

# What Windfarms Mean for Local Communities

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[www.micounties.org](http://www.micounties.org)

[www.mcmcfcc.org](http://www.mcmcfcc.org)

**A GRAND EVENT**

*2017 Annual Conference*

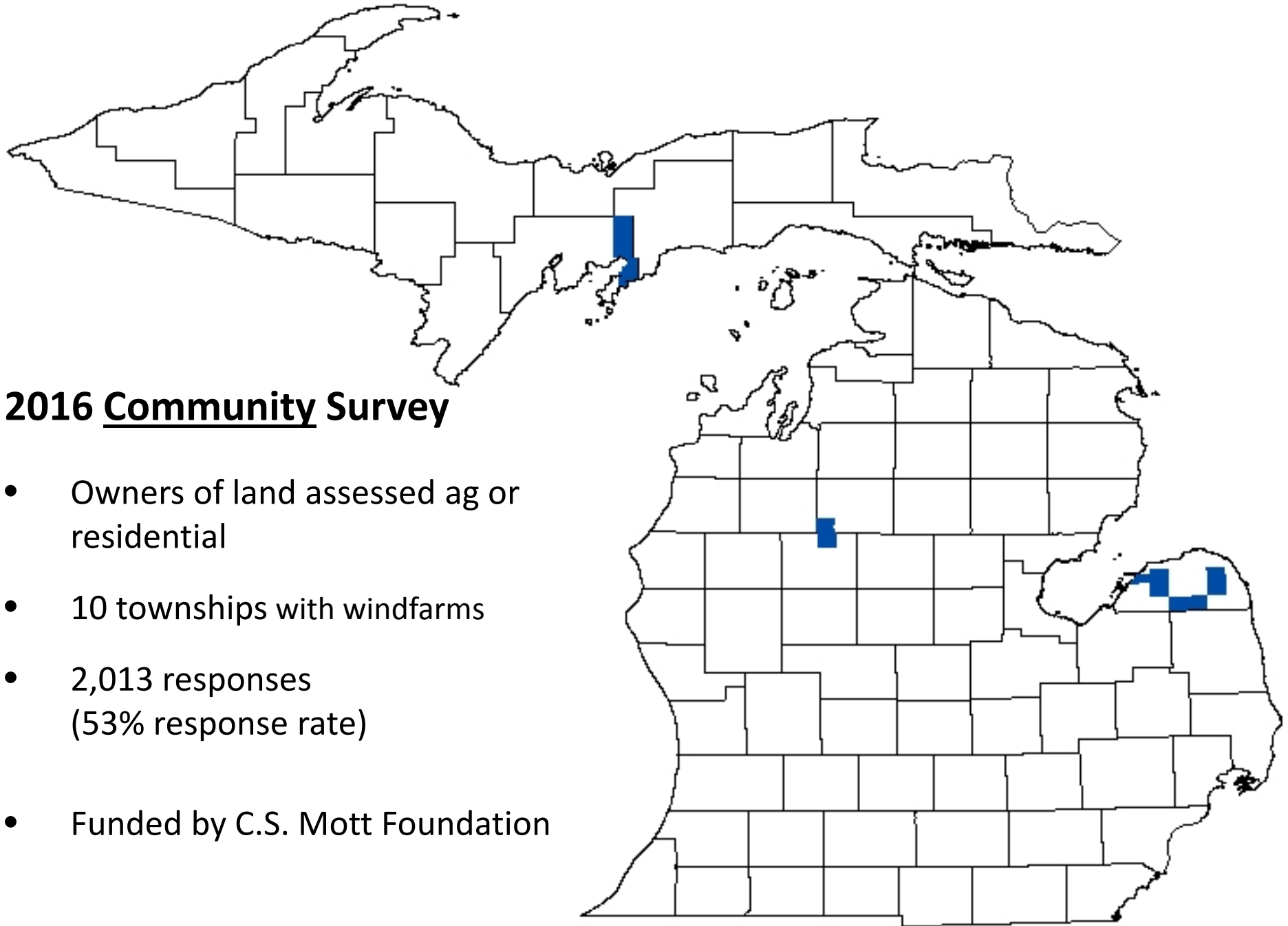
September 24-26, 2017

The Grand Hotel • Mackinac Island



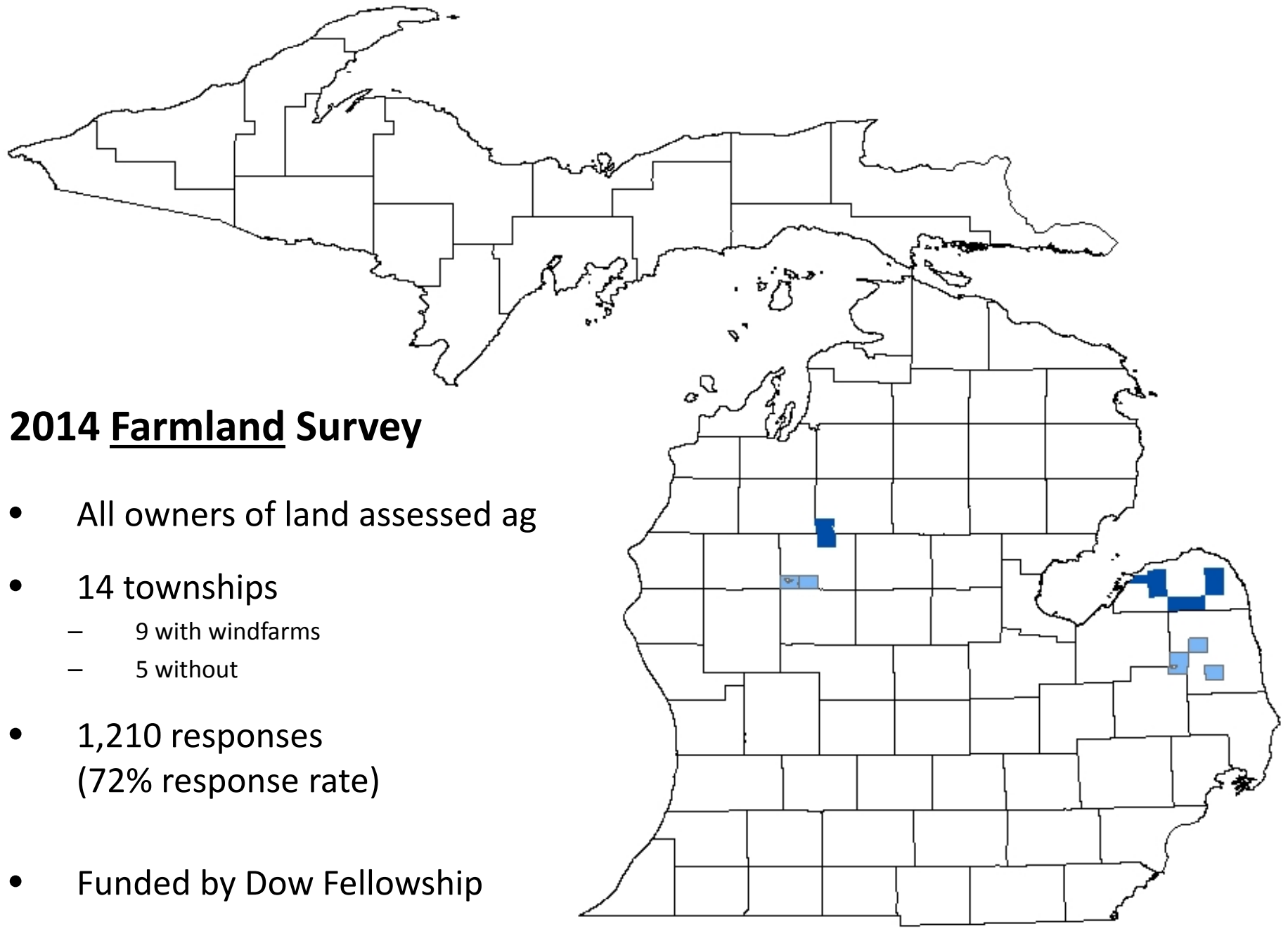
# What I'll cover

- Surveys of landowners
  - Who was surveyed
  - Individual impacts
  - Community impacts
  
- What should you consider?



