

Quality of Life Benefits, Drawbacks & Mitigations

Benefits - ranked in descending order

1. A benefit of the quality of life might be financial gains to the community, landowners (with a 2% increase each year), and many more with the possibility that it could reduce taxes - **20 votes**
 - a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
 - i. Reduce taxes for residents
 - ii. Require wind energy employees to live in the county
 - iii. County to purchase land to place wind generation on and receive full benefits which would be reflected in lower taxes for all county residents
 - iv. Re-invest in economic development/education
 - v. Tie in a portion of funds to long-term planning
 - vi. Maximize the amount of turbines
 - vii. Be proactive with investment
 - viii. Hold community input meetings to guide upcoming uses of tax money
 - ix. Money gained from taxes should be earmarked for specific projects, then the community can vote for and see the results from the benefits
 - x. Provide compensation for neighbors and adjacent landowners
2. Wind energy would provide economic benefits to the larger community, including the \$1 million annual production tax which goes to the local government - **12 votes**
3. A benefit of wind development on quality of life might be more clean renewable energy to help battle climate change - **10 votes**
4. A benefit of wind development on quality of life might be development that would better infrastructure, roads, etc. - **4 votes**
 - a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
 - i. Make sure that enough money is set aside and that it is in the contract to fix them.
5. One benefit of wind development would be the temporary boom to local businesses, especially during the construction period - **4 votes**

Drawbacks - ranked in ascending order

1. One drawback to wind energy is that funding may not be distributed between the County and townships in proportion to the impact they experience. - **14 votes**
 - a. To minimize this drawback, we could...
 - i. Spread funding more equally among township and county so that each entity can prosper.
2. One drawback to quality of life would be waiting for a project to happen to find out it's not possible - **9 votes**
 - a. To minimize this drawback, we could...
 - i. Contact local officials, state officials, and other agencies to make sure the project happens
 - ii. Invest money into transmission lines
 - iii. Petition the PUC/MISO to support the development
 - iv. Look at alternatives for landowners, like solar
 - v. Seek financial support from developers for years that they wait to learn if the project is viable
 - vi. Offer to buy a share in the farm
 - vii. Prioritize problem areas to address unlikely situations first
 - viii. Weigh out options (plan 1 & plan 2) at the same time
 - ix. Shorten the time it takes to get permits. Also detailed structuring would allow a task/project to transition smoothly
3. A quality of life drawback is that wind development can create obstacles to farmers to be productive - and possible destruction of equipment and repair costs - **9 votes**
 - a. To minimize this drawback, we could...
 - i. Use turbines to support agricultural practices, like putting herbicide sprinklers on the blades for weed control
4. One drawback to quality of life would be disturbing the landscape and view - **7 votes**
5. One drawback to wind energy is that the energy company provides short term employment which benefits the community, but when workers leave this impacts local industries - **6 votes**
 - a. To minimize this drawback, we could...
 - i. When possible, contract jobs out to locals for construction, upkeep, and repairs.
6. One drawback to quality of life would be damage done to habitat and environment - **5 votes**
7. A quality of life drawback would be that expanded wind development hinders the full potential to the property owners, with lengthy time constraints - **2 votes**