



Ontario residents are facing economic calamity as a result of the Ontario Liberal's 2009 Green Energy Act (GEA) which aims to expand green energy production, encourage energy conservation and purports to create green jobs. As Peter Goldring explains, there are lessons to be learned here, for Alberta, and all of Canada.

Although striving to 'go green' is commendable, there is little question that this radical fervent push towards green energy is truly in the Ontario public's worst interest. There are numerous mitigating factors which the Ontario government has been silent about, but which paint a clearer picture of the misguided effects of green energy efforts on the province.

First and perhaps foremost, this Ontario Liberal government action extinguishes all rights of municipalities who directly represent area voters, to have control of their economic and social future. Is this possible to be enacted here in Alberta

against our municipalities' wishes? I believe that if this is not already unconstitutional it should be. While municipal governance clearly is under provincial jurisdiction in Article 92(8) of the Constitution, it undoubtedly was not meant that a province could have the authority to usurp and effectively override municipal legislation. This is why about 100 Ontario municipalities themselves legislated against the actions of the Provincial government.

Competitive energy is a necessity for industry. In this time of economic slow-down, companies are fleeing the ever-growing uncompetitiveness of hydro power of Ontario to other provinces or back to the United States. One company of 700 employees in Timmins shut down and moved to Quebec directly due to uncompetitive Ontario hydro power.

When comparing the cost of green energy providers, it comes as no surprise that hydroelectricity is the cheapest alternative. The average price



The Ontario government's push towards green energy is crippling the province's taxpayers, forcing them to pay, in extreme cases, up to 27 times more for their electricity.



paid for unregulated hydro at the dam, so to speak, is 3¢ per kilowatt hour (kWh). This price paid for nuclear power at the station is also affordable at 5¢ kWh.

Yet, the cheap, clean hydroelectricity is being displaced by wind and solar energy which are substantially more expensive. By comparison, the price paid by Ontario Hydro for solar power at the array is 80¢ kWh and the price paid for wind power at the farms is 13¢ kWh. The solar-power rates are 18 times greater than those of hydro at the dam, whereas the wind-power rates are four times greater than hydro (water generated power).

Since wind energy first presented itself in Ontario it has generated in excess of \$1.3-billion for wind developers while costing ratepayers approximately \$900-million more than they would have paid for hydro. Add in the tens of thousands of jobs lost because of business and industry fleeing the uncompetitive power costs in Ontario, and the net effect is a great loss that will only get worse.

Are wind turbines truly green? It has been estimated that the material consumed by manufacturers to create the steel for one single wind turbine is 170 tonnes of metallurgical coal and have to be replaced every 20 years!

The Melancthon-Amaranth area in Brampton is home to 133 wind turbines and is Ontario's first industrial wind farm. The Brampton Real Estate Board examined the real estate listing and sales figures in that area and found that between 2007-2010, on average, properties adjacent to turbines sold for between 20 and 40 percent less than comparable properties that were out of sight from the windmills.



The Ontario government is shifting away from the use of clean, truly green, and inexpensive hydroelectricity despite the province being best suited for sustainable water generated hydro-power.

Lawsuits have already been launched in regions of Ontario spanning from Windsor to Ottawa, as homeowners are seeking damages from wind farm developers and landowners with turbines as homeowners claim that their proximity to wind turbines have cut their property values or made them impossible to sell. Many residents in rural areas located

in the vicinity of wind turbines are challenging their tax assessments, submitting applications for a reduction. Many residents feel that the construction of wind turbines in their rural region was an introduction of industrialization into the rural area which has greatly compromised the value of their property.

In addition, because municipal concerns have not been considered, I believe that they have a very good case to seek financial damages from the Province for loss of tax revenue as a result of greatly de-



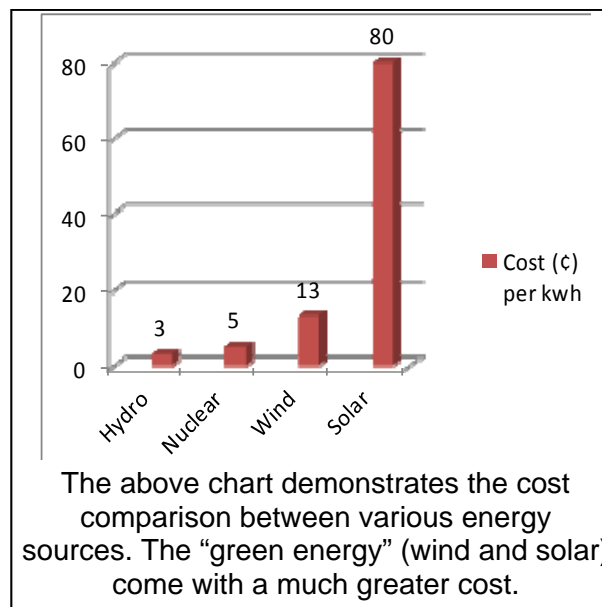
creased property values, or perhaps the municipalities may be able to gain some revenue by implementing a special wind farm industrial district fee to offset their losses. However, financial woes and inefficiencies are not the only point of contention surrounding the issue of wind turbines. Arguments surrounding the negative health effects of wind turbines have become a pressing matter.

