

Living near wind & solar projects

Stakeholder Experiences Look Book





Committed for the long-haul

When EDP Renewables North America (EDPR NA) begins developing a wind farm or solar park, it is with the intention of being an engaged member of the community throughout the project’s multi-decade lifespan. Our neighbors have worked with us for more than 15 years, and we’re proud of the strong relationships we’ve formed with our project community members.

Over the years, we’ve interviewed a number of our neighbors and local stakeholders about their experiences living and working near our renewable energy projects throughout their development, construction, and operation. We’ve compiled excerpts of their stories here to help give others an idea of what it is like having an EDPR NA project in the community. Some of the quotes that follow have been edited for clarity.



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Supporting local businesses

Constructing a wind farm or a solar park is a major undertaking that can be felt throughout a project community. During the multi-month process, hundreds of workers flow in and out of the area, relying on local businesses for lodging, food, fuel, supplies, and more.

Once a project is operational, EDPR NA continues to procure goods and services from local businesses for ongoing maintenance and upkeep needs, such as landscaping, solar panel washing, and equipment servicing. This makes EDPR NA a reliable customer for countless business owners across the continent.



“Since the construction workers on the wind farm have been here, our daily totals have, a lot of times, at least doubled. The bills are easier to manage.

The increase in business has made it a lot less stressful to make those ends meet, plus we can pay off a few things that need to get paid down.

I have seen nothing but a positive impact on Allen County. Everything that the wind farm workers touch—housing, meals, the trucks they drive—they’re supporting local businesses.”

– Loren & Regena Lance, owners of the Mildred Store
Mildred, Kansas



“My guess is there were not any vacancies in any of the local hotels or campgrounds for months during construction. The restaurants always had the wind farm trucks there, the grocery stores, you name it—they were there.

When you have local businesses being successful because of these wind farm projects, I don't see a downside.”

– Keith Everhart, Hardin County Sheriff
Ada, Ohio



“We have had about 300 men and women working here during construction. Numerous people working for the wind farm have become regulars. You get to know them by name. They bring in their crews and have had us cater.

The wind farm has taken my winter business to almost a spring and summer-level of business without ever missing a beat throughout the whole wintertime, which is normally a slower time.

I'm hiring people at a time when I'm usually hoping to just survive and maintain everything. But now we're hiring new employees and things are going great.”

– Kirk Dwyer, owner of Chancy's Grill & Shake
Moran, Kansas



“The wind energy industry has been a huge boon for me. I built a business around it. Landscapers, excavators, doesn't matter how big you are. If you're good, you never know what it can lead to.

For business owners, there's definitely work up here.”

– Jerry Relation, owner of Lakeview Lawncare
Ellenburg, New York



“The wind farm brings a lot of revenue to the local area. Puts a lot of truck drivers to work. Restaurants and stores do very well.

Everybody wins with wind.”

– Gilbert & Connie Merrill, landowners
Chateaugay, New York



Creating local jobs

It takes hundreds of people to build a wind farm or a solar park. Once the project is operational, many people are needed ensure it continues generating power for decades to come.

In fact, wind turbine technician is the second fastest growing job in the United States¹ and more than 120,000 Americans are employed by the wind industry nationwide.²

At EDP Renewables North America, we have created 7,900 full-time equivalent construction jobs and employ more than 700 people across the continent³, with no plans to slow down any time soon.

¹U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics. Ten Fastest Growing Occupations, Projected 2018–2028. 2019.
²American Wind Energy Association. Wind Powers Job Growth. 2019.
³Data last updated June 2020.



“For me, wind energy was a way to have a stable career and stay near home. With a high school diploma and a willingness to learn, you can have a good paying job in a rural area.

Now, wind technician is one of the fastest-growing jobs in the country.”

– Brodie Dockendorf, Operations Manager
 Quilt Block Wind Farm
 Darlington, Wisconsin

“It takes hundreds of people to construct a solar project and takes many people in Operations to run it. We hire contractors to mow the grass and wash the panels and more specialized contractors to help with troubleshooting.

