

WORKING TO PROTECT WILDLIFE

The wind energy industry is committed to respecting and protecting wildlife habitat and the environment. The industry partners with academic leaders, researchers, regulators and wildlife organizations to ensure development of wind energy is respectful and responsible.

Avian considerations:

While the relative contribution to overall avian mortality from wind turbines is extremely low relative to other sources of avian mortality, the wind energy industry is committed to continuous research and improvement in our understanding of avian interaction with wind turbines.

- The overwhelming evidence from studies consistently shows that wind farms are a minor source of bird mortality relative to other human impacts and other sources of electricity production.
- The industry continues to monitor and research emerging issues and to take steps to further mitigate losses – we are also held to high standards by regulatory authorities.
- Currently there are mechanisms in place to reduce potential risks and understand actual mortality of avian species – both prior to and following commissioning of wind energy projects. Examples include the use of appropriate siting, pre-construction risk surveys, post-construction mortality studies and implementation of adaptive management protocols.

Wind energy is emission-free and does not contribute to climate change – the single biggest threat to avian wildlife. Wind farms are also sited with respect for habitats – addressing two significant threats to birds and all other forms of wildlife.

Bat considerations:

The wind industry is actively engaged in leading-edge research to mitigate bat mortality at wind farms.

- The wind industry is one of the only industries that voluntarily studies and mitigates for wildlife impacts.
- Many members of the wind industry are actively involved in funding and researching mitigation options to reduce bat fatalities and understand impacts to wildlife.
- To improve our understanding of bat/turbine interactions, the Bats and Wind Energy Cooperative (BWEC) was formed in 2003. BWEC is dedicated to improving fatality search methods and advancing our understanding of bat fatalities. BWEC is also actively investigating ways to mitigate impacts, such as acoustic deterrents and potential mitigation through changes in operations. For more information visit <http://www.batsandwind.org>.

