



# Community Wind: One Size Doesn't Fit All

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# Community Wind Essentials

- Local ownership & control
- Project size depends on application & finances
- Ownership can be a public utility, local landowners, public or private facility, tax investors or combination
- Financial incentives usually required to make projects “pencil out”
- Local economic benefits are enhanced
- Electricity used locally
- Local champion normally the driver

# Eastridge Project (MN)

- **Size:** 8 x 1.25MW Suzlon S-64s (10MW)
- **Ownership structure:** Minnesota flip
- **Off-taker:** Xcel Energy
- **Cost:** \$15 million
- **Financing:** 50/50 debt to equity. Local owners 1%, tax equity partner 99%, local bank debt pre-flip – 90% local, 10% tax equity post flip
- **PPA value:** approx. \$40/MWh plus MN state production incentive payment \$15/MWh
- **Challenges:** finding tax equity partner that is willing to share
- **Commission date:** March 2006
- **Motivation for project:** Local economic development using wind power

# Eastridge Project (MN)



# Lamar Piggyback Project (CO)

- **Size:** 4 x 1.5MW GE turbines (6MW)
- **Ownership structure:** Lamar Light and Power (LLP): 3 turbines; Arkansas River Power Authority (ARPA): one turbine
- **Cost:** \$6 million
- **Financing:** LLP: 20 year bond issue for \$6 million
- **Challenges:** first piggyback project concept implemented
- **Commission date:** 2004
- **Motivation for project:** LLP and ARPA timed their project to coincide with the 162MW Colorado Green Project in order to lower turbine purchase price, development, construction and maintenance costs.

# Lamar Piggyback Project (CO)



# Junction Hilltop (IA)

- **Size:** 7.5MW; 5 x 1.5MW GE SLE turbine
- **Ownership structure:** 2 local farmers + 7 relatives
- **Off-taker:** Alliant (IOU)
- **Cost:** \$16.5 M
- **Financing:** Treasury 1603 payment; New Market Tax Credit; State of Iowa loans
- **PPA value:** \$62/MWh
- **Challenges:** minimal (this is IA)
- **Commission date:** March 2012
- **Motivation for project:** income generation for farmers

# Junction Hilltop (IA)





# Community Wind Challenges

- Economics of scale
- Financing
- Inconsistent, short-term policies/incentives
- Normally can not utilize PTC
- Utility practices
- Social acceptance



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