



Bureau of Economic and Business Research
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Effects of the U Community Solar Program

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On Earth Day in 2014, the University of Utah and Utah Clean Energy partnered together to create **U Community Solar**, a project that offered members of the campus community a chance to power their homes with clean, renewable solar energy, produced through rooftop solar panels.

The program offers community members a discounted rate for solar panels, a streamlined, simplified solar installation process on their homes, and selected prescreened installers.

U Community Solar is part of a larger campaign to help University of Utah campus communities access electricity from renewable sources by decreasing the barriers to entry, increasing solar knowledge, and reducing cost. This program helped homeowners overcome the financial and logistical barriers to installing solar energy systems.

Beyond the environmental benefits of the program, U Community Solar also has notable economic effects on homeowner participants, the partners involved, and the community as a whole.

Through U Community Solar **380** homes were fitted with solar panels.

The program has an average cost of **\$16,310** per installation, plus a building permit fee of about \$350, to the homeowner.

It is estimated that, on average, each installation breaks even on cost in approximately **10** years.

The average value of tax credits and rebates to a homeowner in the U Community Solar program is **\$7,841**.

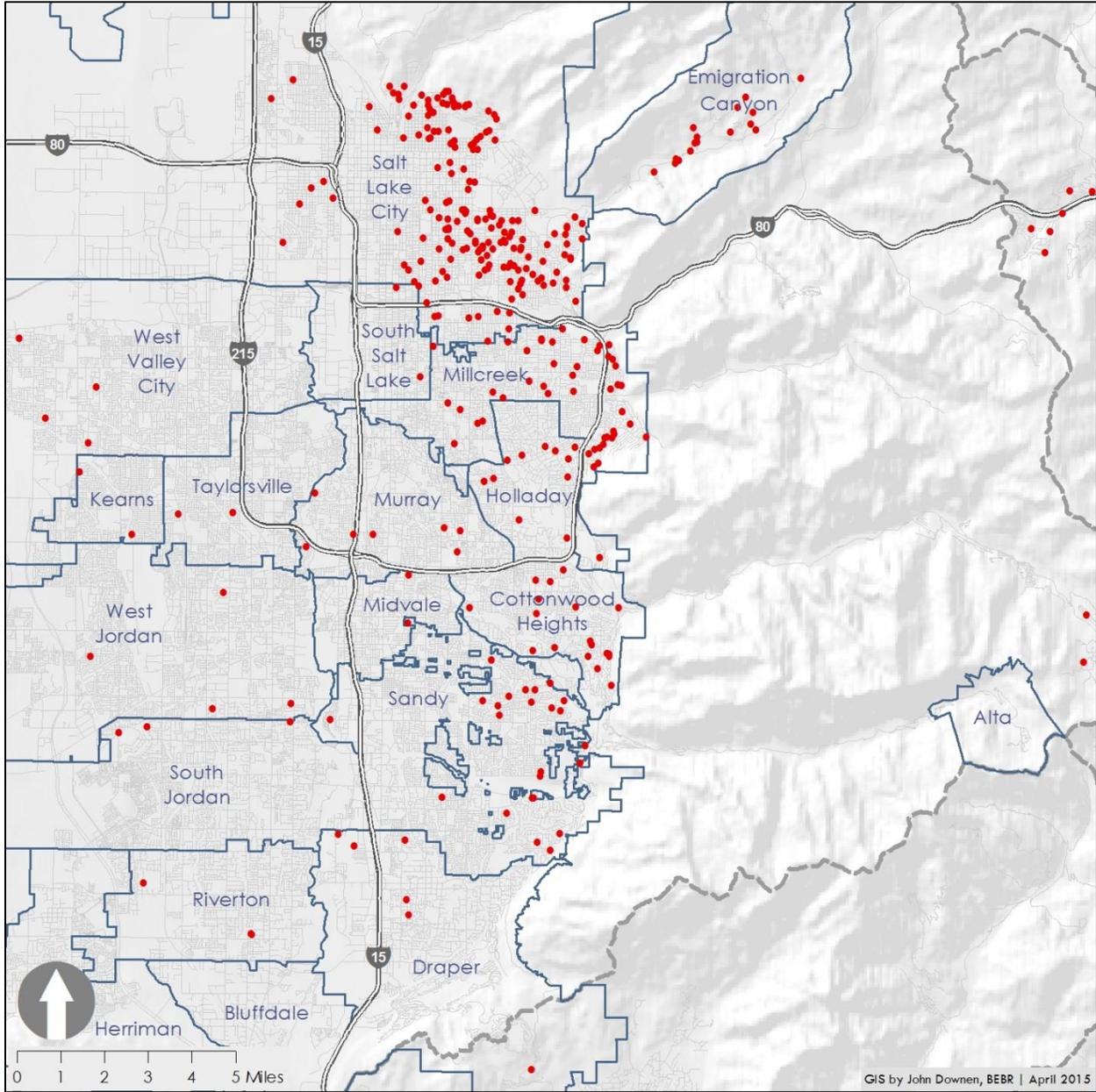
Over the span of 25 years, the average energy saving per household is as much as **\$35,000**.

