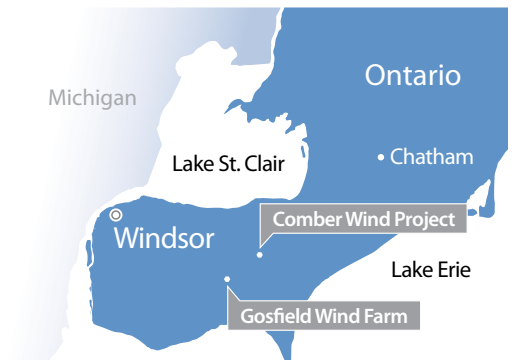


# GOSFIELD and COMBER Wind Energy Projects

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Brookfield Renewable Power has been working on two wind power projects in Essex County since 2002. Gosfield Wind, a 51-megawatt wind farm in Kingsville, began operating in September 2010. Construction is nearing completion on the 166-megawatt Comber Wind project in Lakeshore. The combined Gosfield and Comber operation will be home to Canada's largest wind farm, expected to produce enough electricity to power more than 70,000 homes.



## Comber wind project

### First turbines energized

Over the past ten months, the Comber project has faced difficult construction challenges with an unusually cold winter, long rainy periods with muddy conditions, extreme heat spells and very windy days. Despite the variable weather, our project teams have worked hard and have managed to keep Comber on track. We now have entered the commissioning phase where individual wind turbines have begun feeding power into Ontario's electrical energy grid. Working closely with Hydro One and Bell crews, Brookfield recently energized Comber Wind's new substation, and in September, some of the first turbines began delivering clean, green energy to the power grid.

The remaining wind turbines and power lines will be installed in October and November. As well, drain tiles will be restored and local roads will be repaired. The combined Comber and Gosfield Wind operations will be centred at the new operations and maintenance facility on Industrial Drive in Comber, where over a dozen staff will work. We look forward to celebrating the grand opening of the Comber Wind Farm in the near future!



**Brookfield**



## Built by local workers

Contractors	Construction activities	Peak workforce on site
Mid-South	Electrical works	243
SLR Construction	Civic works	115
Mortenson (Ironworkers Local 700, Labourers Local 0625, Millwright Local 1244)	Turbine installations	96
Equipment Express	Turbine component transport	54
Canada Building Materials	Concrete supply	35
Lake Erie Concrete	Concrete supply	32
Mammoet Canada	Crane operations	28

With about 300 workers on site at peak construction, the Comber Wind project has benefited greatly from the contributions of local tradespeople. Throughout construction, Brookfield has been fully compliant with the Green Energy and Green Economy Act by sourcing at least 95 percent of all onsite craft labour within Ontario.

## Protecting the environment

Brookfield and its contractors have taken a variety of measures during construction to protect the local ecology, including steps to protect a number of seldom-seen species.

- We identified potential habitat areas of the eastern fox snake and minimized disturbance of these areas. We also trained workers to identify and report sightings of this reptile, and scouted crane movements to prevent accidental contact.
- We took steps to avoid construction activity near a bobolink bird habitat area.
- In cooperation with the Essex Regional Conservation Authority, we installed box culverts to minimize constrictions of water flow and to avoid flooding (see photo).
- We tested all turbine sites for soybean cyst nematodes, and followed strict protocols for preventing the spread of this agricultural pest from one field to another.
- We identified and reported other special species – such as the Kentucky coffee tree and maple leaf mussels – to conservation authorities, and followed strict protocols to minimize construction impacts.
- We also undertook an Environmental Management System Assessment to determine how well the project conformed to Brookfield’s environmental policy and plan, and the results show an excellent performance.



## Community involvement

Brookfield is proud to support initiatives in the communities where we operate. We recently contributed \$25,000 for dressing room improvements at the Kingsville Arena. And, we made a financial contribution to the Comber Agricultural Fair, where a budding artist (see picture) won a prize for her wind turbine sculpture.



