Topaz Solar Farm
- Economic Benefits for 550 MW Project -

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Total economic impact estimated at $417 million for 25 years[1]
  - 75% expected during 3-year construction period
  - Direct employment: $237 million economic output, including $192 million in compensation
  - Local supply chain: $52 million economic output
  - Induced spending: $128 million economic output
- $14 million in sales taxes during construction and up to $400,000 per year in new property tax revenues

TOPAZ SOLAR FARM DIRECT EMPLOYMENT

- Average 400 construction jobs during three-year construction period
  - Peak monthly employment is estimated at 540 full-time employees
    - Equipment operators
    - Electricians
    - Laborers (majority of workforce)
  - Focus on maximizing opportunity for local employment
    - Job open-houses and career forums ahead of construction start
    - Construction employee shuttle planned with expected stops in Paso Robles, Atascadero and other locations along Highway 101 to facilitate local employment
- 15 new long-term Operations and Maintenance jobs for 25 or more years
  - Focus on maximizing opportunity for local employment

INDIRECT EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS BENEFITS

- 746 induced jobs and 75 supply chain jobs
- Employment in dozens of other businesses in the county during the planning, construction, and operating period – from engineering and design firms to construction subcontractors, suppliers, and service providers
  - biological, culture, geological, and engineering consultants
  - ongoing environmental monitors
  - well drillers
  - security companies
  - local aggregate mines
  - trash and recycling haulers
  - office suppliers
  - caterers
- Switching station construction employment (PG&E)

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[1] "The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Topaz Solar Farm," Mark Berkman and Michelle Tran, The Brattle Group, and Stephen F. Hamilton, Economics Chair, Cal Poly, March, 2011.

- Financial and in-kind support for local educational institutions and community organizations, including:
    - Project-based research with Cal Poly
    - Cuesta Community College green jobs programs
    - SLO, Paso Robles, Atascadero Chambers of Commerce
    - Economic Vitality Corporation
    - LEADERSHIP SLO
    - Earth Day Sponsorships
    - SOFTEC
- Local Sustainability Education
    - One Cool Earth / Green Works Program at Liberty High School
    - SLO County Agricultural Education "Great AG Adventure"
    - Gateway to Green School Program – USGBC
    - Green Hounds at Atascadero High School
    - Cal Poly Emerging Green Professionals
    - Going Green Night at Thursday Night Farmer's Market
    - Working solar exhibits on loan and speakers available to support k-12 education
    - Community designed solar learning center proposed as part of project

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY GREEN ENERGY LEADERSHIP

The Topaz Solar Farm will position San Luis Obispo County a as world leader in green energy, generating ripple benefits:

- Eco-economic tourism – people from around the world visiting the Topaz Solar Farm stimulating hospitality and tourism sectors of local economy
- Development and expansion of local businesses, specifically engineering firms gaining experience and exposure to First Solar, a high-growth renewable company.
- Dynamic renewable energy environment that can generate innovation, commercialization, manufacturing and installation know-how

San Luis Obispo County is generating interest in its portfolio of green energy efforts (large-scale, distributed generation, energy efficiency, Climate Action Plan and other initiatives).