

Argentina Renewables

Frequently Asked Questions

What's in it for the community?

When Pattern Energy joins a community, we proactively engage with community members, community leaders, elected officials, and local organizations to identify and address their experiences, goals, and concerns. We understand that along with the benefits our facilities bring, they also bring change. We strive to make those changes positive.

We believe in giving back to the communities that host our development projects and operational facilities. We contribute to local causes through sponsorships and donations throughout all project phases, and we implement Community Benefit Programs at operational facilities. Our community giving prioritizes causes that meet at least one of the following objectives:

- Advances community initiatives;
- Enhances ecological preservation;
- Fosters health and wellness;
- Produces local or regional economic benefits;
- Promotes the needs of youth through education or recreation; and/or
- Supports initiatives of local Indigenous populations, emphasizing cultural awareness, the environment, health and wellness, and education.

Already, we have committed forming and funding the Cape Shore Ecological Centre of Excellence to devote resources and expertise to the protection of species and biodiversity in the Cape Shore region.

We also seek to hire locally and bring long-term benefits to our communities by contributing to the tax base and supporting local initiatives. We believe in being good partners and neighbors. Our renewable energy facilities also bring significant indirect economic benefits through revenues added to local service industries and the influx of activity during construction and operations.

Where will all the water come from? What are the water requirements?

Pattern is currently assessing the most responsible sources to gather water from for the Project. This could include water from the municipal system, a newly developed source, or a combination of both options. Water for the plant is required to be purified.

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Are there risks to drinking water in the area?

No. Projects are set back from all neighbouring structures so foundations, water wells, underground piping or other infrastructure is not affected. There is also no harmful runoff or discharge into the air, soil or water. All relevant regulations and best practices will be followed in the construction and operation of the Project to ensure no risks to drinking water in the area.

What are the risks to birds and bats in the area?

All Pattern projects are designed to minimize impacts to the natural environment, including wildlife and habitat. We collect data (including from the local community) about any wildlife that may nest, den or migrate through the project area. Final project design reflects careful consideration of these factors.

Wind power is far less harmful to wildlife than traditional energy sources it displaces, including to birds and their critical habitats. Overall, wind causes less than 0.01% of all human-related bird deaths—an estimated 328,000 of the more than 2.5 billion bird mortalities in North America. Other causes include buildings (550 million), power lines (130 million), cars (80 million), pesticide poisoning, (67 million), and radio and cell towers (6.8 million). Climate change is the largest threat to many species and their habitats, and wind energy is a major climate change solution. (<https://cleanpower.org/policy/wildlife/>)

What jobs will this create?

Each new facility brings new jobs. Pattern prioritizes residents when staffing for operations and maintenance (O&M) at our renewable energy facilities.

In addition to permanent employees, Pattern contracts a variety of goods and services through the life of projects including hardware and electrical supply, waste control and removal, building maintenance, road maintenance, truck fleet leasing and maintenance, crane services and rentals, landscaping, janitorial, communications services and more.

Will hiking trails be impacted?

Pattern Energy follows all applicable environmental regulations, as well as industry best practices to minimize impact to critical wildlife and habitat. This includes local natural recreational areas such as parks and hiking trails. During construction, hiking trails may be impacted. Pattern will work with local trail associations and land uses to ensure the safe co-habitation of hiking trails and the Project.

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**What are the risks with Hydrogen?
Is it explosive? How will you manage
that risk?**

Hydrogen is a safe, non-toxic, colourless, and odourless fuel produced globally and is considered safer than natural gas, diesel or gasoline. Like all gases, hydrogen can be flammable. However, Hydrogen combustion is more rapid than other fuels and burns in seconds, reducing the fire risk to surrounding areas in the event of such an emergency. Hydrogen produced at Argentia Renewables will be stored at a safe dockside location on the Port lands.

**Will I see the turbines from my
house or cabin?**

Pattern Energy is committed to doing everything we can to site wind turbines in a way that protects the viewsheds of those around our project sites. However, in some instances, obstructions are unavoidable as turbines are tall structures.

**Can my company get work from
this project and how do I go on a
bidders list or become a preferred
vendor?**

Each project creates hundreds of jobs during construction and increases demand for all kinds of local businesses. Pattern hires Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) Contractors for each project. In turn, these contractors subcontract for a variety of goods and services such as concrete, fuel and construction, and in some cases, hire direct employees in the area. Pattern and its contractors prioritize local labour and resources. We will hold a job fair prior to construction to engage interested companies and workers, establish a vendor and worker application portal, and keep a list of interested workers and vendors.

