

Tekst 3

The beauty of wind farms

David Suzuki

- 1 OFF the coast of British Columbia in Canada is an island called Quadra, where I have a cabin that is as close to my heart as you can imagine. From my porch on a good day you can see clear across the waters of Georgia Strait to the snowy peaks of the rugged Coast Mountains. It is one of the most beautiful views I have seen. And I would gladly share it with a wind farm.
- 2 However, sometimes it seems like I'm in the minority. All across Europe and North America, environmentalists are locking horns with the wind industry over the location of wind farms. In Alberta, one group is opposing a planned wind farm near Cypress Hills Provincial Park, claiming it would destroy views of the park and disturb some of the last remaining native prairie in the province. In the UK more than 100 national and local groups, led by some of the country's most prominent environmentalists, have argued that wind power is inefficient, destroys the ambience of the countryside and makes little difference to carbon emissions.
- 3 It is time for some perspective. With the growing urgency of climate change, we cannot have it both ways. We cannot shout from the rooftops about the dangers of global warming and then turn around and shout even louder about the "dangers" of windmills. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges humanity will face this century. It cannot be solved through good intentions. It will take a radical change in the way we produce and consume energy – another industrial revolution, this time for clean energy, conservation and efficiency.
- 4 We have undergone such transformations before and we can do it again. But first we must accept that all forms of energy have associated costs. Fossil fuels are limited in quantity and create vast amounts of pollution. Large-scale hydroelectric power floods valleys and destroys animal habitat. Nuclear power is terribly expensive and creates radioactive waste.
- 5 Wind power also has its downsides. It is highly visible and can kill birds. The fact is, though, that any man-made structure can kill birds – houses, radio towers, skyscrapers. In Toronto alone, it is estimated that 10,000 birds collide with the city's tallest buildings every year. Compared with this, the risk to birds from well-sited wind farms is very low.
- 6 Even at Altamont Pass in California, where 7000 turbines were erected on a migratory route, only 0.2 birds per turbine per year have been killed. Indeed, the real risk to birds comes not from windmills but from a changing climate, which threatens the very existence of bird species and their habitats. This is not to say that wind farms should be allowed to spring up anywhere. They should always be subject to environmental impact assessments. But a "not in my backyard" approach is hypocritical and counterproductive.
- 7 Are windmills ugly? I remember when Mostafa Tolba, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme from 1976 to 1992, told me how when he was growing up in Egypt, smokestacks belching out smoke were considered signs of progress. Even as an adult concerned about pollution, it took him a long time to get over the instinctive pride he felt when he saw a tower pouring out clouds of smoke.

- 8 We see beauty through filters shaped by our values and beliefs. Some people think wind turbines are ugly. I think smokestacks, smog, acid rain, coal-fired power plants and climate change are ugly. I think windmills are beautiful.
- 9 And if one day I look out from my cabin's porch and see a row of windmills spinning in the distance, I won't curse them. I will praise them. It will mean we are finally getting somewhere.

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- 1p **10** What is the function of paragraph 1 in view of the rest of the article?
To make clear that the writer
- A** has few objections to wind farms being part of the landscape.
 - B** is the proud owner of a holiday home in the Canadian countryside.
 - C** supports the protection of the Canadian natural landscape.
 - D** very much enjoys the scenery surrounding his holiday home.
- 1p **11** How could the second sentence of paragraph 2 (“All across ... wind farms.”) also begin?
- A** And all across Europe...
 - B** But all across Europe...
 - C** For all across Europe...
 - D** So all across Europe...
- 1p **12** Which of the following is true according to paragraph 3?
- A** Instead of building more wind farms, we should try to save energy.
 - B** The risks connected to wind farms can be reduced.
 - C** Wind farms are necessary to help save the environment.
 - D** Wind farms cannot generate all the electricity needed.
- 1p **13** Welke zin in alinea 4 bevat de hoofdgedachte van deze alinea?
Citeer het eerste woord van deze zin.
- 2p **14** Geef voor elk van de onderstaande beweringen aan of deze wel of niet in overeenstemming is met de inhoud van de alinea's 5-6.
- 1 De tegenstanders van windmolens verzwijgen de voordelen van windmolenparken.
 - 2 Niet elke locatie is geschikt om er windmolens te plaatsen.
 - 3 Om windenergie lonend te maken, moet je veel windmolens bij elkaar plaatsen.
 - 4 Vogels hebben minder te vrezen van windmolens dan van andere gevaren.
- Noteer het nummer van elke bewering, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.
- 1p **15** Which of the following quotations summarises the point made in paragraphs 7-8?
- A** “smokestacks belching ... of progress”
 - B** “We see ... and beliefs.”
 - C** “Some people ... turbines are ugly.”
 - D** “I think ... are beautiful.”