

Economic Benefits, Drawbacks & Mitigations

Benefits - ranked in descending order

1. An economic benefit of wind development for people outside of Minnesota might be that it provides cheaper, cleaner, and safer energy that provides more disposable income for consumers. **(16 votes)**
 - a. *To maximize this benefit, we could...*
 - i. *Invest in improving the physical infrastructure.*
 - ii. *Improve the efficiency of energy production.*
 - iii. *Engage in strong planning.*
2. An economic benefit of wind development for Murray County residents might be an increase in all-around tax revenue for the county. **(12 votes)**
 - a. *To maximize this benefit, we could...*
 - i. *Allocate funds for start-up households in the county.*
 - ii. *Allocate wind production tax for county projects which save the county money.*
3. An economic benefit of wind development for Minnesota residents might be that it supports small businesses like food, gas, hotels/lodging, etc. **(8 votes)**
 - a. *To maximize this benefit, we could...*
 - i. *Expand broadband internet.*
 - ii. *Offer wind turbine tours as part of an effort to teach about renewables.*
4. An economic benefit of wind development for Minnesota residents might be that it provides updates to existing infrastructure. **(8 votes)**
 - a. *To maximize this benefit, we could...*
 - i. *Invest in making energy grids safer and more stable.*
 - ii. *Emphasize transportation and roads.*
 - iii. *Expand broadband internet.*
5. An economic benefit of wind development for Murray County residents might be a larger workforce from the influx of new jobs. **(7 votes)**
 - a. *To maximize this benefit, we could...*
 - i. *Ensure that the newer jobs pay well and provide benefits.*
 - ii. *Emphasize young workers to keep the workforce younger overall.*
6. An economic benefit of wind development for Minnesota residents might be that it could increase residents' income from higher education (vocational schools). **(5 votes)**
 - a. *To maximize this benefit, we could...*
 - i. *Increase money spent on research and development of renewables in Minnesota.*
 - ii. *Expand broadband internet.*

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- iii. Recruit students (from within Minnesota and outside the state) to vocational programs.
7. An economic benefit of wind development for Murray County residents might be increased population growth and retention. **(3 votes)**
 - a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
 - i. Promote/market living in Murray County.
 - ii. Invest in public education, parks and recreation.
 8. An economic benefit of wind development for Minnesota residents might be that it increases revenue to the state (ex. income, payroll tax). **(3 votes)**
 - a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
 - i. Develop more projects.
 9. An economic benefit of wind development for Murray County residents might be increased economic benefits for other industries. **(2 votes)**
 - a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
 - i. Invest in other industries around the wind industries like hotels, restaurants, etc.
 10. An economic benefit of wind development for people outside of Minnesota might be that it helps cut costs for other states in cleaning up their environments. **(2 votes)**
 - a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
 - i. Invest in improving the physical infrastructure.
 - ii. Improve the efficiency of energy production.
 - iii. Engage in strong planning.
 11. An economic benefit of wind development for Minnesota residents might be that it provides more jobs to Minnesotans. **(1 vote)**
 - a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
 - i. Develop more projects and expand existing ones at a higher rate.
 - ii. Expand broadband internet.
 12. An economic benefit of wind development for people outside of Minnesota might be that it provides energy for out-of-state residents. **(1 vote)**
 - a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
 - i. Make sure all excess energy goes out of the state and produce as much as possible.
 - ii. Invest in improving the physical infrastructure.
 - iii. Improve the efficiency of energy production.
 - iv. Engage in strong planning.
 13. An economic benefit of wind development for people outside of Minnesota might be that the increased disposable income of Murray County residents could be spent in other states. **(1 vote)**

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14. An economic benefit of wind development for people outside of Minnesota might be that it provides jobs for outstate residents. **(0 votes)**
 - a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
 - i. Recruit high tech and skilled workers from out-of-state colleges and vocational schools
 - ii. Ensure out-of-state grids are fully developed.
 - iii. Invest in improving the physical infrastructure.
 - iv. Improve the efficiency of energy production.
 - v. Engage in strong planning.

