

Environment and wildlife

“Wind is an **abundant, clean, reliable, and low-cost source** of electricity that we must continue developing to help **address the climate crisis**”

– Union of Concerned Scientists¹

Wind Power Saves

WATER



Wind energy does not require water and has **no impacts on water quality**²

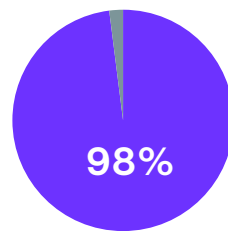
Water Consumption
by Fuel Source



1,000 gallons³
per MW



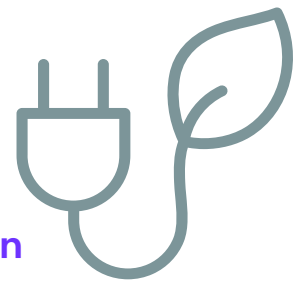
0 gallons
per MW



Wind turbines have a limited footprint, leaving **98 percent** of the land undisturbed and available for **wildlife habitat, farming, ranching, or recreation**.⁴

Wind power reduces
POLLUTION

Wind helps avoid **334 million metric tons** of CO2 emissions annually – equivalent to **73 million cars'** worth of emissions⁵



In reality, a typical wind turbine will **repay its carbon footprint in less than six months**, and it will **generate emission-free electricity** for the remainder of its 20 to 30 year lifespan.⁵



Wind power **reduces air pollution**, including nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, and mercury, which harm both humans and wildlife.⁶

Wind power **requires no fuel extraction**, a leading source of habitat disruption.⁶

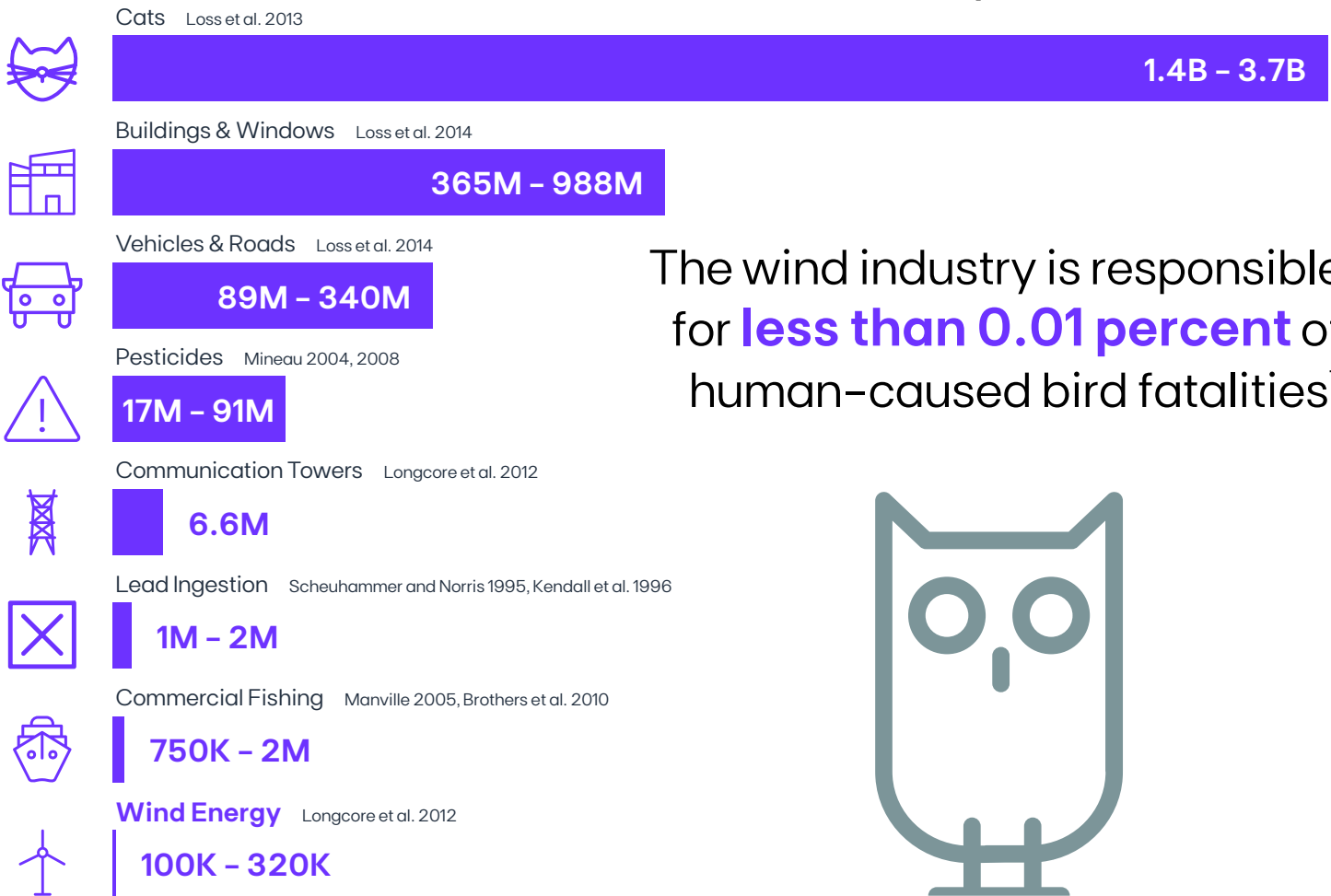
“The wind farm doesn’t bother the wildlife.

I think we’ve seen more now than we did before the wind farm.”

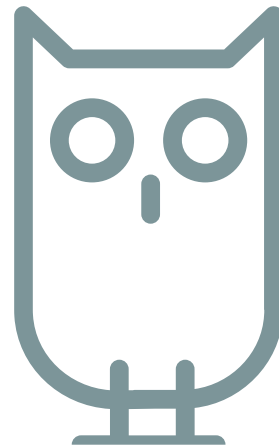
–Joyce K., New York landowner



Causes of Bird Mortality



The wind industry is responsible for **less than 0.01 percent** of human-caused bird fatalities⁷



“**Audubon strongly supports wind energy** that is sited and operated properly to **avoid, minimize, and mitigate effectively** for the impacts on birds, other wildlife, and the places they need now and in the future. To that end, **we support the development of wind energy to achieve 100% clean electricity.**”⁸

¹American Clean Power Association, Wildlife and Wind Power Facts, 2021.
²American Clean Power Association, Wildlife and Wind Power Facts, 2020.
³Union of Concerned Scientists. 2011. [Freshwater Use by U.S. Power Plants](#).
⁴American Clean Power Association, Wildlife and Wind Power Facts, 2021.
⁵American Clean Power Association, Wind Power Facts and Statistics, 2023.
⁶American Clean Power Association, Wildlife and Wind Power Facts, 2021.
⁷American Clean Power Association, Wildlife and Wind Power Facts, 2021.
⁸Audubon, Wind Power and Birds, 2020.