

# Environmental nonprofits can be (and often already are) advocates AND partners in development.

## The role of environmental nonprofits in the renewable energy-environment interface

### Your development toolbox

- 🔧 Helping you create tools or methods to guide siting decisions
- 🔪 Voluntary contributions to targeted conservation projects
- 🗺️ Advising and sharing resources
- 🔧 Engaging with communities/serving as a community partner
- 🔧 Policymaker education
- 🔧 Your bridge between diverse stakeholders

***We need to access and utilize all the tools in our toolbox when it comes to siting and permitting and find the right partners to help us succeed in development.***

### Background

- ✂ Relationships between nonprofits and businesses can have a number of benefits for both parties.
- ✂ Environmental nonprofits played an active role in supporting renewable energy during initial widespread adoption in the U.S.
- ✂ They may find themselves now navigating challenges between climate change mitigation versus local environmental concerns.

### Methods

- ✓ Interviewed 19 staff members representing 13 ENPOs from March to October 2023 who worked in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Texas.
- ✓ Semi-structured interviews conducted via Zoom

### Key Results

- ✂ ENPOs want to become more engaged in the sector and many are trying to figure out the best way to do so.
- ✂ ENPOs aren't collaborating with each other as much as they could be.
- ✂ Dichotomy between climate change and biodiversity can be divisive.

Publication forthcoming, please reach out if you'd like to know when it is officially published!

### What participants had to say:

“We can help find that balance and work with several partners. I work with people all the way from the climate lobby to the Stockman’s Association.”

“Most renewable energy developers...don’t get into the business trying to cut trees down. But they have other demands and priorities they have to work through... It can be difficult sometimes if...your goals aren’t 100% aligned.”

“I would like to see a more solutions-based conversation as opposed to all the reasons why we can’t do it.”

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