

Biodiversity

Energy for nature,
from nature.

An impact?



Act without thinking?



NIMBY

“A wind turbine disrupts
the landscape!”

The results of the necessary **environmental and impact studies** serve as a tool for assessing the feasibility of the project and **its harmonious integration into the landscape**. However well planned and carefully studied, wind turbines will of course always remain visible in the landscape. That is simply a fact we have to accept.

But if we want to **become more independent from other countries and from fossil fuels**, and if we want to **continue to meet our current and ever-increasing energy demand**, it is **absolutely necessary to keep investing in wind energy**.



“There simply is no
invisible or magical
source of energy..”



In a
nutshell...

1 Intrinsic effects

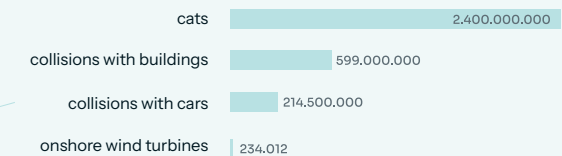
Like any human activity, the operation of wind farms leads to changes in the environment, with impacts on local fauna and flora, such as the construction of cities, housing, roads, or high-voltage power lines, etc.

2 Overestimated effects

To what extent do wind turbines affect the surrounding nature?

- Wind turbine developers must monitor the impacts of wind turbines on their environment.
- However, the impact must be placed in the right perspective.

CAUSES OF BIRD MORTALITY



Fun fact: Less than 2% of the number of birds that die in traffic are killed by collisions with wind turbines.
source : KImatshock, Geert Noels

Protecting nature in a renewable world

3 Compensating

Creation of areas that promote the development and support of biodiversity or specific species.

These measures are taken in consultation with the municipality and in collaboration with ecologists.

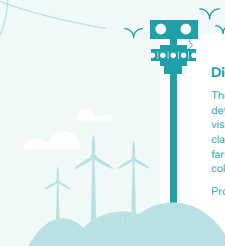
Which measures are most effective is assessed on a project-by-project basis.

The developer bears the costs of these measures.



2 Reducing

- The construction phases are planned as efficiently as possible, taking into account breeding seasons and other potential disturbances to the environment. These aspects are thoroughly assessed in an Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Various measures can be taken to reduce any potential effects:
 - For example, a system can be used that emits acoustic signals to warn birds or bats of potential danger as soon as an individual is detected near the wind farm.
 - In addition, wind turbines are not planned in nature reserves, and migration routes and breeding sites are avoided.



Did you know ...

The sector is continuously innovating and is also evolving rapidly in the field of bird detection systems. The technology combines optical systems with the latest machine vision and AI software. By detecting a bird at a distance of up to one kilometre and classifying it in real time as a protected species or not, the system provides wind farm operators with crucial visual and quantitative data needed to reduce or avoid collisions.

Protected birds are safeguarded, and energy production losses are minimised.

1 Preventing: good planning

To assess the impact of a wind energy project on the landscape and biodiversity, thorough impact reports are carried out in collaboration with scientists and local authorities. Nature specialists are consulted. Migration corridors are avoided, and all possible effects of a wind farm and its associated infrastructure are taken into account.



- 1 The wind energy industry has a **strong commitment to biodiversity**. WIND is part of nature. You simply cannot work on the energy transition without a strong awareness of ecological issues.



- 2 The law provides a framework for this commitment by setting **requirements and obligations** for advanced studies to **avoid, reduce, and compensate for impacts**.



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