

Offshore Wind Turbines Make Sense for the Environment

As New Jersey moves toward fossil-free electricity generated by offshore wind farms, citizen front organizations secretly funded by polluting oil and gas industries are popping up and obstructing the progress we're making toward net-zero emissions. They're making false statements about wind turbines and, sadly, a few politicians have joined in. Concerned citizens are being misled by these barrages of disinformation.

Fossil-fuel industries' wild claims about offshore wind development have been refuted by extensive environmental and technical analyses, yet the disinformation keeps a-comin'. Here are the scientific conclusions reached by government, industry, and academic experts—long before gas and oil promoters arrived on the scene with their attacks:

- Whale deaths, a hot button for these sham citizens groups, have been studied for many years by government and academic researchers, who are unanimous that windfarm development is not the culprit in the recent mortality trend for humpback whales on the East Coast. Instead, they have strong evidence that ship collisions and entanglements in fishing gear are primary causes of whale deaths.
- Surface turbine noises, especially at a distance of hundreds of meters or several miles, will be very low compared with other sound producers, such as air conditioners, automobiles and trucks, and passing airplanes.
- The impact on subsurface sea life will be greatest during the construction phase, when efforts will be made to buffer sound and protect sea life, but [far less impactful](#) during regular turbine operations.
- The National Audubon Society supports [well-sited wind turbine development](#) and has concluded that turbine collisions are a far smaller threat than birds face from household cats and building collisions.
- To beachgoers, turbines, due to their distance offshore and the curvature of the Earth, will be visible only on very clear days and appear no taller than a short stack of pennies.
- Clean, renewable wind energy can play an important role in easing our dependence on nuclear and fossil-fuel power and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Sierra Club's position is clear: "It's important to discover why we're seeing increased whale mortalities in New Jersey and surrounding areas," but blaming wind farm development "is unfounded and premature." Construction should not be halted "unless a direct correlation is uncovered and proven."

The Sierra Club has also stated that wind farms, done right, are part of the clean energy solution. "Innovation and transformation take time when done correctly. We stand united in our support for responsibly developed offshore wind to help New Jersey achieve 100% clean energy."