

# Genesee County Economic Development Center

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The Genesee County Economic Development Center (GCEDC) is located in Genesee County, New York. Created in 1969, GCEDC's vision is to, "Foster increased economic activity for our community by providing a high quality of life for our residents and their families. The GCEDC will enable this by progressively marketing our community to businesses facilitating business capital investment, which contributes to the creation and retention of quality jobs."



One of GCEDC's current projects is to incentivize commercial and industrial development on GCEDC-owned parcels throughout the County. The Center accomplishes this by working with taxing entities, power authorities, and other groups to create a business atmosphere where new or growing entities can thrive.

In early 2009, Emergent started a discussion about wind power development with GCEDC. Wind power can be a perfect economic development tool when attempted properly. In this case, the vision is to locate wind projects on-site and sell green power directly to future tenants at a reduced rate. Cheaper and environmentally friendly, renewable power is an ideal way to incentivize large industry to locate facilities in Genesee County. The parcels that GCEDC controls appeared to be optimal for wind power. A serious exploration of potential wind power development, spearheaded by Emergent, began.

Emergent completed General Resource Assessments (GRAs) for six different parcels totaling over 2,000 acres. The work was completed in less than two months as GCEDC was then negotiating with various tenants looking for incentives such as cheaper electricity. Four of the six sites have an opportunity for wind power development. The other two sites are restricted by height due to a nearby airport. With the information provided in the GRAs, GCEDC and Emergent have identified the top two sites to move forward on more in-depth project feasibility work, including measuring the wind resource and exploring financing and ownership models.

This project is a perfect example of two things: First, wind can be an economic development tool. Second, the GRA provided GCEDC with the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions to move forward on specific project sites without wasting both large amounts of capital and time on feasibility work for sites that already contained fatal flaws. The GRA is an important tool to vet possible wind power sites, ranking them for continued work – overall, GRAs save a significant amount of time and money in the full wind power development process.