



Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

October 22, 2013

Around Nebraska...

[Wind energy gains ground with OPPD purchase](http://journalstar.com/news/local/wind-energy-gains-ground-with-oppd-purchase/article_66f3d809-e67a-5ca0-8ddc-7474c84aa33e.html). The Omaha Public Power District Board approved an agreement Thursday to buy up to 400 megawatts generated by a proposed wind farm near O'Neill. Under the 20-year-agreement, OPPD will purchase all of the renewable energy generated at the Grande Prairie Wind Farm, which will be built by Geronimo Energy of Edina, Minn. (http://journalstar.com/news/local/wind-energy-gains-ground-with-oppd-purchase/article_66f3d809-e67a-5ca0-8ddc-7474c84aa33e.html).

[OPPD Announces Wind Energy Purchase](http://www.1011now.com/home/headlines/OPPD-Announced-Wind-Energy-Purchase-228235141.html). The Omaha Public Power District Board of Directors voted unanimously to purchase 400 megawatts of wind power capacity by the end of 2013 from the Grande Prairie wind farm near O'Neill, Neb. (<http://www.1011now.com/home/headlines/OPPD-Announced-Wind-Energy-Purchase-228235141.html>).

[NPPD will not pursue additional wind in 2013; will continue to work towards 10 percent goal](http://www.nppd.com/2013/nppd-will-pursue-additional-wind-2013-will-continue-work-towards-10-percent-goal/). Nebraska Public Power District will continue to move forward with its established goal of generating 10 percent of its energy resources with new renewable energy, primarily wind, by 2020. A proposed resolution to purchase up to 200 additional megawatts of wind energy by the end of the year was rejected by the Board, with three votes in favor and six opposed. (<http://www.nppd.com/2013/nppd-will-pursue-additional-wind-2013-will-continue-work-towards-10-percent-goal/>).

[Wildlife Federation disappointed in NPPD wind vote](http://beatricedailysun.com/news/local/scrapbook/wildlife-federation-disappointed-in-nppd-wind-vote/article_dea0055d-ce6e-5787-9e1b-42bd40681494.html). Nebraska Wildlife Federation executive director Duane Hovorka expressed disappointment at the Friday vote by the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) board of directors, which turned away the purchase of additional wind energy this year on a 3-6 vote. "NPPD turned down offers for wind energy at bargain basement prices, and ultimately rural communities and NPPD customers will pay the price," said Hovorka. (http://beatricedailysun.com/news/local/scrapbook/wildlife-federation-disappointed-in-nppd-wind-vote/article_dea0055d-ce6e-5787-9e1b-42bd40681494.html).

[Nebraska's perplexing wind energy situation](http://www.starherald.com/news/local_news/nebraska-s-perplexing-wind-energy-situation/article_1090ead8-36df-11e3-baf4-0019bb2963f4.html). The recent vote by the Nebraska Public Power District to reject proposals to increase the district's wind energy purchases highlights the challenges of wind power in Nebraska. One side of the wind energy debate argues that Nebraska has great wind resources, which would translate into low energy prices. Johnathan Hladik, the senior policy advocate for the Center for Rural Affairs, says our state deserves better. (http://www.starherald.com/news/local_news/nebraska-s-perplexing-wind-energy-situation/article_1090ead8-36df-11e3-baf4-0019bb2963f4.html).

[Wind turbines generate energy for EZ Go Stores](http://journalstar.com/business/local/wind-turbines-generate-energy-for-ez-go-stores/article_06607d72-271d-528e-bb44-cc6172b8010b.html). They look more like futuristic weather vanes than wind turbines, but they do generate electricity for the EZ Go Store at 25th and O streets. (http://journalstar.com/business/local/wind-turbines-generate-energy-for-ez-go-stores/article_06607d72-271d-528e-bb44-cc6172b8010b.html).

Around the Nation & World...

Wind and Wildlife

[NaturEner's Rim Rock Wind Facility Achieves Milestones in Energy Delivery and Industry-Leading Eagle Protection Measures](http://www.fortmilltimes.com/2013/10/07/3009082/natureners-rim-rock-wind-facility.html). Innovative conservation measures being implemented at Rim Rock wind farm to ensure the lowest potential impact on wildlife. (<http://www.fortmilltimes.com/2013/10/07/3009082/natureners-rim-rock-wind-facility.html>).

[Researchers: Wind turbines in Canada less lethal to birds than other industrial sectors](http://www.snl.com/Interactivex/article.aspx?CdId=A-25341261-13108). The estimated 23,300 birds killed each year by wind turbines in Canada are fewer than the number killed by other industrial sectors and likely have a "relatively negligible" short-term effect on the populations of most species, according to a new research paper in the journal Avian Conservation and Ecology. (<http://www.snl.com/Interactivex/article.aspx?CdId=A-25341261-13108>).

