



Summary:

Community Engagement Guidelines for Wind Energy Projects

Version 1.1 – 5 December 2025

© WWEA 2025

World Wind Energy Association e.V. WWEA

Charles-de-Gaulle-Str. 5

53129 Bonn, Germany

www.WWindEA.org

Phone +49 228 24269 800

secretariat@wwindea.org

Summary of WWEA Community Engagement Guidelines for Wind Energy Projects

The **World Wind Energy Association (WWEA)** has developed these Community Engagement Guidelines to support the responsible development of onshore and offshore wind projects through inclusive, transparent, and context-sensitive engagement with local communities.

Purpose and Applicability

- The guidelines apply across the **entire project lifecycle**—from planning through decommissioning.
- They are intended for use by developers, financiers, regulators, and governments, and are especially relevant for projects seeking WWEA endorsement or access to international financing.

Core Principles

All projects aligning with the guidelines should adhere to seven foundational principles:

1. **Transparency & Disclosure** – Share accessible, timely, and complete project information.
2. **Early & Continuous Engagement** – Begin dialogue early and maintain it throughout.
3. **Inclusivity & Protection of Vulnerable Groups** – Engage all social groups equitably.
4. **Respect for Local Contexts** – Recognize cultural, social, and governance norms.
5. **Fair Benefit-Sharing** – Deliver tangible and equitable benefits to host communities.
6. **Grievance Redress Mechanism** – Operate a reliable, accessible system to resolve concerns.
7. **Monitoring & Accountability** – Track and report engagement results openly.

Lifecycle-Based Process

The guidelines outline engagement actions and deliverables for each project phase:

- **Pre-Feasibility:** Stakeholder mapping, baseline assessments.
- **ESIA Stage:** Culturally appropriate consultations and disclosure.
- **Permitting & Design:** Present benefit strategies, establish liaison structures.
- **Construction:** Maintain community communication and grievance response.

- **Operation:** Conduct annual reporting, impact tracking, and satisfaction surveys.
- **Decommissioning:** Engage on closure plans and legacy contributions.

Special Focus: Offshore Wind Projects

Offshore developments must address:

- Marine stakeholder engagement (e.g., fisherfolk, port authorities)
- Marine biodiversity and cultural heritage
- Jurisdictional and cross-border coordination
- Tailored benefit programs for coastal communities

Benefit-Sharing Models

Projects should implement **at least three community benefit mechanisms**, including one financial. Options include:

- Revenue sharing, community funds, preferential electricity tariffs or co-ownership
- Local hiring, infrastructure upgrades, or education programs
- Environmental restoration and cultural preservation

Grievance Mechanism and Compliance

- A formal, culturally adapted **Grievance Redress Mechanism** should be active from the planning stage.
- **Monitoring frameworks**, third-party audits, and periodic reporting are recommended.
- A comprehensive **annual report** and engagement forum are encouraged.