The Shoals | FAQ

About Pattern Energy

Who is Pattern Energy?

Pattern Energy is a leading developer, operator, and owner of renewable energy infrastructure projects and facilities across North America.

Headquartered in the United States, Pattern has a portfolio of power facilities and transmission assets producing over 29 GW of power across the globe, with a majority produced in the United States, serving various customers and providing low-cost clean energy to millions of consumers.

At Pattern, we believe in trust, accountability, and transparency from start to finish. Our values – like creativity, ownership, teamwork, and follow-through – guide everything we do. We encourage innovative thinking and always keep our promises.

What differentiates Pattern from other companies?

What sets Pattern apart from other competitors is our unwavering commitment to trust, accountability, and transparency. From the outset, we engage with communities early in the development process, collaborating with residents and community leaders to align projects with their values and needs. At Pattern, we prioritize relationships over transactions. Because we build and operate most of our projects, we strive to be good neighbors for the long term.

Who are Pattern's shareholders?

Pattern Energy is primarily owned by the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPP Investments) following a 2019 acquisition, with further equity investments from a consortium including APG Asset Management and Australian Retirement Trust (ART) closing in 2025.

Why is Pattern developing in Illinois?

We strongly believe that the project will greatly benefit Illinois and its residents. It not only provides advantages for landowners but also fosters local economic development by facilitating increased direct investment in the area. We chose Montgomery county to develop the project due to the resources available (particularly high-quality wind and solar), demand for power, and access to the existing grid infrastructure.

The Shoals | FAQ

About The Shoals

How does this project benefit the community and the landowners?

Renewable energy projects bring substantial investment, creating local jobs during construction and operations as well as stimulus to local businesses. They also provide economic benefits like lease payments to landowners, tax revenue for local governments supporting schools, infrastructure, and vital community services, and increased earnings for local vendors. For instance, in 2024 alone, Pattern disbursed over $144 million in contributions to local economies through landowner payments, taxes, and donations.

How has Pattern been involved in Montgomery County thus far?

Pattern is putting Montgomery County's needs first. Last year, Pattern donated over $20,000 to Montgomery County organizations and community initiatives.

Additionally, Pattern has been engaging with the local community, county officials, and leadership across the project footprint since 2023, including Hillsboro, Rountree, Nokomis, Litchfield, and Raymond. We will continue to share project plans as they develop, listen to understand community concerns, and seek feedback on how best to support each community's needs.

How many jobs will be created for local workers as a result of the project?

Pattern is committed to working with local workforces, companies, services, and materials. During the project's construction phase, the Shoals will create 500-700 jobs, including equipment operators, electricians, laborers, and more. Once operational, 12-16 permanent, full-time staff will operate and maintain the facility.

Will the project impact local property values?

In less populated and more rural areas, where the majority of utility-scale wind development takes place, a Department of Energy study found no significant change in property values. In urban counties, the study found a small reduction in property values when a wind project is announced or being developed but see values rise again after three to five years. No impact was found in less populous counties.

Will there be public forums for me to learn more about the project?

Yes. More public forums are planned for when the project is closer to permitting, which is estimated for early 2027.

Pattern

The Shoals | FAQ

How long will construction take?

Pattern anticipates the construction process to take one to two years, including site preparation; delivery and assembly of the wind components; civil work such as grading, excavation and concrete; and electrical work and mechanical assembly. Construction for The Shoals is estimated to begin in 2028. Illinois siting law allows developers to begin construction within five years of receiving county siting approval.

Will the project be fully subsidized with tax dollars?

No, it is primarily financed with private capital. Like many U.S. energy and infrastructure projects, it may qualify for federal tax credits. These credits reduce taxes owed - they are not a direct payment covering the cost of the project.

It is important to note that federal incentives have existed for many decades - well before modern wind and solar projects. They have been used across all types of energy, including oil, gas, nuclear, and renewables, often in different ways and over different time periods. These policies are designed to support domestic energy development broadly and spur energy independence..