## 2016 Community Survey

- Owners of land assessed ag or residential
- 10 townships with windfarms
- 2,013 responses  
(53% response rate)
- Funded by C.S. Mott Foundation



## 2014 Farmland Survey

- All owners of land assessed ag
- 14 townships
  - 9 with windfarms
  - 5 without
- 1,210 responses  
(72% response rate)
- Funded by Dow Fellowship

# Overall drivers of attitudes

- Direct compensation
- Type of land owned
- Being within earshot of turbines
- Attitudes about process, wind developer

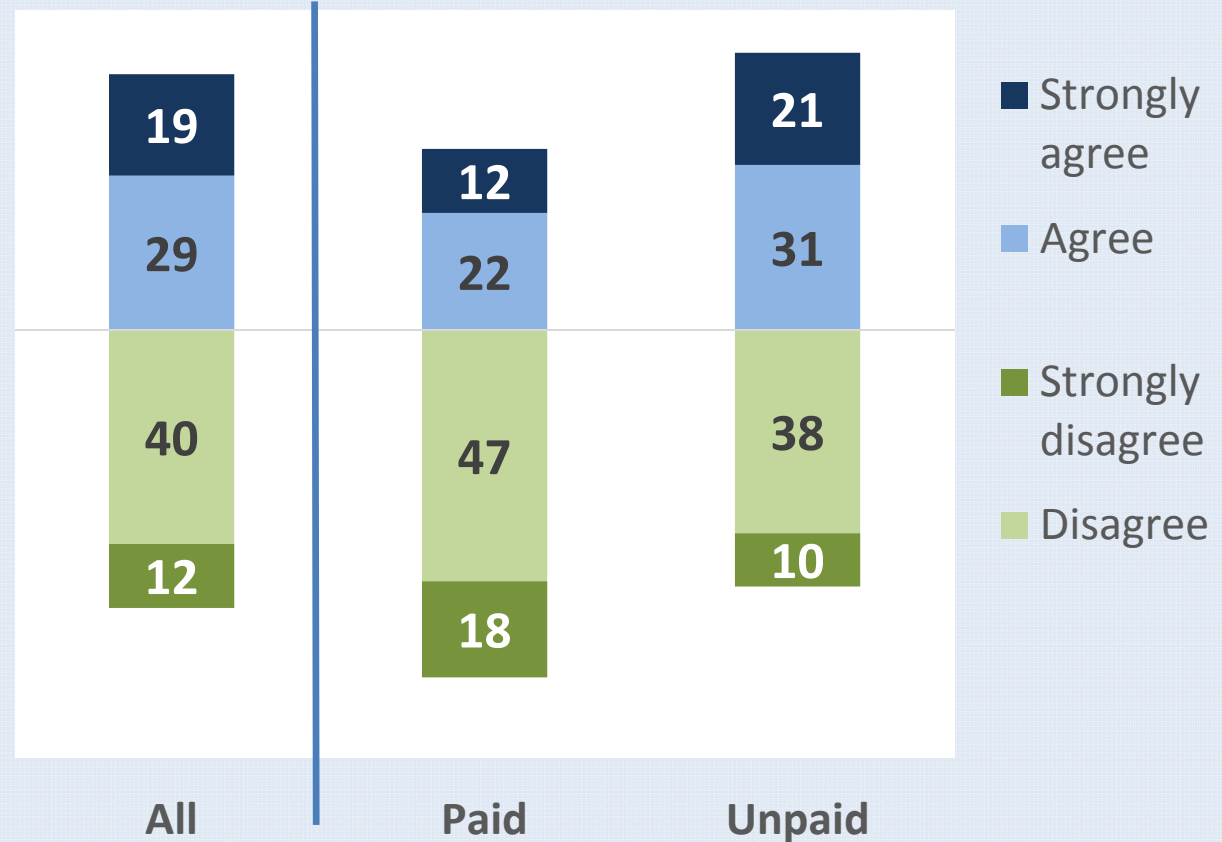
# Individual-level Impacts

- Noise
- Visual
- Health
- Property value
- Farm income
- Farm succession

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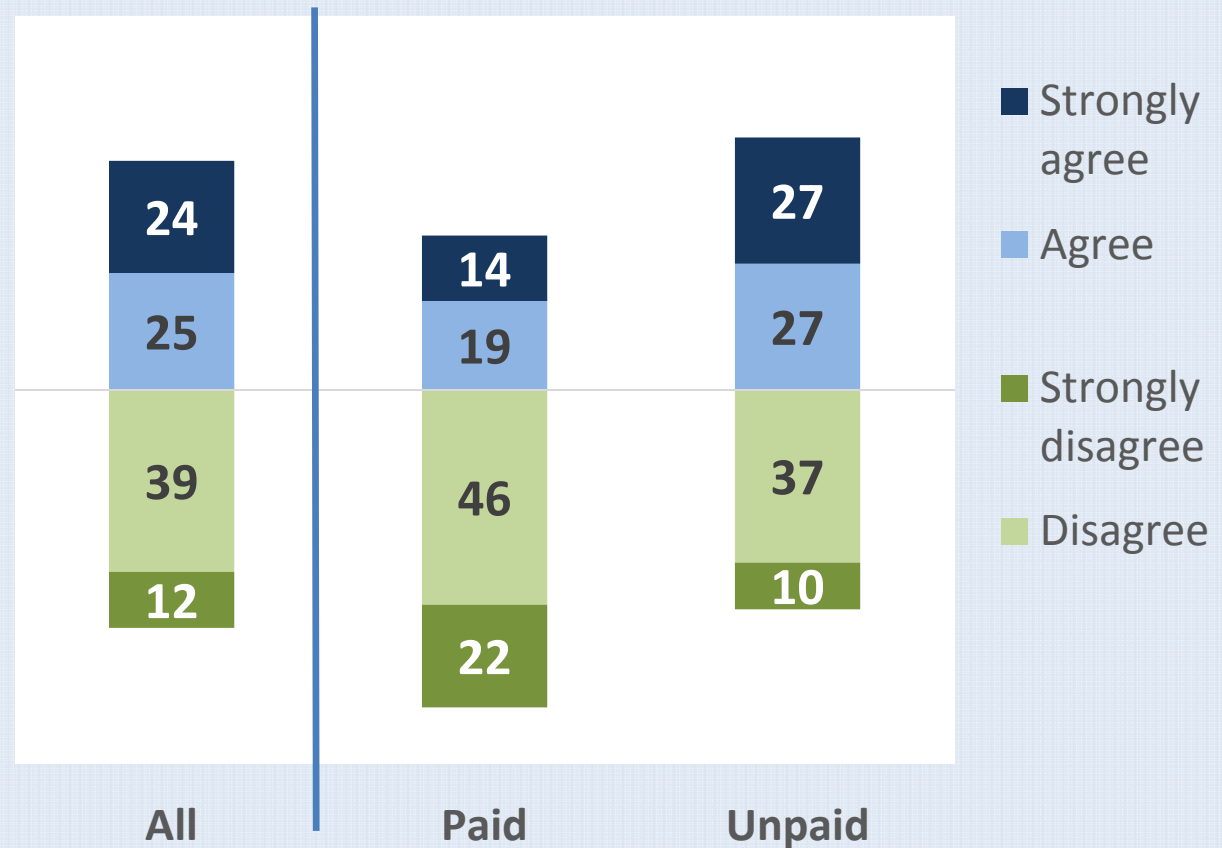
Turbines create noise pollution



