



## Vermont's Proposed Wind Sound Rules

The Public Service Board has proposed new sound rules at such a low decibel limit that it **would effectively ban future wind energy generation in Vermont.**

Vermont's proposed wind sound standards



Decibel Scale for Everyday Activities	
Activity	Decibel Level
Soft Whisper	30
Indoor Quiet Residence, Office, Library	40
Rainfall, Refrigerator	50
Normal Conversation	60
TV audio, Human Voice at 10 ft	70
Doorbell or Car at 10 ft	80
Lawn Mower, Tractor, Blender	90
Snow Mobile	100
Leaf Blower, Power Saw, Nightclub Band	110
Chain Saw, Rock Concert	120

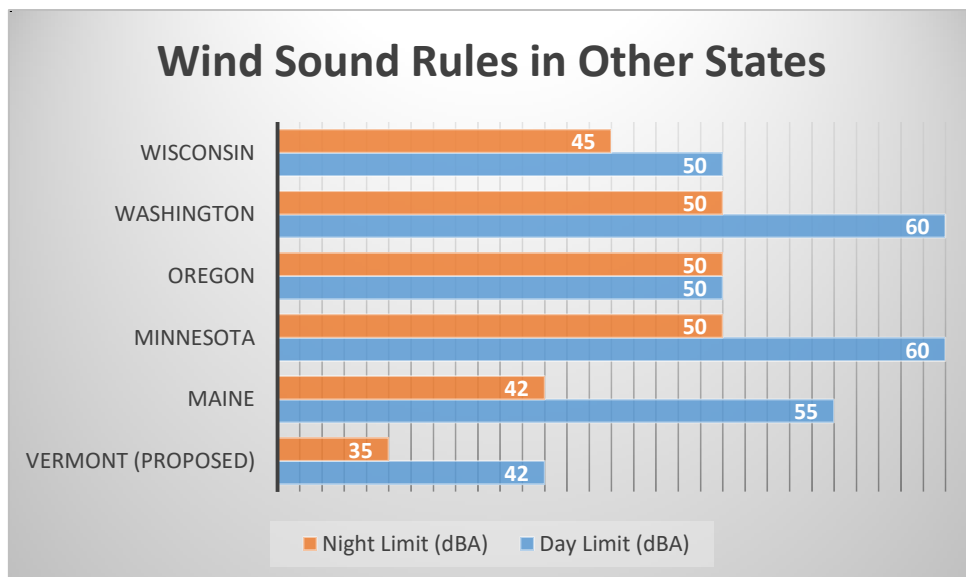
Wind energy is critical to meeting Vermont's **90% total renewables goal**. We could produce enough **wind energy to power 155,000 homes**.

Vermont's proposed wind standards are **unprecedented and not grounded in peer reviewed science**, setting an impracticable and lower sound level than any other state and Canada.

Small wind turbines (>34 kW) certified for sound range from 41 to 55 dBA. More than 155 of these are installed in Vermont, powering homes, farms, and businesses.

With no one speaking, inside the VPR sound studio exceeds the PSB's proposed sound limits.

Decibels are measured on a logarithmic scale, meaning that every increase of 10dB is equivalent to a 10-fold increase in sound intensity (which broadly corresponds with a doubling in loudness). A 35-decibel limit is twice as quiet as a 45-decibel limit.



Extensive, independent public health studies have found **no link** between exposure to sound from wind turbines and health problems.

- A 2014 study by the Canadian government's health department involving more than 1238 households located near wind farms found "no evidence" of a link to health problems and "no association" with stress or sleep issues.<sup>12</sup>
- An independent panel of experts hired by the state of Massachusetts concluded that "There is no evidence for a set of health effects, from exposure to wind turbines that could be characterized as a 'Wind Turbine Syndrome.'"<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Vermont Public Service Board, Rule 5.700 <http://psb.vermont.gov/sites/psbnew/files/documents/SoundRule/SOS3-17/PSB%20Rule%205.700%20post-ICAR.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Wind Turbine Noise and Health Study, Health Canada 2014 <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/ewh-semt/noise-bruit/turbine-eoliennes/pamphlet-brochure-eng.php>

<sup>3</sup> Wind Turbine Health Impact Study: Report of Independent Expert Panel Study 2012 <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/energy/wind/turbine-impact-study.pdf>

# Wind Works for Vermont



Wind power generated over 15% of all in state electricity production in 2016.<sup>1</sup>



328 local workers are employed in the wind industry in Vermont.<sup>3</sup>



Wind energy produced in Vermont in 2015 avoided over 20,000 metric tons of carbon emissions.<sup>2</sup>



Wind projects contribute over \$1 million annually to the state education fund.



Wind in Vermont creates enough energy to power 59,200 homes.



Wind projects contribute more than \$1.25 million annually in tax revenue to Vermont towns.

## Vermont Voices Supporting Wind



“I love the wind turbines. All my life I’ve thought, ‘how wonderful it would be if we could harness our natural resources to produce energy,’ and I was so thrilled when I heard there will be wind towers on our mountain... It’s a big bonus to have tax relief, and it’s a bigger bonus to have them on the mountain doing good... You have to listen hard to hear them at all.” – *Esther Weber of Lowell, lives 1 mile from the Kingdom Community Wind Project*

“I support wind energy because it’s a beautiful use of the elements that have been given to us in this world to produce power without any pollution.” – *Ron Palmer of Milton, lives 1 mile away from the Georgia Mountain Community Wind Project.*

<sup>1</sup> American Wind Energy Association’s *U.S. Wind Industry Annual Market Report* (April 2017).

<sup>2</sup> American Wind Energy Association’s *Vermont Wind Energy Factsheet*: <http://awea.files.cms-plus.com/FileDownloads/pdfs/Vermont.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Energy’s 2017 U.S. Energy and Employment Report

[https://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/01/f34/2017%20US%20Energy%20and%20Jobs%20Report%20State%20Charts%20202\\_o.pdf](https://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/01/f34/2017%20US%20Energy%20and%20Jobs%20Report%20State%20Charts%20202_o.pdf)