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Demystifying Wind Power: Concrete Answers for Municipalities

Our Chief Development Officer – Québec, Luc Leblanc, and his team regularly head out into the field to meet with elected officials and citizens who want to know more about wind power projects. Many have the same questions about noise, local benefits, and changes to the landscape.

As such, we have prepared this guide to clearly address municipalities' concerns and provide concrete facts about the development of wind power in Québec.

What does a wind power project actually do for a municipality?

Much more than you'd think. Above all, wind farms are a guaranteed and reliable source of income for the municipality and its landowners. That income can then be reinvested in local projects like infrastructure improvements, recreation, and community services or initiatives.

The projects also create jobs: wind farms require construction and regular maintenance, professional services, and logistics. Local businesses in areas like shipping, civil engineering, and professional services benefit directly from the spin-offs.

In the longer term, wind farms can even drive sustainable economic development by attracting other projects and strengthening the region's reputation as an innovator.

Do wind turbines make a lot of noise?

No. In fact, the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP) has strict standards for today's wind turbines.

The noise near homes cannot exceed 40 decibels—the equivalent of a whisper in a library. Scientific studies have shown that they have no impact on residents' health or hearing.

What's more, Innergex prioritizes neighbours' peace and quiet in the design of its wind projects.

How do turbines fit into the landscape?

Every project is designed to fit with its surroundings. The turbines' location and orientation are carefully chosen to limit their visual impact and preserve the region's iconic views.

We consult with communities on every wind project and design each one with local realities in mind. This approach supports acceptance, and wind turbines are now seen as symbols of pride and modernity in many regions of Québec.

What are the long-term benefits for the community?

In addition to the direct income, wind power projects create lasting partnerships with communities.

Many local and indigenous communities become co-owners of wind farms, so they actively participate in decision-making and share in the benefits. This collaborative model lets communities take ownership of their wind farms and ensures that the wealth they generate stays local.

In fact, the local wealth often ends up funding community infrastructure and social and environmental projects. It's yet another concrete way of turning wind energy into benefits for citizens.

What permits and regulations are required?

Wind farm development is subject to a very strict process. Before construction begins, developers need to obtain numerous municipal and environmental permits and complete extensive impact assessments.

In addition, information sessions and consultations serve as opportunities to present the project and transparently address local concerns.

Each step ensures that the development remains safe, responsible, and beneficial to the community.

Are wind turbines dangerous for animals?

No. Environmental inventories and monitoring help protect sensitive habitats and make sure the turbines are outside of migration zones.

Studies show that their impact on birds and bats remains low compared to other human activities, and that they have no effect on livestock or wildlife on the ground.

What if there's no wind?

Wind turbines start generating energy once the wind reaches around 12 km/h—that's a gentle breeze. Modern technology and careful planning allow generation to remain steady and predictable throughout the grid.

Is wind power for you?

A properly planned wind power project is much more than a means of generating green electricity. It's a concrete opportunity for local, economic, and community development.

Every municipality is different, with its own priorities and timelines. But no matter where they are built, wind farms quickly become levers of sustainable development that generate a multitude of benefits for the community.

They give local communities the opportunity to actively support the shift to greener energy while taking advantage of economic benefits and taking ownership of the farms.

Through dialogue, transparency, and respect for the community, municipalities can create value locally while playing their part in Québec's energy transition.

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