# Individual-level Impacts

- Noise
- **Visual**
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Turbines create visual/aesthetic problems

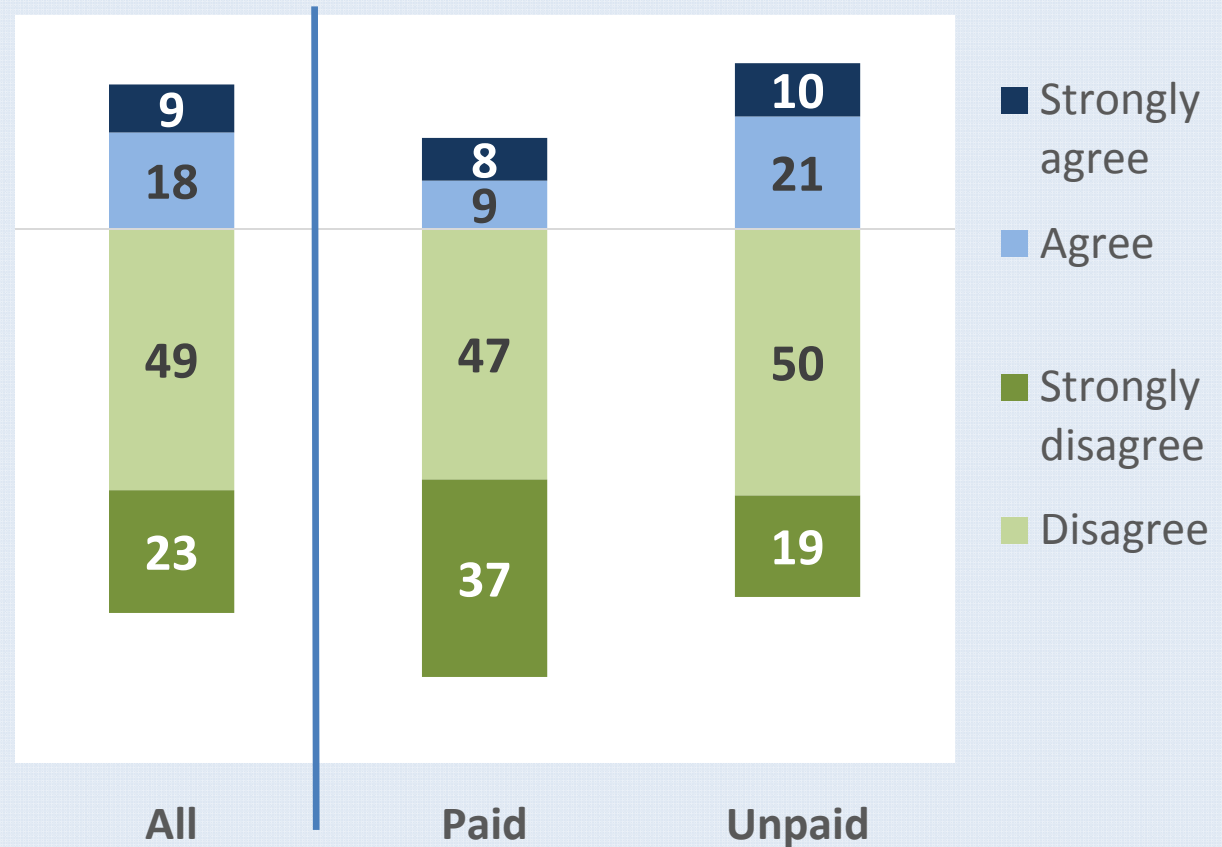




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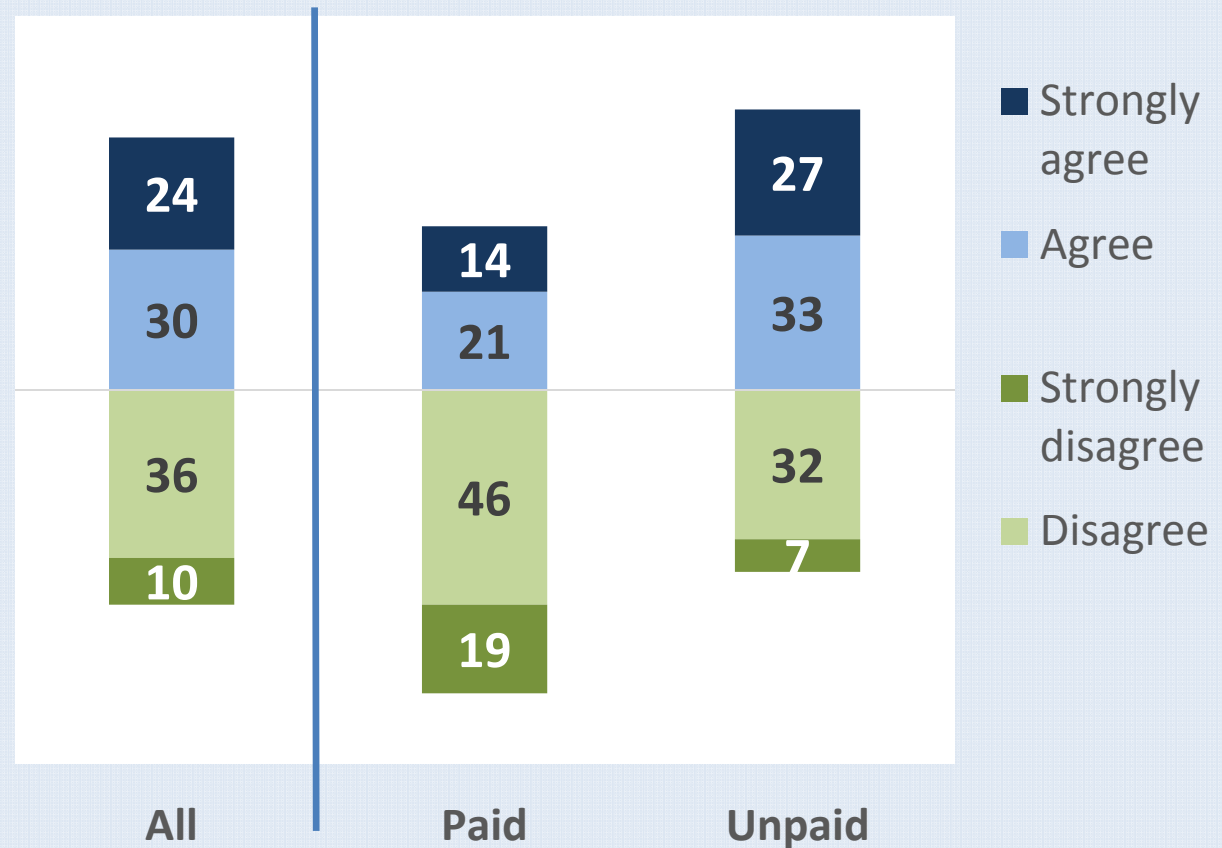
Turbines cause human health problems



