

## What the Ontario government isn't telling you about costly green energy

When electricity prices skyrocket, everyone suffers. The whole economy slows down. Already firms are leaving Ontario for cheaper hydro elsewhere. For every "green" job created 2-4 are lost because of higher electricity prices. Much of the increases are needed to pay for green energy schemes.

### Wind turbines and solar panels can't replace coal

The provincial government says renewable energy is needed to shut down unhealthy coal and save CO<sub>2</sub>. However, wind turbines and solar panels produce intermittent, unpredictable electricity. They need more fossil fuel (gas) plants operated inefficiently 24/7 to back them up. Gas plants are more dangerous than coal because their finer particulate emissions lodge deeper in the lungs. By supplying new gas plants to back up wind means **we pay twice for wind energy.**

### We pay for wind energy even when not needed

The Ontario government has planned about 6,000 wind turbines across the countryside. It has committed us to pay producers excessive "feed-in-tariffs" guaranteed at many times the market price-- whether we need the power or not.

Often the wind blows when we can't use the excess wind power on the grid and since it can't be stored, it has to be sold off cheap to the U.S.A. and Quebec. The Ontario Auditor General has noted "in 2010, 86% of wind power was produced on days when Ontario was already in a net export position". They paid us only 3 or 4¢/kWh while it cost us 8¢/kWh to generate.

Sometimes *we even have to pay the U.S.A.* to take it off the grid to prevent surges and grid crashing. The Auditor General has warned that "electricity consumers may have to pay renewable energy producers up to \$250 million a year *not* to produce electricity".

### Where do the profits go?

In one year, a single wind turbine produces \$300,000 worth of electricity. But electricity consumers pay \$800,000 for that electricity. Who wins? **Mostly foreign multinationals and big oil and gas conglomerates** who own the turbines.

### Wind turbines don't lower CO<sub>2</sub>

The Ontario government says the wind turbines are needed to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and halt global warming. But the Auditor General says the Ministry doesn't even know how much gas-fired backup power will be needed. Yet scientific studies of existing wind energy facilities in Germany, Denmark, and the U.S.A. have demonstrated that **greenhouse gas savings are negligible and may actually increase** with the operation of backup for wind turbines.

### Wind turbines do not have a benign environmental footprint

Biologists globally are already observing habitat disturbance from low frequency noise and vibration, habitat fragmentation and abandonment and reduced species reproduction and survival near the turbines. Migratory birds and bats are particularly vulnerable. At Wolfe Island near Kingston, Ontario each wind turbine killed 13.4 birds during the first year. The cumulative effect is not being considered: multiply by 86 turbines and by their 20 year life expectancy. Many of the mortalities are species already in decline. How many will be extinct when over 6,000 turbines are operating?

A fairly small wind energy development of 46 turbines requires 40 kilometres of gravel access roads (13,018 triaxel truckloads) and 46,000 tonnes of concrete and steel rebar. How many new mega quarries will be needed for 20,000 wind turbines? New transmission lines (costing consumers \$5 billion) will replace thousands of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbing trees.

Projects have been constructed, approved or proposed near critical ecosystems and provincially significant wetlands including Wolfe Island, Ostrander Point, Arran Lake, Point Pelee National Park, coastal wetlands associated with Lakes St. Clair, Erie, Huron and Ontario, the Bruce Peninsula, and Manitoulin Island.

### **Provincial Government exempts turbines from Endangered Species Act**

No wonder the Ontario government has furtively slipped weakening amendments to the Endangered Species Act and other environmental legislation into its recent omnibus budget bill **exempting wind developers from prosecution for destroying or damaging habitat of endangered species.**

The ecological damage has serious negative economic impact. The most vulnerable species to wind turbines are the species responsible for agricultural insect and vermin control: bats, raptors, and song birds. Each bat consumes its body weight in mosquitoes in one night. Bats are already seriously in decline. Bear in mind the threat from West Nile virus.

### **Do wind turbines adversely affect human health?**

The Auditor General has noted serious flaws in the Chief Medical Officer of Health's report which denied a direct link between the turbines and adverse health

affects. It presented no original research, nor did it interview actual people.

Dr. Robert McMurtry, former Dean of Medicine at University of Western Ontario has found 135 families in Ontario already suffering. Many have had to abandon their homes because the vibrations, air pressure differential and infrasound were affecting their health.

### **The Samsung agreement**

The ministry awarded a generous untendered contract to a consortium of Korean companies (Samsung) to build renewable energy projects and equipment in Ontario-- giving a foreign multinational priority access to the Ontario grid. The auditor General has pointed out that **"no economic analysis or business case was done to determine whether the agreement with the consortium was economically prudent and cost-effective,** and neither the OEB nor the OPA was consulted about the agreement".

The Auditor adds: **"billions of dollars were committed to renewable energy without fully evaluating the impact, the trade-offs, and the alternatives through a comprehensive business-case analysis"**.

Isn't it time for a full public investigation of the green energy scheme?

#### **Check out:**

[www.freewco.blogspot.ca](http://www.freewco.blogspot.ca)  
<http://ontario-wind-resistance.org/>  
[www.windvigilance.com](http://www.windvigilance.com)  
[windpowergrab.wordpress.com](http://windpowergrab.wordpress.com)



## **What you need to know about your hydro bill**

- "Ontario residents will pay an average of \$285-million more for electricity **each year for the next 20 years as a result of subsidies to renewable energy companies**".
- "By the end of 2013, **Ontario household power rates will be the second-highest in North America** (after PEI), and they will continue to accelerate".
- "Even more alarming for Ontario's economic competitiveness, **businesses and industrial customers will be hit by almost \$12-billion in additional costs over the same period**".
- "The province's already beleaguered manufacturing heartland sees its **former electricity-cost advantage transformed into a competitive millstone**".

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