas’ 2017 employment across the solar industry is given at just under 8,900. Collectively, industry-related employment is just short of 33,500, a figure consistent with a recent Department of Energy (DOE) estimate of about 36,100.¹

Figure 1: Texas Major Renewable Energy Employment by Year

Sources: The Solar Foundation, AWEA, TXP
**Backward & Forward Linkages/Supply Chain**

A number of sectors and companies are engaged in renewable-related activity, in terms of manufacturing the products used to create/capture/transport energy, installing and servicing the technologies and the supporting infrastructure, and in the development of projects themselves. The following chart provides the breakdown by activity within the solar and wind segments, as provided by industry sources.

**Figure 2: Texas 2017 Major Solar-Related Employment by Category**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Installation</td>
<td>2,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>2,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales/Dist</td>
<td>1,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Dev</td>
<td>1,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,873</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: The Solar Foundation, TXP

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The benefits are distributed across Texas, as most major urban areas contain firms engaged in some aspect of renewable-related production. The following figure depicts the geographic distribution.
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**Figure 4: Location of Wind & Solar Industry Manufacturers & Suppliers in Texas**

Sources: AWEA, The Solar Foundation, TXP