

**CONTACT:**

**Lisa Buddecke**

*Marketing Services*

[lisab@southernidaho.org](mailto:lisab@southernidaho.org)

208-731-9996 *Office*

208-731-4385 *Cell*

[SOUTHERNIDAHO.ORG](http://southernidaho.org)



# Southern Idaho

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

The five primary sustainable energy sectors - hydro, wind, geothermal, biomass, and solar - each utilize a different form of natural resources. A community's geographic location, elements, and weather pattern largely dictates which green energy sector can be developed there.

It's rare that any region can boast the ability to produce commercial energy in all of these categories. But southern Idaho is one of those unique areas currently producing commercial power in four of the five categories. This region is ideally located in an area of the United States where all five renewable energy elements can be tapped and utilized for energy production.

This nine-county region recently announced that a major solar farm is planned for this area, so southern Idaho will soon produce green energy in all five sectors.

### HYDROELECTRIC

- \* The Snake River, locally known as the "mighty Snake" and "the lifeblood of southern Idaho," is credited with turning dry sagebrush desert into fertile soil for a massive and vital agriculture industry in southern Idaho.
- \* The strong flows of the Snake have been harnessed to produce hydroelectric power, providing electricity for communities all along the Snake River.
- \* Idaho Power operates 17 hydroelectric power plants. It also purchases power from 30 wind projects, 24 solar projects, 2 geothermal projects, 10 biomass projects, and 70 small hydro projects. Because of the large amount of electricity produced by hydro power, Idaho has some of the lowest utility rates in the west.

### WIND ENERGY

- \* Wind power is one of southern Idaho's leading sources of alternative energy. Atop the Snake River lies the Snake River plain that produces average wind speeds of 13 mph, making this area the states windiest and an ideal spot for wind farms.
- \* The area's natural wind flow, consistent wind patterns, and open areas has attracted the attention of numerous developers. Thanks to the close proximity of existing transmission facilities and high voltage transmission lines, developers have an easy tie-in with locations in Northern Nevada.
- \* Atlantic Power Corporation, in partnership with Idaho Wind Partners, operates 11 southern Idaho wind farms, the state's largest wind power project. The \$500 million, 122 turbines can generate 183 megawatts of energy, enough to power 39,700 average Idaho homes.

