Community Benefit Agreements

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1. Direct and Reliable Funding

Community agreements provide guaranteed, tangible benefits to the communities that host development projects. The benefits are delivered over the entire development lifetime, from planning through end-of-life status, creating stable, long-term revenue sources for the community.

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2. Investments in Local Services & Infrastructure

Funds from community agreements can support community priorities, including:

* Emergency services (fire, police, medical)
* Road and infrastructure improvements
* Public buildings and facilities
* Community amenities

This funding can help communities grow and thrive, without raising local taxes.

3. Economic Benefits Beyond Taxes

Community agreements provide financial support in addition to property tax revenue. Typical benefit categories include:

- Increased local investment
- Support for community amenities
- Measured and verifiable community wealth-creation and wealth-building

4. Strong communities invite collaboration

Community Benefit Practices are proven to achieve open communication among project developers, local leaders from all walks of life, and public infrastructure developers. These practices can ensure that development projects are aligning with local needs, to deliver agreed upon benefits. This can result in responsible development that invests in and helps achieve the community's needs for long-term growth and sustainability.

Local food, energy, and water projects can generate lasting community benefits. Contact us to explore smart, community-focused and legally-binding solutions that integrate with your community while supporting local circular economy projects.

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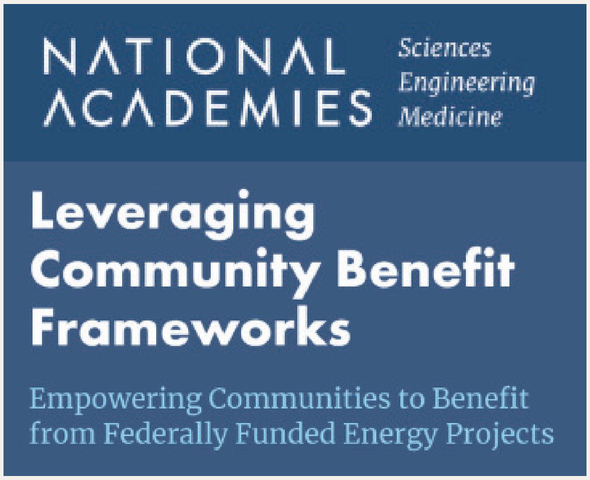
Learn more about community benefit practices, policies, and plans

Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) are legally binding obligations between a community and project developers.

CBAs are a valuable tool that a community can use to define and shape its future.

CBAs can ensure that developments will generate progress while maintaining community health and wealth.



nationalacademies.org/publications/27996

Check these resources to learn how CBAs can ensure that all new large developments will become and remain valuable, long-term community assets.

- Blair, James J. A., et al. 2025. "Building Community Power: Community Benefits Agreements Across the Global Energy Supply Chain," *Climate and Community Institute*. https://climateandcommunity.org/research/cbas.
- Clean Air Task Force. 2026. *Community Benefits Resource Inventory*. *https://www.catf.us/infrastructure-deployment/community-benefits-resource-inventory/*.
- Columbia University, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. 2026. *Community Benefits Agreements Database*. *https://climate.law.columbia.edu/content/community-benefits-agreements-database*.
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- EnergyDemocracy.net. 2026. *Principles of Energy Democracy* [open-source]. https://energy-democracy.net/principals/.
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- U.S. Department of Energy. 2024. *Local Benefit Mechanisms*. https://energy.gov/eere/wind/windexchange/windexchange/local-benefit-mechanisms.
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We can create our own local developments! The National Coalition for Community Capital, headquartered in Michigan, is pioneering diversified community investment financing (DCIFs), including one here in Lansing!