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Hello and welcome to the Ecofin podcast. Thank you for joining us. I'm Matt Ordway, Managing Director for Ecofin's Private Renewable Energy team. Today I will discuss some of the benefits of wind power and why we're excited to participate in the wind industry in the United States.

First of all, wind power is good for the environment. The wind industry plays a key role in achieving Net Zero. The wind energy generated in the United States helps avoid 327 million metric tons of CO2 emissions per year. To put that in context, that's approximately 71 million cars worth of emissions. Unlike conventional power sources, wind turbines do not consume water. In 2020, the US power industry consumed 47.5 trillion gallons of water for cooling. Replacing just a small percentage of thermal generation with wind generation could result in significant reductions in water consumption. There are 70,000 wind turbines in the US with a capacity of 139GW. These 70,000 turbines generate enough energy to power 43 million homes.

Another benefit of the wind industry is that it provides over 100,000 jobs in the United States. Since these wind jobs exist in all 50 states, there is strong support from Democrats and Republicans. These jobs are in various parts of the industry. Over 20,000 of them are in the manufacturing sector in over 500 different factories. The US wind industry even creates jobs outside the US as many of the wind turbine and component manufacturers are based in Europe, Asia and South America.

Given what's going on in the Ukraine right now and the impact we're seeing on energy prices, countries around the world have a heightened desire for energy independence. Since wind power is a free local resource, it helps countries work towards achieving that goal.

The wind industry even provides benefits to the local economy where wind farms are constructed. Each wind project pumps money into the local economy through taxes and lease payments to landowners. In total, wind projects deliver an estimated \$1.9 billion in state & local tax payments and land-lease payment each year. Since wind turbines have a small footprint, they don't use up a lot of land. This means that they can be erected on existing farms and ranches to generate clean power while still allowing the farmer or rancher to continue to work their land.

Aside from the benefits that I've already mentioned, many investors seek to invest in wind assets because they provide stable and predictable cash yields. Additionally, investments in wind assets are not correlated with the broader equity markets. Over the past decade, US wind power capacity has grown by 15% per year and is now the largest source of renewable power in the US. This growth is expected to continue with a growth rate of \$10B each year.

Next, let's discuss why wind is Green. Is it because it is good for the environment or because it is good for the wallet? The answer is both. With no CO2 emissions or water consumption, it is easy to understand why wind is good for the environment so let's talk about the economic benefits of wind.

As the wind industry has grown, the industry has benefitted from cost reductions. These cost reductions have helped wind compete with traditional energy sources and gain market share. When compared to coal fired generation, onshore wind power has a lower unsubsidized levelized cost of energy. This lower cost is ultimately good for consumers. Also, in most locations, onshore wind competes head-to-head with combined cycle gas fired generation. Now, with the increasing cost of gas, the scales are tipping more and more in favor of wind.

As wind gets more and more cost competitive, it should continue to increase market share. In turn, we believe this should allow the wind energy industry to remain at the forefront of the energy transition and play a key role in achieving Net Zero.

Thank you for listening and have a great day.

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