

Stakeholder experiences: Local businesses

Constructing a wind farm or a solar park is a major undertaking. 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, EDP Renewables North America (EDPR NA) continues to purchase goods and services from local businesses for ongoing maintenance, such as landscaping, solar panel washing, and equipment servicing. Our employees buy supplies from the nearby hardware store, eat at area restaurants, and fill up their trucks at local gas stations. This makes EDPR NA a reliable customer for countless business owners across the continent.



“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



“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



“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



“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



“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