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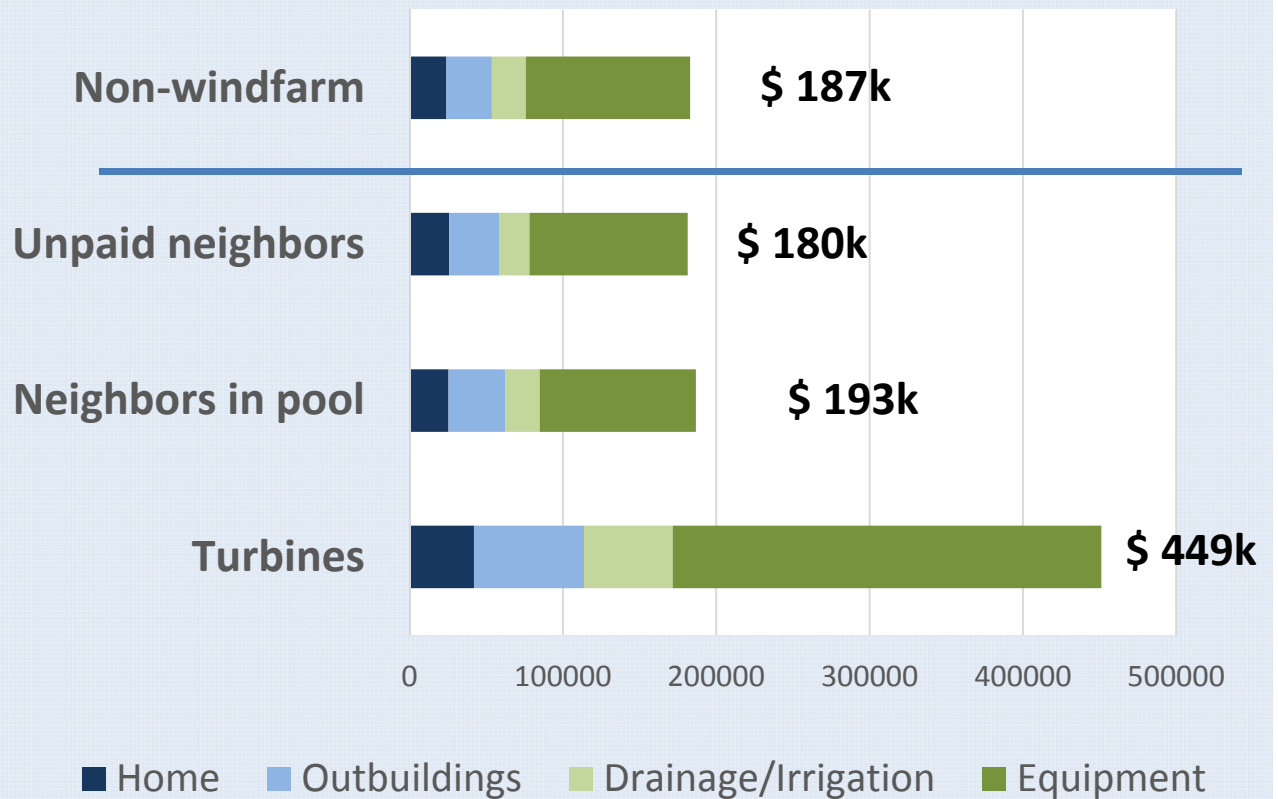
Turbines decrease nearby property values



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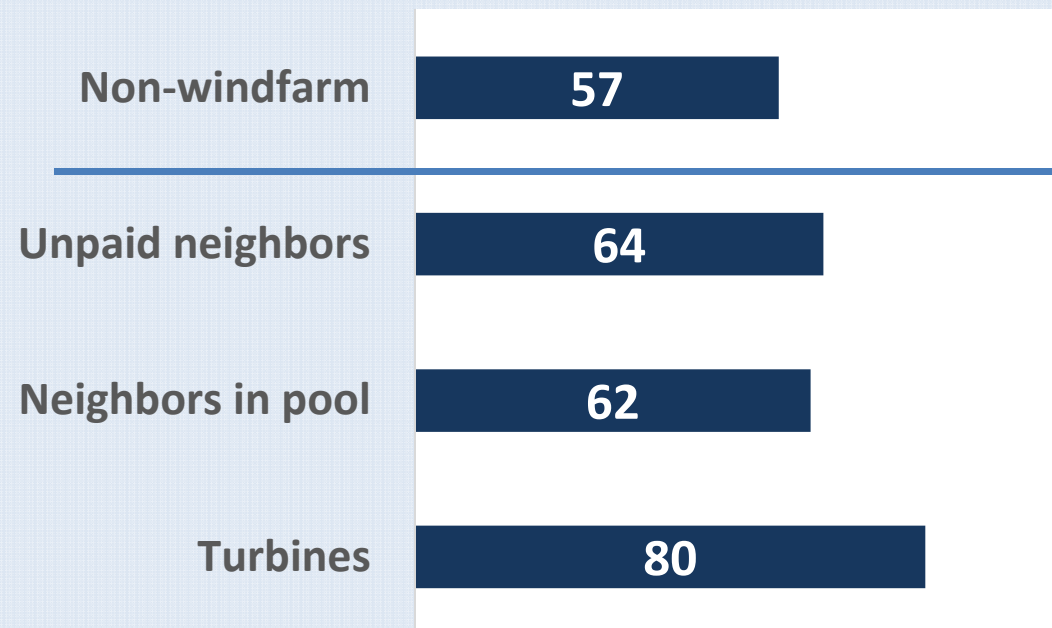
Investments over 5 years: 2009-2013



# Individual-level Impacts

- Noise
- Visual
- Health
- Property value
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- **Farm succession**

% that have farm succession plan



# Individual-level Impacts Take-aways

- Views on noise, visual impact, property values roughly 50/50  
Financial stake = rosier view  
OR  
no financial stake = more soured view  
**BUT STILL SPLIT OPINIONS**
- Most don't see health impacts
- Having turbine on property is linked to additional on-farm investment, succession planning

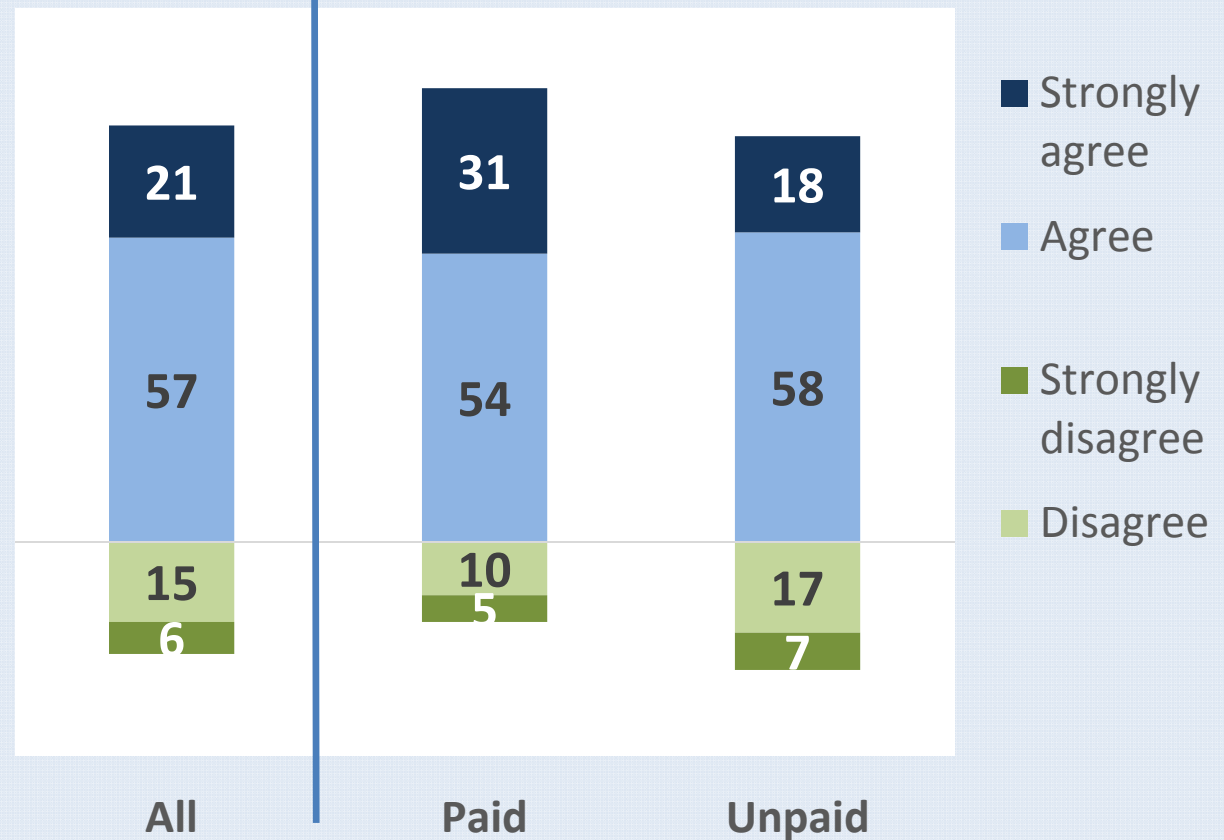
# Community-level Impacts

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- Roads
- County services
- Relationships with neighbors

