

Illusions vs Realities

The number one challenge of our times, is to separate the wheat from the chaff... To assist in this task we are blessed with more information than ever before — but we are also simultaneously burdened with more misinformation than any prior generation has ever had to deal with... We look back and wonder how trusting citizens were so easily victimized by snake-oil salesmen, but today, in the golden age of cons, we are being duped on a daily basis.

As a representative matter (and a national issue of great significance), let's look at what's happening with industrial wind energy (for more details see WiseEnergy.org) ...

The primary reason that wind energy has made inroads, has *nothing* to do with wind energy! Instead its success is 100% due to the fact that wind energy proponents are masterful lobbyists. If one reads [*The Business of America is Lobbying*](#), it's apparent that the wind industry has used every trick in the book — and then written some of their own.

For example: wind lobbyists have successfully infiltrated our language with totally inaccurate and misleading terminology, such as “wind farms” and “clean energy.” Neither exists.

For example: wind marketers have successfully portrayed their product as “Free, Clean and Green” — despite it being none of those. The reason they have coined these malapropisms is simple: *those who control the words, control the narrative.*

For example: wind salespeople have successfully convinced financially distressed communities, that hosting a wind project will be a economic windfall — even though [numerous studies](#) from independent experts indicate that the **net** local economic impact is likely negative.

For example: wind peddlers have successfully sold technically-challenged local representatives, that the wind developer is their friend and business partner — even though these sophisticated and aggressive entrepreneurs typically look at these rural people as rubes and marks, and their number one focus is to make as much money as possible, at their expense.

For example: wind developers have successfully persuaded much of the public that wind energy is an inevitable matter, so fighting it is a lost cause. The reality is that in many cases local communities can effectively [defend themselves](#) by simply passing a [proper wind ordinance](#).

For example: wind supporters have successfully imparted the belief that a certain wind project will power 20,000 homes — even though that project will not actually power 1 home 24/7/365.

For example: wind advocates employ a sleight-of-hand tactic to dismiss noise complaints by claiming that “wind turbines don't make any more noise than a refrigerator.” The fact is that the main acoustical concern with wind turbines is the [infrasound](#) generated (which is below our level of hearing). So discussing the *audible* part of turbine noise, purposefully distracts from the serious *inaudible* (but still very much experienced) noise issue.

For example: wind propagandists say that wind energy is saving the environment — even though the evidence indicates that it is environmentally destructive on [multiple fronts](#).

For example: wind promoters have successfully conveyed the idea that wind energy is a low-cost option of electricity— even though when ALL its costs are fully accounted for, wind energy can be three to five times the cost of traditional electricity sources (e.g., see [here](#)).

For example: wind advocates have successfully communicated the notion that using more wind will directly result in the closure of coal plants — even though 10,000 wind turbines could never equal the performance of even a single coal facility.

For example: wind boosters have successfully disseminated the impression that it is a major and essential contributor to preventing climate change — even though there is no scientific proof that wind energy saves any consequential CO₂, and the evidence [indicates the opposite](#).

For example: wind champions have successfully relayed the conviction that the DoD Clearinghouse assures us that wind projects will not adversely affect the mission or operational readiness of our military, or our national security — even though the DoD Clearinghouse was setup to accommodate wind energy (not the military), and that the actual process is much more about [promoting political correctness](#), rather than protecting our national defense.

I could go on and on, as the list of wind lobbyists' deceptions is distressingly long. That said, there is an additional major falsehood that needs to be exposed: *that there is such a thing as wind energy by itself*. This seemingly innocuous deceit is actually extraordinarily important.

The fact is that there is no such animal on the grid as wind energy by itself. What actually typically exists is a **Wind+Gas** package. This is mandated by the inescapable reality of wind energy's unrelentingly unpredictable and uncontrollable output. No conventional source of electrical energy has these characteristics, so none need this essential augmentation.

The importance of understanding this reality is that when we are talking about wind energy **economics** or **environmental** consequences, the only truthful analysis is **objectively** and **comprehensively** looking at the results of the **Wind+Gas** package*.

For example, it should be apparent that wind energy (i.e. Wind+Gas package) is **not** a CO₂ zero-emitter. In fact, due to other technicalities (never acknowledged by wind lobbyists) some studies have concluded that Gas (Combined Cycle) by itself produces less CO₂ than the Wind+Gas package. *Let me restate that extraordinary finding:*

Gas can produce less CO₂ than wind energy does!

Is the success of wind energy due to the sophistication of the con artists they've hired, or to our gullibility? In either case, the takeaway is that lobbyists are not reliable sources of information, especially when it involves significant money, our health or our national security. The bottom line is that wind energy is palliative pablum, not suitable for prime-time.

john droz, jr.
physicist

*For numerous studies and reports about the Wind+Gas package see [here](#). - 2/1/19 (rev 2-28-22)