

HIGHLIGHTS

Towards Wildlife Friendly Wind Power: A Focus on the Great Lakes Basin
June 2006 – Toledo, Ohio

Purpose: not to discuss the merits of wind power, but through this unique and first ever conference dedicated to addressing wildlife issues associated with wind power, focus on:

- *Communicating information about potential wildlife concerns of wind power generation*
- *Sharing resources available to help make informed decisions about where wind power facilities should be located*
- *Advancing knowledge of land-based and offshore wind and wildlife, including impacts to wildlife, tools and techniques, risk and impact assessment, laws and regulations, siting protocols, and pre- and post-monitoring*
- *Developing consistent research and management approaches for resource managers, regulators, scientists, decision makers, the wind energy industry, conservationists, elected officials and other stakeholders*

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Objective: *To Collaboratively Identify and Advance the Means To:*

- *Better coordinate and communicate issues, concerns, and opportunities for resolution.*
- *Develop consistent and consensus guidance, techniques, and approaches for wind energy siting, and both pre- and post- project monitoring and assessment.*
- *Compile and build consensus on priority research and information needs.*
- *Identify, compile, and provide fish, wildlife, and habitat information and data to allow development of geospatial data layers and maps to inform locations areas of high risk to wildlife to better inform wind energy siting decisions. Note examples in this folder.*
- *Determine a “call to action”, recommendations for the next steps forward*

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Conference Agenda Framework:

- *Overviews of Wind Energy and Wildlife*
- *Wildlife Issues*
- *Assessment Tools & Methods: Pre, During, Post-Construction*
- *Frameworks for Moving Forward and Institutional Preparedness*

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Conference Products:

- Towards Wildlife Friendly Wind Energy – Selected Website Bibliography:
 - Wind Energy Overview
 - Impacts to Wildlife
 - Offshore Impacts of Wind Energy
 - Wind Energy Assessment Tools, Methods, and Protocols
 - Wind Energy Policy, Guidelines, and Regulatory Frameworks
 - Wind Energy Potential Maps – U.S. and Canada
 - Major Agencies and Organizations Involved in Wind Energy
 - Other related information sites

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Conference Products:

- Wind Energy and Wildlife Who's Who Draft List – to build on together post conference
- Prioritized Research Needs and Information Gaps:
 - Regarding the Impacts of Wind Facilities on Wildlife and Their Habitats
 - Key Questions Which Should Be Addressed
 - Fish, Benthos, and Wildlife for Offshore Wind Facilities

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Conference Products

- Suggestions for Moving Forward and Next Steps – Including Responding to Congresswoman Kaptur's Challenge to Provide Recommendations
- Towards Wildlife Friendly Wind Power Web Sites:

Conference Presentations, Notes, Products:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/greatlakes/windpowerpresentations.htm>

Continuing the Dialogue and Next Steps, Additional Resource Info:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/greatlakes/windpowerpresentations.htm>

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Consider Using Opportunity of this Workshop to Address How to:

- *Build on “Who’s Who in Wind and Wildlife” Network*
- *Make Progress and Build on Suggestions for Moving Forward and Next Steps*
- *Develop Response to Congresswoman Kaptur’s Challenge*

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POST TOLEDO INITIATIVES – ISSUES – OPPORTUNITIES

- *National Academy of Science – Building on Research Needs and Monitoring Protocols*
 - *Great Lakes Migratory Bird Stopover Site Assessment, Other Assessments and Tools*
- *Great Lakes Commission White Paper on Great Lakes Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy Coordination – Survey of Key Energy Policy Stakeholders – Recommendations for Regional Cooperation*
- *Wind Projects On or Adjacent to NWRs, National Parks, Other Protected Areas*