## Brookfield proposes to merge renewable power assets

Within a few months, the Comber and Gosfield Wind Farms are expected to become part of a far greater company. These operations are among power plants owned by the Brookfield Renewable Power Fund. The Fund is expected to merge its renewable energy assets with Brookfield Renewable Power's larger portfolio of hydro and wind assets. This would create a newly combined entity – Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners – with 179 power plants in Canada, the U.S. and Brazil, as well as a project development pipeline of 2,000 MW of renewable energy projects. Richard Legault, Brookfield's CEO of power operations, says the new company "will rank among the very best renewable businesses globally in terms of its quality of assets, scale of operating platform, geographic diversification, access to capital and global reach."



## The science of turbine noise and health

*Environmental Health* magazine has published a new, peer-reviewed study by two Ontario environmental health scientists. The authors have expertise in the evaluation of human health and ecological risk assessment, and have been expert witnesses on personal health impacts of wind turbines. After studying peer-reviewed scientific literature and government agency reports, the two scientists conclude:

- Annoyance has been associated with wind turbine noise, but found mostly to be related to subjective factors such as visual impact, attitude to wind turbines and sensitivity to noise.
- To date, no peer-reviewed articles demonstrate a direct link between people living near modern wind turbines and any resulting physiological health effects.
- Self-reported health effects of some people living near wind turbines are more likely due to symptoms from an annoyed state than from wind turbines themselves. A change in the environment is associated with the reported effects and not a turbine-specific variable like audible noise or infrasound.
- A heightened sense of annoyance, agitation or fear is not limited to the wind turbine sector. A proposed gas, coal, nuclear or waste-fired plant can also cause an unusually high level of concern to some people who do not want them near their homes.

Dr. John Howard, a paediatrician and chair of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, says wind turbines are beneficial and vastly superior to alternative forms of energy generation. "The Ontario government is making the right decision in getting rid of coal (plants). The certainty about coal use causing 316 deaths and 158,000 illnesses in Ontario in 2010 far outweighs the uncertainty about wind turbines and human health." And Lel Morrison, a member of Ontario Nurses for the Environment representing the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, says his association does not support a moratorium on wind turbines because the predominance of expert opinion related to adverse health effects suggests that it is not supported by the evidence.

## Catching wind of your thoughts

Keeping in touch with the community is important and developing wind farms works best with an exchange of ideas and information. We welcome your input, comments and questions:

### General inquiries and comments

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Check [gosfieldcomberwind.com](http://gosfieldcomberwind.com) for the latest information on the Gosfield and Comber projects.

[brookfieldpower.com](http://brookfieldpower.com)

# Brookfield



## Quick facts

- Ontario has the potential to develop enough wind power over the next eight years to create 80,000 person-years of employment, according to a study by Clear-Sky Advisors, a research and advisory firm specializing in renewable energy and clean technology. Of the \$16 billion forecast to be invested in wind energy projects, \$8.5 billion would be invested locally, and \$1.1 billion in tax revenue and lease payments would accrue to host municipalities and landowners over the first 20 years of power purchasing agreements.
- Across Canada, a record 1,338 megawatts of wind power capacity is projected to be installed in 2011. This represents almost \$3.5 billion of investment and 13,500 person-years of employment. By year end, the country's total 5,300 MW of wind capacity could power 1.5 million Canadian homes per year.
- Today, more people than ever get their electrical energy from renewable sources such as wind, waterpower and solar. According to the Global Wind Energy Council, renewable energy now supplies about 16% of global energy consumption and delivers close to 20% of electricity production. And, about 50% of new, additional power generating capacity comes from renewables.

Note: This newsletter contains statements that are forward-looking in nature and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties that may cause actual results or performance to differ materially from results or performance expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements. The risks and uncertainties that could influence actual results are described in the Annual Information Forms for Brookfield Renewable Power and Brookfield Renewable Power Fund, and other documents filed from time to time with regulatory authorities and on [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com).

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