

# 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**
- 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. 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
- 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**