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The Streator Cayuga Ridge South Wind Farm in Illinois generates jobs and other economic benefits directly to the Livingston County community.

Cayuga Ridge Supports Local Community

One of the many benefits of wind power is that the economic investments stay directly in the local community. A perfect example is the Streator Cayuga Ridge South Wind Farm in Livingston County, Ill.

Farmers now have a new cash crop: the wind. The project will pay them, in total, approximately \$1 million to \$1.5 million annually, with little impact on actual farming operations — on average using less than one percent of the land that's been leased.

Thanks to the federal stimulus grant program that was part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, construction went forward even as the nation's economy took a nosedive. Construction began in October 2008 and continued with some winter breaks until March 2010, employing an average workforce of 180, with a peak of more than 400. More than 450,000 man hours were worked — 260,000 of which were local. These construction, engineering and service jobs generated paychecks that then supported restaurants, drugstores and other local businesses that support construction.

"We sold close to a quarter of a million gallons of fuel during the duration of this project to Iberdrola Renewables contractors," said Leo Weber of Meier Oil. "A lot of our other industrial accounts were in a slower mode and it helped pick up some of that slack, so it came at an excellent time for us."



Leo Johnson shows the old boiler that will be replaced due to tax payments from the local wind farm.

The project will contribute between \$2.7 million and \$3.5 million annually in local property tax payments. "The Cayuga Ridge wind project brings a positive and timely resource to our district," said Leo Johnson, superintendent of the Pontiac Township High School. "Not only does it provide much-needed monetary resources for our schools at a time the state is faltering, the revenues generated by this project will allow us to keep programs in place that many districts need to cut in these economic times." He said the Pontiac school will be able to keep its entire teaching staff in place in spite of state budget cuts and can even replace a 50-year-old heating and cooling system with a more efficient boiler, thanks to the wind farm.

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(Cayuga Ridge Supports...continued)

Carl Krause of the Collum Community Market says the town of Collum went a year and a half without a store and people had to drive 20 miles to buy groceries until the county economic development council helped open the market, funded by property taxes paid by Iberdrola Renewables. "It has put sales taxes back in the community. There's activity on the main street, which has benefited other businesses."

Union Township built a maintenance shed for its equipment with funding from Iberdrola Renewables. One of the elementary schools upgraded its gym to include a workout space, also with funding from Iberdrola Renewables.

The Streator Cayuga Ridge project also sent positive economic ripple effects beyond the immediate region. Twelve Illinois companies were involved in manufacturing or constructing the wind project, the wind turbine blades were American-made in Pennsylvania and the turbine towers were manufactured in Wisconsin. Altogether, more than 80 American companies saw their business increase, and in many cases hired workers, thanks to the development. 🚩

Wind Power Works Event Supports Family Education

Kids learned all about the importance — and fun — of green jobs at Iberdrola Renewables' Wind Power Works event at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI).

The free, public event, held at OMSI Aug. 26 and 27, attracted thousands of visitors and was an opportunity for local families to experience the science and technology that is supporting this growing industry. Educational activities include encounters with wild birds and interactive wind tunnel experiments. Senator Ron Wyden and Congressman Earl Blumenauer kicked off the festivities.

"Sen. Wyden and Rep. Blumenauer are nationally recognized policy leaders for renewable energy development. They are creating family-wage careers for technicians who make wind energy work at generation sites and for scientists and other professionals who manage the business from offices," said Kevin Lynch, director of policy and regulation for Iberdrola Renewables.

Visitors to the Wind Power Works event at OMSI had the opportunity to get a glimpse into the jobs that make wind energy possible.

- Generation dispatchers staffed a mini version of Iberdrola Renewables high-tech control center that monitors everything from weather to wildlife activity all over the country, 24/7.
- Meteorologists explained a real meteorology tower used for field surveys that measured wind capacity at OMSI's front door.
- Wildlife biologists showed rescued raptors from Blue Mountain Wildlife, helping preserve wildlife.
- Junior turbine designers came up with their own mini turbine models and tested them in a wind tunnel.



