

Why Gratiot?

- Gratiot County is able to facilitate complex projects. The Gratiot County community organized Greater Gratiot Development, Inc. (GGDI) in 1978. GGDI works with business, industry, and government to coordinate projects of all types and sizes.
- This collaborative nature made the county a desirable location for businesses to locate, specifically for wind farms, due to its
 - ◇ Countywide Master Plan, which provided a path for achieving goals
 - ◇ Countywide Wind Energy Ordinance, which eliminated contradictive regulations
- Gratiot has many flat, open areas that are ideal for wind collection.
- Gratiot offered a strong ability to connect to the existing power grid. Wind development also strengthened the area's power reliability.
- Currently, Gratiot County has six wind farms:
 - ◇ Gratiot County Wind: Wheeler, Bethany, Emerson, Lafayette, & St. Louis
 - ◇ Beebe Renewable Energy: North Star, Emerson & Hamilton
 - ◇ Pine River Wind: Pine River & Bethany
 - ◇ Polaris Wind: Hamilton, Lafayette, & North Star
 - ◇ Gratiot Farms: New Haven & North Shade
 - ◇ Heartland Farms: New Haven, North Shade, Newark, Washington, and North Star
- Solar developments are also planned alongside wind farms due to existing electrical capacity. Solar projects are currently planned for Pine River, North Star and Washington townships.

Gratiot Happens!



In total, the five farms provide:

- **417 turbines** across **11 townships**
 - Approx. **300** temporary skilled construction jobs per wind farm and **43** permanent full-time maintenance jobs
 - Since 2012, wind development has provided Gratiot County with over **\$108.1 million** in additional tax revenue:
 - ◇ **\$36.1 million** to Gratiot County operations and millages
 - ◇ **\$53.8 million** to local school districts and intermediate school districts
 - ◇ **\$14.7 million** to local townships and cities
 - ◇ **\$3.5 million** to State Education Tax.
 - Lease payments benefit over **500 property owners**
- Indirect benefits to Gratiot County include:
- Wind investment was used to leverage a grant to complete infrastructure for the Breckenridge Industrial, Technology and Agribusiness Park, where there are now over **100** new FTE jobs.
 - Road upgrades, power grid improvements, and new electrical substations make the area attractive for new businesses.

The Gratiot County Wind Story



For more information, please contact:
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Wind Farms in Gratiot

Wind Turbine Facts

Wind FAQ

Gratiot County Wind (2012)

- Located in Bethany, Wheeler, Emerson, & Lafayette
- Developed by Invenergy / Owned by DTE & Invenergy / Power purchaser: DTE
- 133 1.6 MW GE turbines (212.8 MW total)

Beebe Renewable Energy (2013 & 14)

- Located in Emerson, North Star & Hamilton
- Developed and owned by Constellation Energy
- Power purchaser: Consumers Energy, Lansing Board of Water & Light, and the MI Public Power Agency
- 55 2.4 MW Nordex turbines (132 MW total)

Pine River Wind (2019)

- Located in Pine River & Bethany townships (Gratiot County) & Coe Township (Isabella County)
- Developed by Invenergy / Owned by DTE
- 29 2.5/2.3 MW GE turbines in Gratiot (36 in Isabella County) (161.3 MW total)

Polaris Wind (2020)

- Located in Hamilton, North Star, & Lafayette townships
- Developed by Invenergy / Owned by DTE
- 68 2.5/2.3 MW GE turbines (168 MW total)

Gratiot Farms (2021)

- Located in New Haven & North Shade townships
- Developed by Tradewind / Owned by Consumers Energy
- 60 2.5 MW GE turbines (150 MW total)

Heartland Farms (2024)

- Located in Newark, North Star, Washington, New Haven & North Shade townships
- Developed by Invenergy / Owned by Consumers Energy
- 72 2.8 MW GE turbines (201 MW total)

- Foundation bases vary with turbine size. The foundation is continuously poured from up to 50 cement trucks (depending on truck size) and can weigh over **2,000,000 lbs.**



- The turbine towers have 3 sections and are almost 300 feet. The tower weight is **163 tons!**

- A nacelle houses the gearbox and generator. It weighs **75 tons** and is as big as a mobile home.

- The turbine blades have a diameter of **417 ft.**, (just longer than an entire football field)! The tips of the blades have a max. speed of **202 mph!**



- Put together, the wind turbines in Gratiot County could power **303,000 homes** (almost 20 times the housing units of Gratiot County)!



How do wind turbines affect land use?

“Wind energy offers landowners an additional form of revenue that can diversify income for farms ...the payments are often received on an annual basis, providing a more secure, steady source of income. The land...can continue to be used to raise cattle, grow crops, or other agricultural purposes.” ¹

What is a turbine's impact on wildlife?

“As with all energy projects, wildlife impacts from wind project development vary by location. The wind industry incorporates pre- and post-development studies, educated siting, and other impact reduction tools to decrease wildlife impacts. Research shows that wind projects rank near the bottom of the list of human-related bird mortalities, resulting in far fewer annual deaths than those caused by house cats, building collisions, or vehicle impacts. In fact, the Audubon Society strongly supports properly sited wind power as a renewable energy source.” ²

Do wind turbines impact human health?

Sound: “As of 2013, global peer-reviewed scientific data and independent studies consistently concluded that sound from wind plants has no direct impact on physical human health. The sound level from wind turbines at common residential setbacks is not sufficient to cause hearing impairment or other direct adverse health effects. Low frequency sound and infrasound from upwind wind turbines are also well below the pressure of sound levels known to affect health.” ²

Shadow flicker: “When shadow flicker is present, it typically occurs at a frequency of 0.3–1.1 Hertz (Hz), which is well below the threshold known to elicit seizures in those with epilepsy.” ²

¹ U.S. Dept. of Energy. Economic Development Guide (<https://windexchange.energy.gov/economic-development-guide>)

² U.S. Dept. of Energy. Wind Energy FAQs. (www.energy.gov/eere/wind/frequently-asked-questions-about-wind-energy)