

# REALITY CHECK

## High Costs & Impacts

### *Wind turbines . . .*

- Kill bats and birds, esp. raptors — many already endangered.
- Destroy and fragment wildlife habitat and wetlands.
- Industrialize rural landscapes with sprawling facilities of 400–600-ft turbines, heavy-duty access roads, transformers, and power lines.
- Cause ill health from loss of sleep and throbbing low-frequency noise.
- Are three-quarters subsidized by taxpayers for the benefit of big energy and private investors — as pioneered by Enron.
- Introduce instability, balancing costs, and inefficiencies to the electric grid.
- Increase electricity rates.

## Minuscule Benefit

- Intermittent, highly variable, nondispatchable power production rarely corresponds with demand.
- Complete backup is required for periods of no and low wind — no conventional power plants can be shut down.
- High-wind areas are far from high-load areas.
- No meaningful reduction of fossil fuel use per unit of electricity consumed has ever been documented.

## Wind: It's Not Worth It.

*For more information, visit [www.wind-watch.org](http://www.wind-watch.org).  
Photo of Cefn Croes, Wales, by Emyr Griffiths.*