

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many turbines are there?

- EDPR NA currently operates 508 turbines across White, Benton and Jasper counties. What you are looking at are 6 phases of the Meadow Lake Wind Farm built over the last 20 years. EDPR NA has also constructed Sweet Acres Wind and most recently, Carpenter Wind in Jasper County.
- These turbines supply 1.2 GW of clean energy to Indiana's grid. This is equivalent to over 338,200 Hoosier homes. In addition to the power put on the grid, EDPR NA has created over 85 permanent jobs in the community. A majority of our wind technicians at Meadow Lake are local residents of White, Benton and Jasper Counties.
- This has created over 85 permanent jobs in the area for wind technicians, office administrators and other positions. In addition, there have been thousands of jobs created during construction throughout the different phases of the projects.
- The projects are sited on land leased from local landowners, many of whom are farmers still growing or grazing beneath the wind turbines. Through 2025, the projects have paid local landowners more than \$65 million, and are expected to pay more than \$70 million more over the rest of their operational lives.

How tall are they?

- There are several turbine models across the different phases of wind farms. The shortest turbines are 397 feet from the base to the tip of the blade. The tallest turbines are 570 feet.

What's with the red lights?

- The flashing red lights are a requirement from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). These lights alert planes and other aircraft of the wind turbine locations. You will notice that our turbines in Jasper County do not blink red as often as our turbines in White County. This is because these turbines are the newest in our fleet and have newer technology. These lights only flash when an aircraft is within 3 miles horizontally, or 1,000 feet from the tip height of the tallest turbine.

How much wind is required to make them spin?

- It only requires wind speeds of about 7-10 mph to spin a turbine. Though wind speeds near the ground may seem calm, they're typically faster at the height of the turbine's blades.

Why might I see turbines not spinning?

- The turbines behind the stage have been taken out of production for the day so, out of an abundance of caution, so emergency vehicles and concert staff can have full use of the road during the event.
- Sometimes turbines aren't spinning because maintenance is underway, or the grid is too full to store the power that they'd generate. It's much easier to stop a turbine from generating power that can't be stored or used, than to pause operations at traditional energy generation sites.
- If you drove in along I-65, you may have seen blades on the ground and many paused turbines. This is our Meadow Lake 4 repower project. This phase of the wind farm was originally built in 2009 with turbines set to last roughly 20 years. It is currently being repowered with new technology.
- As turbines age, EDPR NA may consider replacing major components or rebuilding the turbine completely anew before a turbine reaches the end of its original operational life span. This process is

called “repowering.” Meadow Lake 4 is undergoing a partial repower. This means that the nacelle and the blades are being replaced, but the tower remains the same. To learn more about repower, [click here](#).

Why repower?

- Like any technology, wind power technology is constantly improving. With age, older technologies can become more expensive or challenging to repair. Repowering allows EDPR NA to harness technological advancements that were unavailable when the site was initially developed; **repowering increases project efficiency and maximizes power generation** in some of the nation’s windiest locations—all while working with the same landowners and using existing infrastructure

Recycling

- For Meadow Lake 4 repower, all metal and oil from the nacelles is being 100% recycled. The fiberglass from the blades is being sent to a waste to energy facility where they will generate energy.
- Close the loop language?
- At EDP Renewables North America, we believe the energy we produce must not only be renewable, but infinitely sustainable. To achieve that goal, we launched the Close the Loop program, an industry-leading initiative based on circular economy principles to minimize waste and maximize resource recovery and reuse. To learn more about EDPR NA’s commitment to close the loop program [click here](#).

How long does it take to pay off their carbon footprint?

- Wind turbines pay off their lifetime carbon footprint (from manufacturing, transporting, installing, and operating) within 1–2 years of operation, allowing it to spend the rest of its 25–year life making a massive impact on avoiding emissions and pollutants. (Source: [What's the carbon footprint of a wind turbine? » Yale Climate Connections](#))

Are renewables expensive?

- A turbine costs about \$1 million/megawatt. Though this could sound like a lot, onshore, utility-scale turbines and their operations are affordable enough that we can sell their power cheaper than any other form of energy generation, even without receiving government subsidies. This makes our long-term power contracts really appealing to power purchasers. We’re able to sign them on for a set rate for many years instead of relying on volatile foreign fuel markets, which encourages power prices to remain lower and more stable. (Source: [LAZARD LCOE](#))
- Renewable energy technology is continuing to improve and significantly drive down prices. For example, wind energy costs have fallen almost 50% and solar costs have fallen more than 70% (since 2010).

Don’t you receive government subsidies?

- All forms of energy generation receive tax incentives, but only after they have already been built, and historically, fossil fuels have enjoyed significantly more of these benefits than renewables. In fact, the renewables-specific tax credits have largely been phased out.
- Any tax incentives that we receive for building projects drive down the overall cost of electricity.

How does this help farmers?

- About 84 percent of all U.S. farm households earn the majority of their total household income from off-farm sources and often use off-farm income to cover some portion of farm expenses. Through landowner payments from renewables, farmers are better able to generate money on the farm and use those profits to sustain the farm. (USDA 2023 Farmers and Ranchers at a Glance Report)
- The reliable, regular income from a wind farm lease helps balance out the fluctuations of ag, overall helping to stabilize the income of farmers and strengthen their businesses to ensure they're able to continue farming. Farmers with wind turbines also appear to be more confident that they will be able to own the farm throughout their entire life. In a University of Michigan study, survey results showed 80% of those with wind turbines had a plan of succession for their farm, while only 62% without a turbine had a succession plan, and the researchers determined the difference was most likely the added income the wind farm provided.

(source: https://scholarship.law.columbia.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1218&context=sabin_climate_change)

Does this take farm ground out of production? What about our food supply?

Not all land that is leased or under option will be used for wind farm infrastructure. **On average, only 1% or less of the total leased acreage is actually used for project equipment. The remaining ~99% can still be used by the landowner as they see fit, including farming, grazing, and ranching. Many farmers use the turbine access roads to reach their fields and farm right up to the base of the tower.** (source: [University of Michigan](#))

This area grows primarily corn and soybeans. While sweet corn is grown, a majority of the corn grown in the area is used for ethanol, another form of energy. There is a very minimal loss of food production due to wind across these counties.