**With the added access roads to
the turbines, is there a risk to the
wildlife in the area? Increased
hunting activity, etc.**

Pattern Energy follows all applicable environmental regulations, as well as industry best practices to minimize impact to critical wildlife and habitat.

Hunting is not permitted during and around active construction for the safety of all parties, however, normal hunting and wildlife patterns resume once construction is complete. Pattern remains in contact with community members throughout development, construction, and operations to communicate important events and processes.

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Health impacts of the Project? (Noise, Vibrations, etc.)

Wind turbine noise can range from 29–55 dB at the source (turbine, nacelle, blades). Wind farms are designed to be at or below ambient outdoor noise levels at proper setback distances. Overall, health and medical agencies 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 does not support a direct association between wind turbine noise and physical health problems or disease.

Will the project have any impact on electricity rates? Will my power bill be affected?

Individual Pattern projects are not directly tied to neighbouring electricity rates, however, as utilities choose to diversify and upgrade their power portfolios with renewables, electricity rates become more stable and affordable.

Will any of the jobs created be reserved for minorities/women/ Indigenous people?

Pattern Energy is committed to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplace where all employees belong. We believe in having diversity in our teams and our leadership while providing an environment where employees from underrepresented groups are encouraged and empowered.

What is the lifetime of the project? Will the jobs created be temporary or permanent?

Wind-based projects have an average lifespan of 30–40 years, with potential for “repowering,” whereby new agreements and equipment may renew or extend the life of the facility. We expect the bulk of jobs created from the project to occur during the construction phase, with a limited staff of permanent number of technicians and maintenance jobs to be created during operation.

What other infrastructure is going to be built up to support the Project? (i.e. temporary housing, camps, materials storage/dumping etc.)

Projects are designed to minimize the impact on the existing landscape. Through careful site selection, project design, and use of best management practices during construction and operations, our facilities are designed to minimize impacts to the natural or pre-existing environment, including wildlife, habitat, and important aquatic resources. Pattern prioritizes the use of native plants and pollinators when re-planting cleared areas. The Port of Argentia is included in every step of the conversation about land use and development.

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How will the blades be disposed of at end of life?

About 70% of turbine mass is steel, which is 100% recyclable. Although blade recycling and repurposing is more complex than steel recovery, it is growing more popular all the time. Blades—composed primarily of fiberglass and wood—are a perfect fit for repurposing into certain structural projects and can also be recycled in specialized facilities such as the one in Louisiana, MO.

In 2020, when Pattern Energy repowered our Gulf Wind facility in Kenedy County, TX, about 75% of the old blades were recycled or sold to a wind turbine services company that can reuse them. The turbine light bulbs, gearbox oil, and batteries were also recycled. We are exploring ways to learn from our first repowering experience to reduce landfill waste during future repower projects.

What measures are being taken to preserve American base infrastructure in the area?

Certain areas of the lands owned by the Port of Argentia have been excluded from the areas able to be developed. This in addition to the inclusion of mapping of known base infrastructure in the project siting process will help to preserve American base infrastructure during construction and operation of the Project. Pattern is also overseeing a Traditional, Cultural, & Historical/ Archaeological Significance Survey as part of their baseline studies.

What is ammonia?

Ammonia is a colorless gas with a strong odor, its chemical compound is NH_3 . It is highly soluble in water, which makes it a useful and common household cleaning agent. It has been used by humans for centuries, but the industrial production began in the 20th century with the development of the Haber-Bosch process for synthesizing ammonia from nitrogen and hydrogen gases.

What is ammonia used for?

Ammonia has many uses. Most of the world's production of ammonia is used in fertilizer production, providing essential nutrients to plants, promoting their growth. Fertilizer is required to supply over half of the world's food production. Ammonia is also used in household and commercial cleaning products, refrigeration, the chemical industry more broadly, and also in pharmaceuticals.

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Is ammonia safe to use?

Yes, ammonia is considered very safe when handled properly. It has been used in hundreds of process plants worldwide for many years with a remarkable safety record. The key to its safe use lies in following established safety guidelines, proper storage, and adhering to industry best practices. With the right precautions, ammonia can be managed safely without significant risk.