



Wind Energy & Health

Wind energy is generating clean electricity, new jobs and economic development opportunities in communities across Ireland. While wind energy has increased across Europe, it is a relatively new contributor to the power system here in Ireland. As such, it is natural for people to ask questions. IWEA as the industry voice is committed to ensuring that the Irish public has the most up-to-date factual information on wind energy.

CO2 Reduction

As of 28 December 2012 Ireland has 1738MW of wind capacity. This is enough to supply up to 1.12Million homes with electricity for 1 year. To produce the same amount of conventional electricity as 1738MW of wind energy per year Ireland would have to.....

- Extract, transport and burn approximately 925 thousand m3 of gas
- at a cost of €165 million,
- and emit 2.13 Metric Tonnes of CO2.



Wind energy can help improve air quality

The EPA states that 'air pollution can affect the health and well-being of sensitive population groups and eco-systems'. While operating, wind turbines are completely powered by wind, producing no pollution. It is a clean energy source that can provide communities across Ireland with decreased greenhouse gas emissions, along with air quality improvements and corresponding human health benefits.



The wind industry takes concerns seriously

Any concern that wind turbines may impact someone negatively is taken seriously by the wind industry. A growing body of peer-reviewed scientific evidence clearly indicates there is no direct link between wind turbines and health effects in humans.



Massachusetts Study 2012

One of the most thorough examinations of wind energy and health to date is a report released in January 2012 which was prepared for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Massachusetts Department of Public Health by an independent expert panel of medical doctors, audiologists, and acoustical professionals.

The report found that “there is not an association between noise from wind turbines and measures of psychological distress or mental health problems.”

“None of the... evidence reviewed suggests an association between noise from wind turbines and pain and stiffness, diabetes, high blood pressure, tinnitus, hearing impairment, cardiovascular disease, and headache/migraine.”



“There is insufficient evidence that the noise from wind turbines is directly... causing health problems”

Wind Turbine Health Impact Study prepared for Massachusetts Department of Public Health 2012

“Low level frequency noise or infrasound emitted by wind turbines is minimal and of no consequence”

NHMRC 2012 Evidence Review, Wind Turbines & Health

One of the most important things to remember is this;

“Because wind power displaces emissions of air pollutants and toxic materials like mercury, its effect on public health is strongly positive”

