*There are many hidden truths about the world of wind turbines from the pollution and environmental damage caused in China by manufacturing bird choppers … the countless numbers of birds that are killed each year.*

Yes, wind turbines kill birds – and bats.  But a bird is 800 times more likely to be hit by a car, 1200 times more likely to fly into a plate-glass window, and many thousands of times more likely to be eaten by a house cat.  Note also that the wind industry is working hard to improve in this arena.

*Wind energy is just a tax scam. Ben Lieberman, a senior policy analyst focusing on energy and environmental issues for the Heritage Foundation, is not surprised. He asks: “If wind power made sense, why would it need a government subsidy in the first place? It’s a bubble which bursts as soon as the government subsidies end.”*

NREL has an Avian Group, which studies birds and wind turbines. The have a whole set of information about how to site turbines to avoid bird injuries and death. First, birds that are not birds of prey are afraid of things that move in the sky and are unlikely to ever get hit – they tend to stay well away from turbines. Second, birds of prey are not afraid of things that move in the sky, but they are creatures of habit, and cruise on air currents hunting for prey in pretty much the same places during the year – so by conducting a small study of the bird population at a proposed wind site, it is possible to eliminate almost all bird injuries.

Of course, when most of the turbines were installed at Altamont Pass in California, the avian problem had not been identified – so that is the place where the statistics are from that are most cited by anti-wind people. But, even as bad as those statistics are, transmission lines are still the biggest problem for the energy industry. More birds are killed, by far, by transmission lines. Since transmission lines from Coal and Natural Gas plants are much more prevalent, it is actually coal and natural gas plants that kill more birds.

The price of wind and the other main forms of renewable energy continue to fall each year, and it’s very clear to everyone who is honestly trying to make sense of the issue that subsidies will not be required much longer.  As it is, the subsidies for wind are continually coming and going  – unlike the subsidies bestowed to the oil companies, which have been in place for 90 years, and persist in making the wealthiest industry on Earth even wealthier – all at tax-payers’ expense.  And not to get into character assassination, but the [Heritage Foundation](http://2greenenergy.com/2012/11/19/spending-on-renewables/) is hardly a bastion of integrity. If you check out the link above, you’ll see why I think you should feel much more comfortable taking moral direction from the neoNazis or the KKK.

The Deduction for Intangible Drilling Costs is the single longest standing “entitlement” program of the U.S. Government. Since it’s inception it has cost us $140 billion in payments – including the interest on the fundss that were borrowed to make those payments nearly $1 trillion of the U.S. Debt can be attributed to this taxpayer funded entitlement program. I call it an entitlement program because: 1) Those very profitable companies that receive this entitlement spend many millions of dollars lobbying Congress to insure that it is secure; and, 2) The Oil, Gas, and Coal companies that get this money, actually have it embedded into their long term (10+ year) budget plans. If you look up the 30 large corporations that paid no income tax last year, Exxon Mobil is on that list. It is this subsidy that allowed them to do that. But, the subsidy is only 15% of their “upstream” profits. Corporate tax rates are 35% of profit – so how do they pull off this neat trick? The large, very profitable, corporations divide their company into “upstream” and “downstream” divisions. Then, they artificially set the price that the “upstream” (exploration, drilling, production) division charges the “downstream” division for the oil, gas, or coal. That way, for example, if the company as a whole earns $10 billion in profit, they can claim that the “upstream” division earned $20 billion while the “downstream” division lost $10 billion. The result is then a $3 billion tax deduction. That’s one the little “loopholes” that Exxon-Mobil uses to not pay even one single penny in income tax. I know someone who was an accountant for an Oil company, which is why I’m familiar with this little trick.

*Like solar panels, windmills produce less energy before they break down than the energy it took to make them. That’s the part liberals forget: making windmills and solar panels takes energy, energy from coal, oil, and diesel, energy that extracts and refines raw materials, energy that transports those materials to where they will be re-shaped into finished goods, energy to manufacture those goods. More energy than those finished windmills and solar panels will ever produce.*

One could argue that there is a grain of truth in the first two, but not in this one; it’s completely false.  Here’s a short piece on the [“return on energy” wind produces](http://2greenenergy.com/2012/08/11/life-cycle-analysis/).

I leave you with a link to [Energy Fact Check](http://www.energyfactcheck.org/), a really good — and honest — source for the truth on the subject.  Thanks again for writing.

The a little logic can also be applied here. If this were the case, then all of that steel used for Coal and Natural Gas plants would have the same problem. But, although they are few, there are wind farms that actually would make a profit without the PTC. Since all of the cost of the raw materials has to be paid “up front”, that would be impossible if this were true.