

GREENINGS

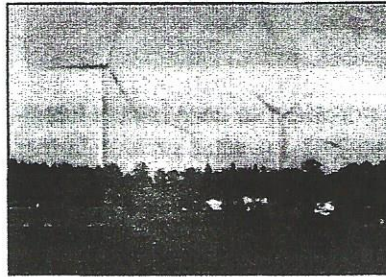
From the heart of Michigan's Upper Peninsula

Fall 2015

DOING WIND WRONG Opposition to Wind Turbines on the Garden

They come as an unpleasant shock as you travel the winding paved road toward Fayette State Park on the picturesque Garden Peninsula. Suddenly an immense wind turbine, then 13 more, appear out of nowhere and loom ominously over the rural landscape to dwarf the rolling hills, fields, and woods.

This is the Heritage Wind Farm, just the beginning of what the corporation hopes will be a 68 (yes, 68) giant wind turbines on the Garden. That they're despoiling a rare, beautiful corner of Michigan on a major bird and Monarch butterfly migration route, are hundreds of miles from where the energy produced will be used, necessitate long transmission lines, threaten already-dwindling bat populations, and are causing serious health and annoyance problems, has not deterred their construction.



While Greens support wind energy in general, the wind turbines on the Garden Peninsula represent the wrong way to go about moving to more Earth-gentle technologies.

"Your right to swing your fist ends where my nose begins."

an old (and evidently forgotten) adage

First, wind towers and wind farms should be located as close to the places of highest energy demand as possible. Certainly NOT where they destroy our increasingly rare rural-wilderness areas, NOT on migratory bird routes, NOT where they need hundreds and hundreds of miles of powerlines through forests to reach consumers, and NOT where they dramatically change the quality of life of area residents and the nature of the region.

Second, wind towers and wind farms must be properly scaled. The 300 foot tall turbines may work near skyscrapers and in already heavily industrialized regions. Such mega-scale, industrial turbines do not belong on the Garden Peninsula.

Several local groups have organized to resist the energy colonization of the Garden.

Check out these websites:

Concerned Citizens of Delta County
(on Facebook)

www.deltacountywind.org

<http://peninsulafoundation.net/links>

