

## Community Power Points



Community Power spurred the development of renewable energy in Europe where in the Netherlands 60 per cent of wind turbines are owned by farmers and 5 per cent by communities; in Germany 10 per cent are owned by farmers, while 40 per cent are owned by communities; in Denmark, 64 per cent are owned by farmers, while 24 per cent are owned by communities.

*Dave Toke, University of Birmingham, 2005, updated to Toke 2008*



Studies undertaken in Iowa showed that locally owned wind generation creates up to 10 times more economic activity in the local community and state than does wind generation owned by out-of-state companies. When the owners are local, they are more likely to purchase more local materials for construction and hire more local residents and profits stay in the community too.



“The lease payments made to farmers by commercial wind project developers typically pale in comparison to the income the farmer could earn if he instead owned the turbine himself, or in conjunction with other members of his local community.”

*Small Packages, Big Benefits: Economic Advantages of Local Wind Projects  
Teresa Welsh Galluzzo, April 2005  
[www.ontario-sea.org/Storage/27/1915\\_Small\\_Packages,\\_Big\\_Benefits-Economic\\_Benefits\\_of\\_Local\\_Wind\\_Power.pdf](http://www.ontario-sea.org/Storage/27/1915_Small_Packages,_Big_Benefits-Economic_Benefits_of_Local_Wind_Power.pdf)*



It is expected that current Community Power groups could produce 200 MW.



Generating energy closer to where it is used reduces the cost of transmission and distribution costs



Smaller scale localized generation would help avoid massive blackouts such as the one that occurred on August 14, 2003.



In conventional energy systems, like that of Ontario, at least 75 cents of each energy dollar leaves the local economy.

*The Federation of Canadian Municipalities*



Locally generated renewable energy raises awareness of how electricity is produced and consumed, and, as a consequence, promotes conservation.



The feed-in tariff program includes a price “adder” or bonus for community and Aboriginal renewable energy projects.



In order to qualify for the “adder”, a top-up offered by The Ontario Power Authority for community power, the project must be undertaken by one or more individual residents in Ontario; a registered charity with its head office in Ontario; a not-for-profit organization with its head office in Ontario; or a co-operative corporation all members of which are residents of Ontario.



The project must have a community participation level greater or equal to 10 per cent of the whole project.

*Feed-in Tariff Rules, Ontario Power Authority*



Through the Community Energy Partnerships Program, community groups, including co-ops, non-profit groups and local partnerships would be eligible for one time financial assistance of up to \$200,000 for project planning costs, as well as environmental and engineering studies.

*Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure*



All wind energy projects constitute an economic development opportunity for the states and communities that surround a wind project. However, local communities may only see a small portion of the economic development impacts that can result from investments in wind energy. In fact, it is not uncommon for less than 15% of project related construction expenditures to remain in the state where a project is built.



By increasing the level of economic development impacts that remain in a state or local area, community wind projects can reduce the perception that it is primarily ‘outsiders’ who benefit from wind energy projects. Furthermore, engaging local stakeholders at a highly personal level (i.e. as equity owners with financial interests) may create increased support for wind power projects in specific communities. As such, community wind projects provide a mechanism to reduce broader social barriers to wind energy.

*Economic Development Impacts of Community Wind Projects: A Review and Empirical Evaluation, April 2009*

*E. Lantz and S. Tegen, National Renewable Energy Laboratory*

[www.ontariosea.org/Storage/37/2852\\_Economic\\_Development\\_Impacts\\_of\\_Community\\_Wind\\_Projects\\_-\\_A\\_Review\\_and\\_Empirical\\_Evaluation.pdf](http://www.ontariosea.org/Storage/37/2852_Economic_Development_Impacts_of_Community_Wind_Projects_-_A_Review_and_Empirical_Evaluation.pdf)