Stay Safe on the

Take precautions to stay safe on your next hunting expedition.

- Check the weather in advance and be prepared.
- Have a way to get in touch with the outside world.
- Do not lean a tree stand against a utility pole.
- Do not fire at power lines, insulators or condutor cans.
- Check tree stands regularly for stablility.
- Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.
- Be visible: Wear blaze orange.

Source: **SafeElectricity.org**

Green Energy Program

How Does It Work?

Looking for ways to make your electricity more environmentally friendly? With our Green Energy Program, GHBLP will purchase renewable energy credits (RECs) from renewable sources like wind and solar. That means your utility payments directly support the generation of more renewable energy on the grid.

Both residential and business customers can choose to purchase more renewable energy credits for an additional charge of $.008/kWh. The program requires a 12 month commitment, and purchases must be made in 100 kWh increments. For a Grand Haven household choosing to purchase 700kWh per month of renewable energy the cost would be an additional **$5.60 per month**.

Beyond the renewable energy already in our power supply portfolio, GHBLP uses your green energy funds to purchase additional renewable energy credits from regional renewable energy providers.

How You Can Sign Up -

Visit ghblp.org/green-energy-program or contact our Customer Account Representatives at 616-846-6250 for more information.

Holiday Hours

Thanksgiving
Closed November 24 & 25, 2022

Christmas
Closed December 26, 2022

New Years
Closed December 30, 2022

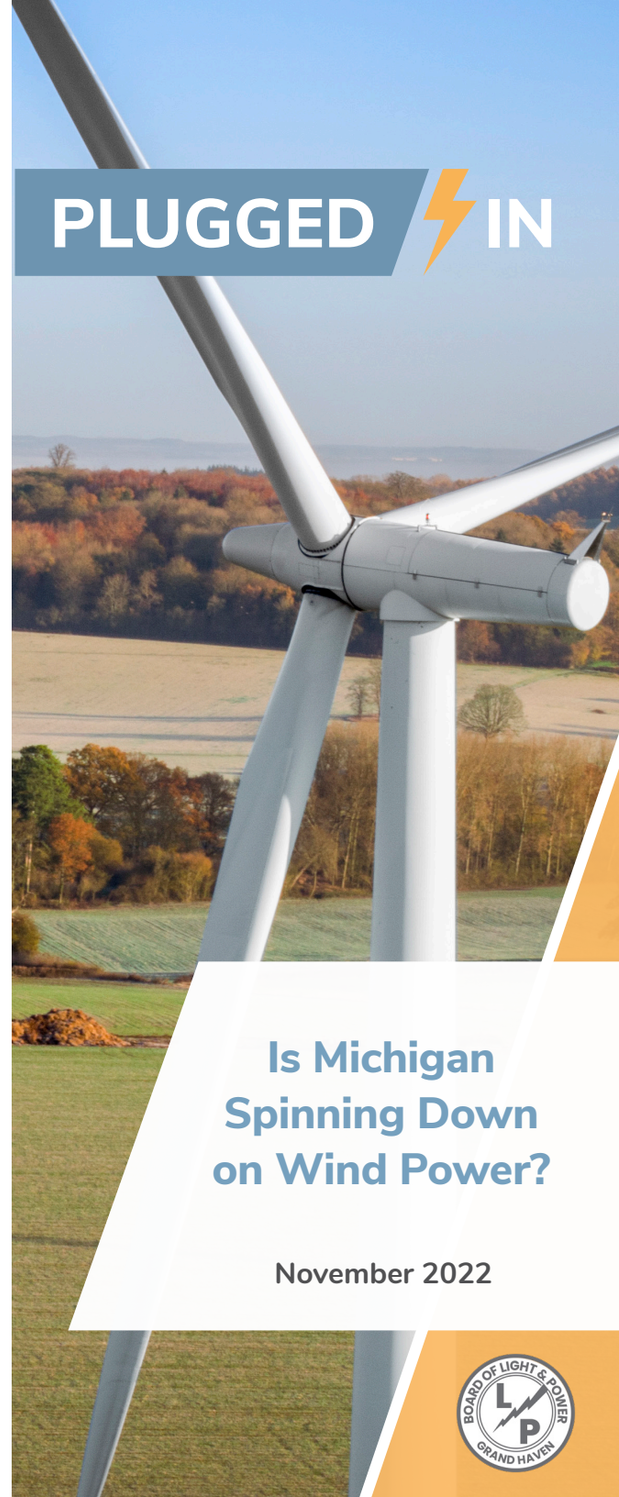
If you need to make a payment, visit **ghblp.org** or call **1-844-749-3055**.

If you need to report a power outage visit our Outage Center at **ghblp.org** or call **616-846-6250**.