We create a lot of jobs in the surrounding communities. As we’ve seen with our wind farms, this is great because it provides a stimulus to the local economy of small towns, where most of our projects are located.”

– Fred Kelo, Associate Director of Operations
 Western Region & Solar
 Portland, Oregon



“As someone who grew up here and knows just about everyone, I take great pleasure and pride in what our company has created.

My favorite thing about working in wind power is knowing we are making a difference. As a mom, knowing wind power is taking us toward making the world a better place for future generations is just awesome.”

– Erika Nelson, Senior Operations Manager
Jericho Rise, Marble River, Nation Rise, and South Branch Wind Farms
Churubusco, New York



“If someone asked me about a career in solar, I would tell them to do it – 100 percent.

In the military, you have a lot of big, important equipment to maintain. That responsibility translated directly into renewable energy. I love what I do.

I’m excited about the future of solar because the industry is growing.”

– Joshua Francis, Solar Field Technician
Cameron Solar Park
Orangeburg, South Carolina



“I love the work–life balance that EDP Renewables offers. I was in the oil & gas sector for 12 years before I started working at EDP Renewables and now I get to spend way more time with my family.

Wind power is beneficial and has very minimal impact to our environment. I love that this is a company that is making a better world for my kids.”

– Norma Rodriguez, Operations Administrator
Los Mirasoles Wind Farm
McCook, Texas



“At the beginning, we did the septic system at the new office facility, and then on the Timber Road Wind Farm III project we’d done all the tile repair.

The project probably had four guys busy for... How long? A year. Four guys full-time for eight months. And good wages for the guys.

There’s always more work down the road. There’s more work, more stone hauling, more everything, and not just for us either.”

– Jay & Jason Dangler, owners of Dangler Excavating
Paulding, Ohio



Respecting the land

We know how hard farmers and landowners work to take care of their land, and we are deeply respectful of that when a landowner chooses to lease part of it to one of our wind farms or solar parks. We're committed to maintaining the land so it is ready to serve future generations.

In the development and construction phases, we work closely with our landowners to ensure everyone is on the same page and the landowner feels comfortable with the plans. As the project transitions into operation, our local Operations & Maintenance staff is available to address any questions that arise through the life of the project.



“EDP Renewables was very transparent during construction.

We knew what was going to happen, where it was going to happen, when they were going to be on your land.

If conditions were such that they were going to make a horrible mess, they wouldn't do it. They would wait.

I think a lot of the landowners appreciated that—I know I did. It's probably one of the big concerns I had: how bad are they going to destroy the land? And they didn't.”

– Mike Brady, landowner
Payne, Ohio



“My land is very important to me. EDPR hasn’t done anything that can’t be removed off the land. They’ve planted grass on it to keep it from eroding.

They really respect the land and the landowners.”

– Walt Pooser, landowner
Cameron, South Carolina

“When the opportunity came to get into the business, we had to make a decision we were going to go with. We went with EDP Renewables and they were very wonderful to work with.

If we had a problem, we’d give them a call and they would be there about as quick as they could get there.”

– Dave Greulach, landowner
Paulding, Ohio

“My experience with EDPR is number one. I’ve had no problems at all because they’ve done what they said they were going to do. They’ve always accommodated me.

I think EDPR is 100 percent a trustworthy company.”

– Freddie Mixon, landowner
Hampton, South Carolina



“Our farm is cash rented. The renters have been thrilled with the turbine layout and the kind of repair work that’s been done after construction.

EDP Renewables talked to them about locations and all of the access roads were laid out to do minimal amount of interference.”

– Karl Mielke, landowner
Antwerp, Ohio

“EDP Renewables took great care of the land and was so efficient.

Once they got a turbine foundation done, they were in there backfilling it right away. They pushed the topsoil away then brought it back in over the top. I’ve been in there where the crops are growing and I haven’t seen any ill-effects at all.”

