WIND FARM SCAM 2

Introduction

Wind power has more than a dozen problems that should have prevented us from embracing wind farms but, because of our irrationality, here we are building more of them. It is even more irrational to continue when we know, with certainty, that the reason for embracing alternate power no longer exists – it was just another Green “Henny Penny” tale.

The main problems with wind power, which have already been discussed on the website, are; it is very expensive, it cannot provide base loads power, it is uncontrollable and inefficient. These four main problems should have stopped us building wind farms.

In this reading we are discussing several of the minor problems that wind farms have. These problems are small, and we can work around them or just tolerate the problem. During the discussion, do not overfocus on these small problems, thinking they can be solved while ignoring the major problems. The four major problems are the “showstoppers”.

The Reading covers some but not all the minor problems of wind farms.

SOME OTHER PROBLEMS OF WIND FARMS

When you are reading about these problems, keep in mind that conventional power has none of these problems. Are we really rational embracing wind power in the first place knowing that we would also have to live with the plethora of the other problems? Why are we doing this?

Killing Birds

The ‘NextEra’s’ Altamont Pass Wind Farm in the US has been operating since the 1980s. It has 5,000 wind turbines which have provided a good example of the average loss of bird life over long periods (i.e. 25 years or more) [1].

In the area there are; red-tailed hawks, burrowing owls, kestrels, as well as iconic golden eagles, bald eagles, and bats. These raptors – birds of prey – are particularly valued for their agricultural role in killing mice and other crop-damaging rodents.

That is before the environmental value of these birds are considered. Many of these are considered endangered and heavy penalties are used to stop people killing them or disturbing their habitat. Those breaking the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or the Eagle Protection Act, will be fined up to $250,000 or get two years imprisonment [2].

.Every year since the 1980s, this windfarm has killed thousands of birds – you read correctly, thousands of birds per year. This wind farm alone has killed more than 2,000 golden eagles. Remember there are 57,000 wind turbines in America [3].

This is a good example of the difference between Greens and environmentalists.

Environmentalists are appalled at the loss of these birds all over America and believe it should be stopped. The Greens, who hide behind the skirts of environmentalism to achieve their own aims, are willing to ignore this loss as wind power is more important to them than the environmental cost.

The Greens vigorously mislead and deceive everyone on this topic so it does not threaten wind farms - even fabricating data on the number of birds killed. For example, the Green U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hedges its ***annual*** windmill bird death estimates at between 100,000 to 444,000 dead birds. – a significant underestimation [4]. Other environmental sources believe the kill rate is between 2-10 million birds a year [5].

Why is there such a large difference in the numbers and how do the Greens do this?

The Greens deliberately only go out every 2-3 weeks to count dead birds – knowing many of the dead birds would have been removed by scavengers. Environmentalists go out daily.

The Greens only look in a small area (e.g. 30 metre diameter circle) under each turbine claiming birds outside their search area could have died of natural causes. Environmentalists search a much larger area saying the blade tip of a turbine travelling at several hundred miles per hour can throw a carcass a long way. Also injured birds might travel a lot further before they die.

The Greens only count dead birds showing a cut or dismemberment. The environmentalists say there are many ways that a bird can be killed by a turbine blade other than those two ways.

And so, the deceit goes on.

This is also a good example of the hypocrisy of our politicians as they favour the Green Movement over every other organisation and individual in our society to buy votes to keep themselves in power.

An American citizen who kills a bird or even possess eagle feathers from an already dead bird faces huge fines and prison time. In 2009, ExxonMobile was fined $600,000 for killing 85 common ducks and other birds that flew into uncovered tanks on its properties [6].

However, at the same time not one of the Green Movements' Wind Farms have been fined for killing millions of these birds over their forty-year history. Are the Greens really environmentalists?

Conventional Power Stations do not kill birds.

