



# Rural Dialogues: Redwood County & what's next

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# What are the Rural Climate Dialogues?

- Collaboration since 2013 between IATP and the Jefferson Center
- Work with local leaders to identify priority issues for the county
- Citizens Jury events bring together a microcosm of the community
  - Quality information from local speakers
  - Time to deliberate and identify challenges and opportunities
  - Prioritizes community needs and responses
- Create community-based responses to climate and energy challenges

# Redwood County Energy Dialogues

- September 12-14, 2019
- 18 demographically representative participants
- Heard from speakers on:
  - Overview of the energy development process
  - Redwood County finances and decision-making
  - Design guidelines and developer considerations
  - Impacts of wind on agriculture and rural economies



“When people work together, they have the opportunity to get a lot done. We can see a future in wind energy and are inspired by the possibility of realizing its benefits. It is important for community input since this will directly or indirectly affect all residents. This is a subject not to be taken lightly, and there is a lot of thought and care that needs to be put into the process of wind development. If we get started with thoughtful exploration of expanded wind development in Redwood County now, we can move ahead faster. It’s time to move forward.”

## Top Benefits

1. Annual production tax that goes to the local government
2. Financial gains to the community, landowners, and the possibility that it could reduce taxes
3. Money is spent locally which helps create an overall better life for residents, both economically and environmentally
4. Wind development creates a different and sustainable source of revenue for local government
5. Wind development creates a steady source of income from the production tax to put toward community projects

# Top Drawbacks

1. There may be no opportunity for local utilities to use the power generated by the turbines
2. Funding may not be distributed between the County and townships evenly
3. The high cost to increase capacity in the transmission grid
4. Wind development can create obstacles to farmers to be productive, and possible destruction of equipment and repair costs
5. Potential damage to habitat and environment

Based on what you've learned, do you feel residents should support expanded/future wind development in Redwood County?

- **Yes**, under most circumstances / whenever possible
  - 56% (10 votes)
- **Yes**, but only if certain conditions are met / put in place
  - 44% (8 votes)
- **No**, not under any circumstances
  - 0% (0 votes)

## What's next?

- Murray County Energy Dialogue - February 2020
- Different concerns:
  - More turbines
  - Wind fatigue
  - Decommissioning / repowering concerns
- Community Assembly mid-2020



# Questions:

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- What is missing? What is especially important?
- What would you like to know from community members?
- Are processes like this useful to you?
- What would you want to get out of a Community Assembly?