

What We Have Heard So Far Regarding Community-Oriented Renewable Energy (RE) Examples of Benefits and Costs

Economic

Benefits

- Reduced energy costs to consumers
- Local renewable energy businesses and jobs
- Local sales tax, local vendors
- Can design for lower transmission costs

Costs

- Setup costs for special financing programs
- Reduction in property values with poor siting
- Costs associated with connecting to electrical grid
- Costs of RE permitting and long-term monitoring

Social

Benefits

- Maintain quality of life with RE development standards
- Community empowerment and involvement
- Local use and control
- Caretaker mindset – community owns the outcome

Costs

- “Not in my backyard” (NIMBY)
- Wrong locations impact quality of life
- Community responsibility for generation and conservation
- Need to shift development priorities to accommodate RE

Environmental

Benefits

- Design for viewshed and habitat protection
- Clean power/ emission reduction
- Can be sited on disturbed lands
- Generally have smaller footprint; preserves valued land

Costs

- Poor design can impact scenic resources
- Poor design can fragment habitat
- Wrong location causes loss of valuable land
- Siting small projects together can create one large project