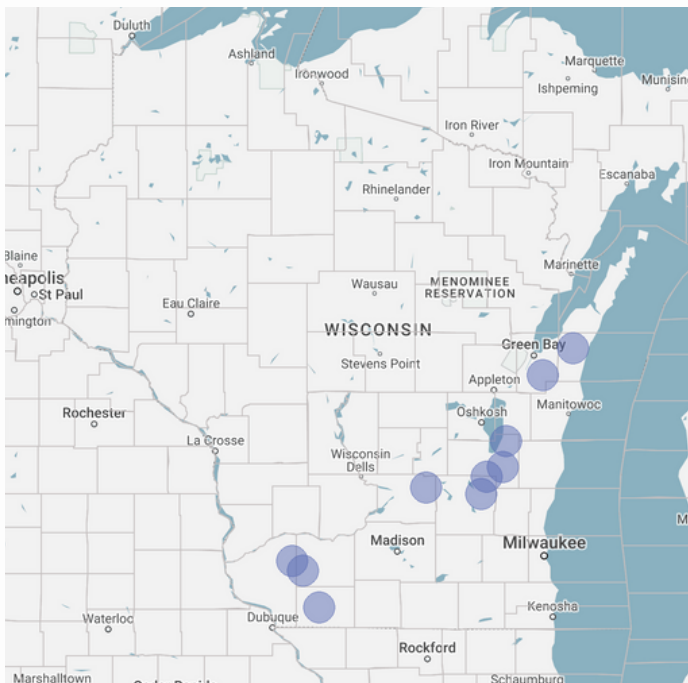


WIND FARMS IN WISCONSIN



Wind energy provides economic, environmental, and health benefits to Wisconsin and our citizens. We can produce wind power here in Wisconsin instead of sending money out of state to buy coal or natural gas. And wind power has zero air pollution or carbon emissions, benefiting our environment and everyone's health.

Number of Utility Wind Turbines in Wisconsin: 463
Installed Utility Wind Capacity: 809



What is a wind farm?

A wind farm is a cluster of wind turbines that generates electricity in bulk to serve many customers, as opposed to a single business or farm. Their sizes can vary greatly. Wind farms are typically located on open land and close to a point of interconnection with the electric transmission system.



Who uses the electricity from these wind power projects?

Wisconsin does! Thus far, all the utility-scale wind farms operating in the Badger State are either owned by or sell their electricity to Wisconsin electricity providers, which provide the electricity to Wisconsin customers for use in our homes and buildings.

WIND FARMS IN WISCONSIN



Do wind farms benefit the environment?

Yes, absolutely! Wind power emits no air or water pollution, requires no mining or drilling for fuel, uses no water in the generation of electricity, and creates no hazardous or radioactive waste requiring permanent storage.

Are wind farms a threat to local wildlife?

Wind power is far less harmful to wildlife than traditional energy sources it displaces — including birds and their critical habitats. It is one of the only energy sources without population-level impacts, such as climate change-related habitat loss.

How loud is a wind turbine or a wind farm?

A typical wind farm operates at 50 decibels during the daytime, which is twice as quiet as an average conversation you might have with someone 3 feet away from you.

Do wind farms have an effect on human health?

The balance of scientific evidence and human experience to date concludes that wind turbines are not harmful to human health. In particular, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health found that “there is nothing unique about the sounds and vibrations emitted by wind turbines” and that “there is no evidence that the audible or sub-audible sounds emitted by wind turbines have any direct adverse physiological effects.”

How do wind farms benefit local governments?

In Wisconsin, owners of wind farms greater than 50 megawatts (MW) pay annually into a utility local aid fund shared with the local governments where the wind farm is located. Under the revenue-sharing formula in place, a qualifying wind farm will contribute \$2,333 per MW to the county and \$1,667 per MW to the township(s) hosting the project for a total of \$4,000 per MW per year. A 100 MW wind farm would contribute \$400,000 per year to host townships and counties.

What setbacks do the wind siting rules establish?

Under the current rules, a local government may require a large wind turbine to be set back to 1,250 feet from a neighboring residence if that neighbor is not a wind turbine host.

How do wind farms benefit landowners?

In exchange for land needed to accommodate wind turbines and supporting infrastructure, developers pay landowners for the use of their property. These are voluntary arrangements. Lease payments provide a stable income stream that helps agricultural producers weather fluctuations in crop production and commodity pricing. Additionally, a typical wind farm uses only one to two acres per wind turbine, leaving 98% of farmland available for crops or pasturing.