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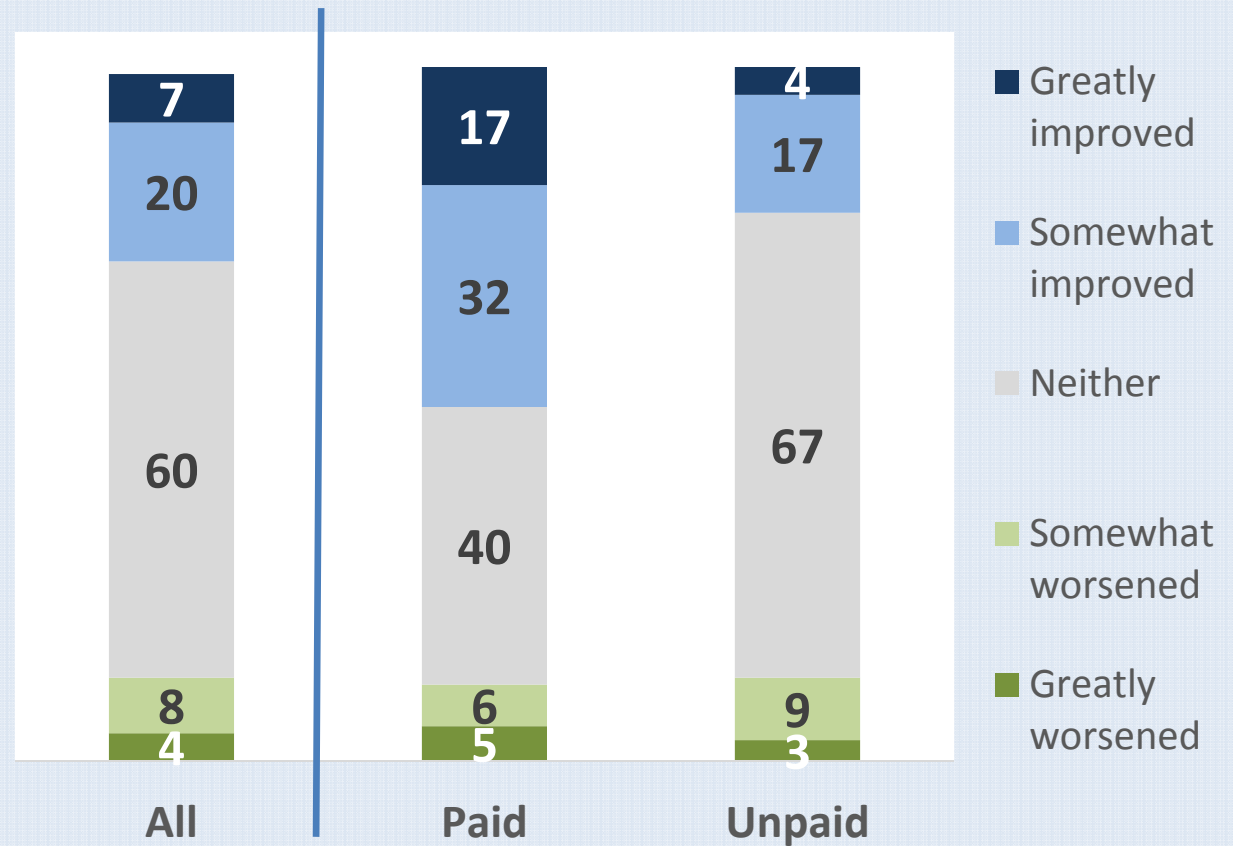
Turbines create jobs



# Community-level Impacts

- Job creation
- **Roads**
- County services
- Relationships with neighbors

Turbines' effect on local roads



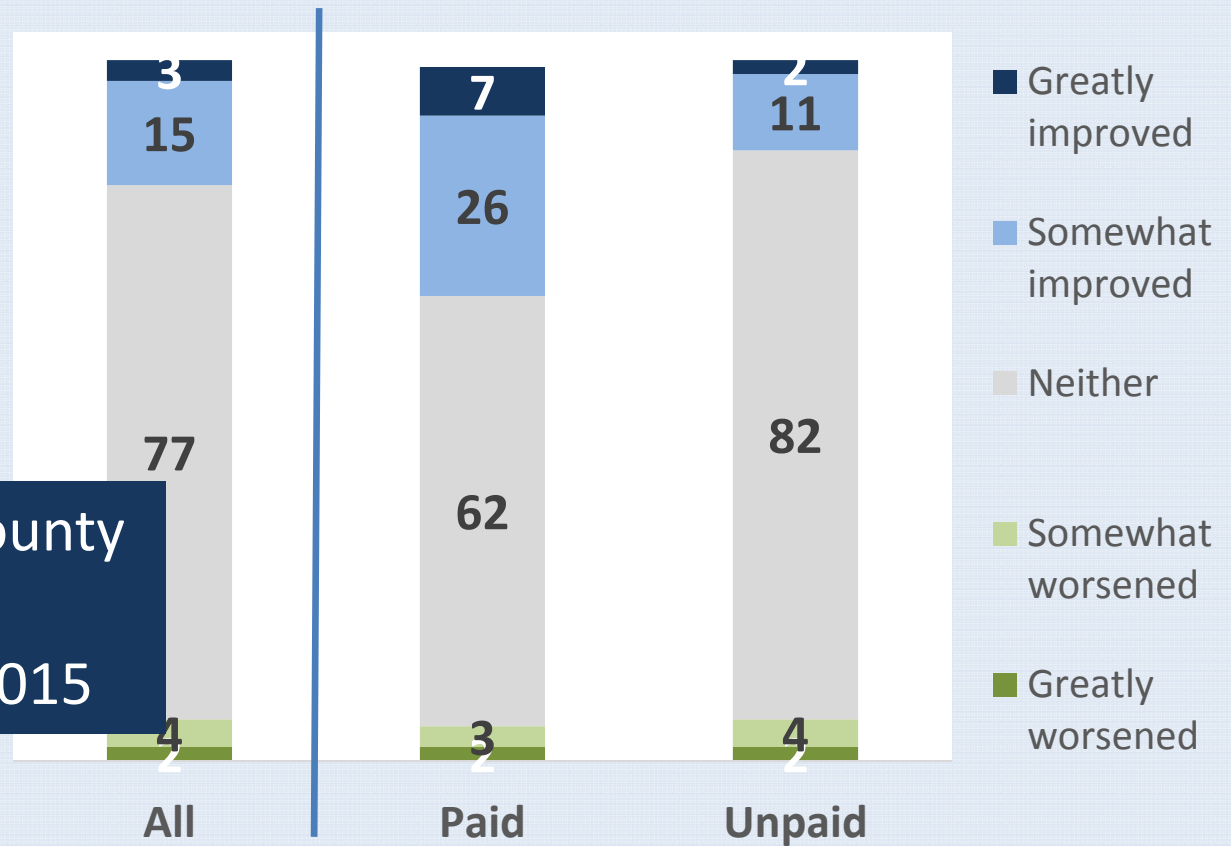


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- Job creation
- Roads
- **County services**
- Relationships with neighbors

