



Community Acceptance of Wind Energy

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Photo by Heritage Sustainable Energy




Photo by Curt Nikisch




Scott Miller / CTV London

Survey Research

- 10 Michigan townships
- N=2,013 (53% response rate)
- ~900 longitudinal responses



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The CLOSUP Wind Project
Landowner Survey

1. First, I have a general question about wind energy. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each statement about wind turbines?

Wind turbines...	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
...create jobs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...disrupt bird migration.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...create noise pollution.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...produce visual or aesthetic problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide revenues for land owners.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...disrupt local weather patterns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...cause human health problems.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...preserve rural land.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...help limit climate change.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...reduce nearby property values.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. For the rest of the questions, please think about the property you own in Richland Township. How long have you owned property in this township?

_____ YEARS

If you owned property in this township before the first wind turbines were built, go to Q4.

Answer only if you bought your property after the turbines were built.

3. Which of the following best describes the impact that the presence of the windfarm had on your decision to purchase property in this township?

It made me more interested in buying the property.

It made me less interested in buying the property.

It had no impact on my decision.

Now skip to Q8 on page 2

4. When did you first hear that wind turbines were coming to this township?

Before the first public announcement (for example, at a township/county meeting or in the newspaper)

At the time of the first public announcement

When construction began

After the windfarm began operating

5. From whom did you first learn turbines were coming to Richland Township?

Newspaper

Family member

Neighbor

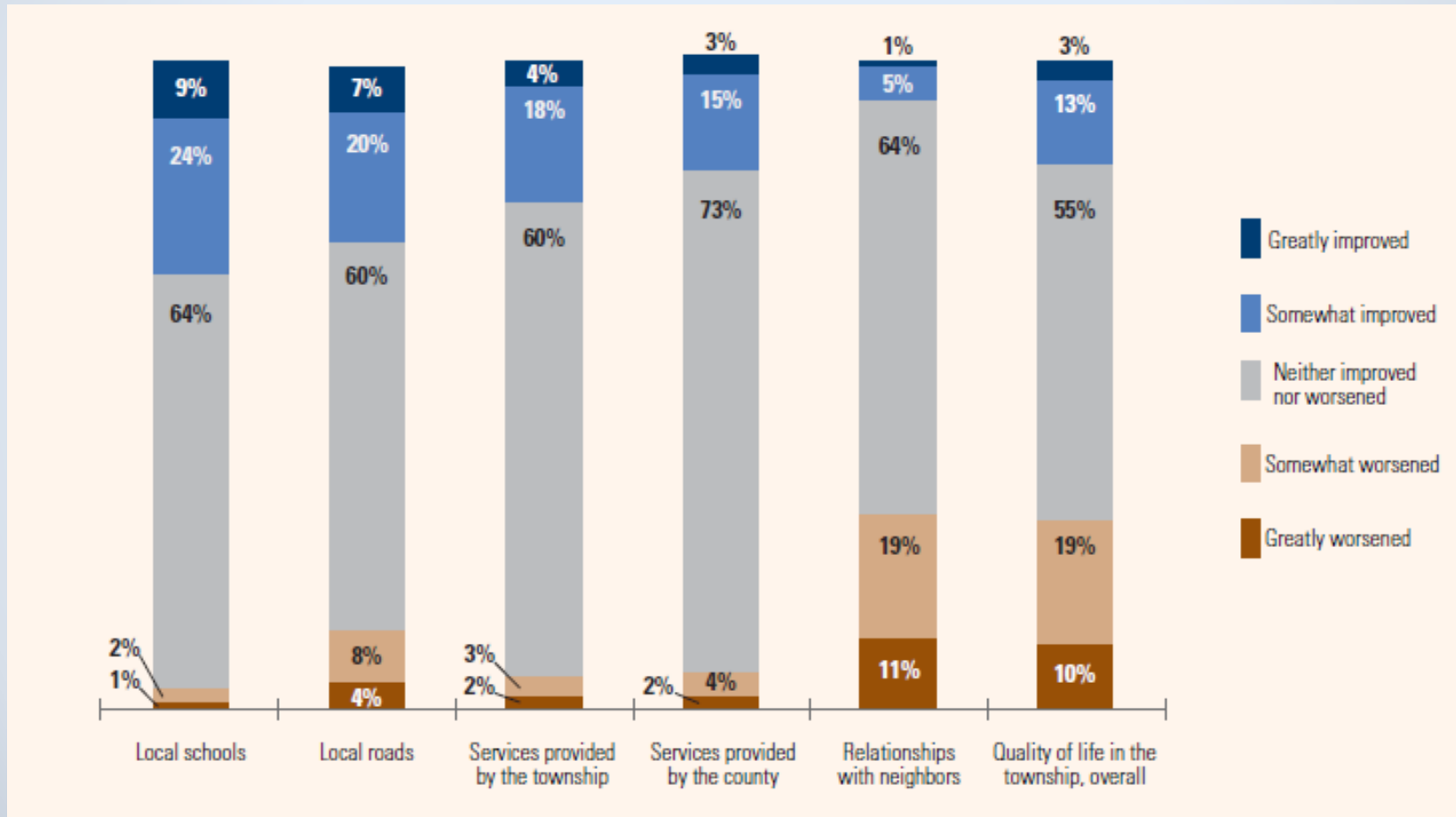
Wind developer

Other (please specify): _____

Which landowners are willing to accept more turbines?

- Type of landowner matters
 - Secondary/vacation vs. primary residences
 - Absentee landowners
- Local policy making matters
 - Agreement with local government actions
 - Public impact on outcome
 - Transparency of wind developer
- Direct payment matters
 - None vs. Some
 - \$1,000 threshold?

Neighborliness more important than tax benefits



Closing Thoughts

- Rural America are key partners in energy transition, but we must speak their language

In America's Heartland, Discussing Climate Change Without Saying 'Climate Change'

By HIROKO TABUCHI JAN. 28, 2017

The New York Times