LAND USE FOR WIND AND SOLAR FACILITIES

What's an Independent Power Producer (IPP)?

We talk about IPPs a lot. An IPP is a company separate from SaskPower that we select to develop, construct, own, operate and maintain power generation facilities. The IPP sells the power to SaskPower.

How do areas get selected for wind and solar projects?

Many factors are considered such as:

- available suitable land with optimal sun and/or wind exposure
- how close it is to existing power infrastructure like transmission lines, switching stations or substations
- feedback from Rightsholders, municipal authorities, landowners and other stakeholders

How much land is required?



A 200-megawatt (MW) wind facility typically has about 50 wind turbines installed, usually one per quarter section. In total, they may span 30,000 to 40,000 acres, but most of the land keeps its original use.



Depending on design, a 100-MW solar facility typically requires 640-940 acres (four to six quarter sections) of land.

How much do they power?

A 200-MW wind facility produces the equivalent of enough power for about 100,000 Saskatchewan homes.

A 100-MW solar facility produces the equivalent of enough power for about 25,000 Saskatchewan homes.

To prepare their proposals, developers will seek land options for what land they'll need for their project. Once an IPP is selected, only a small portion of the land optioned will end up being developed. Farming can continue around wind turbines and only small amounts of land are taken up for access roads and easements.



RENEWABLE Power Generation

Who is responsible to clean up a wind or solar facility site?

The IPP is responsible for decommissioning the facility and remediating the site when it's time. They must follow all local, provincial and federal laws and any agreements they may have with landowners.

Do IPPs pay taxes?

Yes. IPPs aren't exempt from municipal property taxes unless a municipality chooses to make them exempt.

Can I mortgage my land if an IPP is on it?

Yes. Typically, IPP agreements allow landowners to sell or transfer the title of their land, but it's important to discuss this with the IPP before signing.

If an IPP has an easement on my land, can it restrict my activities on that land?

Normal farming operations are typically not impacted. Some wind companies may request easements to make sure the land is kept as is at the time of signing an agreement with the landowner.

