

Economic Development Impacts of Community Wind Projects: A Review and Empirical Evaluation; Preprint

Abstract

'Community wind' refers to a class of wind energy ownership structures. The extent of local ownership may range from a small minority share to full ownership by persons in the immediate area surrounding the wind project site. Potential project owners include local farmers, businesses, Native American tribes, universities, cooperatives, or any other local entity seeking to invest in wind energy. The opposite of community wind is an 'absentee' project, in which ownership is completely removed from the state and community surrounding the facility. Thus, there is little or no ongoing direct financial benefit to state and local populations aside from salaries for local repair technicians, local property tax payments, and land lease payments. In recent years, the community wind sector has been inhibited by manufacturers' preference for larger turbine orders. This often puts smaller community wind developers and projects at a competitive disadvantage. However, state policies specifically supporting community wind may become a more influential market factor as turbines are now more readily available given manufacturer ramp-ups and the slow-down in the industry that has accompanied the recent economic and financial crises. This report examines existing literature to provide an overview of economic impacts resulting from community wind projects, compares [more »](#)

Authors:

[Lantz, E](#); [Tegen, S](#)

Publication Date:

Wed Apr 01 00:00:00 EDT 2009

Research Org.:

National Renewable Energy Lab. (NREL), Golden, CO (United States)

Sponsoring Org.:

USDOE

OSTI Identifier:

952188

Report Number(s):

NREL/CP-500-45555

TRN: US200913%%399

DOE Contract Number:

AC36-99-GO10337

Resource Type:

Conference

Resource Relation:

Conference: To be presented at WINDPOWER 2009 Conference and Exhibition, 4-7 May 2009, Chicago, Illinois

Country of Publication:

United States

Language:

English

Subject:

17 WIND ENERGY; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; ECONOMIC IMPACT;
ECONOMICS; EVALUATION; LEASES; MANUFACTURERS; MARKET; OWNERSHIP;
REPAIR; TURBINES; WIND ENERGY; WIND TURBINE; ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
IMPACTS; COMMUNITY WIND; WIND PROJECTS; WIND FARM; Wind Energy

CONFERENCE:

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