– Richard Kotzur, landowner
McCook, Texas



Collaborating with the community

EDPR NA takes pride in building strong, honest relationships with the communities who host our wind farms and solar parks.

From the early development phases, through construction, and throughout a project's decades-long operational life, we are committed to being a good neighbor and engaging with local stakeholders. Our employees live and work in our project communities. Whether we're catching up with the local diner staff or donating to the town food bank, we do our best to become part of the community.



"The wind farm guys have all made themselves a part of the community.

There has never been a one of them who has been disrespectful. Most of the wind farm people have given us their cell phone numbers. They've turned into really good friends."

- Loren & Regena Lance, owners of the Mildred Store
Mildred, Kansas



"EDP Renewables played a huge role in creating the wind technician program. They donated \$150,000 to it, which was a huge help.

Tax revenue will also be raised from the wind farm, so the county was able to pitch in another \$100,000 toward the program. We're renovating part of the building to start wind technology classes for juniors and seniors in high school, which will be totally free for them.

This wind tech program is going to be great, hands-on work. Without the wind farm, this wouldn't have happened. It's fantastic."

- Ray Maloney, owner of Ray's Metal Shop
LaHarpe, Kansas



“We’ve talked to some of the people who have wind turbines going on their land, and they hear the same things about the wind farm crews that we’ve been hearing:

how nice they are, how much work they’ve done up there, and that they’re polite.

Even my customers have noticed.”

– Kirk Dwyer, owner of Chancy’s Grill & Shake
Moran, Kansas



“The EDP Renewables Charitable Fund is a permanent investment in Randolph County, allowing the Community Foundation to award grant dollars to improve the lives of the residents of the County, today, tomorrow, and forever.

The fund is endowed, meaning that the foundation invests the money and uses the gains from those investments to do good things in our community year after year.

It is like EDP is making a gift that will continually give back to our community for years and decades.”

– Lisa Jennings, Executive Director
Community Foundation of Randolph County, Indiana

EDPR NA’s COVID-19 Response

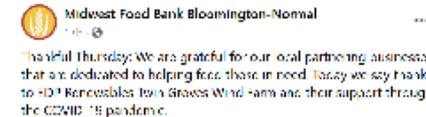
During the COVID-19 pandemic, EDPR NA donated \$300,000 to local non-profit organizations providing relief from the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 in the more than 50 communities where we have a project in operation, under construction, or in development.

Here are a few of the kind words we received from community members in response:

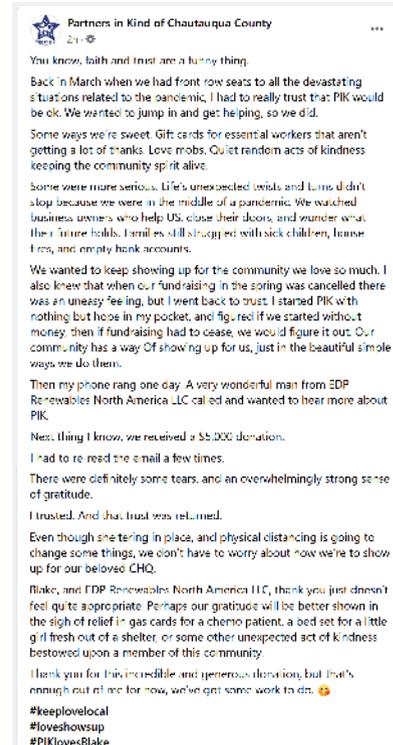
*James Fintrack + Company?
Thank you for your generous donation to Prairie Central Food Service. Your support means so much to us and the community that we serve. With these donations, we are keeping the children of the community fed through these uncertain times. Please know that your generosity is greatly appreciated.
Sincerely, Joni Bosgrove
Prairie Central Food Service Director*



*May 28, 2020
Nonprofits to all at EDP Renewables North America LLC for your generous donation to the White County Food Pantry. In these uncertain times, your kind gift is so appreciated - and will go far to help our pantry to help those in need.
Marsha Heier
Secretary*



*Megan,
It was such a pleasure to work with you on the funding we received from your company. We are honored that you thought of Hurdle Medical Center and our appreciation of the funding money is PPS for the people. Thank you so very much for the generous donation. Best Regards,
Marilyn W
HMC*





Providing stable income

When a landowner chooses to lease part of their property to an EDPR NA wind farm or solar park, they are guaranteed a stable, reliable revenue stream for decades to come.

