

Far above the rotor blades

Migrating birds fly much higher than wind turbines reach. Cranes and songbirds travel at least 500 meters above the ground.

Wind farms in areas with few species

Nature reserves are off limits for wind power. Turbines are only put up where winds are strong, few people live nearby, and there is a low risk of negative consequences for nature. Generally, those are areas that are already being intensively used for agriculture and forestry.

Turning off for red kites

Harvested fields under wind turbines are rich hunting grounds for red kites. To make sure the hunters don't collide with rotor blades, the turbines can be shut off while fields are being cleared and for a few days afterwards.

Dynamic duo: Wind power and conservation

Climate change harms both humans and nature. Renewable energy contributes not only to climate protection; the environment, too, directly benefits from wind energy – thanks to conscious on-site conservation efforts.

Forest reconstruction

Anyone who puts up a turbine in a forest needs to compensate for the trees that were cut down. Turbine operators invest in reforestation, ecological forest transformation, and other efforts that provide shelter for wildcats and their young and new breeding grounds for birds and bats.

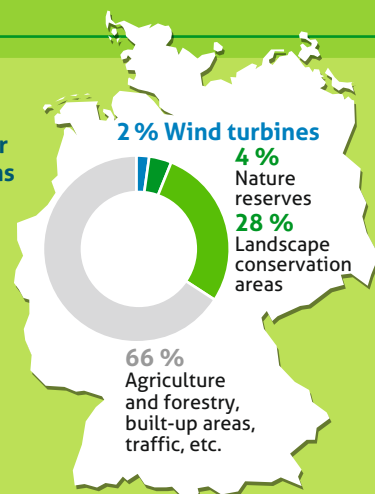
Wild meadows

Ecological projects, such as planting wildflower meadows and meadow orchards, are implemented to compensate for interventions in nature and the landscape. Birds can brood undisturbed in such areas, which become new resting and feeding grounds for wintering birds.

New habitats for cranes

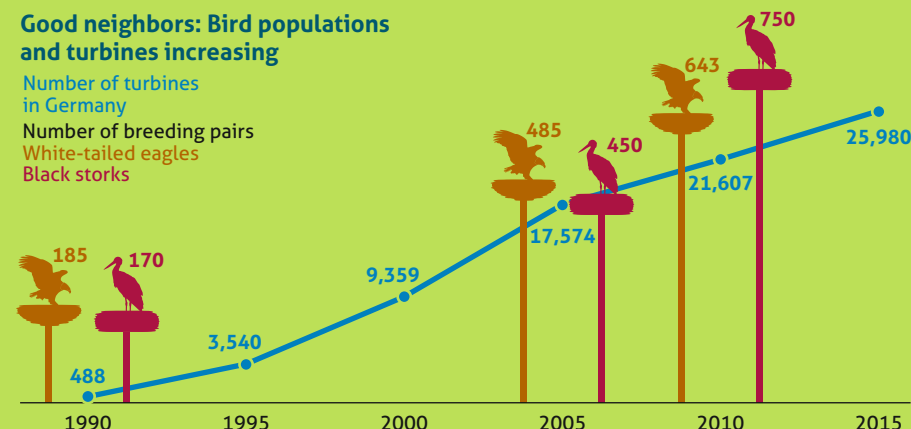
Wind turbines and cranes get along quite well. The noble birds have greatly increased in number in many areas with wind power. If their habitats are diminished, brownfields are returned to nature or dry areas are converted to wet meadows in order to create new opportunities for nesting. This creates new spaces for other species, too.

2% of
Germany
allotted for
wind farms

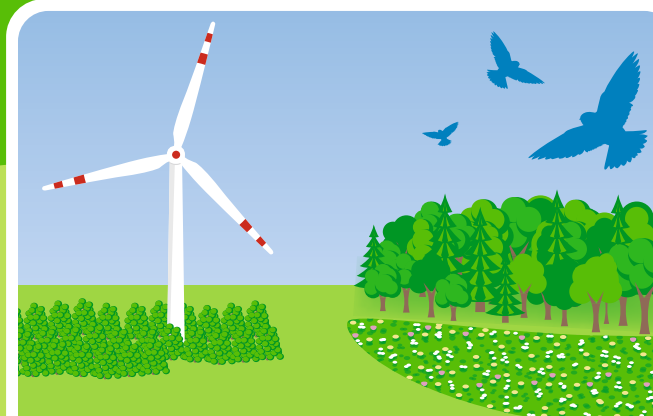


Good neighbors: Bird populations and turbines increasing

Number of turbines in Germany
Number of breeding pairs
White-tailed eagles
Black storks



Graphic: Ahnen&Enkel, B. Erfurth, M. Kluger commissioned by BWE, 2016



Thick vegetation under wind turbines

Birds of prey run the risk of collisions if they hunt around wind turbines. Areas under turbines can be planted with plants that give a lot of cover so the would-be prey can hide and the birds hunt in more promising locations.



Shutting down for bats

On warm summer nights with little wind, some bat species hunt at such great heights that they risk getting close to the rotor blades. Many turbines are therefore temporarily turned off on such nights – since there's not much wind anyway, the power yield given up is no great loss.

Sources: "Windenergie im Zeichen des Naturschutzes", BWE 2016; "Praxisbeispiele Windenergie & Artenschutz", BUND 2016