Medical Problems

The following medical problems are ***suggested*** to be caused by living near a wind turbine;

- Noise, headaches and blurred vision
- 'Shadow Flicker' leading to epilepsy seizures
- EMR electronic magnetic radiation problems
- Infra sound problems (ELF extremely low frequency)
- Sleep disturbance,
- Poor sleep quality,
- Poor quality of life, and
- Depression and anxiety

When the medical problems from wind turbines were first raised, the Green Movement was enraged even though no research had been investigated the problem. The people affected were abused, denigrated and mocked.

In a typical Green response, overnight several studies were "created" to support the Green outrage and, as usual, these were described as the best science possible. They weren't – they were junk science.

In the next two or three decades, better science was undertaken but the smell of the initial 'poor' science hung in the air poisoning the validity of what might have been good science. Even today the jury is still out. In the meantime, the 'goal; posts' had moved.

Wind farms were being sited at longer distances away from nearby inhabitants. If there were problems this could remove or at least reduce the problems – imagined or real.

Although offered on multiple occasions no Green supporters accepted offers to go and live near a turbine to "prove their point" – not that it would. Nor did suburbanites within the cities ever consider having the turbines built next door to them – throughout the city.

However, in practical terms, the value of real estate near wind farms dropped by an average of 30%. To avoid this problem and all other real or imagine problems wind farms started being built in the sea off the coast or in very remote areas. This significantly increased the cost of building and supporting the sites and the cost of the power they produced.

Synchronization Problems

Commercial electrical power is alternating current not a direct current. When using direct current there is no problems involved when you combine direct current electricity from two different generators.

When using alternating current there is a problem when you combine electricity from two or more generators. If the electricity is joined when the two sources are ‘out of phase’ the power, in effect ‘cancels’ one another out. So, the electricity must be “in phase” when they are combined.

This is a well known problem that has been solved in conventional power stations when combining the electricity from say 6-12 different generators. When through accident or incompetence, the problem is not solved it can cause havoc in the electrical grid (i.e. causing brown outs, or black outs on the grid).

The larger the number of generators of electricity that need to be combined ‘in phase’, the greater the chance that problems affecting the grid will occur.

Each wind turbine has its own generator producing electricity. Each wind farm can have hundreds or thousands of turbines producing electricity than need to be combined ‘in phase’. When combined, this electricity may then need to be combined with electricity produced by other wind farms, solar panel farms and conventional power stations. This can be done and is not a major problem.

However, looking at the reliability of the total electrical grid over say a year, the dramatic increase of generators from a dozen to thousands will mean that there is a greater chance of a failure in the grid.

Alternate power sources decrease the reliability of the grid. Once again, is it rational for us to embrace more problems for no reason?

Operating in a Harsh Environment

Conventional power is generated inside a large building that protects the generators from the elements. The “generator hall’ is cleaner than many kitchens or laundries in our society.

In contrast, the generators used in alternate energy must be situated out in the elements. The makers of this equipment do their best to protect the equipment from the elements, but this equipment will ‘wear out’ faster than the equipment in a conventional power station.

After decades of use, wind turbines have an average service life of between 10 and 15 years – not the 20 to 25 years claimed by turbine makers [7]. Their efficiency also decreases. A one mm build-up of bugs on the blades reduce efficiency by 25%. Some claim the modern wind turbine uses more energy in being built than it produces in its lifespan.

Solar panels instead of lasting 15 years and only losing 5% of their efficiency, are only lasting 10 years and losing 30% of their efficiency.

All these faults increase the already very high cost of alternate power. Why are we embracing these problems and abandoning the more reliable systems of conventional power?

Infrastructure Costs and Problems

To minimise costs, power generation should occur as close to the end users as possible for two reasons. The greater the distance between users and generators means increased costs of building transmission towers, cables and maintenance roads to reach the end user. Also, electricity is lost as it is carried over any distance. The greater the distance the greater the loss.

