



# Four Corners Wind Resource Center

By attracting wind energy developers to their region, CRELAs and other Landowner Wind Energy Associations are bringing economic development to rural communities across the West. Wind energy development is producing additional income for landowners without disrupting their ranching or farming operations.

## What is CRELAs?

The Coalition of Renewable Energy Landowner Associations, or CRELAs, was formed in 2009 by a group of landowners in northeast New Mexico to empower them to speak to policymakers and energy developers with one united voice.

CRELA is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization, funded entirely by annual membership fees. Annual fees are \$100 for individuals, \$300 for landowner groups or associations, and \$500 for industry organizations. The organization is led by a 12 person Board of Directors, and encourages new membership.

CRELA engages in a range of renewable activities, including lobbying policymakers, hosting conferences, and educating community members and industry representatives. CRELAs members have worked with energy transmission developers to increase transmission capacity in the region and have reached out to renewable energy developers to discuss resource availability and landowner interest for wind projects in the area.



## What are Landowner Wind Energy Associations?

Landowner Wind Energy Associations, or LWEAs, are formed by individual property owners with contiguous tracts of land holdings. LWEAs work to attract wind development to their area, bringing economic development to the community. LWEAs are also commonly referred to as Landowner Wind Associations and Renewable Energy Landowner Associations.

Though these associations may take different forms, they have some elements in common:

- Landowners organize in an association;
- Fees are collected from landowners;
- RFPs are collectively sent out to developers;
- Landowners collectively negotiate with developers, but there is no obligation to sign leases with developers.

## **Benefits of Landowner Wind Energy Associations**

Often, energy development involves company representatives going door to door and negotiating contracts with individual landowners. LWEAs create value for landowners by negotiating as a group and leveraging large blocks of contiguous land to attract developers, ensuring that participating landowners receive fair treatment. Developers benefit from streamlined access to large blocks of land.

### **How has CRELA been successful?**

CRELA has worked with both wind energy and transmission line developers to build interest in the area. Their efforts directly led to the development of the 324 MW Broadview Wind Power Facility and 35-mile 345 kV Western Interconnect transmission line, which commenced commercial operations in June, 2017.



Additionally, CRELA has successfully lobbied both state and federal legislators for policies favorable to wind energy. Their efforts have helped defeat numerous policy measures that would have been detrimental to wind energy in the state of New Mexico.

### **Lack of transmission capacity: A continuing challenge**

Lack of transmission capacity continues to be a major roadblock for CRELA and other LWEAs seeking to bring wind energy to market. To overcome this, CRELA advocates for transmission development with state and federal policymakers and works directly with the renewable industry to facilitate development.

To learn more about CRELA, visit <http://crelanm.com/>

## **Win-Win: CRELA benefits landowners and developers**

### **Landowners benefit:**

- Higher leverage in negotiations;
- Greater control over land-lease terms;
- Attract more serious developers;
- Capacity to lobby lawmakers.

### **Developers benefit:**

- Streamlined access to landowners
- Simplified land-lease negotiations
- Clear understanding of available land resources
- Opportunity to work with a community already on-board with wind energy.