This extra source of income can give a landowner the ability to expand their business, help pay for college, supplement vital retirement savings, or just provide peace of mind through the ups and downs of life.

As of December 2019, EDPR NA has paid more than \$379 million to local landowners across North America.



“Farming is uncertain – that’s different from solar. Solar is not uncertain at all.”

“EDPR goes out, checks on the equipment, and keeps the land up. Solar gives me something to look forward to since I know it’s coming in. I don’t have to worry about my situation. The income from the solar park has helped considerably.”

– Freddie Mixon, landowner
Hampton, South Carolina



“We always have a lot of wind around here and now we can make some money to set off the price of farming.

The wind farm will help me retire.”

– Francis Lyssy, landowner
McCook, Texas



“Getting turbines on your land is an adventure and it takes some time.

The lease payments might help buy some cattle. Might help buy some equipment. Might help put a kid through college.”

– Deana Hardesty, landowner
Tuttle, Oklahoma



“The wind farm helps me out. The crops are down right now and the lease payments do help.

They’ll help me retire sooner.”

– Earl Huebner, landowner
Antwerp, Ohio



“After the solar farm checks started coming in, I purchased more land and started a tree nursery.

When you show the lenders this fixed income you have coming in, your credit rating goes up, as well as your borrowing power so you can expand your business and farm. And we’ve had a little fun – we’ve taken a couple of cruises and things like that.

The income from the solar farm allows me the flexibility for the future so I can plan what I want to do.”

– Walt Pooser, landowner
Cameron, South Carolina



Living near wind turbines

While solar parks tend to be a more low-profile project often obscured by native plants and visible to just a few neighbors, wind turbines are more noticeable.

It might feel new when they start to appear on the horizon during construction, but they quickly become just another part of the local landscape. Dozens of studies over the years have confirmed that living near wind turbines is safe for residents and livestock, with the World Health Organization considering wind power to be one of the healthiest forms of energy generation available.¹

¹World Health Organization, (2017, November 07). Interventions: Power generation.



“You hear people say, ‘I’ve read articles that claim you get nosebleeds and all this and that.’ There’s none of that. You got to be pretty close to hear the noise.

And we farm right under them, go right under them, and so forth. It doesn’t bother us any.

Over a period of time, it’s like anything else. Once you see ‘em, and the longer they’re there, it’s just a part of the landscape.”

– Dave Greulach, landowner
Paulding, Ohio



“We don’t hear the windmills unless we’re listening for it. It’s a noise that you get accustomed to.

The traffic is more of a nuisance to us than the wind turbines, and I don’t really feel that it’s a nuisance.

“The wind farm doesn’t bother the wildlife. I think we’ve seen more now than we did before the wind farm. I don’t believe that the wind turbines themselves harm the environment. I think it’s clean energy. That’s a basic thing and we need that.”

– Joyce King, landowner
Belmont, New York



“There’s a good blend between wind energy and farming because you can farm a row crop right up to the edge of the tower. We felt wind energy is the worthiest and the wisest type of renewable resource that we have right now because it allows you to use the land in multiple ways.

We’re still be able to farm our land, and cattle can still roam around the turbines.”

– Kim Ensminger, landowner
Moran, Kansas



“I put wind turbines on my property because I saw it as a way to get a little more help to offset my farming costs—and because I think they look interesting and I like them.

I like to watch them go around and around—it beautifies the place.

