

Dear friends,

On the subject of electricity generation from wind, I would like to humbly share a few personal opinions in a few areas.

First area of concern, technological efficiency. It has been made clear that the huge wind towers now generally in use in our region and across our nation are inefficient gatherers of wind. Wind needs to be blowing pretty strongly and steadily for these towers to be of use, at least 13 mph. They are unmoving for large periods of time through each day, month and year.

I would like the upcoming newer technologies that capture wind at far lower speeds, individual rooftop solar-wind combination devices for instance, with the wind propeller features responsive to very light winds, to be made commonly available. If urban dwellers would utilize individual rooftop wind-generated electricity options, there would be much less need to fill vast stretches of farmland with what I consider the huge ugly dinosaurs (first but by no means smartest or best mechanism) of wind energy development.

Secondly, environmental protection for birds. The American Bird Conservancy estimates as many as 1.4 million birds will die annually, that's EVERY YEAR, from turbines by 2030 as America continues transitioning to wind. Our world would be joyless without the birds that share it with us. We humans would be well advised to learn to treasure not just the birds but all other creatures and trees and plants that have shared this increasingly fragile planet long before we started denigrating its resources to suit only our human needs. Future generations will be grateful if we learn to utilize the earth's resources in ways that also protect the other living things around us.

And lastly, a wish for South Dakota. Imagine a statewide goal of bringing the latest wind gathering technologies into the state to show off what new, very efficient mechanisms do toward meeting our urban areas' needs for electricity. What if every county courthouse as well as the statehouse installed a new wind tree in its back yard,



What if every city lighted its streets with new wind/solar collectors.



New technologies are available today. Let's plan strategically, always looking forward! Thanks.

Rosemary Draeger