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Town of Yates
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An Open Letter to the Town Board

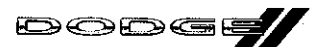
I was proud to be among the 60-70 people present at the Town of Yates Board meeting last evening. The vast majority of people present were vehemently opposed to the proposed APEX Windfarm.

My family have been cottage owners on the southern shore of Lake Ontario in the beautiful Town of Yates since 1994. We have seen the area grow more beautiful as the years go on...with more and more people investing into their properties. Ultimately when I retire, our slice of heaven in Lyndonville/Yates will become our permanent residence.

I am actually in shock of what is being proposed by the APEX organization. There is an organization formed that will combat this proposal at every intersection, and I will be at their side battling if need be. I saw the results of the survey done in 2007 with a huge majority of the town residents saying they were in favor of wind energy. Although we were never asked our thoughts back in 2007 as was suggested last evening, we may have answered in favor of wind energy as well, based on the way the questions on the survey were asked. I can almost guarantee had the survey questions been based on what APEX is currently proposing, the answers would have had much different results. Certainly on the surface, who wouldn't be opposed to "free" wind energy that would result in lower taxes. As they say, "the devil is in the details".

The purpose of my letter is not to debate the merits of the positives versus the negatives of the APEX project, although I am and will be prepared to do so if necessary. The purpose of my letter is to appeal to your better senses as members of this wonderful community...many of you lifelong residents. In my 54 years on this earth, I cannot recall a more controversial topic that will undoubtedly pull the fabric of this awesome community apart to a point of no return.

Our website www.lakeontarioturbines.com has a must see documentary attached to it. It is called Windfall. It is really the tale of two towns in New York State. Both of them could be Lyndonville, NY. One of them, Meredith, NY successfully fought off the windfarms. The other, Tug Hill, NY did not and now the landscape is littered with these monstrosities. Neither town is happy. The mere proposal and vetting of the project drove lifelong friendships apart. Neighbors who used to be best friends now don't speak. It drove families apart. It essentially created the Hatfield's and McCoy's in this little village. My fear is that this is exactly what will



happen in our little hamlet on Lake Ontario. As Kate Whipple summed up perfectly when the only person present at last night's meeting spoke not really in favor of the wind project, but more in a neutral position, *"sir, that is simply not what Lyndonville is all about!"*

I implore each of you to watch this documentary. I have printed two recaps of the movie if you chose not to watch it. It would be devastating to the area to have Lyndonville become either Meredith or Tug Hill. There simply isn't enough economic gain to drive a potential wedge into this community.

I am not sure what the position of the board is, nor do I know your role in this project with the Article 10 procedure. I do know however, that a negative view of this project will go a long way to end this potential debacle before it goes too far.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Paul J. Mullane

Cc: NYS Senator Robert Ortt

Windfall (2010 film)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Windfall is a 2010 documentary film directed by Laura Israel about the reaction of residents in rural Meredith, New York (in Delaware County, New York) to a proposal to place numerous wind turbines in their community to harness wind power.

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Summary

The film begins in 2004, when energy companies approached several property owners in Meredith, offering cash payments to allow the long-term placement of wind turbines standing over 400 feet tall on their land. The documentary portrays Meredith residents as deeply divided over the idea. Some believe the economic and energy benefits are worth investigating. Others are concerned about the towers being an eyesore, loss of property values, or posing a variety of hazards such as collapse, accumulation of ice which is then flung from the turbines in large chunks, or health problems attributed to low frequency noise. Residents of Lowville, New York are also interviewed, expressing regret at installing wind turbines in their community.

After an often rancorous debate, officials in Meredith ultimately decided against authorizing the use of wind turbines.

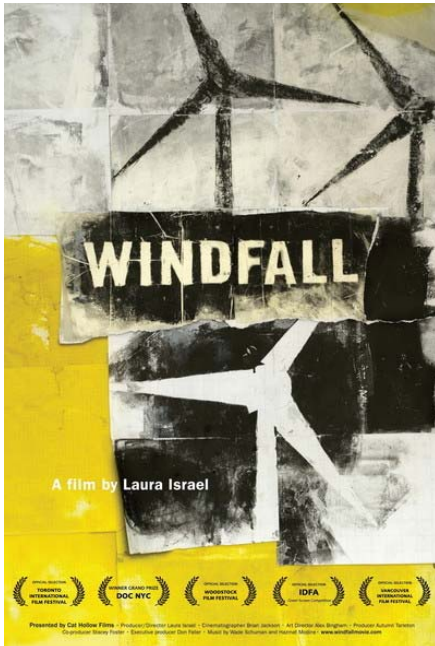
The film is composed mostly of interviews with Meredith residents. Also included are excerpts of news broadcasts, films of city council meetings, and computer-animated segments.

