

It is important that alternative sources are exploited to diminish our dependence on fossil energy. But expectations must be realistic. As for windpower, the present boom is deeply problematic. As an energy source, windpower is marginal and unreliable. To be effective plants have to be big and high, which brings about threats to local democracy as well as natural environments. Further, windpower has to draw on other natural resources when there is too little wind and on state subsidies to become profitable, meaning a transfer of capital from tax payers to land owners and the windpower industry. In Sweden, where the state strongly favors windpower among alternative energy sources, protest movements have consequently become increasingly common.

Therefore the least one should ask from windpower planners is that an expansion takes place only in carefully selected places and by small steps, accompanied by compulsory evaluations.

Ulf Lindberg  
Former associate professor  
Malmö University  
Sweden