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Five Questions with Safety Technician Bryant Elkins



At Iberdrola Renewables' Dry Lake project in Arizona, Bryant Elkins holds the keys to the facility's safety procedures. As Environmental Health and Safety Officer, he pulls double duty as a wind technician to keep the facility up and running while using the highest degree of safety measures. He's also the son of Dry Lakes' main landowner, which gives him an inside perspective on the facility. Landowner News recently caught up with Elkins to find out about the site's safety procedures and how the hot Arizona weather is a main consideration.

LN: How long have you been a wind technician?

Elkins: I've been with Iberdrola Renewables for almost two years. I didn't know too much about the wind power industry before I started but had studied the power industry in general. Wind power is a good industry to be involved with. It's the wave of the future, so there will always be jobs available.

LN: What are the top safety procedures you follow on a daily basis?

Elkins: The most important safety procedure is to use the proper equipment for the job. For example, personal protective equipment like gloves, a helmet, harness and boots are necessities. When we climb the turbines, we also take rescue equipment just to be safe. At Dry Lake, we work closely with several contractors and coordinate closely with them on safety training and procedures. We want to be safe at all times and will shut down work if conditions get too hazardous. Nothing comes before safety.

LN: Arizona is known for its heat. What safety precautions do you take when temperatures soar?

Elkins: There are a number of extra steps we take to stay safe in hot weather, particularly when we climb the turbines. First, we watch out for each other more closely to look for signs of heat exhaustion or dehydration. During a tower climb, we rely on a motorized safety unit to help us lighten our load. When we are in the turbines for four to six hours at a stretch, we bring extra water and take appropriate breaks to cool down.



LN: Is it hard to do your job when it's hot outside?

Elkins: Absolutely. You have to know yourself and recognize when the heat is getting to you. If my body is telling me to slow down, I'll take a break so I don't do something that jeopardizes my safety.

LN: What's the game plan for safety at Dry Lake?

Elkins: We have weekly safety meetings every Tuesday, and before anyone goes out to the turbines we go over safety, conditions, temperatures, lightning possibilities and more. Once a month we do a major safety seminar. Overall, I'd say we devote a least a few hours each week to discussing safety best practices. Nothing is worth getting hurt over, and we want everyone to go home safe every day. 🌱

(Wind Power Works...continued)

"OMSI is pleased to be partnering with Iberdrola Renewables in creating this fun event where our visitors can learn more about the important relationship between energy and the environment," said OMSI president Nancy Stueber. "Wind energy plays a vital role in our organization's commitment to more long-term, clean energy sources." 🌱

Where Do Turbine Parts at the Cayuga Ridge Wind Project Come From? The USA!



Employing nearly 850 people and operating nearly 3,800 MW of wind power in the United States, Iberdrola Renewables is an industry leader building an American clean-energy economy.

New Email Adds 'REN' at the End

Iberdrola Renewables has a new email domain, which means all email addresses for Iberdrola Renewables employees and operations have changed to @iberdrolaREN.com (capital letters are for emphasis only). The name to the left of the "@" will remain unchanged. For example, John.Smith@iberdrolaREN.com or mygroup@iberdrolaREN.com.

Please update your address book and if you have any questions or need additional information, please call us at (503) 796-7000 or email email.changes@iberdrolaren.com.

Questions?

Questions or comments relating to Landowner News? Have a story to tell? Would you rather receive an electronic copy to save paper? We'd like to hear from you!


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Ohio Landowner Rides to Support Wind Power

Some landowners will go to great lengths to show their support for wind power. Take Ohio landowner Jim Springer, for example. At the recent grand opening of Iberdrola Renewables' Farmers City facility in Tarkio, Mo., Springer rode his motorcycle across multiple states to attend the ceremony and demonstrate how important wind power is to the future of Ohio.

"I drove over 800 miles to see the Farmers City Wind Power Project dedication for myself. I was impressed with the support of the local people and the commitment of Iberdrola Renewables to the community," said Springer. "Being responsible for the future of our family farm, which dates back to President Andrew Jackson, I feel secure in being in partnership with Iberdrola Renewables. The dual positives; additional income for me and my community in Ohio and being a part of the progression toward renewable energy; it is a no-brainer." 



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