**\$2.749 Million to county gov't in Huron County in 2015**

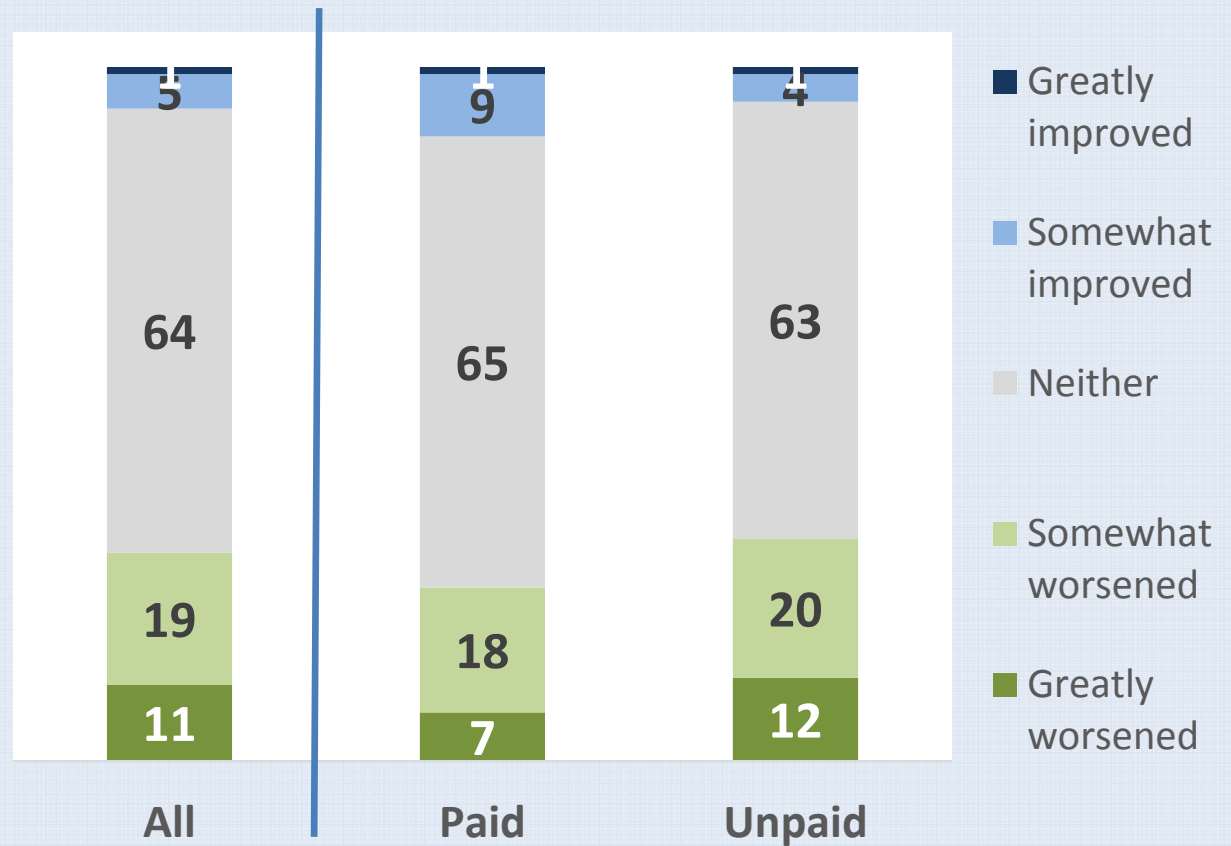
Turbines' effect on county services



# Community-level Impacts

- Job creation
- Roads
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- **Relationships with neighbors**

Turbines' effect on relationships with neighbors



# Community-level Impacts Take-aways

- Most see job creation (with caveat about types of jobs)
- Majority haven't seen changes to county services
  - Increasing cost of services, declining revenues over time may limit visible impacts
- Majority don't think it's divided community
  - Even in some pretty contentious projects

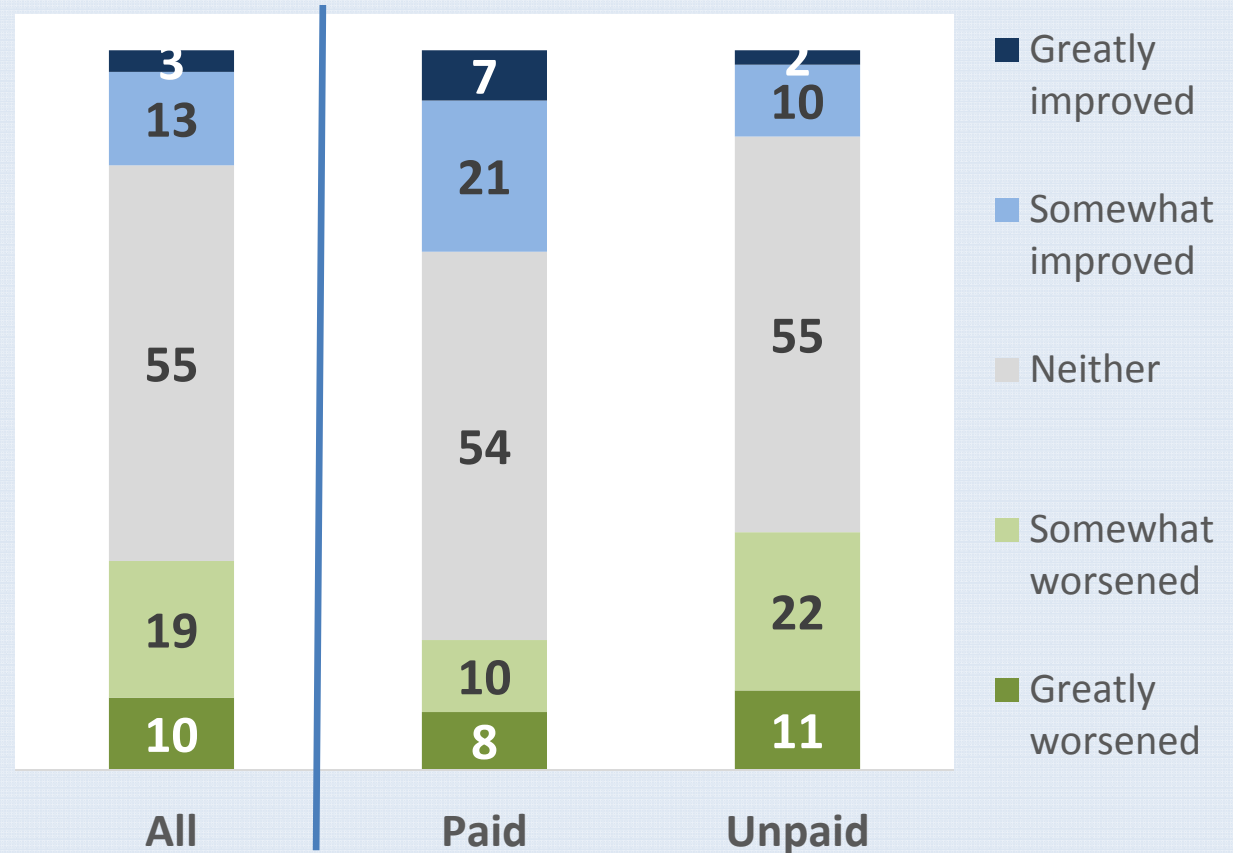
# Would they welcome more wind development?

