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Renewable Energy: Providing a Spectrum of Potential Community Benefits

By Elana Fox, Emily Fatcher, Augusta Gudeman, and Monika Johnson

The following is an excerpt from a University of Michigan Dow Sustainability Fellows project, *Beyond Renewable: Incorporating social sustainability & community benefits into renewable energy projects*, advised by Dr. Sarah Mills and Dan Worth (Traverse City Groundwork Center).

Community benefits can be an important consideration in siting renewable energy. “Community” is defined here as all residents in a designated geography, and the term “community benefits” refers to their shared benefits. These benefits may come in the form of external funding directed at development projects and/or revenue generated by those projects.

Community benefit scenarios fall along a spectrum. At one end, a small number of residents receive large, direct dollar benefits. At the other end, a large number of residents receive enhanced services or smaller monetary benefits. In all cases, by including a community benefits component in a project plan or agreement, a community ensures that improvement in the lives of area residents will be one measurable outcome of the project.

Spectrum of Community Benefit Scenarios

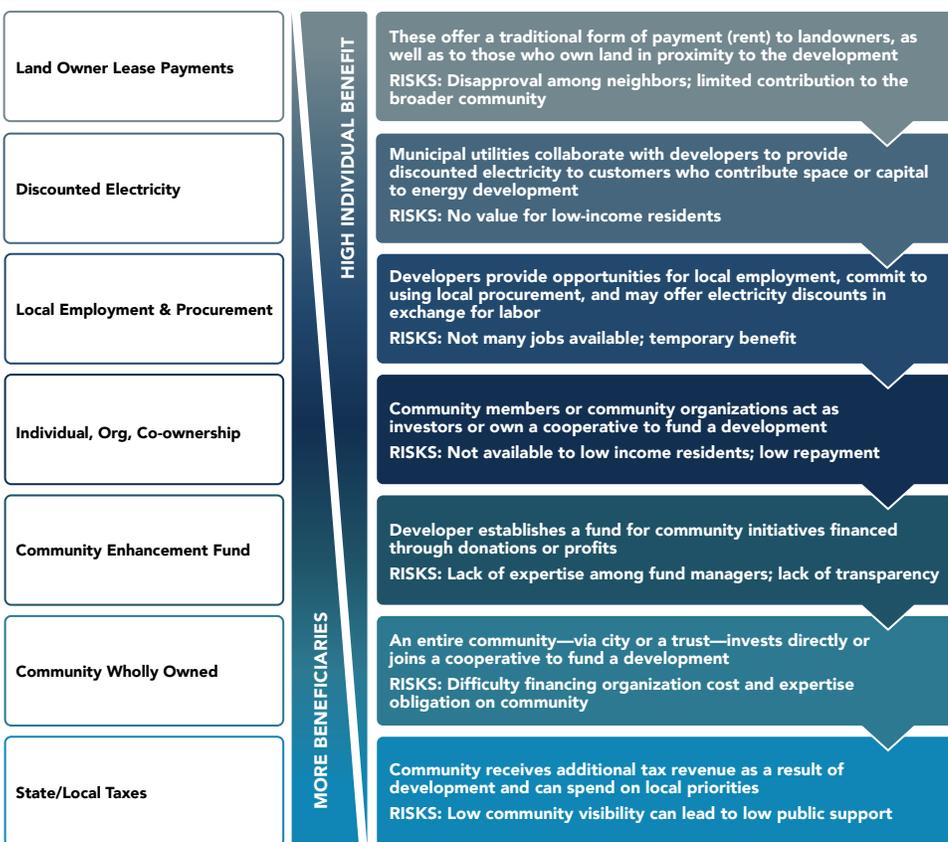


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The Clean Energy in Michigan series provides case studies and fact sheets answering common questions about clean energy projects in Michigan.

Find this document and more about the project online at graham.umich.edu/climate-energy/energy-futures.