



Wind turbines harm the environment, people, animals and plants more than any other energy source

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Wind and solar power is technically and economically unsustainable, as the blackout in Spain on April 28, 2025 shows. However, wind farms in particular cause far more and, above all, more long-term damage than any other energy source in use.

Wind turbines cause damage to human and animal health through infrasound and the toxic materials in the rotor blades, which are released through abrasion during operation, accidents and disposal. The high speeds of 400 km/h and more at the rotor tips disperse pollutants over a wide area and also destroy birds and insects.

The infrasound spreads up to 50 kilometers and can cause serious damage to the health of humans and animals. Even egg mortality caused by infrasound has been observed in chicken hatcheries. The bird population must also be increasingly affected by this, with unforeseeable consequences for the environment.

The rotor blades are made of synthetic resins that are reinforced with glass or carbon fibers. The abrasion, which is unavoidable at the leading edge of the rotor blades, is scattered over a wide area and contaminates the soil. The microparticles released are similar in harmfulness to asbestos and contain PFAS, a number of hazardous chemicals, including [bisphenol-A](#), and various metals. The harmful substances have already been detected in the [livers of wild boar or in mussels](#) at offshore wind farms.

The second major area of damage concerns vegetation and soil. Huge quantities of concrete are placed in the ground during construction and wide access roads are needed for the heavy transportation of parts and construction cranes. For this purpose, highways are literally cut into the forest. A decline in vegetation has been observed around wind turbines. There is considerable soil erosion on the access roads in the forest. The environmental damage also affects very large areas.

The third major area of damage concerns the climate. [Studies have shown](#) that the construction of wind farms has led to warming of up to 0.7 degrees per decade. The increased transport of Saharan sand to Europe is associated with the changes in atmospheric pressure caused by the wind turbines.

Wind turbines have a further negative impact on the climate when trees have to give way for them. The turbines are now being built in the middle of forests. This involves clearing forest that would undeniably absorb CO₂. In March, five hectares of forest were cleared [for the wind farm in St. Pölten](#). In Scotland, as many as [16 million trees](#) were felled for wind farms. In addition, soils are being dried out, which is one of the causes of reduced plant growth.

Europe currently has a [wind power capacity](#) of 285 GW, of which 248 GW is onshore and 37 GW offshore. As a guide value for the number of onshore and offshore wind turbines, we can assume around 140,000 for Europe and 30,000 in Germany alone.