

# Community Wind Energy

## WHAT IS COMMUNITY WIND ENERGY?

Locally owned, commercial-scale wind projects that optimize local benefits. Locally owned means that one or more members of the local community has a significant direct financial stake in the project other than through land lease payments, tax revenue, or other payments in lieu of taxes. Commercial-scale, for this purpose, means all projects that are too large to qualify for net metering.

## COMMUNITY WIND STORIES

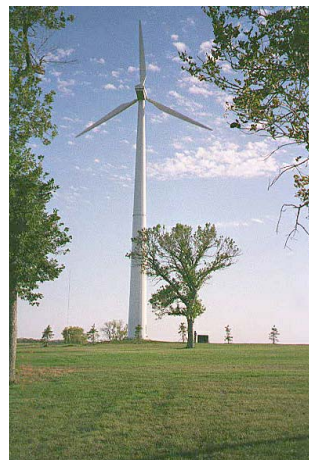
### Moorhead Public Service

This municipal utility used its own funds to purchase and install two 750 kW wind turbines, one in 1999 and the other in 2001, in Moorhead, MN. This project is among the most successful in the nation with one of the highest percentages of customers opting to pay a little extra to support the *Capture the Wind* program.



### Public Schools

Lac qui Parle Valley School was the first public school district in Minnesota to install a wind turbine with a 225 kW machine in 1997 in Madison, MN. Pipestone-Jasper School District, Pipestone, MN, followed with a 900 kW turbine in 2001. Wind turbines can provide schools with clean energy, a new source of revenue, and great hands-on learning opportunities.



### Minwind Energy

An innovative business model that allows local investors (at least 85% farmers) to own their own commercial scale wind turbines. The group installed four 950 kW turbines (Minwind I and II) in 2002 near Luverne, MN and seven 1,650 kW turbines (Minwind III-IX) in December 2004 near Beaver Creek, MN.



### Carleton College

Became the first college or university in the U.S. to own a commercial scale wind turbine with the installation of a 1,650 kW machine in 2004 near Northfield, MN.



### Kas Brothers

The first farmers in the nation to own their own commercial scale wind turbines when they installed two 750 kW machines in 2001 in Woodstock, MN. The Kas brothers host a larger wind farm on their land, which allowed them to learn about wind turbines before teaming with a community wind project developer to put together their own project.



### Woodstock Wind Farm

An early community wind project owned and operated by a local wind developer. Constructed in 1999 near Woodstock, MN, it consists of 17 600 kW turbines, totalling 10.2 MW.



# Community Wind Energy *continued*

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY WIND ENERGY?

- **Stimulates the local economy** by creating new jobs, new business opportunities, and bringing new investment to the community.
- **Ushers in more renewable energy** and support for wind by getting local people involved.
- **Strengthens rural communities** by broadening the tax base and generating new income for farmers.
- **Produces clean energy**, and reduces pollution, pollution-related illnesses, and emissions of greenhouse gases.
- **Keeps energy investment dollars local.**
- **Builds a new industry** in rural communities that is compatible with agriculture.
- **Addresses climate change** with local solutions.

## WHAT MAKES MINNESOTA #1 IN THE U.S. FOR COMMUNITY WIND DEVELOPMENT?

### Public Policy

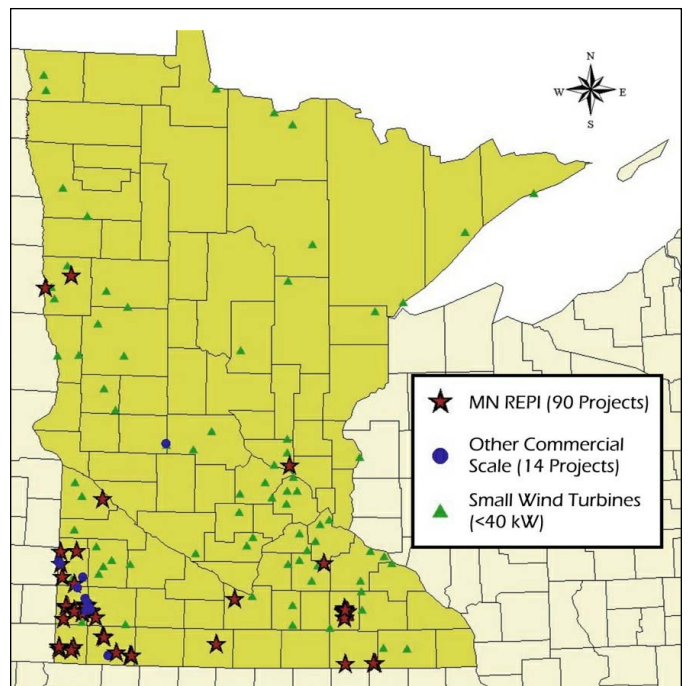
Minnesota has a long-standing commitment to supporting renewable energy and especially community wind development through public policy and regulatory action. A variety of programs, including Minnesota's Renewable Energy Objective and Xcel Energy's wind energy mandates, have created a steady market wind in Minnesota. Community wind has grown to fill an important role in this market through the support of the MN Renewable Energy Production Incentive for projects under 2 MW, Xcel Energy's small wind tariff and standardized power purchase agreement for projects under 2 MW, and the Renewable Development Fund. Some Minnesota community wind projects have also taken advantage of federal programs such as USDA grants, the federal Renewable Energy Production Incentive, and the Production Tax Credit.

### Minnesota Entrepreneurs

Minnesota farmers and entrepreneurs have used public policy support combined with their own resources and ingenuity to create a variety of profitable business models for locally owned wind projects. Schools, colleges, and local utilities have followed, seeing the opportunity to bring new investment and clean energy to their communities, while creating a source of community pride.

### Leadership Today

Minnesota has demonstrated the immense possibilities for revitalizing rural communities and keeping the benefits of a growing rural industry local. Continued leadership and policy support is essential to creating and growing community wind opportunities for the future.



Most Minnesota Community Wind Projects owe part of their success to the MN Renewable Energy Production Incentive, which is now fully subscribed.