Because of the 'Nimby' [**N**ot **i**n **m**y **b**ack**y**ard] factor the solar farms and wind farms are being built a long distance from the users. Consequently, the infrastructure costs and inefficiencies of transmission are significantly greater than those supporting conventional power stations. These costs can be very large.

Because the UK has foolishly dismantled too many conventional power stations and over-invested in wind farms, the Government is spending more than £5billion laying 11 undersea power cables to Europe to allow Britain to import electricity from neighbouring countries and prevent blackouts in the next decade [8].

However, this expense would only provide up to 10GW of electricity, enough to power 2.4 million homes a year. Ministers are said to be alarmed at Britain's likely energy shortfall, made worse by the fact the country has less capacity to import power than any other country in Europe.

More money spent, increases the cost of alternate power. Why are we doing this? Are we being rational?

The NIMBY Problem

Because we are not rational, we become emotional and irrationally support the dream of alternate power. This emotive dream is shattered when the reality of having a solar farm, wind farm or a nuclear power station built close to where we live. We become incensed and cry out "*Not in my backyard!*"

This selfish response means the power generation must be moved further and further away from the users increasing the cost of electricity for everyone. We are just moving all the problems into someone else's backyard. Once again, we are taking the wrong direction.

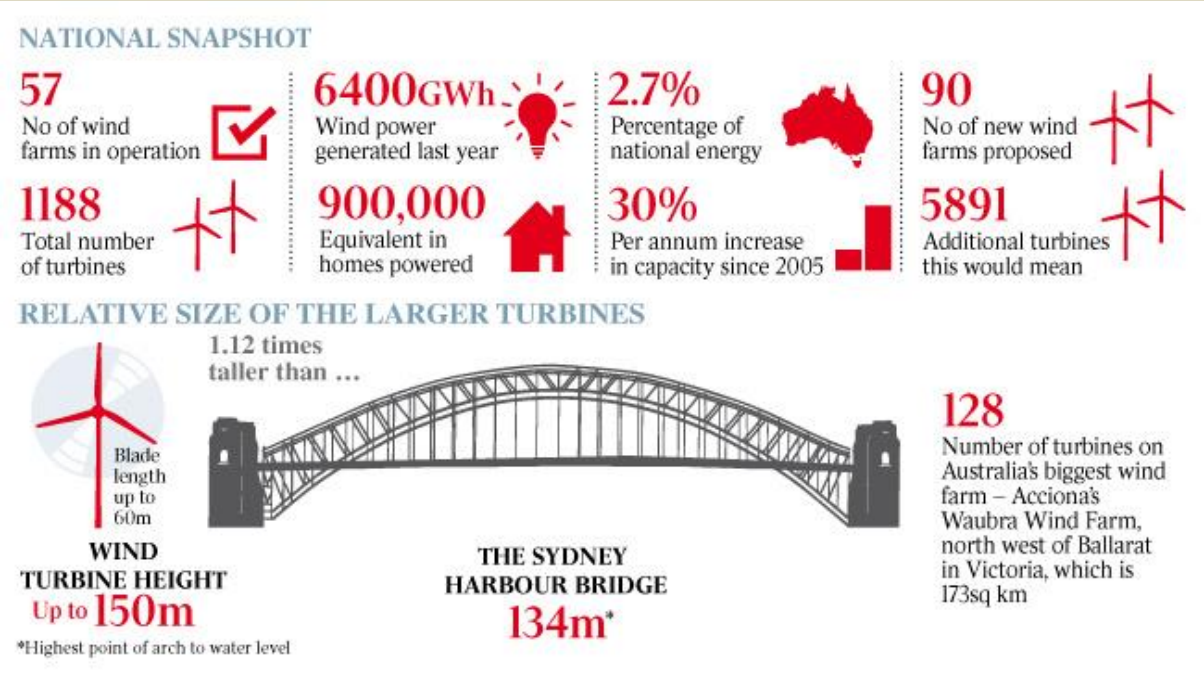
Bob Brown is claimed to have started the Green Movement in Australia and has been in politics for several decades, and led the Green Party in the Australian Parliament. As a Green, he was an avid supporter of wind farms and went out of his

way to attack and denigrate anyone who claimed that the wind farms were causing them problems. Often claiming it was all in their imagination.

