



Wind Energy: Effects on the Environment

Wind power is one of the cleanest of all available energy sources. In fact, it produces no atmospheric emissions at all.

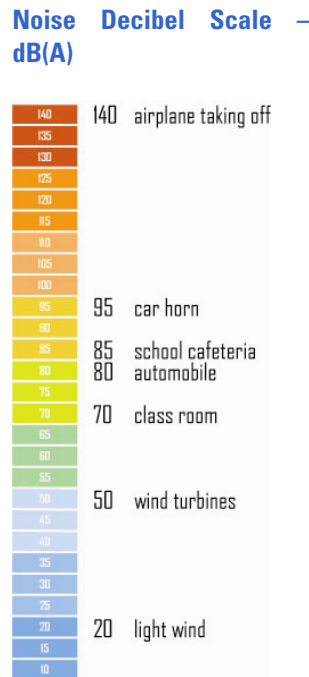
Nevertheless, wind energy is associated with certain negative effects on the environment as any development project does on human and natural environments. There are several myths about these negative effects and it is important to remember that steps can be taken to reduce any real negative impact.

Are Wind Turbines Noisy?

One of the biggest myths about wind turbines is that they produce a great deal of noise. While they do make noise, its level is, in fact, comparatively low.

Audible noise is caused by wind moving through and around the turbines blades and by the electrical generator. New technology, however, has significantly reduced the amount of noise turbine blades and generators produce.

As a result, it is quite possible to stand at the base of a wind turbine and carry on a conversation without raising one's voice.










Source : Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Énergie (Agency for the Environment and Energy Control) (France)

Do Wind Turbines Affect Birds?

Wind turbines have very little impact on bird mortality compared to other causes of death. According to studies, most birds avoid wind turbines. However, studies are systematically carried out as part of evaluations of the environmental impact of wind farms in order to evaluate the resources and identify appropriate mitigation measures.

Causes of Accidental Death Among Birds - Number per 10,000 deaths

	1	Wind Turbines
	50	Communications Towers
	710	Pesticides
	850	Motor Vehicles
	1060	Power Lines
	1370	Cats
	5820	Buildings and Windows