

## Talk by Hans Schreuder, Harbertonford, 7 November 2011

After John's illustrations about all that's wrong with wind turbine installations, allow me to summarise the main points to emphasise the basic flaws inherent in the promotion of these machines as "clean renewable energy". Fundamentally, there really is nothing green about wind turbines nor the energy they produce.

Wind turbines are promoted as reducing carbon emissions, the culprit blamed for causing global warming, despite the absence of any progressive warming this century.

In reality wind turbines increase the total emissions of carbon dioxide for these reasons:

- ◆ Emissions from the mining, processing and manufacturing of turbine parts. Some 4000 lbs of rare earth elements are needed per turbine, almost all coming from China, where they create substantial amounts of obnoxious pollution that is a serious threat to the local population and wildlife
- ◆ Emissions from their transportation to the coast/harbour in the country of origin
- ◆ Emissions from their transportation to an English harbour, some 12,000 miles taking 50 days
- ◆ Emissions from their transportation to site by massive trucks, needing outriders
- ◆ Emissions from the preparation of the site: concrete, steel, roads, cables, substations
- ◆ Emissions from the installation of the turbine itself, using huge fossil fuel driven cranes
- ◆ Emissions from the decommissioning of the turbine
- ◆ Emissions from power needed for lights, control motors plus heating turbine blades in winter
- ◆ Emissions from the ever ongoing maintenance
- ◆ Emissions from the fossil fuel supply (typically gas) that MUST continually be running (in a low efficiency mode) to augment the intermittent output from turbines

Then there are the financial and efficiency aspects:

- Only if the wind does not blow too gently or too strongly, can it be said that wind energy is "free". And only at a measly 25% efficiency of the rated output capacity!
- Oil, gas, uranium, thorium and coal are all free too. The costs come in when we mine these resources and convert them into energy. The same too with wind and of course the sun! Wind energy (and solar electricity panels) could be termed a form of legalised looting in that in 2010 the amount of US federal subsidies for wind energy exceeded the total of all other conventional sources combined.

Who do you think pays for these enormous subsidies? The Government? No, YOU pay for them through higher fuel bills and higher taxes. The Government merely distributes the money it gets from you, it has no money of its own. They are currently printing money, an act of desperation that is likely to rebound on them.

Back to the science:

When our Government representatives decide on an objective (in this case to reduce fossil fuel usage) they are inundated by lobbyists promoting ideas, like wind energy. Instead of taking these proposals at face value our representatives should seek scientific proof of that their proposals are cost-beneficial. ***It is disconcerting that no one is doing this!***

In changing the energy sources we have successfully used since the 1800s a full unbiased scientific assessment of all technical, economic and environmental aspects is needed and carbon dioxide would fall under environmental.

Another aspect of wind turbines which is only now coming to light is the health implications of their low-frequency vibrations. The action of the wind driving the turbine blades creates ground and air-based shockwaves which in turn create a noise than is not audible to our ears but nonetheless felt in our bodies and this noise induces a stress response in our system and appears to be resulting in unforeseen consequences. Wind turbines are not in fact wind farms at all, they are wind conversion factories and should be subjected to the same rigorous tests and restrictions as for any other type of factory. Instead they are prematurely hailed as the answer to our energy independence.

I wish to refer you to a quote in one of my hand-outs in which Matt Ridley states:

“To persist with a policy of pursuing subsidized renewable energy in the midst of a terrible recession, at a time when vast reserves of cheap low-carbon gas have suddenly become available is so perverse it borders on the insane. Nothing but bureaucratic inertia and vested interest can explain it.”

And vested interests are the driving force behind the installation of these turbines, irrespective of the facts or actual damage caused to the areas where they are sited. The acquisition of money is the new crusade.

Your Prime Minister, your Prince of Wales, the Deputy PM's wife, all wish to promote their green credentials by including wind turbines in their financial packages - all of these subsidies and high financial returns paid for ... guess ... YOU!

Wind turbines are not farms, they are industrial installations that make the rich richer and the poor poorer by being the ones paying the subsidies and bearing the higher energy costs. These days “green” appears to be a mask for unbridled greed, obscuring truthful reality. Using wind turbines to run a country's electricity supply could be likened to collecting dew to provide a city's water supply.

Another aspect I wish to emphasize is that hardly any part of a wind turbine can be recycled (the same goes for solar panels).

Wind turbines are the second worst “green energy” suggestion, pipped only by the even worse statistics for solar electricity.

To conclude: There is nothing green about wind turbines nor the energy they produce, nothing.

Please feel free to ask me any questions about carbon dioxide or the physics and thermodynamics involved in our atmosphere and I will do my best to answer them to my best ability.

Please visit [www.energypresentation.info](http://www.energypresentation.info) for a most extensive library of proper facts on wind.

Thank you.