

What you need to know about **wind**

Wind Energy Myths and Facts from non-profits Mass Energy and People's Power & Light
www.massenergy.org or www.ripower.org

- **The U.S comes in second, just after China, for countries with the most installed wind capacity**, at [22%](#). Wind currently powers about 4.5% of all generated electricity in the US, and will double by 2018!
- **The current estimate of wind energy POTENTIAL is *ten times* the amount of electricity consumed** within in the entire US. Meanwhile, 61% of the energy produced in the US is never used! So renewable energy stands a fighting [chance](#).
- **Our manufacturing sector is growing because of wind!** The wind industry employs [79,994](#) people across construction, development, engineering, and operations in Massachusetts.
- **We cannot reach our climate goal of 80% reduction in emissions by 2050 without wind power.** Wind is the cheapest zero emission source of power we have, competitive even with the price of coal when all government subsidies are [removed](#)! It must be part of a diverse, zero-emissions energy strategy for our nation and the world.

Common Myths

EVERY WIND ADVOCATE NEEDS TO DEBUNK

MYTH: Wind turbines are responsible for thousands of bird deaths a year.

FACT: Wind turbines that are properly sited have a minimal effect on the surrounding environment. Renewable energy sources have a significantly smaller impact on the ecosystem than fossil fuel plants or nuclear power facilities. In fact, Mass Audubon, an organization dedicated to the safety of all animals (especially birds), supports properly sited wind power because exponentially more bird deaths are caused by fossil fuels and climate change.

MYTH: Wind turbines can negatively affect a person's health and cause seizures.

FACT: The Massachusetts Department of Health and Department Energy & Environment released a report in 2012 stating that, again, with proper siting, wind turbines have no negative effects on a person's health and [wellbeing](#). As for causing seizures, there is a phenomenon known as flicker that occurs when the turbines blades strobe in front of the sun at a certain angle. In this case, it can be uncomfortable and possibly dangerous for people prone to seizures to look into the spinning blades. This angle, however, is hard to create, and with proper siting can be avoided most of the [time](#).

MYTH: Wind turbines will drive my home's property value down.

FACT: Wind turbines are sprouting up in communities all over Massachusetts and across the globe. They stand as symbols of progressive policies and community action. Recently, the Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory and Massachusetts Clean Energy Center looked at the effect on property values wind turbines had and found that they have no significant [effects](#).

MYTH: Wind turbines are all noisy.

FACT: While wind turbines create noise as the blades swoop through the air, in most cases the noise is not louder than any other background noise, such as rainfall, cars on the highway, or the wind blowing through trees. In fact, measuring the noise produced by wind turbines has been frustratingly difficult for researchers because of how quiet they are. Mass Energy and People's Power & Light routinely visit local wind turbines and find that normal levels of conversation are always possible right [nearby](#).