



**Oregon Wind Farms:**

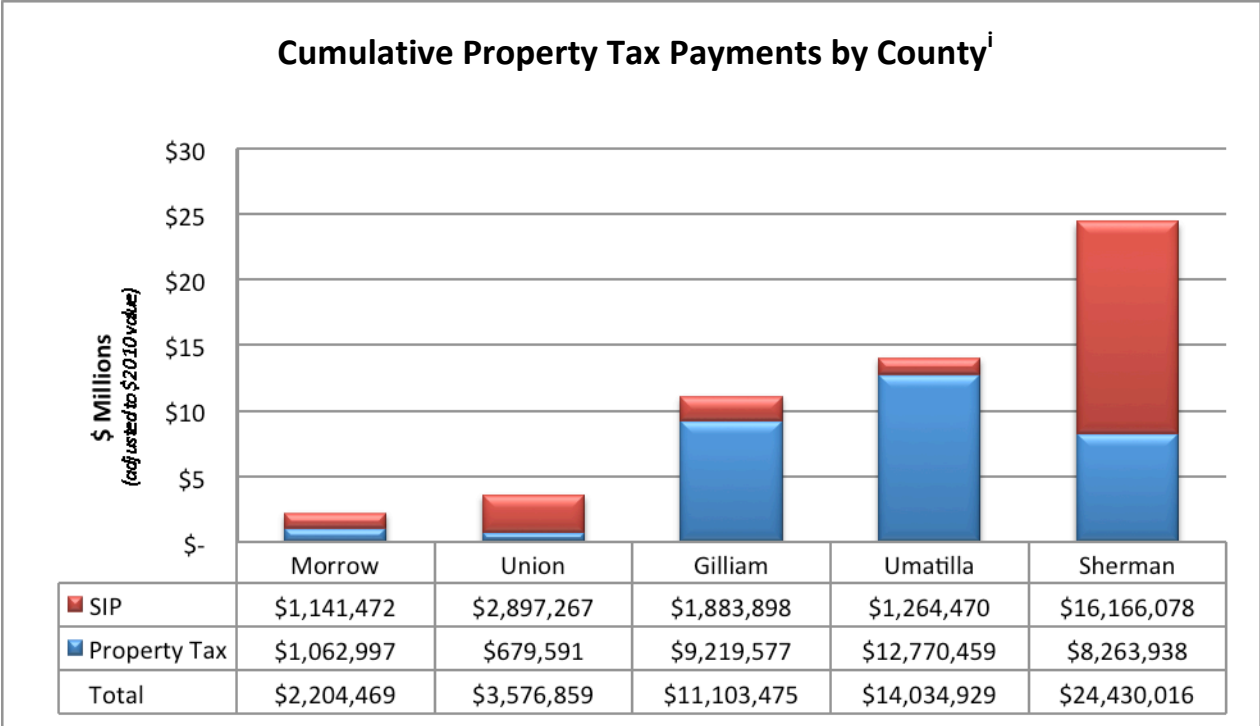
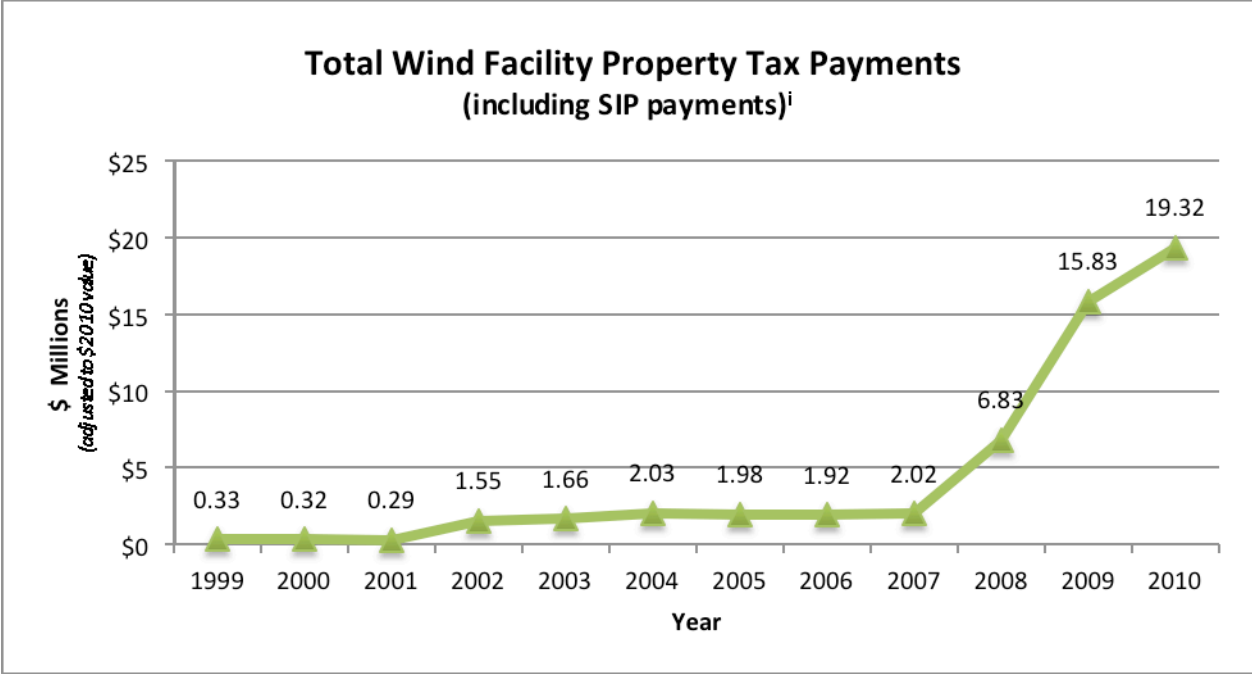
**\$55 Million in Property Taxes Benefitting Rural & Urban Communities**

