

## COMMUNITY WIND

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As wind energy grows towards a 20% wind market share, wind farms are changing the landscape across America, physically and economically. Local stakeholders want to play an ever bigger role in the use and development of wind energy. Individual landowners have a personal interest in the success of this industry and are looking for ways to maximize the value of wind for themselves and their communities. Local communities, including agricultural and rural economic development interests, can help build the industry's success in their backyards.

Community Wind projects have some or all of the following characteristics:

- The economic benefits that flow to the community are greater than from typical land lease payments, construction and operations jobs and increased local tax base in commercial projects;
- The community has a significant amount of control over management of the project, possibly including voting rights, especially regarding matters of greatest importance to the community;
- There are opportunities for members of the community to have a direct financial stake in the project, with an appropriate share of both the risks and rewards of such investments;
- Project sizes most typically in the range of 100kW-20 MW, although they can range higher;
- They may employ a variety of ownership and financing structures which have features designed to accommodate the goals of the community with respect to financial and management participation;
- A genuine sense of community involvement.



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## COMMUNITY WIND WORKING GROUP

In 2008, the AWEA Board of Directors adopted the following Pillars of Agreement and established the Community Wind Working Group (CWWG).

**PILLAR 1** All sizes and models of development are important if the US wind industry is to grow to at least 20% of our nation's electricity portfolio. The Department of Energy's 20% wind scenario does not discriminate between large commercial projects and community-based projects. All types will bring clean electricity, economic development and good jobs to rural America.

**PILLAR 2** AWEA encourages all business models so that more people have a stake in the future of this technology. A successful wind industry will include more participants, thus more stakeholders.

**PILLAR 3** Our industry needs to identify models that maximize the value of wind for host communities. The Lamar project in Colorado is an example of successful collaboration between communities and wind developers. Collaboration among landowners for investment, resource allocation sharing or other local benefits to increase the community's value of the wind farm can bring additional enrichment to a community. For local entrepreneurs, wind development allows members of the local community to build their own wind businesses.

**PILLAR 4** Greater local involvement in wind energy development can increase the political power of the wind industry, taming opposition and promoting stable, wind-friendly policies.

### AWEA Community Wind Working Group

New ownership models for wind farms continue to evolve. Companies offering services to help landowners develop their wind resources are emerging. Policies to overcome hurdles of smaller projects that bring significant local benefits must also develop so that more locally owned projects may be built alongside larger commercial projects. The Community Wind Working Group (CWWG) is exploring the needs and actions to allow for growth.

Key issue areas currently under discussion by the CWWG:

- Stimulus & Energy Bill implementation
- Revenue Support
- Pre-development Funds
- Transmission / Access to the Grid
- Siting
- Interagency Support & Coordination

Membership in the CWWG is open to AWEA members.