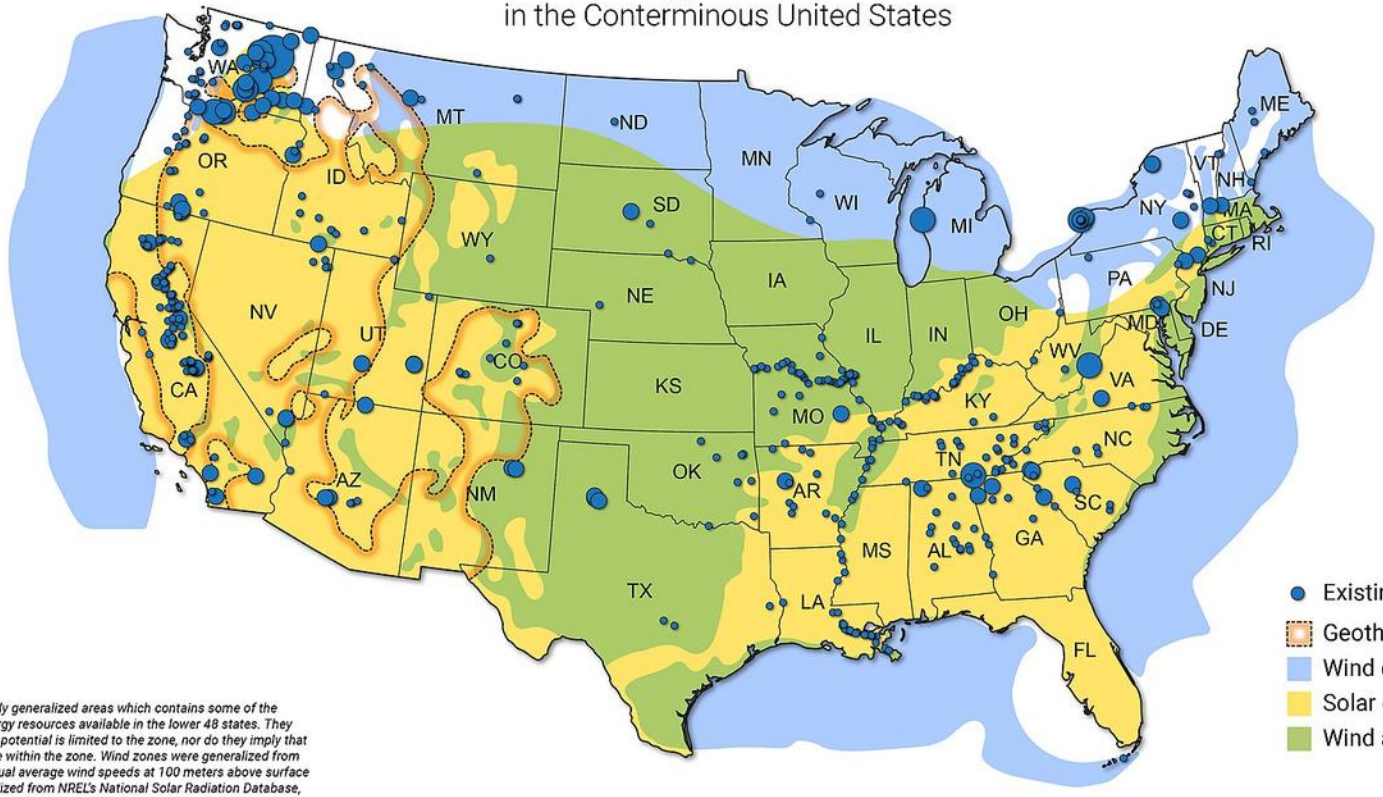
A Simplified Look at

Renewable Energy Resource Abundance

in the Conterminous United States



- Existing hydropower generation
- Geothermal energy zone
- Wind energy zone
- Solar energy zone
- Wind and solar energy zone

About the Data

"Zones" depicted here are highly generalized areas which contains some of the most abundant renewable energy resources available in the lower 48 states. They do not imply that development potential is limited to the zone, nor do they imply that development is always feasible within the zone. Wind zones were generalized from NREL's WINDToolkit, using annual average wind speeds at 100 meters above surface level. Solar zones were generalized from NREL's National Solar Radiation Database, using annual average Global Horizontal Irradiance. Geothermal zones were generalized from undiscovered hydrothermal resource favorability estimates produced by the USGS. This map does not necesarily include all viable renewable energy resource types.

For detailed maps of NREL's renewable energy resource data sets, please visit:
https://www.nrel.gov/gis/

This map is produced by the
National Renewable Energy Laboratory
for the U.S. Department of Energy.
Billy J. Roberts | updated April 12, 2021

NREL