

Wind Energy Policy

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The Houston Audubon Society (HAS) supports the development of renewable energy in the U.S., including wind power, as an alternative to fossil-fueled power plants to meet the current and growing demand for electrical energy. In doing so, HAS recognizes that all energy choices have implications for birds.

While HAS supports alternative energy sources, including wind power, HAS believes that before construction of new wind energy projects in Texas proceeds, potential risks to birds and bats should be evaluated through site analyses, including assessments of birds and bat abundance, timing and magnitude of migration, and habitat use patterns. Wind energy project location, design, operation, and lighting should be carefully evaluated to prevent, or at least minimize, birds and bat mortality and adverse impacts through habitat fragmentation, disturbance, and site avoidance.

HAS believes that very careful consideration must be given to each site for wind turbine projects. To accomplish this we believe the State of Texas should adopt guidelines or regulations to assure the prevention or minimization of avian impacts from new wind turbine construction and operation.