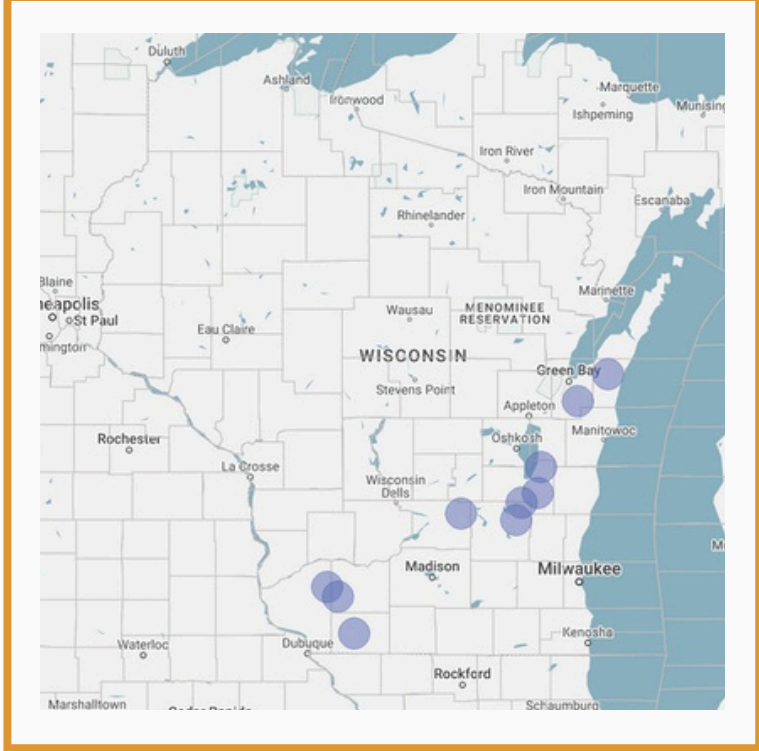


WIND FARMS IN WISCONSIN



Wind energy provides economic, environmental, and health benefits to Wisconsin and our residents. We can produce wind power here in Wisconsin instead of sending money out of state. Wind power also has no carbon emissions and does not contribute to air pollution, benefiting our environment and public health.

Number of Utility Wind Farms in Wisconsin: 13
Installed Utility Wind Capacity: 828



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 facility or farm. Their sizes can vary greatly. Wind farms are typically located on open land and close to the point of interconnection with the electric transmission system.



Who Uses the Electricity From These Wind Power Projects?
Wisconsin does! So far, all the wind farms operating in the Badger State are either owned by or sell their electricity to Wisconsin utilities, which provide the electricity to Wisconsin customers for use in our homes and buildings.

WIND FARMS IN WISCONSIN



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.

Are Wind Farms a Threat to The Environment or Human Health? Wind power is far less harmful to wildlife and the environment than traditional energy sources it displaces – including birds and their critical habitats. It emits no air or water pollution and is one of the only energy sources without population-level impacts, such as climate change-related habitat loss.

As it relates to humans, there is no evidence that sounds or vibrations from a wind turbine harm us. 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. 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 Communities?

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 \$5,000 per MW per year, which is split between counties and townships. A 50 MW wind farm would contribute \$250,000 per year to host townships and counties. At the same time, the landowners who voluntarily lease their land for these projects are able to earn a stable income with minimal impact on their ability to continue using the land for farming or other uses. A typical wind farm uses between one to two acres per wind turbine, leaving 98% of farmland available for crops or pasturing.

Wind Farm Benefits

- **Economic:**
 - Job Creation - (support local, good paying jobs, keeps energy dollars in Wisconsin)
 - Economic Development - (utility aid payments)
 - Low-cost Energy
- **Environmental:**
 - Reduction in GHGs - no emission source of electricity
 - Land Use Efficiency - small area v energy capacity (room for crops/animals/etc)
 - Public Health Benefits - reduces air pollutants, leads to cleaner air and fewer respiratory and cardiovascular health issues