[Canadian Estimate of Bird Mortality Due to Collisions and Direct Habitat Loss Associated with Wind Turbine Developments](http://www.ace-eco.org/issues/article.php/609) by Zimmerling et al. 2013, Avian Conservation and Ecology. (<http://www.ace-eco.org/issues/article.php/609>).

[Should Wind Industry Get a Free Pass on Bird Deaths?](http://blog.enn.com/?p=3645) More recently, the wind power industry has been unable to silence critics of wind turbines' impact on birds and bats. In March, the Wildlife Society Bulletin reported that about 888,000 bats and 573,000 birds are killed by wind farms annually, 80,000 of which are raptors such as hawks, falcons and eagles. This data may make us reconsider what "clean energy" means and whether this environmental harm outweighs the value of renewable energy. (<http://blog.enn.com/?p=3645>).

[Fighting climate change by killing eagles](https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2013/10/12/fighting-climate-change-by-killing-eagles/). For some environmentalists, the threat of climate change is so great that we must allow wind turbines to kill bald and golden eagles. The argument I've heard is that renewables, including wind energy, will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Less carbon dioxide reduces the threat posed by climate change, which benefits eagles and other wildlife. (<https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2013/10/12/fighting-climate-change-by-killing-eagles/>).

[Feds Consider West Virginia Wind Farm Permit to Kill Endangered Bats](http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2013/10/14/feds-consider-west-virginia-wind-farm-permit-kill-endangered-bats). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering an industrial wind farm's application to kill more than 60 endangered bats during the next 25 years. (<http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2013/10/14/feds-consider-west-virginia-wind-farm-permit-kill-endangered-bats>).

[Death Data: Why Tracking Dead Wildlife at Renewable Energy Sites is Important](#). Before Congress shut down agencies that had been protecting our safety and that of our wildlife, USFWS [had in effect refused to enforce several wildlife protection laws](#) against renewable energy companies, even as those

companies' threats to wildlife have mounted. (<http://www.kcet.org/news/rewire/commentary/death-data-why-tracking-dead-wildlife-at-renewable-energy-sites-is-important.html>).

[Smaller, Jet-Engine Turbines May Solve Some Wind Power Woes](#). An enclosed wind turbine design that may be safer for wildlife and the public is almost ready for prime time, according to its manufacturers. FloDesign's enclosed wind turbines could also offer more efficient conversion of wind energy with turbines that are suitable for use in urban areas. (<http://www.kcet.org/news/rewire/wind/smaller-jet-engine-turbines-may-solve-wind-woes.html>).

[Fears for wildlife as wind turbines plan protest grows](#). A campaign against a scheme for two wind turbines in Sheffield's green belt is gathering pace in advance of a city council verdict – with concerns over the impact on wildlife. (<http://www.thestar.co.uk/news/fears-for-wildlife-as-wind-turbines-plan-protest-grows-1-6158090>).

[Curtis Fisher & Jamie Rhodes: R.I. sets pace for American wind power](#). Providence is the place to be to enjoy an important, timely conference and celebrate leadership across multiple sectors to advance offshore wind power in America. Now, more than ever, America must get serious about advancing clean energy if we are to protect our communities and wildlife from the dangers of climate change. (<http://www.providencejournal.com/opinion/commentary/20131019-curtis-fisher-jamie-rhodes-r.i.-sets-pace-for-american-wind-power.ece>).

Wildlife

[Northern Long-Eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis*](#). USFWS Endangered Species website. (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/index.html>).

[Battle For Bats: Surviving White Nose Syndrome](#). Battle For Bats: Surviving White Nose Syndrome was produced for the USDA Forest Service by Ravenswood Media. It shows how government and private agencies have come together to search for solutions to help our bat populations overcome WNS. The public can also play a role in the future of bats by providing habitat and surveying their populations. Bats are a critical component in a healthy forest ecosystem, plus they provide significant agricultural pest control and pollination. Their survival is essential for a sustainable natural environment. (<http://vimeo.com/76705033>).

[The Hills Are Alive With the Sound of Bat Song](#). Cetaceans (whales and dolphins) and bats may be the exceptions. These animals have evolved a suite of neural adaptations to support echolocation, and they are the only two groups of mammals that demonstrate vocal learning, juvenile babbling, regional dialects, and cultural transmission of vocalizations. (<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2013/10/the-hills-are-alive-with-the-sound-of-bat-song/>).

Wind

[Secretary Jewell to Deliver Keynote at American Wind Energy Association Conference](#). Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will deliver keynote remarks at the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) Offshore WINDPOWER Conference in Providence, Rhode Island on Tuesday, October 22, where she will highlight the important role of clean energy in the President's Climate Action Plan and powering the economy. (<http://www.doi.gov/news/mediaadvisories/secretary-jewell-to-deliver-keynote-at-american-wind-energy-association-conference.cfm>).

