Economic Benefits, Drawbacks & Mitigations

Benefits - ranked in descending order

An economic drawback of expanded wind development is...

1. **Money is spent locally which helps create an overall better life for residents, both economically and environmentally.** - 17 votes
   a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
      i. Leverage the opportunity to support the start of new small businesses and help local businesses potentially expand
      ii. Work with the technical college to provide wind turbine maintenance training locally.

2. **Wind development creates a different and sustainable source of revenue for local government.** - 16 votes

3. **The creation of well-paying jobs that could bring in new employees or keep young professionals local.** - 9 votes
   a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
      i. Offer training/classes to interested parties
      ii. Educate individuals capable of this type of employment that would locally fund the community throughout the process

4. **Wind development creates a steady source of income from production tax to put towards community projects.** - 9 votes
   a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
      i. Bring local communities together to identify the best ways to use the funds (2)
      ii. Prioritize community projects
      iii. Look for matching grants

5. **Wind leases benefit landowners and neighbors** - 1 vote

6. **The value of farms near wind turbines may increase.** - 0 votes
Drawbacks - ranked in ascending order

An economic drawback of expanded wind development is...

1. **The high cost to increase capacity in the transmission grid** - 18 votes
   a. To minimize this drawback, we could...
      i. Be up-front about possible opportunities associated with the project
      ii. Identify and communicate the community benefits
      iii. Provide economic benefits to more neighbors located close to the wind turbines

2. **Not everyone likes wind turbines which could cause tension between neighbors because some neighbors could see economic benefits while others do not** - 12 votes
   a. To minimize this drawback, we could...
      i. Support technical training for local professionals
      ii. Entice some of the short-term workers to stay with sustainable, ongoing work
      iii. Provide community activities/lifestyle that would keep workers
      iv. Build into the grid/own grid

3. **The surge of jobs is temporary, because those jobs and indirect benefits go away after construction** - 8 votes
   a. To minimize this drawback, we could...
      i. Support technical training for local professionals
      ii. Entice some of the short-term workers to stay with sustainable, ongoing work
      iii. Provide community activities/lifestyle that would keep workers
      iv. Build into the grid/own grid

4. **Not having wind all the time will force consumers to find other sources of power** - 6 votes

5. **There may be no opportunity for local utilities to utilize the power generated by the turbines** - 5 votes
   a. To minimize this drawback, we could...
      i. Explore options and develop methods for local utilities to use the power locally, instead of sending it to other areas

6. **Sourcing a workforce during operational and maintenance support** - 4 votes

7. **Disposing of, or repurposing, parts of turbine can be challenging** - 1 vote