



GREEN KILLING MACHINES

The impact of renewable energy on wildlife and nature

Andrew Montford

Climate Refugees

A Dutch couple are forced to leave home. Excerpted from "First Dutch Refugees Fleeing Wind Turbines" by Edwin Timmer.

Wind fear. Claus aan de Wiel and his partner Ine van den Dool suffered from this after a wind farm was set up 500 meters from their home in Holland. The manufacturer still boasted about the turbines being the Rolls-Royce of the device—so quiet.

"We were shocked," Claus says. "The noise was unbearable. I grew up here, in a house built by my parents and I thought I would only leave between six planks, but we couldn't stand it." Sound waves banged on the facades from three sides. Even the moles disappeared from the garden.

Ine loved the greenery and space where she and Claus lived. "It was a heavenly, healing place where we sat in the garden with friends until late. The wind farm destroyed that. It was as if a jet plane kept circling overhead. I developed severe asthma and could not stop coughing at night. My body was screaming: This is not safe, you have to get out of here."

And so the pair left. Climate refugees in their own country.

Ine searched for an explanation for her physical complaints since the wind turbines had been running. She came across the term "wind turbine syndrome," coined by American doctor Nina Pierpont, who registered a list of identical complaints from people who live near wind turbines: sleep disturbance, headache, tinnitus, dizziness, nausea and cardiac arrhythmia.

The refugees moved to a quieter place. "I now understand the gigantic stress situation we were living in," Claus says. "It was as if I was waiting for my death; once at home I didn't feel like doing anything. But if they tear down those turbines tomorrow, I'd love to return. I miss the place I used to be."

Ine agrees: "We are no longer bunker citizens. We live outside again. And we sleep like marmots. Within two weeks after the move, I was taken off the drug Ventolin because my asthma symptoms disappeared like snow in the sun. Is that a coincidence? No, it proves what an abnormal life we led under the violence of those rotten turbines." ■

Edwin Timmer's original article can be found at www.thegwpf.org.

The Silence of the Greens

Failure to protect nature and wildlife shames Green organizations.

From Global Warming Policy Foundation.

Environmental organizations like the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Campaign to Protect Rural England are betraying their members by failing to speak out about the devastation caused by the expansion of renewable energy projects all over the countryside. That's according to a recent paper from the Global Warming Policy Foundation, which examines renewables' impact on the natural world.

According to the author, Andrew Montford, nature is already being hit hard by decarbonization plans:

"The dirty secret of renewable energy is that it requires huge areas of our countryside and this is going to get a lot worse in the

future," he writes. "Wind turbines already kill huge numbers of birds and bats, and yet the RSPB barely opposes a development. Wind and solar power plants scar our landscapes and yet the CPRE says nothing either."

"The huge wind turbines that are envisioned for the future are going to be hundreds of meters tall, and there are going to be tens of thousands of them." The locations where wind farms could be built might cause upwards of one million avian fatalities and 700,000 bat deaths per year. Birds and bats simply won't stand a chance. ■

The paper "Green Killing Machines: The impact of renewable energy on wildlife and nature" can be found at www.thegwpf.org.