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- Willingness to accept new turbines

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Turbines' effect on overall quality of life in township

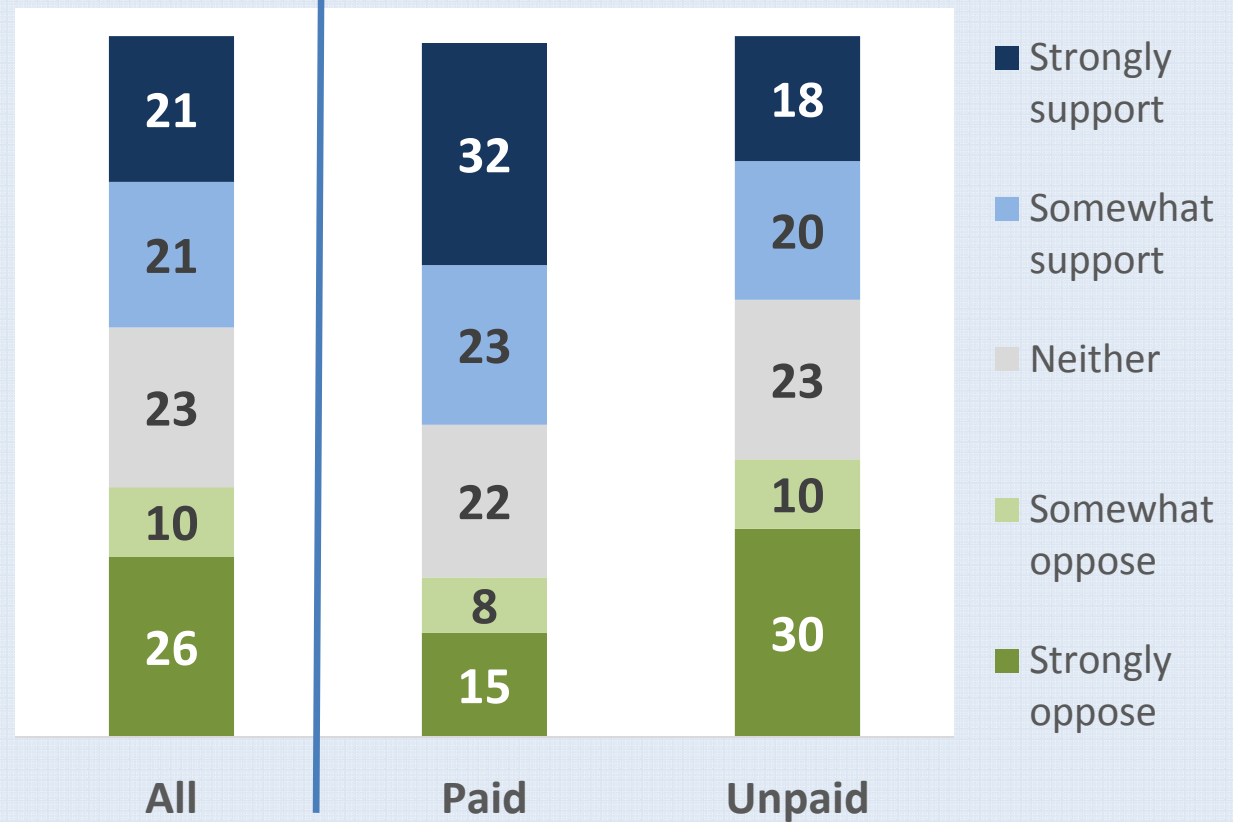
- Quality of life
- Willingness to accept new turbines



# Would they welcome more wind development?

- Quality of life
- **Willingness to accept new turbines**

Willingness to host additional turbines in your township



# WHAT SHOULD YOU CONSIDER?

How to reap the benefits without the heartburn

# How does this fit with your long-term plan?

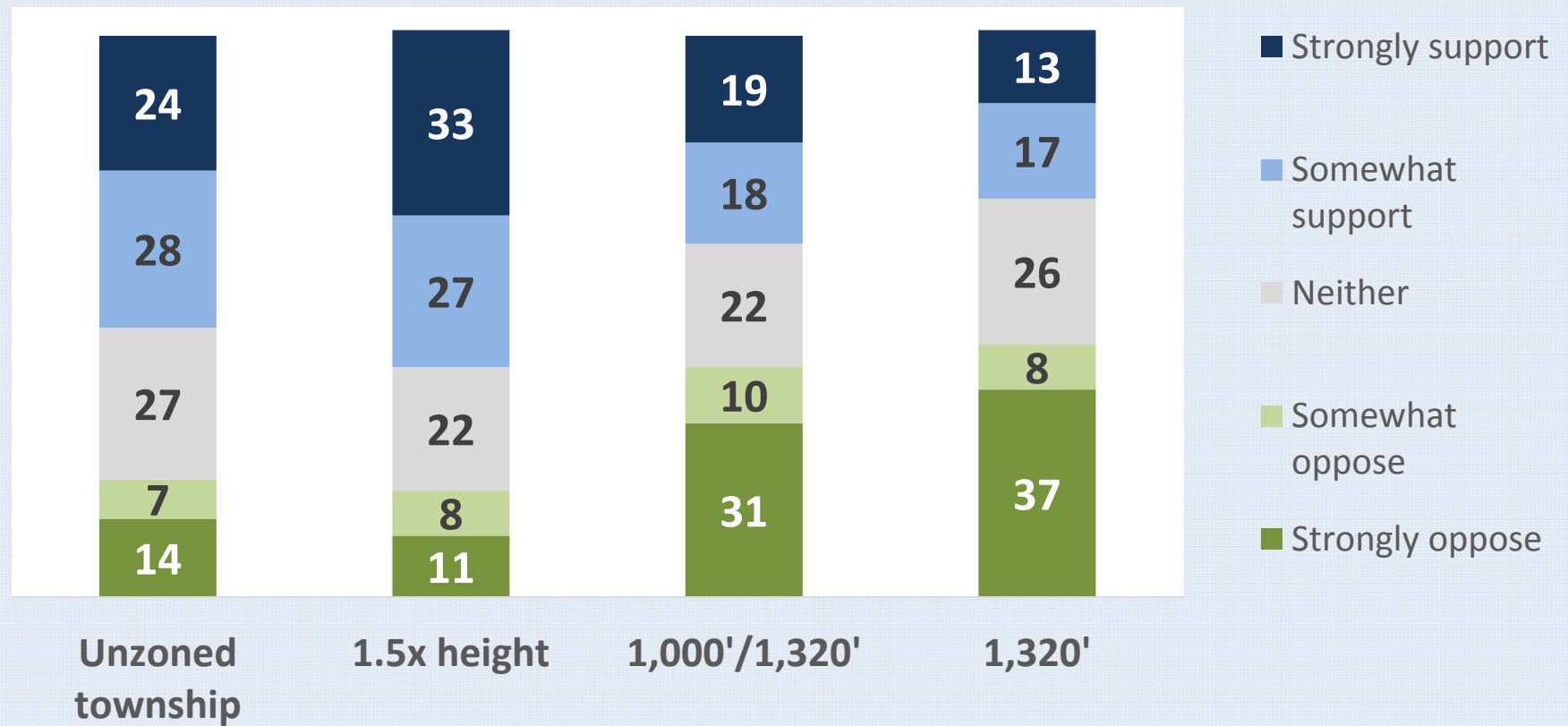
- If goal is for substantial residential development or growth of tourism, wind may not be right
  - These landowners less likely to directly benefit
  - Some may be deterred from building
- If goal is to sustain agriculture, v

