

Quality of Life Benefits, Drawbacks & Mitigations

Benefits - ranked in descending order

1. A quality of life benefit of wind development for Murray County residents might be that they can save more income because they have lower energy costs and lower property taxes. **(12 votes)**
 - a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
 - i. Clearly communicate community needs and expectations.
 - ii. Increase investments in schools, hospitals, and other aspects of the community.
2. A quality of life benefit of wind development for people outside of MN might be that people not near turbines don't have to see or hear them. **(10 votes)**
 - a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
 - i. Automatic shutting doors on the top of turbines to reduce excess sound.
3. A quality of life benefit of wind development for people outside of MN might be an increased sense of security from diverse and reliable sources of energy. **(9 votes)**
 - a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
 - i. Prepare for an electrified United States, especially locally.
4. A quality of life benefit of wind development for Murray County residents might be a younger workforce and more families moving into the community. **(9 votes)**
 - a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
 - i. Expand educational opportunities for younger people.
 - ii. Connect people moving to the community with jobs held by people who want to retire.
5. A quality of life benefit of wind development for people outside of MN might be overall cleaner air nationwide. **(8 votes)**
 - a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
 - i. Include an international aspect.
 - ii. Focus on obtaining community buy-in.
 - iii. Get politically involved to promote wind energy.
 - iv. Support measures to develop clean energy.
6. A quality of life benefit of wind development for Murray County residents might be more community amenities. **(5 votes)**
 - a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
 - i. Expand bike paths, parks, and community programs.
 - ii. Increase the amount and diversity of goods and services offered locally.
7. A quality of life benefit of wind development for Murray County residents might be cleaner energy, air, and environment. **(2 votes)**
 - a. To maximize this benefit, we could...
 - i. Increase and optimize energy efficiency with ongoing improvements.

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- ii. Increase ecological care and maintenance.
 - iii. Peace of mind in energy diversification.
8. A quality of life benefit of wind development for people outside of MN might be improved financial standing can result in an increased quality of life. **(0 votes)**
 9. A quality of life benefit of wind development for people outside of MN might be that Minnesota is experiencing the drawbacks to quality of life. **(0 votes)**
 10. A quality of life benefit of wind development for MN residents might be cost savings. **(0 votes)**
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Drawbacks - ranked in descending order

1. A quality of life drawback of wind development for residents might be possible changes to the way the wind production tax is distributed locally, which directly impacts quality of life. **(28 votes)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. Develop partnership with other rural counties (Rural Counties Coalition).
 - ii. Citizens could get involved in the political process at the state level and contacting public officials.
 - iii. Change the mindset of rural Minnesota by making a stand for what we need.
 - iv. Require that counties with current production tax arrangement are grandfathered in.
 - v. Share facts and news locally.
 - vi. Get state government and local units to experience rural Minnesota and small townships.
2. A quality of life drawback of wind development for MN residents might be unknown long-term health effects. **(15 votes)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. Invest more in healthcare and independent research studies.
3. A quality of life drawback of wind development for Murray County residents might be aesthetic concerns and noise pollution from turbines and transmission lines. **(12 votes)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. Develop improved technology to decrease noise and light pollution like sensors that monitor lights.
 - ii. Create a maximum turbine limit.
 - iii. Use designer colors.
 - iv. Change color of lights and blades (ex. Vikings colors).

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4. A quality of life drawback of wind development for MN residents might be the end of life clean-up of the turbines. - **(5 votes)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. Require the government to look ahead and ensure cleanup.
 - ii. Provide subsidies to companies for local decommissioning.
5. A quality of life drawback of wind development for people outside of MN might be the waste from the decommissioned turbine parts and related infrastructure issues. **(3 votes)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. Look into reusing and recycling turbine parts in other states.
6. A quality of life drawback of wind development for MN residents might be that the lack of quality equipment is leaking oil. **(2 votes)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. Invest in better equipment.
7. A quality of life drawback of wind development for MN residents might be that the energy produced is not staying local and cost savings should be experienced close to where the energy is generated. **(2 votes)**
8. A quality of life drawback of wind development for Murray County residents might be that there is a potential increase in crime and community issues during the construction period. **(1 vote)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. Establish stronger security requirements for development companies.
9. A quality of life drawback of wind development for Murray County residents might be possible impacts to wildlife. **(1 vote)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. Consistent review of animal mitigation habits and patterns, and allocating funds for conservation.
 - ii. Creation of a standard base guidelines for all turbines and not a case-by-case basis.
10. A quality of life drawback of wind development for people outside of MN might be that providing them with cheap, clean energy may limit their investment in generating their own clean energy. **(1 vote)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. Reduce Minnesota subsidies for turbines to decrease the competitive advantage.
 - ii. Educate other states on the misconceptions of bird deaths.
 - iii. Have other states invest in research & development at vocational schools.

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11. A quality of life drawback of wind development for people outside of MN might be that the very strong economic benefits for Minnesota will result in quality of life drawbacks in other states. **(1 vote)**
12. A quality of life drawback of wind development for Murray County residents might be stray voltage. **(0 votes)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. Invest in quality control and proper installation.
13. A quality of life drawback of wind development for Murray County residents might be collateral annoyances caused by construction and decommissioning of turbines. **(0 votes)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. Provide disposal equipment on turbine worksites for garbage and waste.
 - ii. Know who to report issues to.
 - iii. Increase communication with the permitting agency to address decommissioning.
14. A quality of life drawback of wind development for Murray County residents might be worksite safety and accident concerns.
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. Strengthen safety training for workers and first responders.
15. A quality of life drawback of wind development for MN residents might be that fossil fuels would still be required to maintain them. **(0 votes)**
 - a. *To minimize this drawback, we could...*
 - i. Adopt the use of electric vehicles.
16. A quality of life drawback of wind development for people outside of MN might be that transmission lines extending to other states to distribute the energy can be eyesores and can be poorly placed. - **(0 votes)**