

# Utility shows that it can be a real-life corporate good neighbor

There's been a lot of talk over the past few years about companies practicing openness in the way they deal with their neighbors and the communities within which they do business. While it's always refreshing to hear a business talk about being a good corporate citizen, actions speak louder than words.

Recently, we've seen a good example of how a company puts words into action.

Green Mountain Power's wind turbine electric generating facility currently under construction in Searsburg provides a model of how a company can be a good corporate neighbor. Throughout the entire process of planning, permitting, and constructing the \$10.4 million project, GMP has made every effort to include both the state agencies responsible for permitting, and the local community.

They have shown a sensitivity to the environment and have worked to minimize the facility's impact. Efforts including burying cables along the ridgeline, painting the towers off-white to minimize their visibility, hiding the transmission cables with a buffer of trees, cutting a narrow swath for their access road, and

choosing a site that is both accessible from a state highway and far enough away from any population centers so as not to be a visible eyesore.

Where there have been contentious issues, such as with neighbors unhappy with the site location or concerns about disrupting an adjacent cemetery, GMP has addressed the problems straight on, admitted it can't be all things to all people, and tried to do everything possible to be accommodating.

Another thing that we find particularly refreshing is the use of local subcontractors in constructing the site. Even though the general contractor is out of California, a list of subs shows businesses from Readsboro, Wilmington, Jacksonville, Bennington, and throughout Vermont.

Green Mountain Power has characterized the windmill facility as a prototype for future wind-generated power plants. We think it can also serve as a model for how to do business with the bottom line in mind, and be a good corporate neighbor at the same time.

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