

# WIND ENERGY FACTS

**Fact: Currently installed wind energy produces enough electricity to power more than 24 million homes.**

Wind power delivered 30% of all new capacity installed over the past five years.<sup>1</sup>

**Fact: Wind energy helps consumers save money.**

The cost of electricity from wind has dropped 66% in the past seven years (see right). New Department of Energy data shows that utility customers in the 11 states with the most wind energy installed have saved more on their electric bills than customers in other states.<sup>2</sup>

**Fact: Wind energy is reliable**

Wind energy delivered over 30% of the electricity produced in Iowa and South Dakota in 2016. Kansas, Oklahoma, and North Dakota generated over 20% of their electricity from wind, while 20 states now produce more than 5% of their electricity from wind.<sup>3</sup>

**Fact: Wind farms have a limited impact on birds.**

Wind farms cause far fewer bird deaths than transmission lines and other traditional energy sources. All wind projects must comply with wildlife agency permit standards. According to a National Academy of Sciences study, wind turbines contribute to less than 0.0003% of human-caused bird fatalities.<sup>4</sup>

**Fact: Courts around the world have dismissed cases regarding health effects of wind turbines.**

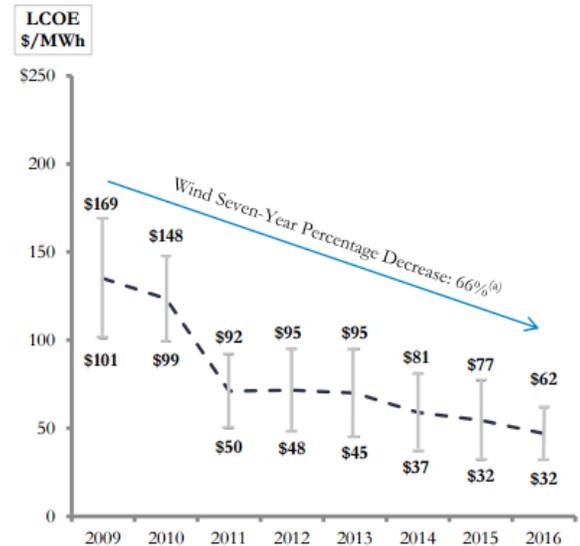
Since 1998, 49 cases have been heard in at least five countries regarding health effects caused by wind turbines. Forty-eight cases have been dismissed due to the fact that there was no reliable evidence that sound and shadow flicker from wind turbines made people sick.<sup>5</sup>

**Fact: Wind energy incentives are smaller than those given to other energy sources.**

Since 1950, 70% of all energy subsidies have gone to conventional fuel sources. As recently as 2002–2007, conventional sources received nearly five times as much in tax incentives as renewables.<sup>6</sup> The PTC (production tax credit) is being phased out over the next few years.

**Fact: Wind farms do not affect property values of nearby homes.**

Several studies have shown this to be true, including one by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory that studied 50,000 U.S. home sales near 67 wind facilities in 27 counties and found no evidence that home values were affected.<sup>7</sup>



Source: Lazard, "Lazard's Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis," Version 10.0 (2016).

## SOURCES

1. AWEA Annual Market Report 2016
2. <https://www.lazard.com/perspective/levelized-cost-of-energy-analysis-100/>
3. AWEA Annual Market Report 2016
4. [http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record\\_id=11935&page=71](http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=11935&page=71)
5. <http://www.energyandpolicy.org/wind-health-impacts-dismissed-in-court>
6. <http://www.nei.org/Master-Document-Folder/Backgrounders/White-Papers/60-Years-of-Energy-Incentives-Analysis-of-Federal>; <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08102.pdf>
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