

Industrial wind turbines produce very little electricity, are unreliable, and will not reduce air pollution.

“No existing windplants located in the PJM (Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland) region have achieved a capacity factor of more than 30 percent. This means that 70 percent of the time, they are not producing electricity.”

http://www.stopillwind.org/lowerlevel.php?content=topten_4

“The Mid-Atlantic region requires the PJM grid to supply many millions of households with about 163,000 MWs annually, with residential usage increasing two percent each year—far more than the tiny fraction of a percent a wind facility would contribute to the supply. A windplant with a rated capacity of 40 MWs, which actually will produce electricity at only 30 percent of its rated capacity via the capacity factor, delivering about 14 MWs of energy (but not capacity) annually to the grid, with the potential to power about 9,000 households if it weren't so unreliable, would be so statistically negligible as to be meaningless in terms of cleaner air and improved health—.0000858 of one percent of the PJMs annual production.”

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“Despite their size, the turbines produce only small amounts of electricity. They produce electricity only when the wind is blowing in the right speed range. That is, they start producing with wind speed of roughly 6 miles per hour, reach rated capacity at about 35 mph and cut off (to avoid equipment damage) at about 56 mph. (Some don't restart again until the wind speed drops to about 45 mph.) The net effect is that wind turbines have low “capacity factors” compared to reliable, base load generating units.”

“All the 12,000+ windmills now scattered across thousands of acres in 30 states in the U.S. produce less electricity than some single, reliable electric generating plants.”

“Their output is intermittent, highly volatile and largely unpredictable and can't be counted on when electricity demand is highest; e.g. during hot summer afternoons.”

“Advocates ignore the huge costs of subsidies and fail to acknowledge that reliable generating units must be kept available and running to balance and “back up” the intermittent, volatile output from wind turbines so that electricity always will be available when required by electric customers. Windmills use transmission capacity inefficiently, adding to costs.”

“Advocates generally ignore the fact that backup generating units must be immediately available and running at less than their peak efficiency or in spinning reserve mode, and that backup units continue to emit while in these modes. Also under “cap and trade” rules, credits for sulfur dioxide or nitrogen oxides emissions that may be displaced by wind could be sold to other emitters, with NO reduction in those emissions.”

An analysis of Whole Foods' January 9, 2006, “wind energy” Purchase, January 27, 2006 by Glenn R. Schleede

<http://www.stopillwind.org/downloads/WindCosts-Schleede.pdf>

“Despite persistent claims that it will, wind technology will not “power” any homes unless those homes have an expensive battery storage system.”

<http://www.stopillwind.org/lowerlevel.php?content=WindEnergyFacts>

In 2004, E.ON Netz (a German company that operates the world's largest number of wind turbines) "admitted that every megawatt (MW) of installed wind capacity required 0.8 MW of backup from 'shadow power stations'" and in 2005 they stated that "traditional power stations with capacities equal to 90% of the installed wind capacity, must be permanently online in order to guarantee power supply at all times".

<http://www.windwatch.org/articles/3191>