Does Pattern plan to sell the project after construction?

While it is too early to determine long-term ownership, Pattern has a strong track record of developing, constructing, maintaining and operating energy projects, and we expect to apply that same experience here, consistent with our broader portfolio.

Turbine Construction and Land Use

Can you share how many landowners have already signed up?

Pattern has strong support from residents as our trusted land partners. As a standard business practice and with respect for privacy rights, we do not disclose information about their involvement. We can confirm that land acquisition is progressing in line with the project timeline and key milestones.

The Shoals | FAQ

Why do turbines have to be placed on farmland? Could I still farm?

The actual amount of farmland used for the Pattern's projects are minimal. By incorporating renewables into agricultural areas, communities can diversify their income with a stable revenue stream while preserving the majority of farmland for traditional farming activities.

Landowners can maintain farming alongside wind projects, with minimal impact on farmland. Each turbine typically requires less than one acre of land post-construction. We are committed to collaborating closely with farmers when siting turbines to minimize disruption to their operations and accommodate access, and ongoing agricultural use.

Do wind projects pose any drainage issues? What happens if you break a drainage tile?

We recognize that tiling is an extremely important element of agricultural practices and will work to prevent or mitigate agricultural impacts associated with the construction process. Our construction team is in contact with local Drainage District leaders and has attended the Illinois Association of Drainage Districts (IADD) Conference to better understand the specifics of Montgomery County's drainage systems, recognizing how important and complex drainage tile is in this area. Drainage tiles that will be affected near sites can be re-routed around the foundation area. Any tile damaged by construction or maintenance of the project will be repaired in a timely manner in accordance with the terms of our agreements with the landowners. We are committed to repairing any damage caused by our activities and properly decompact the soil even if that damage is not discovered until the next big rain event.

What is the lifespan of a typical wind project? Will you restore the land after the project is finished?

Modern wind farms are projected to last 30 years, although this can be extended depending on environmental factors and improvements in technology. Pattern Energy has signed an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) with the Department of Agriculture of Illinois to ensure that the landowners are protected and the soil is properly restored. This agreement imposes strict obligations on us to mitigate any impact of our projects on agricultural land and practices.

The Shoals | FAQ

How will you restore the soil to original conditions?

Soil productivity is very important, especially on prime Illinois farmland. Pattern will follow established agricultural mitigation practices and is contractually committed to restoring the land to its pre-construction condition.

This includes measures consistent with the Illinois Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA), such as segregating and replacing topsoil, decompacting soils after construction, repairing drainage tile, and restoring grades. We also coordinate closely with landowners and drainage districts throughout the process.

In addition, restoration obligations remain in place after construction. If issues like compaction or drainage are identified later, we are responsible for addressing them. The goal is not just short-term repair, but ensuring the land returns to full productivity over time. Provisions regarding this are included in our land agreements.

What is the height of the turbines?

Turbine heights range from 400 to 600 feet - not a far range from other energy generation facilities in the area. For reference, the now-decommissioned Coffen Power Station in Illinois featured a main smokestack standing at approximately 320 feet tall. We are currently evaluating different turbine options that will meet requirements imposed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Once project design is finalized, we will be able to share more specific information.

Do taller turbines face a higher likelihood of being struck by lightning or affected by severe weather?

Turbines are designed with built-in lightning protection systems that safely direct strikes into the ground. They are also engineered to withstand severe weather typical for the region. While extreme events like tornadoes can impact any structure, turbine damage is very rare, but if it ever occurs, the operator is responsible for cleanup and restoring the site.

How fast does the wind need to blow to move the turbine blades?

The operating wind speed range is between 6 and 60 mph (3-30 m/s).

The Shoals | FAQ

Can underground collection lines be bored?

Yes, there is an industry standard for when to use bored collection lines. This standard is in place to avoid existing infrastructure, such as underground utilities (e.g., existing pipelines, communication, electrical), and when crossing municipal roads. When boring is not required, trenching is the standard for installation.