Drawbacks - ranked in descending order

1. An economic drawback of wind development for Murray County residents might be that it creates unhealthy economic competition for small businesses in the county in terms of finding employees. **(12 votes)**
 - a. To minimize this drawback, we could...
 - i. Vote and advocate.
 - ii. Encourage family/population growth and pursue a larger workforce.
2. An economic drawback of wind development for Murray County residents might be the uncertainty of cost and consequences of unforeseen events like decommissioning, legislative changes, new rules and regulations, etc. **(10 votes)**
 - a. To minimize this drawback, we could...
 - i. Conduct ongoing review of related policy, rules, and legislation.
3. An economic drawback of wind development for Minnesota residents might be the wear and tear of infrastructure in transporting materials. **(10 votes)**
 - a. To minimize this drawback, we could...
 - i. Grow local production of supplies so they don't have to travel far.
 - ii. Pursue lighter design for the turbines.
 - iii. Seek out closer recycling options so those materials don't have to travel far.
 - iv. Ensure road permits are acquired to pay for any damage.
 - v. Make turbines in smaller pieces.
4. An economic drawback of wind development for Minnesota residents might be that the attraction to turbine jobs takes away workers from other employers like railroads, grocery stores, etc. **(9 votes)**
 - a. To minimize this drawback, we could...
 - i. Make other careers more appealing to families.

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5. An economic drawback of wind development for people outside of Minnesota might be that it reduces demand for out-of-state energy sources, particularly non-renewable sources, which may result in reduced revenue and declining populations. **(8 votes)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. *Encourage renewable energy production in other states.*
6. An economic drawback of wind development for Murray County residents might be that it results in an increased need for road maintenance due to higher levels of industry-related traffic. **(5 votes)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. *Charge additional fees to companies for road upkeep.*
7. An economic drawback of wind development for Minnesota residents might be the challenges and costs associated with turbine removal. **(4 votes)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. *Conduct research and development for recycling turbine blades.*
 - ii. *Ensure contracts have good back-up plans for decommissioning.*
8. An economic drawback of wind development for Murray County residents might be conflicting ideas about land use for expanding wind development. **(2 votes)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. *Hold more public forums, dialogues, and opportunities for involvement in the process.*
 - ii. *Pursue partnerships in policy-making and raising awareness.*
9. An economic drawback of wind development for people outside of Minnesota might be that it results in other states becoming overly-dependent on Minnesota for electric generation. **(2 votes)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. *Ensure Minnesota is consistent in producing cheap, renewable energy.*
10. An economic drawback of wind development for Minnesota residents might be population shifts pulling people from some communities to move to others. **(2 votes)**
11. An economic drawback of wind development for Minnesota residents might be a related phase out/reduction in other resource industries in Minnesota. **(2 votes)**
 - a. *In order to minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. *Conduct job retraining.*
 - ii. *Educate employees about other renewable job opportunities.*
12. An economic drawback of wind development for Murray County residents might be townships experiencing economic inequality between towns that have turbines and towns that don't. **(1 vote)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*

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- i. *Reallocate tax funding by the local authority.*
- 13. An economic drawback of wind development for people outside of Minnesota might be that renewable energy standards could create inflationary costs. **(1 vote)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. *Have other states implement individual renewable energy solutions.*
- 14. An economic drawback of wind development for Murray County residents might be that emergency services may require retraining of emergency services to ensure preparation for wind turbine-related injuries like the fire department, 911, etc. **(1 vote)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. *Conduct additional, repeated, and ongoing training for emergency service workers.*
- 15. An economic drawback of wind development for Murray County might be a potential reduction in agricultural output from Minnesota to other states. **(0 votes)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. *Support measures to increase efficiency in agriculture.*
 - ii. *Increase the efficiency of wind turbines to require fewer turbines.*
 - iii. *Conduct careful planning and follow zoning policies.*
- 16. An economic drawback of wind development for Minnesota residents might be an uneven distribution of production tax in Minnesota. **(0 votes)**