

---

**AWRA 2011 ANNUAL WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE**  
**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

**November 7-10, 2011**

**Copyright © 2011 AWRA**

---

**WIND ENERGY 101: LONGTERM BENEFITS TO WATER RESOURCES SUSTAINABILITY**

Jane O. Rowan\*

**ABSTRACT:** Wind energy is one of the few electrical power sources that does not contribute significantly to detrimental effects on water resources quality or quantity. Media coverage of environmental activists concerns related to impacts to certain species continues. But what actually is the big picture, cumulative impact to the environment related to wind energy in relation to other energy sources, even green energy sources? Certain sectors within the environmental community may be over reacting and possibly causing long term harm to the environment by impeding the development of high energy output wind energy sources. This presentation will include a review of some types of renewable energy and discuss the potential impacts to water resources as well as other natural resources in comparison to each other and to the more traditional energy sources.

---

\* Senior Principal Scientist, Normandeau Associates, 400 Old Reading Pike, Building A, Suite 101, Stowe, PA 19464 USA,  
Phone: 484-945-2631, Email: [jrowan@normandeau.com](mailto:jrowan@normandeau.com)