



Aesthetics of Wind Power

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The environmental movement made a Faustian bargain in the 70s and 80s when it used aesthetics as way to build local opposition to power plants instead of talking about how conservation efforts could prevent the demand for new power plants. While this did succeed in stopping the power plants, it created a model for how communities are now fighting wind power. From [Long Island](#) to Upstate NY, communities are struggling with how to deal with the fact that wind power is now very cost competitive with other means of power generation. I find it extremely irritating that Asthetics have become a major talking point against building windmills on private property.

[Baloghblog](#) points us to a [local farmer](#) who is facing local opposition to his idea of building a solitary windmill on his property which would power 50-60% of his power needs. I have written about how this [NIMBYism](#) toward wind power may be very short-sighted and my idea on how to reframe the wind power debate by powering the [Statue of Liberty with wind power](#).

The link of this debate to peak oil is that the most logical next step after we hit \$5-6/gallon gas is to simply use as many plug-in hybrids as possible. This could result in a doubling of electrical demand during off-peak hours, when wind is best.

My question back to the people who are against wind power is what their alternative is: More Dirty Coal? Increasing Dependence on Expensive Natural Gas?

What if every community (County, zip code, congressional district, whatever) needed to deal with its own (let's say at least 50%) energy production (or at least electrical power generation), waste disposal, food production, etc.

In one swift move this would eliminate all those stupid NIMBY fights and political deals which exports pollution and the true environmental costs our modern lifestyle to the poorest communities of this and other countries.

Don't like the aesthetics of windmills, ok how do you like a big coal plant in your backyard?



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