As of the end of the 2010 tax year, wind farms across Oregon have contributed over \$55 million in property tax payments to the counties in which they operate and to the state's general fund.<sup>i</sup> Renewable energy projects are not only providing clean energy that protects our environment, but they have also become important sources of revenue that boost rural and urban economies. Wind farm property tax payments directly benefit local tax districts and a myriad of public services such as contributing support to public schools, fire services, rural hospitals, waste water treatment plants and road maintenance departments. Additionally, because increased revenues can lower the assessed tax rate (per \$1,000 value) for residents and businesses, county communities pay less but receive more. As Oregon tackles budgetary challenges that impact communities statewide, counties that receive wind facility tax revenues enjoy fiscal support and stability that permeates a variety of social services and business sectors.

County tax revenues are further augmented by Strategic Investment Program (SIP) payments. These SIPs are negotiated on an individual project and county basis, allowing funding to be directed to the specific needs of the county. For example, Sherman County has used wind development to generate revenue for capital projects such as the construction of new public buildings including a school, a library and city halls.<sup>ii</sup> Another great example is the Columbia Gorge Community College, which has received SIP funds to support the Renewable Energy Technology program and is training the local workforce to meet the growing regional demand for employees in renewable industries.

Property tax payments from Oregon's renewable energy projects are building more resilient rural and statewide economies and have helped renewable resource rich counties weather the economic downturn. This data and these cases studies prove that renewable energy is stimulating economic development as Oregonians are realizing a myriad of social and environmental benefits.

- 3Degrees
- American Wind Energy Assoc.
- Blattner Energy
- Bonneville Environmental Foundation
- BP Wind Energy
- Calpine
- Center for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Technologies
- CH2M Hill
- Citizens' Utility Board
- Climate Solutions
- Clipper Windpower
- Columbia Energy Partners
- Columbia Gorge Community College
- David Evans & Associates
- E.ON Climate & Renewables
- Element Power
- Environment Oregon
- Environment Washington
- enXco, Inc.
- Eurus Energy America
- EverPower
- Gaelectric
- Gamesa Energy USA
- GE Energy
- Geothermal Resources Council
- GL Garrad Hassan
- Green Mountain Energy
- Horizon Wind Energy
- Iberdrola Renewables
- Jones Stevedoring
- Lane Powell PC
- MAP
- Montana Environmental Information Center
- MontPIRG
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- NaturEner
- NextEra Energy Resources
- Northwest Environmental Business Council
- NW Energy Coalition
- OSPIRG
- Port of Vancouver, USA
- Portland Energy Conservation, Inc.
- REC Silicon
- RES America Developments
- Ridgeline Energy
- Solar Oregon
- SolarCity
- Stoel Rives, LLP
- SunPower Corporation
- Suzlon Wind Energy Corporation
- SWCA Environmental Consultants
- Tanner Creek Energy
- Tonkon Torp LLP
- Vestas Americas
- Warm Springs Power & Water Enterprises
- Washington Environmental Council
- WashPIRG
- Western Resource Advocates
- Western Wind Power



<sup>i</sup> Property tax data was obtained from County Assessors and Treasurers. The value of the payments are adjusted for inflation to \$2010 using the Consumer Price Index at: <http://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>

<sup>ii</sup> “Wind Energy a \$17 Million Boon for Sherman County” by Lee Van der Voo in *Sustainable Business Oregon* (February 17, 2011). Retrieved April 11, 2011 from: [www.sustainablebusinessoregon.com/articles/2011/02/wind-energy-a-17m-boon-for-sherman.html](http://www.sustainablebusinessoregon.com/articles/2011/02/wind-energy-a-17m-boon-for-sherman.html)