Your Board of Directors:

Michael Westbrook, Chairperson
Todd Crum, Director
Andrea Hendrick, Director
Kurt Knoth, Director
Gerald Witherell, Director

Grand Haven Board of Light & Power
1700 Eaton Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417
616.846.6250 | ghblp.org



Is Michigan Spinning Down on Wind Power?

November 2022

Is Michigan Spinning Down on Wind Power?

The Grand Haven community places a high value on increasing our portfolio of renewable energy. In response, Grand Haven BLP has made several investments through the Michigan Public Power Agency to diversify its power supply portfolio and incorporate more wind and solar in its mix. However, as Michigan utilities approach the market looking for more, they are finding the State faces significant obstacles to wind energy development.

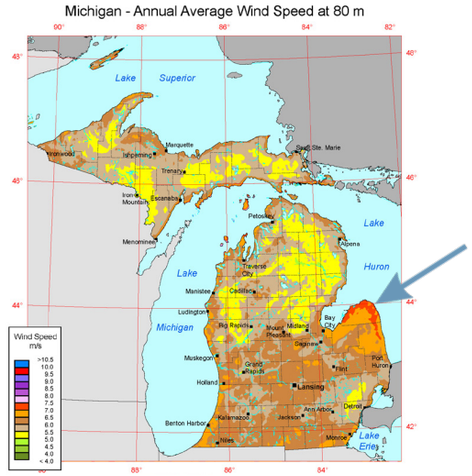
Advantages of Wind Energy

Wind turbines collect and convert the kinetic energy that wind produces into electricity to help power the grid. EnergySage, an energy marketplace funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, said, "Wind turbines themselves don't require burning any fossil fuels to operate, are completely renewable, and will never run out." They go on to add, "In opposition to traditional fossil fuel resources that replenish very slowly, wind naturally occurs in our atmosphere, so we don't have to worry about supply issues in the future."

The World Economic Forum said, "A series of global disruptions have made it abundantly clear that investing in renewable energy is necessary to avoid future energy crises and to prevent climate change." Among renewable energy options, the cleanest, most affordable, and most reliable choice has been wind.

The Thumb Loop

Patrick Bowland, General Manager & CEO at Michigan Public Power Agency, said that Michigan saw a rapid increase in wind energy from 2006 to 2018. This was followed by a significant slow-down that eventually led to very few wind projects reaching commercial operation thereafter.



"Most of Michigan's best potential for wind development is found on the east side of the state - known by residents as 'The Thumb,'" Bowland said. "Wind development in this region of the state was attractive due to numerous factors such as high wind speeds, flat topography, and supportive landowners."

To further accelerate wind development in this region, a new 345 kV transmission project was designed and constructed known as "The Thumb Loop" that "when completed could accommodate up to 5,000 MW of wind capacity," Bowland said. To date, only approximately 25% of that wind capacity is online and interconnected to the electric grid in this region of the State. Why then, did a budgeted $510 million transmission project designed to bring 5,000 MW of wind to the electric grid only produce a quarter of what was expected?

Unexpected Opposition

Since wind projects consume large geographic areas, a development can require thousands of acres - often covering several townships and dozens of landowners. This makes coordinating ordinances, obtaining permits, and committing landowners a significant challenge.

Governing, a leading government professional trade publication, identified Michigan as one of the states with the largest number of local governments, with numerous jurisdictional boundaries. Having many discrete government units with differing ordinance and permit requirements makes getting a project to the finish line extraordinarily difficult. What proved equally difficult was maintaining support through the entire multi-year development process. Often, in the midst of wind development, local units of government would change their requirements in response to opposition groups.

Bowland said the opposition's primary complaint with the wind turbines were cosmetic. People did not appreciate changes to their local landscapes, particularly if their property was not being compensated through land leases from the wind project.

There were also complaints about the noise of swishing blades, the blinking red lights, and the large flickering shadows the turbines created. In response many local units of government changed the permit requirements making future development much more challenging or uneconomic.

Finding a Way Forward

Despite the opposition, Bowland still has hope for the future of wind power in Michigan. He has several ideas to move past public gridlock and grow a more sustainable future. These include establishing a fair form of revenue sharing, finding solutions to cosmetic challenges, and educating Michigan residents about the benefits of wind energy over fossil fuels.

BLP's Portfolio & Opportunities for Growth

Grand Haven's renewable resources are expected to reach 28% by 2025, and with their Green Energy Program, GHBLP enables customers to purchase additional renewable energy credits (RECs) from renewable sources like wind and solar. These utility payments directly support the generation of more renewable energy on the grid.

Hopefully, more wind projects will resume soon, with agreeable outcomes for communities and landowners, enabling the Grand Haven community to source even more of their energy with green solutions.

Projected 2025 Supply Portfolio