Wind is more than just a clean energy resource, it's a great investment according to the 2018 Wind Technologies Market Report from The Department of Energy. The analysis shows that costs to build and operate wind farms are so low, it would be cheaper than the expected cost of buying fuel for an equivalent natural gas plant. Wind prices have declined 69 percent.
since 2009, making it the
cheapest energy source
of the 2010s. This record
low is projected to have a
long-term value that
might provide as a
"hedge" against
unpredictable natural gas
prices.

Fossil fuels not only pose
an environmental risk, but
a financial one as well.
Because wind has no fuel
cost, Power Purchase
Agreements (PPA) can
be locked in at a set price
for many years, providing
the certainty that
businesses and utilities are looking for. Conversely, fossil fuel costs can fluctuate greatly, making it
difficult to accurately forecast. This unpredictability makes for a trickier investment.

The Department of Energy's analysis also found that wind power purchase agreement prices are at
historic lows. The national average levelized price of wind PPAs has dropped to below $20 per megawatt
hour (MWh). Today's PPA prices are the results of a combination of higher capacity factors, declining
installation and operating costs and low interest rates.

Even with advancements in wind technology in recent years, wind hardware prices continue to be
affordable to install and operate. Turbine prices have dropped nearly 50 percent since 2008, despite new
designs and advancements that increase the typical power output. That means that turbines are
producing larger amounts of energy faster than ever without breaking the bank!

The United States just hit
the 100 gigawatt (GW)
mark for wind capacity in
2019, and this is
expected to increase to
125 GW in 2020 with
more projects and
repowering in the works.
That's 44 percent of
planned electric
generation capacity
additions for the year.

Rural communities, especially in the Midwest, are benefitting immensely from the renewable energy
developments that provide well-paying jobs and economic development to their communities. Wind farms
provide a source of new tax revenue for counties and townships, which is often used to help pay for road and bridge improvements, emergency services, schools and teacher salaries, as well as to reduce taxes.

Wind energy is a safe, affordable, and reliable energy source that offers financial prosperity for rural communities and helps meet our energy needs and carbon reduction goals. With no fuel cost, there's less financial risk for utilities and their customers. Wind energy is a smart choice for small towns and corporate investors alike.