[Setting the record straight about wind's lifecycle emissions and return on energy invested](#). One of the common myths deployed by opponents of clean energy is that wind energy's environmental benefits are significantly reduced by the energy and carbon expended on manufacturing and installing wind

turbines. Fortunately, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory recently [compiled the results of all peer-reviewed publications on lifecycle emissions for different energy sources](http://aweablog.org/blog/post/setting-the-record-straight-about-winds-lifecycle-emissions-and-return-on-energy-invested#!). (<http://aweablog.org/blog/post/setting-the-record-straight-about-winds-lifecycle-emissions-and-return-on-energy-invested#!>).

[Life Cycle Assessment Harmonization Results and Findings](#). The data from the [Life Cycle Harmonization Project](#) show that life cycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from technologies powered by renewable resources are generally less than from those powered by fossil fuel-based resources. (http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/sustain_lca_results.html).

[Breaking News: Dog Bites Man, Pope Catholic, Wind Energy Saves Carbon](#). Contrary to claims by critics of wind power, Spanish researchers say, the turbines do reduce carbon dioxide emissions significantly even though the wind does not blow constantly. (<http://climatecrocks.com/2013/10/18/breaking-news-dog-bites-man-pope-catholic-wind-energy-saves-carbon/>).

[Wind-speed distribution improves estimates of wind-power potential](#). When calculating the wind-power potential of a certain location, it is important to take into account not only the average wind speed of that region but also the wind-speed frequency distribution, [say researchers](#) in the US. (<http://environmentalresearchweb.org/cws/article/news/55016>).

Tools

[Webinar provides a sneak peek of GIS tool that maps Western habitat](#). The Western Governors' Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT) is nearing its public rollout in December. Next week we want to offer you a sneak peek of this exciting new GIS tool that maps fish and wildlife habitat across 16 Western states. (http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?llr=gmsuxxbab&v=0010ZqHgiR1O6BNtd7YgRi8B8qaZFM0zn1Ora-lgec8NaLveP5sfl6D9tVWafn2n2lpq29wFUjWEyysi7YrTIRs7-UW9K-akLKXoXRvLJkKI_PVD1U61Jde8svDAMnvEEF_fzsw01g_BNLh686qsVoLEwDQAuFRdTHDktcpJxW_5CdbGqVYvu8J52kbPvOwj9WhQ0JcnkmLrEvuZfHhhOlvAsh8IzwWmPrtqW6q1caBhJVFYVXmVUwpA%3D%3D).

Other

[Supreme Court lets EPA's climate authority stand, will review permitting question](#). The Supreme Court allowed the [Environmental Protection Agency's](#) ability to [regulate greenhouse gas emissions](#) as a pollutant to stand Tuesday, even as it agreed to examine how the agency could demand greater pollution controls through the permitting process. (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2013/10/15/supreme-court-affirms-epas-climate-authority-but-will-review-permitting-question/?hpid=z11>).

[Farmers carry mixed feelings over wind energy transmission line](#). One of the companies banking on Iowa's wind energy industry is Clean Line Energy Partners, a Houston-based operation with plans to build [five large-scale high voltage transmission](#) lines in the country. As Iowa Public Radio's Durrie Bouscaren reports, one of those lines would traverse Iowa, and it starts in the northwest corner of the state. (<http://iowapublicradio.org/post/farmers-carry-mixed-feelings-over-wind-energy-transmission-line-0>).

Upcoming Events

3rd Broadcast of Wind Energy Training Series for Voluntary Land-based Wind Energy

Guidelines. The third broadcast will air on Wednesday, October 30, 2013, 2:00 to 4:00 pm ET. Host Christy Johnson-Hughes will be joined by several guests who will discuss topics related to Tier 4 (post-construction) of the Wind Energy Guidelines, including fatality estimation, reporting, and adaptive management. E-mail windbroadcast@fws.gov with the subject "register" to register for this broadcast.

AWEA Wind Energy Fall Symposium 2013 will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado November 6-8, 2013. For more information:

<http://www.awea.org/Events/Event.aspx?EventID=15940&navItemNumber=652>.

Sixth Annual Wind Conference will be held in Lincoln, NE on November 13-15, 2013. This year's theme is "Harvesting Nebraska's Potential." There will be a wind-wildlife session featuring Nebraska-based research and findings. For more information and to register: <http://nebraskawindconference.com/>.

AWEA Wind Project Siting Seminar will be held in New Orleans, LA January 29-30, 2014. For more information: <http://www.awea.org/events/Event.aspx?EventID=21659&navItemNumber=5647>.

Check out the **Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project website** at:

<http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/> and **Wind Energy and Wildlife news** at:
<http://www.scoop.it/t/wind-energy-and-wildlife>.

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