On retirement, decades later, a wind farm was planned to be put in "his backyard". Showing the typical hypocrisy of the Greens, Brown fought the plan to build the wind farm. The reasons he listed were all those he had spent decades in politics mocking and denigrating.

Aesthetics

Many denigrate wind farms as ugly and claim they despoil the country that they are built on. Others find them majestic and beautiful. But most do not appreciate how large a modern wind turbine is. The following 2012 diagram [8] gives you some idea their size when compared to the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



Adding to the cost of wind power is the cost involved in removing such large structures when they are no longer needed or being replaced by new turbines.

In Falmouth, Massachusetts, the town voted 110-91 to remove its **two** 400-foot industrial wind turbines for health and nuisance reasons. The only problem was paying the $15 million price tag for their removal.

As of today (2020), there are 14,000 wind turbines that will never be used again laying derelict and not removed [9]. Aesthetically, this is not a very good look! The price tag to aesthetically improve the "look" will be 100 billion dollars.

As of today (2020), there are 341,000 wind turbines in the World that will die in a few decades and will need to be "cleaned up". The approximate cost of doing so will be 2.4 trillion dollars. But don't look now, we are building a lot more of them.

All these costs increase the cost of the already very expensive alternate electricity.

To save us a few dollars, I suggest we all need to be hypnotised so when seeing thousands of rusted turbines laying on the ground, we will think they are beautiful, and should be retained for heritage reasons.

The cost of “cleaning up” a conventional power station with a much smaller footprint than a wind farm is miniscule in comparison to costs that we face in the future.

A Final Word

James Lovelock, Order of the Companions of Honour, was affectionately known as the “Grandfather of Global Warming” and was treated like nobility by the Greens and the Media. He predicted that, according to the Green global warming theory, the human race would in effect be extinct by the year 2000, with only a “few thousand breeding pairs eking out an existence in the Arctic regions”.

When reality struck and we were not “frying and dying” in 2000, he publicly announced that the theory was wrong and the climate was “doing its usual thing”, and he renounced all the alarmist global warming stories including his own. The Green Movement reacted savagely.

He was attacked, denigrated, dismissed and ostracised by the Greens for what was, in fact, following the scientific methodology when a theory has been falsified.

Later in life he wrote a letter objecting to a wind farm being built in Devon, citing most of the reasons discussed in this Reading and on the website. The final paragraph of his letter reads [10]:

“*I am an environmentalist and founder member of the Greens but I bow my head in shame at the thought that our original good intentions should have been so misunderstood and misapplied. We never intended a fundamentalist Green movement that rejected all energy sources other than renewable, nor did we expect the Greens to cast aside our priceless ecological heritage because of their failure to understand that the needs of the Earth are not separable from human needs. We need take care that the spinning windmills do not become like the statues on Easter Island, monuments of a failed civilisation.”*

Notes.

1. https://carbon-sense.com/2013/05/21/big-green-helps-big-wind-hide-bird-and-bat-butchery/
2. Ibid
3. https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/how-many-turbines-are-contained-us-wind-turbine-database?qt-news_science_products=0#qt-news_science_products

4. https://carbon-sense.com/2013/05/21/big-green-helps-big-wind-hide-bird-and-bat-butchery/
5. Bob Johns, spokesman for the American Bird Conservancy
6. https://carbon-sense.com/2013/05/21/big-green-helps-big-wind-hide-bird-and-bat-butchery/
7. http://dailybayonet.com/?p=9131
8. "*What you can't hear can hurt you",* Graham Loyd, The Australian, 25th January, 2012
9. https://www.bbc.com/news/business-51325101
10. http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/1/25/lovelock-recants.html