One of such effects commonly experienced by residents in areas surrounding wind turbines is the 'visual flicker'. This occurs when the sun is obscured by the turbine blades as they turn, causing a flickering of light. This strobe effect can cause vision impairment and be particularly dangerous for motorists.

Other adverse health effects arise from low frequency audible noise and infrasound coming from the wind turbines. The constant whooshing noise created by the blades, as well as the constant vibration, are leading to residents experiencing many adverse health effects. These include sleep deprivation, headaches, tinnitus (ringing in the ears), cognitive dysfunction, and some serious cardiac effects such as irregular heart rhythm, palpitations, and high blood pressure. Farm animals, wild animals, and house pets are all

affected by being even more sensitive to the machine noise than are humans. During a recent site visit to the Wolfe Island wind farm (near Kingston, ON), standing at the front veranda of a farm house, a constant high level jet plane engine rumble was clearly heard and very annoying. Who would want to live with this noise and visual pollution?

Reported cases of adverse health effects from wind turbines have ranged from residents living 400-metres to five-kilometres away from a turbine(s). Ontario requires a minimum distance from wind turbines to dwellings at 550-metres. Ontario residents are not the only victims of wind turbines, as it is documented that the mortality rate of migratory birds and bats is affected by the presence of wind



turbines. While the Ontario Liberal government, through the 2009 Green Energy Act, is giving substantial subsidies to create massive amounts of clean energy, a very important fact is being overlooked - Ontario doesn't need to create more energy! Ontario pays bordering provinces/states an average of 13.9¢ per kWh to take their excess energy. It is calculated that Ontario pays over \$52 million per month to subsidize electricity users in the United States

and Quebec. Last year alone Ontario paid \$800 million to other provinces and states just for taking the province's excess electricity.

This ridiculous situation came about because all solar and wind energy was foolishly contracted to be taken regardless of need. Imagine paying the exorbitantly high costs that come with solar and wind energy then needing to pay an additional extra sum to the United States and Quebec for them to take this power!

This figure is expected to balloon possibly to ten times - to \$8 billion per year - within ten

years when all solar and wind units come on stream.

Converting to green energy dubiously through the implementation of countless wind turbines and solar panels is not in Ontario's best interest – financially, economically, environmentally, or health-wise. What if these poorly planned initiatives are also brought to Alberta under the guise of Green Energy?

**UPDATE:** Ontario boasts an abundance of untapped rivers and water-flow potential to provide a greener, cleaner, more reliable, and less expensive power alternative to noise and visually polluting wind farms. The Opposition Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario intends to make this an election issue.

<p><b>9111 - 118th Ave.</b>  <b>Edmonton, AB T5B 0T9</b>  <b>(780) 495-3261</b>  <b>Fax: 495-5142</b></p>	<p><b>Web Site:</b>  <a href="http://www.petergoldring.ca">www.petergoldring.ca</a>  <b>Email:</b>  <a href="mailto:peter.goldring.c1@parl.gc.ca">peter.goldring.c1@parl.gc.ca</a></p>	<p><b>411 Justice Bldg.</b>  <b>Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6</b>  <b>(613) 992-3821</b>  <b>Fax: 992-6898</b></p>
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***This brochure series is intended to highlight special issues that Member of Parliament, Peter Goldring, has been involved in. If you wish to comment, please take a moment to fill out the survey below, write or call to the address above.***



**Your Opinion Matters...**

Q1: Were you aware of the detrimental environmental impact of the manufacturing process associated with creating wind and solar power generating units?


Yes       No

Q2: Do you believe it is in Canada's best interest to review our current green energy initiatives for practicality?

Yes       No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



**Peter Goldring**  
**Member of Parliament**  
**Edmonton East**  
**House of Commons**  
**Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6**

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