The total revenue produced for the solar installation companies is approximately **\$5,964,966**.

The project generated approximately **\$842,867** in wages for **18** full-time, temporary, and seasonal employees.

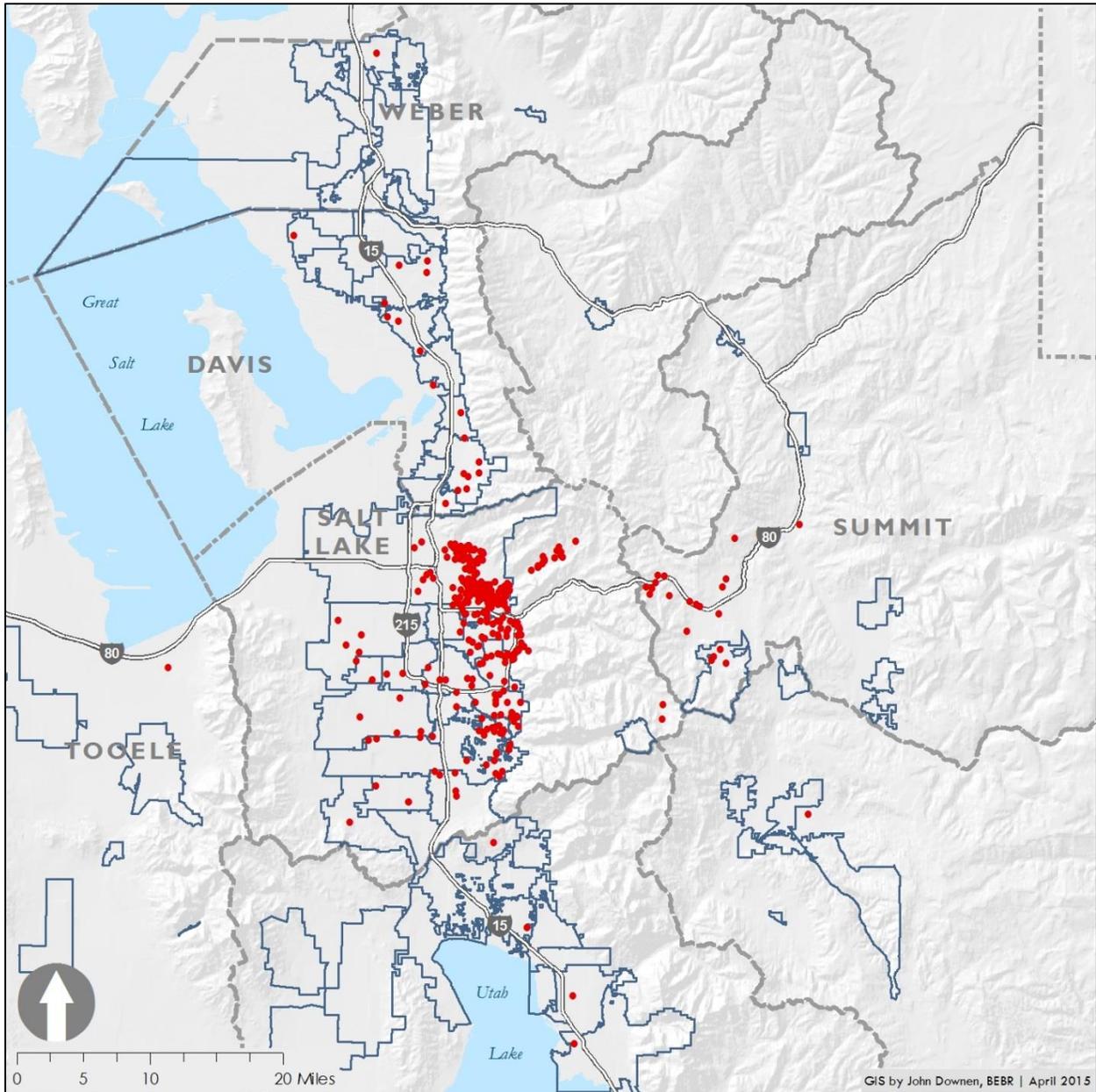
The geographical locations of the U Community Solar project installations are shown in **Figures 1 and 2**, showing Salt Lake County and the entire region, respectively.

Figure 1
Location of U Community Solar Installations in Salt Lake County



Source: Utah Community Solar Program.

Figure 2
Location of All U Community Solar Installations



Source: Utah Community Solar Program.