

## WIND ENERGY:

# Environment and wildlife

The research is clear – harnessing the country's natural wind resource provides affordable, American-made energy that supports our economy and conservation values.

### Wind Power Saves

## WATER



Unlike other energy sources, wind energy does not require water and has **no impacts on water quality**.<sup>1</sup>

### Water Consumption

by Fuel Source

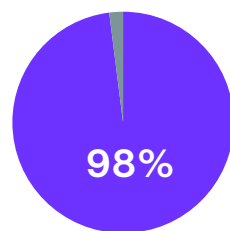


**1,000  
gallons<sup>2</sup>**  
per MW



**0  
gallons**  
per MW

Wind power saves over **104 billion gallons of water annually** compared to traditional forms of energy generation.<sup>3</sup>

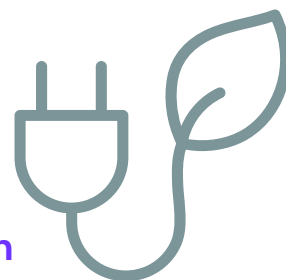


Wind turbines have a limited footprint, leaving **98 percent** of the land undisturbed and available for **wildlife habitat, farming, ranching, or recreation**.<sup>4</sup>

### Wind power reduces

## POLLUTION

Wind helps avoid **351 million metric tons** of CO2 emissions annually – equivalent to **61 million** cars' worth of emissions.<sup>4</sup>



In reality, a typical wind turbine will **repay its carbon footprint in less than six months**, and it will **generate emission-free electricity** for the remainder of its 20 to 30 year lifespan.<sup>4</sup>



Wind power **reduces air pollution**, including nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, and mercury, which harm both humans and wildlife.<sup>5</sup>

Wind power **requires no fuel extraction**, a leading source of habitat disruption.<sup>5</sup>



The wind farm doesn't bother the wildlife. I think we've seen more now than we did before the wind farm."

–Joyce K., New York Landowner



## Causes of Bird Mortality

All EDPR wind projects undergo multiple studies and surveys before their construction and during their operation, including wetland delineation surveys, protected species assessments, and a 1 year post-construction fatality study, to ensure impact on wildlife and their habitats is mitigated.



Cats Loss et al. 2013

1.4B – 3.7B



Buildings & Windows Loss et al. 2014

365M – 988M



Vehicles & Roads Loss et al. 2014

89M – 340M



Pesticides Mineau 2004, 2008

17M – 91M



Communication Towers Longcore et al. 2012

6.6M



Lead Ingestion Scheuhammer and Norris 1995, Kendall et al. 1996

1M – 2M



Commercial Fishing Manville 2005, Brothers et al. 2010

750K – 2M



Wind Energy Longcore et al. 2012

100K – 320K



The wind industry is responsible for **less than 0.01 percent** of human-caused bird fatalities.<sup>6</sup>

**“Audubon strongly supports wind energy that is sited and operated properly to avoid, minimize, and mitigate effectively for the impacts on birds, other wildlife, and the places they need now and in the future. To that end, we support the development of wind energy to achieve 100% clean electricity.”<sup>7</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>American Clean Power Association, Wildlife and Wind Power Facts, 2020.

<sup>2</sup>Union of Concerned Scientists. 2011. [Freshwater Use by U.S. Power Plants](#).

<sup>3</sup>American Clean Power Association, Annual Market Report, 2024.

<sup>4</sup>American Clean Power Association, Wind Power Facts and Statistics, 2025.

<sup>5</sup>American Clean Power Association, Wildlife and Wind Power Facts, 2021.

<sup>6</sup>American Clean Power Association, Wildlife and Wind Power Facts, 2021.

<sup>7</sup>Audubon, Wind Power and Birds, 2020.