

# Wind & Solar, My Patoot

Jim Beers | August 6, 2019

(Some observations concerning the article from today's WSJ found below my comments... Jim)

This is just one more peek at the lies and propaganda underlying all this Brave New World of "Renewable Energy. This article explains just one more information scandal obfuscated and buried by government and radicals. After you read it, consider How:



**First**, government and all those "concerned" bird lovers ignored, lied about and derided anyone curious about the **millions of protected birds killed annually** by these windmills with blades whirling almost 200 mph on the outer part of the vortex they create. Scavengers and predators discovering this bi-annual manna beneath these blades (that are falling off in N Iowa frequently as I write this) enjoyed the banquet that would have put me in prison with a big fine and no longer any voting or gun rights had I killed but one. Instead, after decades of cover-up, the answer to this carnage was having the director of the federal wildlife agency issue an all-but unlimited lifetime



permit to kill migratory birds from hummingbirds to eagles without prosecution. This was perpetrated by a bureaucrat implicated in the theft of state wildlife funds under President Clinton to clandestinely trap Canadian wolves and release them in Yellowstone'. He signed this Permit on his last day as director, as Trump assumed the office and the director's sponsor President Obama left office.

**Second**, while government subsidizes electric vehicles and power grids for electric vehicles, these vehicles pay no Gas Tax (the source of our Transportation Infrastructure maintenance, repair and improvements. So as infrastructure becomes the latest, "It's a crisis", "No it's not a crisis" issue what is the solution? Why we must raise the Gas Tax so anyone not obeying the radicals and federal pols and bureaucrats can be taxed more and more to no avail other than punishment.

**Third**, note the mirrors covering hundreds and hundreds of square miles of the US's "precious" wildlife habitat. Let one cow chew a mouthful of grass from a public grazing allotment on public land, or a rancher deign to engage in livestock husbandry (when faux meat, leather and wool are available) on private property or some rural bumpkin cut down a tree and the cries from all those "concerned environmentalists" and their federal bureaucrats could be heard in every courtroom and government building from Portland Oregon to Portland Maine. Yet if these environmentalists want mirrors to cover the earth (to put "West Virginia coal miners out of work" or to put American back into the energy availability of the years when our forefathers fled Europe for the freedom of the "New World") why the government gives the charlatan operators millions in subsidies and (wink, wink; non, nod) not to worry about oversight since you are doing "Gaia's work and justifying many other hidden agendas".



So move along citizen, there is nothing to see here and if any dissident makes you feel uncomfortable about this they are probably a "deplorable" and too ignorant to understand it anyway.



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## If You Want ‘Renewable Energy,’ Get Ready to Dig

Building one wind turbine requires 900 tons of steel, 2,500 tons of concrete and 45 tons of plastic.

By Mark P. Mills | Aug. 5, 2019



Wind turbines in Palm Springs, Calif., July 13, 2017. PHOTO: PAUL BUCK/EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

Democrats dream of powering society entirely with wind and solar farms combined with massive batteries. Realizing this dream would require the biggest expansion in mining the world has seen and would produce huge quantities of waste.



Solar panels require specialty recyclers that know how to extract elements like silicon, silver and copper.  
SOURCE: JESSICA RINALDI/THE BOSTON GLOBE VIA GETTY

“Renewable energy” is a misnomer. Wind and solar machines and batteries are built from nonrenewable materials. And they wear out. Old equipment must be decommissioned, generating millions of tons of waste. The International Renewable Energy Agency calculates that solar goals for 2050 consistent with the Paris Accords will result in [old-panel disposal](#) constituting more than double the tonnage of all today’s global plastic waste. Consider some other sobering numbers:

A single electric-car battery weighs about 1,000 pounds. Fabricating one requires digging up, moving and [processing](#) more than 500,000 pounds of raw materials somewhere on the planet. The alternative? Use gasoline and extract one-tenth as much total tonnage to deliver the same number of vehicle-miles over the battery’s seven-year life.

When electricity comes from wind or solar machines, every unit of energy produced, or mile traveled, requires far more materials and land than [fossil](#) fuels. That physical reality is literally visible: A wind or solar farm stretching to the horizon can be replaced by a handful of gas-fired turbines, each no bigger than a tractor-trailer.

Building one wind turbine requires 900 tons of steel, 2,500 tons of concrete and 45 tons of non-recyclable plastic. Solar power requires even more cement, steel and glass—not to mention other metals. Global silver and indium mining will jump 250% and 1,200% respectively over the next couple of decades to provide the materials necessary to build the number of [solar panels](#), the International Energy Agency forecasts. World demand for rare-earth elements—which aren’t rare but are rarely mined in America—will rise 300% to 1,000% by 2050 to meet the Paris green goals. If electric vehicles replace conventional cars, demand for cobalt and lithium will rise more than 20-fold. That doesn’t count batteries to back up wind and solar grids.

Last year a Dutch government-sponsored study concluded that the Netherlands’ green ambitions alone would consume a major share of global minerals. “Exponential growth in [global] [renewable energy](#) production capacity is not possible with present-day technologies and annual metal production,” it concluded.

The demand for minerals likely won't be met by mines in Europe or the U.S. Instead, much of the mining will take place in nations with oppressive labor practices. The Democratic Republic of the Congo produces 70% of the world's raw cobalt, and China controls 90% of cobalt refining. The Sydney-based Institute for a Sustainable Future cautions that a global "gold" rush for minerals could take miners into "some remote wilderness areas [that] have maintained high biodiversity because they haven't yet been disturbed."

What's more, mining and fabrication require the consumption of hydrocarbons. Building enough wind turbines to supply half the world's electricity would require nearly two billion tons of coal to produce the concrete and steel, along with two billion barrels of oil to make the composite blades. More than 90% of the world's solar panels are built in Asia on coal-heavy electric grids.

Engineers joke about discovering "unobtainium," a magical energy-producing element that appears out of nowhere, requires no land, weighs nothing, and emits nothing. Absent the realization of that impossible dream, hydrocarbons remain a far better alternative than today's green dreams.

*Mr. Mills is a [senior](#) fellow at the Manhattan Institute and a partner in Cottonwood Venture Partners, an energy-tech venture fund, and author of the recent report, "The 'New Energy Economy': An Exercise in Magical Thinking."*

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**See also:**

[Negative Effects of Solar Energy](#)

[Wildlife Conservation and Solar Energy Development in the Desert Southwest, United States](#) **Abstract**

*Large areas of public land are currently being permitted or evaluated for utility-scale solar energy development (USSED) in the southwestern United States, including areas with high biodiversity and protected species. However, peer-reviewed studies of the effects of USSED on wildlife are lacking. The potential effects of the construction and the eventual decommissioning of solar energy facilities include the direct mortality of wildlife; environmental impacts of fugitive dust and dust suppressants; destruction and modification of habitat, including the impacts of roads; and off-site impacts related to construction material acquisition, processing, and transportation. The potential effects of the operation and maintenance of the facilities include habitat fragmentation and barriers to gene flow, increased noise, electromagnetic field generation, microclimate alteration, pollution, water consumption, and fire. Facility design effects, the efficacy of site-selection criteria, and the cumulative effects of USSED on regional wildlife populations are unknown. Currently available peer-reviewed data are insufficient to allow a rigorous assessment of the impact of USSED on wildlife.*