

# Rural and Regional Benefits of Windfarms

Ken Starcher  
Alternative Energy Institute

**A 100 Megawatt Wind farm can:**

**Supply 10 to 12 jobs for maintenance**

**Have 300 – 600 jobs for 4 - 8 months during construction**

**Lure primary and secondary jobs to the area**

**Create opportunities for locals to meet the new needs of the wind farm.**

**Regional Economic impact comes from the growth of a larger tax base:**

**The biggest concern by the locals has been the noise, ugliness and potential land value impact. Worry that it will affect future use of the land**

**Then after the farm was in, the view was” they are not so bad looking, they can’t be heard from my place, and my land values are unaffected.”**

# Tax numbers, Nolan County, Texas

<b>Year</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Appraised</b>	<b>Tax</b>
	<b>of farms</b>	<b>Turbines</b>	<b>(millions)</b>	<b>(millions)</b>
<b>'03</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>'04</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>'05</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>2.1</b>
<b>'06</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>'07</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>12.0</b>
<b>'08</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1,089</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>16.2</b>

## **Rural improvements: who pays?**

**Should wind developers bear the full cost of road/water and sewage improvements?**

**They were not needed till the wind farm went in, but the usage versus the cost is minimal.**

**The agreements now call for open negotiation if it becomes a cost to the local economy.**

# Employment

- Construction
- Wind project O&M
- Industry
- Ancillary businesses
- College wind energy technician training
- GE Wind Energy Operations Center
- Sweetwater prototype center



# Small Business



- Motels
- Restaurants
- Oil field services
- Pilot cars
- Long-haul transportation
- Supply contracts
- Legal & accounting
- Spin-off businesses



# More small business examples

- Construction & operations field offices
- 24-hour mobile tire repair
- Catering & remote cafes
- Laundromats
- Trailer parks
- New motels
- Housing, housing, housing!



# Wind company examples – Sweetwater operations

- GE Wind
- Babcock & Brown
- FPL Energy
- AES Wind
- AEP Wind
- Airtricity – e.on
- DeWind
- Blattner
- RES Americas
- Evans Enterprises
- SecondWind
- Mortenson
- Third Planet Windpower
- Wind Energy Services
- Wind Energy Turbine Services
- Hytorc
- Upwind Solutions
- Siemens
- Fastenal



# More wind company examples – Sweetwater operations

- Crane Service Inc.
- Mitsubishi
- Sun Electric
- Invenergy
- Windkraft Nord WKN
- Altezza
- Northwind Solutions
- Major wind law firms
- Shermco



# Industry & workforce

- Western Hemisphere's largest & most skilled wind energy workforce
- Leading wind science & technology colleges & universities
- SWEET Center – field prototypes of turbines & wind assessment – TSTC
- Workforce training – Texas State Technical College
- Wind energy PhD: Texas Tech University
- Texas Wind Power Institute – TSTC & Texas Tech – K-PhD
- Workforce recruitment – [www.GreenCollarVets.org](http://www.GreenCollarVets.org)



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# Industry

- Blades (Gainesville, Juarez)
- Blade repair (Sweetwater, Abilene)
- Generators (Round Rock)
- Harbors (Houston, Corpus Christi, Beaumont)
- Cement (Maryneal)
- Concrete (Mitchell County)

– Brownwood welder



# Industry

- Tower prep (Coleman)
- Steel fabrication (Brownwood)
- Carbon fiber (Abilene)
- Turbines (Round Rock)
- Tower steel (Fort Worth, El Paso, Abilene, San Angelo)
- Bolts, clamps, steel base (Nacogdoches, Corpus)

– Brownwood welder





**Alternative Energy Institute  
West Texas A&M University  
Box 60248, WTAMU  
Canyon, TX 79016**

**Tel: 806 651 2295  
Fax: 806 651 2733  
[aeimail@mail.wtamu.edu](mailto:aeimail@mail.wtamu.edu)**