Reactions

Roger Ebert gave the film 3 out of 4 stars, writing that the film "left me disheartened. I thought wind energy was something I could believe in. This film suggests it's just another corporate flim-flam game." He notes that there is doubtless a legion of wind-power activists and lobbyists who would counter-argue the points made in *Windfall*, but asks "How many of them live on wind farms?"^[1] In a review for the *New York Times*, Andy Webster writes that Israel's film tends to "overheat" but raises important questions: "The quest for energy independence comes with caveats. Developers' motives must be weighed, as should the risks Americans are willing to take in their own backyard."^[2]

In Memoriam 1942 – 2013 | ★ ★ ★ ★

WINDFALL



WINDFALL (2012)

Written and directed by

Laura Israel,

Documentary


Rated NR

WATCH THIS MOVIE

[Netflix Mail](#) (DVD/Blu-ray)

Powered by [GoWatchIt](http://gowatchit.com) (<http://gowatchit.com>)

★ ★ ★ | Roger Ebert

February 1, 2012 |  1

A documentary named "Windfall" has taken the wind out of my sails. Assuming it can be trusted (and many of its claims seem self-evident), wind turbines are a blight upon the land and yet another device by which energy corporations and Wall Street, led by the always reliable Goldman Sachs, are picking the pockets of those who can least afford it. There is even some question whether wind energy uses more power than it generates.

Director Laura Israel's film is set almost entirely in Meredith, N.Y., a farming area of some 2,000 people in a beautiful Catskills landscape. A few dairy and beef farms still survive, but many of the residents are now retired people who have come here with their dreams. Most of them were once "of course" in favor of wind power, which offered the hope of clean, cheap energy. When an Irish corporation named Airtricity came around offering land owners \$5,000, neighbors \$500 apiece and the town a 2 percent cut of the revenue, that was a win-win, right?

So it appeared. But some residents, including a former editor for an encyclopedia and the final photo editor of Life magazine, began doing some research. The town board set up an energy advisory panel, and after a year of study, it recommended the town refuse the Airtricity offer. The town board rejected the panel's finding. One of them recused himself because of his personal holdings in energy. The others saw no conflict.

This generated a furor in Meredith, and we meet people who were best friends for years and now were no longer on speaking terms. We watch board meetings and meet lots of locals; the film bypasses the usual expert talking heads and relies on the personal experiences of these individuals.

I learned that wind turbines are unimaginably larger than I thought. It's not a matter of having a cute little windmill in your backyard. A turbine is 400 feet tall, weighs 600,000 pounds, and is rooted in tons and tons of poured concrete. If one is nearby (and given the necessary density, one is always nearby), it generates a relentless low-frequency thrum-thrum-thrum that seems to emanate from the very walls of your home. The dark revolving shadows of its blades are cast for miles, and cause a rhythmic light-and-shade pulsing inside and outside your house. Living in an area with all that going, many people have developed headaches, nausea, depression and hypertension.

The effect on property values is devastating. The owner of a lovely restored 19th century farmhouse asks — who will buy it now? People don't come to the Catskills to undergo nonstop mental torture. Nor do other living things like wind turbines. Their blades, revolving at 150 miles an hour, slice birds into pieces and create low-pressure areas that cause the lungs of bats to explode.

For the loss of its peace of mind, a community's cut of the profits may be enough to pay for a pickup truck. Tax revenue drops because many of those (who can afford to) flee. Turbines sometimes topple over or catch fire (all firemen can do is stand and watch). And of course the local taxing agencies have been required to take advantage of sweetheart state and federal tax cuts, promoted by the industry's lobbyists.

"Windfall" left me disheartened. I thought wind energy was something I could believe in. This film suggests it's just another corporate flim-flam game. Of course, the documentary could be mistaken, and there are no doubt platoons of lawyers, lobbyists and publicists to say so. How many of them live on wind farms?