Who does the reclamation after decommissioning? Are we selling bonds for reclamation?

We will take full responsibility for decommissioning per the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) signed with the State of Illinois. A bond will be placed with the county equal to the decommissioning costs. At the end of the project, the installation will be dismantled, removed, and recycled. The facility will have a decommissioning plan in place that will include removal of all infrastructure and will restore land to its natural state.

Are the turbines recyclable?

Turbines are largely recyclable. At the end of their lifespan, they can be disassembled, and many materials—such as steel, copper, aluminum, and concrete—can be separated and recycled. This process helps to reduce waste and minimize the environmental impact of renewable energy technologies.

What happens to my CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) Land?

Pattern will reimburse landowners for the time and areas where Conservation Reserve Program land has been disturbed.

Health and Safety

Are wind facilities safe?

Yes. For more than 40 years, people have been living near more than 350,000 wind turbines operating globally and more than 50,000 wind turbines in North America. There is no scientific evidence that indicates wind turbines have caused any adverse health effects. Furthermore, wind turbines do not produce any greenhouse gas emissions, water discharges, or solid waste byproducts.

What are the expected sound and noise impacts from the turbines?

Overall, health and medical agencies, including the World Health Organization, agree that the sound from wind turbines is not loud enough to cause hearing impairment and is not causally related to adverse effects. Scientific evidence to date indicates that at common residential setback distances there is no direct health risk from wind turbine noise, including low-frequency noise and infrasound. Our project will be designed to comply with established setback and sound limits to ensure residents are protected.

Pattern

The Shoals | FAQ

What about the flashing lights on wind towers?

For all structures taller than 200 feet above ground level, including wind turbines, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires marking and lighting to ensure they are visible to pilots during both daytime and nighttime conditions. Over the years, the wind industry has encouraged the FAA to take steps to reduce the visual impact of turbine lights on communities while still ensuring visibility for pilots. The FAA has been receptive to many of these suggestions, like generally not requiring every turbine in a wind farm to be lit, requiring simultaneous flashing, allowing aggregation of lighting plans with nearby wind farms to reduce overall lighting impacts, and evaluating technologies to reduce lighting effects.

What are the negative health effects of living near turbines?

To date, there have been no peer-reviewed studies finding negative health effects of hosting or living near a wind turbine or wind farm. Wind power has existed alongside agriculture production for centuries. When sited properly, turbines are not disruptive to the human body. The Shoals project will meet and exceed all local and state siting and setback requirements, ensuring the safety and comfort of all local residents. For more information, please follow this link: https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4063257/.

What about local wildlife and habitats? Will the project hurt birds?

Pattern Energy works closely with federal and state wildlife agencies to understand local conditions and minimize potential impacts to birds, bats, and other wildlife. Before construction, the project undergoes comprehensive environmental reviews coordinated with state and federal agencies. These reviews include wildlife surveys, habitat evaluations, soil and water assessments, sound modeling, and visual impact studies.

To reduce risk, wind turbines are carefully sited away from sensitive habitats and migratory corridors, and modern turbine designs and operational practices are used to further protect wildlife. Where appropriate, operational measures can be applied during certain times of year to reduce potential impacts to bats. No form of energy development is completely impact-free. However, extensive research and decades of monitoring show that wind energy has a much smaller overall impact on wildlife and ecosystems compared to fossil fuel-based energy sources, which contribute to habitat loss, air and water pollution, and climate change. By following the established wildlife protection guidelines and working closely with regulators, Pattern Energy is committed to developing wind energy responsibly.

Pattern

The Shoals | FAQ

Does Pattern have an Emergency Response Plan prepared?

Pattern has already established contact with the Montgomery County Emergency Management Authority and local first responders and is prepared to work with them to develop a project-specific Emergency Response Plan well ahead of when it is needed.

Additional online available information will increase as we get closer to project permitting.

Pattern