Economic development opportunity, but not for all counties



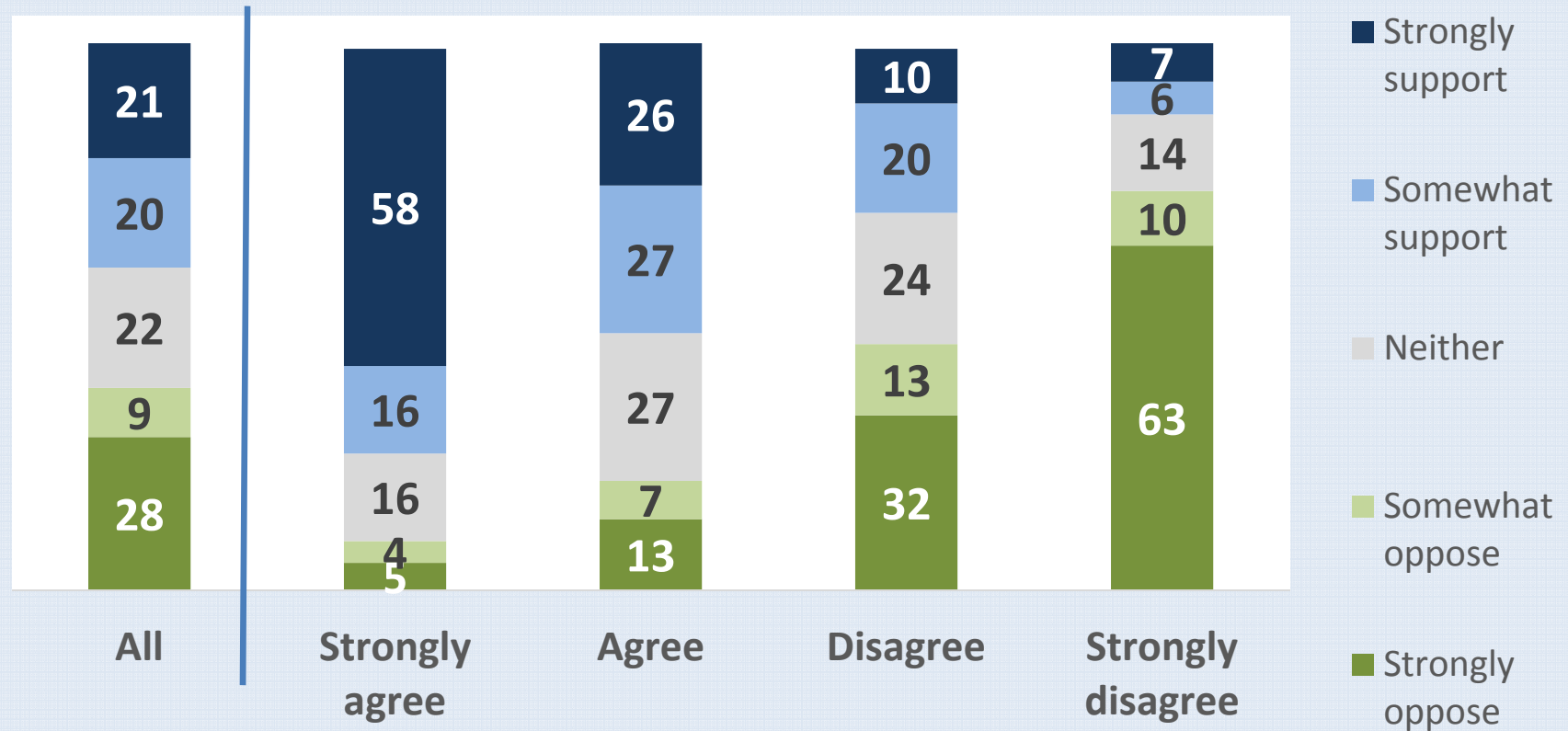
# The ideal zoning ordinance?

Support/oppose additional turbines in township,  
by zoning setback distance



# The importance of process

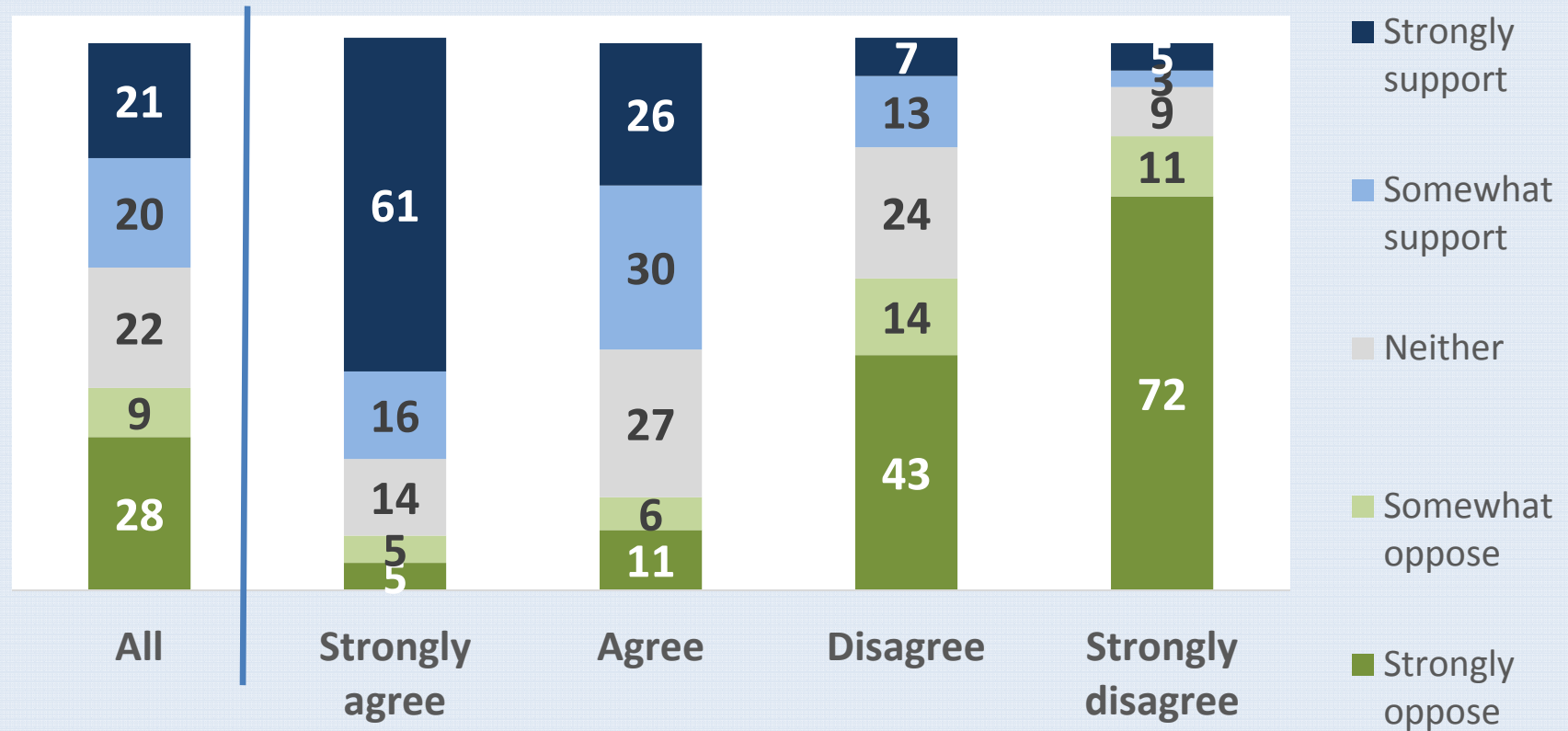
Support/oppose additional turbines in township,  
by agree/disagree opportunity to participate in planning



"I had ample opportunity to provide input during the wind project planning stage."

# The importance of transparency

Support/oppose additional turbines in township,  
by agree/disagree wind developer acted transparently



“The wind project developer acted openly and transparently throughout the planning process.”

# Don't be afraid to ask questions

- About who benefits, business model
- Amount of tax revenue
- The impacts (noise, flicker) on specific homes
- Typical siting schemes
- Decommissioning
  
- Invite me to your county!
  - Grant from C.S. Mott Foundation covers my expenses
  - I can give a presentation, or just answer questions

# The CLOSUP Wind Project

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