

WHY WIND WORKS FOR MICHIGAN



KNOW THE FACTS

It is important for communities considering wind development to understand what hosting a wind park can bring to the community. Wind development is a thoughtfully executed process; one that involves strict adherence to Federal, state and local guidelines. We hope this information will enable you to make an informed decision about the future of wind energy in your community.

Wind energy is cost effective.

Wind is a free, natural, renewable source of energy. The cost of wind energy is now on par with that of natural gas, making it not only the most cost-effective and efficient form of renewable energy, but competitive with more traditional forms of energy.

Wind turbines are safe.

Numerous studies done by leading health organizations in the U.S., Canada, and around the world have debunked claims of health problems caused by turbine sound, vibration, or shadow flicker. Wind turbines are also structurally safe. While equipment problems are infrequent, they can occur. DTE constantly monitors and maintains its turbines to minimize risk to people or property, and local zoning has consistently proven effective when challenges have occurred.

Wind energy benefits all Michigan residents.

Increasing generation from renewable resources strengthens Michigan's energy security. It creates both temporary and permanent jobs, boosts local economies and helps reduce our environmental impact.

Wind turbines do not have a negative impact on property values.

Research from *Michigan Realtor* among other sources shows that wind farms do not reduce property values. In addition, communities with wind farms benefit from the tax revenue they provide. These funds are used to support public services like roads, hospitals and schools, all of which improve the quality of life.

Wind turbines do not create excessive sound.

Wind turbines do emit some sound, usually during the blade's downward stroke during rotation. However, most local ordinances typically require that audible noise from a wind energy facility stays below 45 dB(A) at residences, which is the same sound level typical of a kitchen refrigerator. Wind turbine locations are modeled for sound levels prior to construction to ensure compliance with zoning requirements.

Wind turbines do not pose a significant risk to wildlife.

Wind turbines account for much less than 0.1% of all bird deaths annually. 99% of bird deaths are caused by buildings, cars and airplanes. DTE locates its turbines to minimize wildlife interaction and engages third party experts to assist in these efforts.