

# NEBRASKA

## PROJECT NAME

Elkhorn Ridge II Wind Farm  
Whelan Energy Center II

## TYPE

Wind  
Coal

### Economic Overview

Population (2009 in thousands)	1,797
Personal Income per Capita (2009)	\$38,081
Employment (Aug 2010 in thousands)	930.4
Unemployment Rate (Aug 2010)	4.6%
Change in Jobs (Jan. 2008 – Aug. 2010)	-20,200
All State Government Expenditures	\$8.44 bn

### Electricity Costs (cents/kilowatt hour)

Residential (June 2010)	9.98
Commercial (June 2010)	8.17

### Benefits from Proposed Energy Projects

#### Upfront Investment (total of all projects)

Total Economic Output (in PDV)	\$2,400,000,000
Employment Earnings (in PDV)	\$800,000,000
Average Annual Jobs	6,800

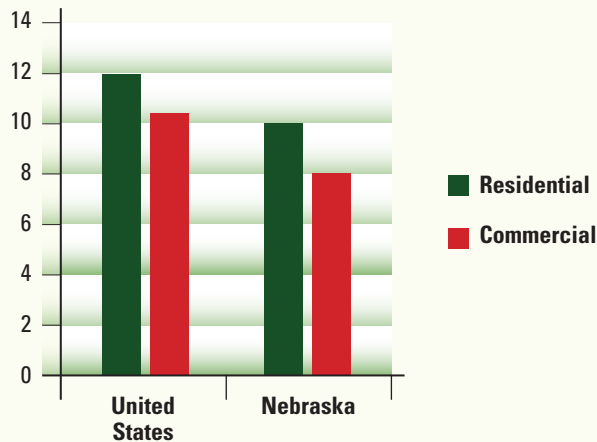
#### First Year of Operations (total of all projects)

Total Economic Output (in PDV)	\$300,000,000
Employment Earnings (in PDV)	\$100,000,000
Average Jobs Created in Year 1	1,500

### Example Project

#### Elkhorn Ridge II Wind Farm

Midwest Wind Energy hopes to expand their Elkhorn Ridge Wind Farm with Phase II, which would result in a 1,200-megawatt project consisting of anywhere from 400 to 800 wind turbines. A project spokesperson says the project will provide “hundreds of construction jobs along with dozens of permanent full-time jobs.” Landowners are uneasy about the project because it would not qualify as a C-BED project, which allows landowners involved in the project to be investors in it as well. In the case of C-BED projects, after the initial 10-year lease agreement expires the ownership of the wind farm goes to Nebraska investors who, instead of corporate investors, then receive the economic benefits. A member of the Nebraska Farmers Union commented that profits will leave Nebraska: “Corporate America is seeing the opportunity of profit with the development of wind energy, and they don’t share.”



**U.S. vs. Nebraska Electricity Costs**  
(cents/kilowatt hours)