SITLA has a fast-growing renewable energy portfolio comprising solar, geothermal, wind, and energy storage projects.

The Surface Group manages most of the Trust’s solar and wind leases, which are in various stages of application, pre-development, and operation, with the balance managed by the Development Group. Geothermal projects are managed by the Minerals Group.

FY2020

FY2020 renewable energy revenue totaled over $1.2 million with solar leases earning $444,978, geothermal leases $418,237, energy storage $285,027, and wind leases $70,620.

Additionally, the agency is exploring possible future efforts in collaboration with local utilities, municipal cooperatives, and institutions of higher education to increase renewable energy revenue through additional projects.

Renewable Energy Challenges

Scattered land position
Utility-scale energy projects require hundreds if not thousands of acres. SITLA pursues acquisition of prime renewable energy targets through land exchanges and optimizes partnerships with adjacent landowners.

Transmission infrastructure
SITLA works with federal land managers, state and municipal entities, and private companies to further infrastructure development.
**SOLAR** | SITLA currently manages 14 solar leases that when placed into production will have a combined capacity of 650 MW. The Escalante Solar Project in Beaver County is the sole trust lands solar lease in production. However, one project is currently under construction and several other projects have secured power purchase agreements with imminent construction plans. Five applications with a 575+MW total capacity remain under review by our agency.

**WIND** | First Wind Energy, LLC currently has one 960-acre wind farm project in operation and a second 600-acre wind farm in development on school trust lands in Beaver and Millard counties.

**GEOTHERMAL** | Utah is one of several states with utility-scale geothermal resources, and is currently ranked third in total geothermal production.

Thermo No. 1 BE-01, LLC is an operating binary geothermal power plant in Beaver County. This zero-emission plant has an electrical generating capacity of 10.3 megawatts with royalty proceeds benefitting the public school trust.

Owned and operated by PacifiCorp Energy, the Blundell Geothermal Plant has zero emissions and an electrical generating capacity of 34 megawatts. Royalty proceeds benefit the public school trust.

**SITLA** also provides access to trust lands near Milford, Utah for the U.S. Department of Energy Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE), a research and development site for enhanced geothermal system technologies.

**Energy Storage** | Trust land beneficiaries stand to benefit greatly from a renewable energy storage project near the Intermountain Power Plant (IPP) in Delta. The coal-fired Intermountain Power Project (IPP) will be replaced by a plant burning natural gas and hydrogen beginning in 2025, with plans to transition fully to hydrogen by mid-century. Beneath the surface of trust lands in this area is a unique geological feature known as a salt dome.

Magnum Energy, which leases a large amount of trust land around the IPP, has successfully created caverns within this salt dome capable of storing millions of barrels of liquids or gases including compressed air and hydrogen. The location of the caverns in relation to IPP, high voltage transmission lines, and other important infrastructure qualify these trust lands as an ideal location to test creating, storing, and using hydrogen as a fuel source on an industrial scale.