These wind turbines are something I really enjoy. I have no complaints on noises or construction or anything.”

– Francis Lyssy, landowner
McCook, Texas



“The turbines are beautiful. Sometimes you can’t even see the blades. They blend in well with the sky.

And some days when the sun is shining on them they are pretty white. If you’ve got the opportunity to get a wind turbine, take it. It’s been a wonderful experience.”

– Gilbert & Connie Merrill, landowners
Chateaugay, New York



Strengthening local infrastructure

So far, EDPR NA has paid more than \$308 million¹ in tax payments to local governments, supporting local infrastructure such as schools, roads, and fire departments.

In many project areas, EDPR NA's wind farm or solar park is the biggest taxpaying entity in the county, providing critical funding to services relied upon by residents. These payments give local rural governments the funds grow, innovate, and enhance the quality of life.

¹Payments issued through 2019.



“The township has benefited from the extra tax revenue [from the wind farm]. And the county. Everybody.

In the county, they are able to operate the courthouse five days a week instead of four. The county put in a new jail and didn't have the money to fund it—now they have the money to fund it.

When I was on the local school board, we had enough to just do the basics.

Now we can offer the people something more than just the basics. Our children will benefit from it in the long run.”

– Mike Brady, landowner
Payne, Ohio



“If someone was thinking about leasing their land for a wind farm, they should look at the benefits that you offer the community.

That money comes back to school districts, trustees, road improvements, and government agencies.

Getting this wind energy money into their treasuries helps them function in a better way to serve the community.”

– Karl Mielke, landowner
Antwerp, Ohio



“The money that EDP Renewables pays the county annually goes toward road maintenance and the county’s three school districts. When school districts have additional income besides that from the state and the federal government, you can look beyond to the larger projects you want to do. Particularly in our school, I would like to see our science department renovated.

A steady income lets us keep up with the technology and the curriculum that allows individuality. Tax dollar-wise, the wind farm will definitely have an impact for us as a county.”

– Kim Ensminger, principal of Marmaton Valley School District
Moran, Kansas



“I know that the schools, the townships, and the county all benefit from the tax revenue.

I personally think it’s been a very good thing for Hardin County and I’m looking forward to the next wind farm being built, because that’s more revenue for a lot of people.”

– Keith Everhart, Hardin County Sheriff
Ada, Ohio

“The economic part of the wind farm for the county is good. Especially for the school systems. Most of the money goes to the school district.

The wind farm tax revenue allows us to be able to give pay raises and put more money into our infrastructure. The wind farms have helped the struggling school districts tremendously.”

– Windle Hardy, County Commissioner
Tuttle, Oklahoma

About EDP Renewables North America

EDP Renewables North America LLC (EDPR NA), its affiliates, and its subsidiaries develop, construct, own, and operate wind farms and solar parks throughout North America. Headquartered in Houston, Texas, with 58 wind farms, nine solar parks, and eight regional offices across North America, EDPR NA has developed more than 8,800 megawatts (MW) and operates more than 8,200 MW of onshore utility-scale renewable energy projects. With more than 950 employees, EDPR NA's highly qualified team has a proven capacity to execute projects across the continent.

EDPR NA is a wholly owned subsidiary of EDP Renewables (Euronext: EDPR), a global leader in the renewable energy sector. EDPR is the fourth largest renewable energy producer worldwide with a presence in 28 markets across Europe, North America, South America, and Asia Pacific. EDPR has a robust development portfolio with first-class assets and a market-leading operational capability in renewables. These include wind onshore, utility scale and distributed solar, wind offshore (through its 50/50 JV - OW), and technologies complementary to renewables such as batteries and green hydrogen.

EDPR is a division of EDP (Euronext: EDP), a leader in the energy transition with a focus on decarbonization. EDP – EDPR's main shareholder – has been listed on the Dow Jones Index for 14 consecutive years, recently being named the most sustainable electricity company on the index.

For more information, visit www.edpr.com/north-america.



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