

The Social and Economic Impact of Rural Wind Farms

The **distress and refusal** of a large majority of populations threatened by wind farm projects **is the same everywhere in the world.**

The first question to ask oneself is : **WHY ?**

Because in the first time wind energy has been promoted by a fantastic industrial lobby as THE answer to renewable energies challenge. Nowadays this energy is commonly known and a large number of people well aware of its disadvantages, will by all means alternative solutions to be chosen. The basic blames are :

As neighbourhood :

- Noise and infra-sounds, landscape harm, nightly light flashes, giddy moving shadows... all this resulting in physical and psychological diseases, less value of dwellings, life quality decrease.

Several regions **which have agreed to create wind farms refuse now all projects of extensions** because of the troubles due to already existing installation

- Their compulsory scattering which would be an advantage if they produced controlled energy is a full defect because of the their scattered nuisances.
- The good luck for owners of rented fields against the bad luck for harmed and unpaid neighbours create violent disputes in previously peaceful communities.

As a means of electricity production :

- Wind energy, is unpredictable and **can never be considered as a basic energy** : no wind = **total electricity** to be produced by **enough existing manageable sources**.
- As a **complementary** energy it should be at a **very low cost**, it is nowhere the case.
- This said adult energy should not have to be supported by the tax payers
- Thanks to a fantastic lobbying, this second range energy is promoted as a must when manageable and better accepted other renewable energies are neglected

Many other sources already exist **and many promising are coming up.**

Alain de la Charie

Vigilance Environnement (President)

a member of : EPAW