2012 ISO-New England Generation %

- Gas: 50%
- Nuclear: 31%
- Hydro: 6%
- Wind: 1%
- Other: 8%
- Coal: 3%
- Oil: 1%

The ISO-New England Electricity Generation Mix, by Source
Since 2007 Maine has spent $1 billion dollars on wind “farms.” Other New England states have spent almost as much, not even counting the costs of the beefed-up transmission system. While this money can be called “investment” in Maine, it is all paid by ratepayers and taxpayers. These three charts explore three critical questions:

- Does wind power get us off oil?
- Does wind power clean our air?
- Are wind power’s massive financial and environmental costs worth the tiny benefits?

“Avoided emissions” is a sensible sounding justification for the favorable treatment that is given to wind power’s heavy environmental and economic impacts. But are we really avoiding emissions or do we just assume so? The numbers say that we are not.

We know that Maine and New England have a very clean electric generating mix. 99% of Maine generation and 96% of New England generation comes from clean sources other than oil and coal (most recent year-end ISO-NE/EIA data for 2012). We also know that wind power’s dual physical flaws (unpredictable & intermittent) prevent it from being able to replace or displace oil or coal, which are peak load or base load generators. The frequently recited Environment Maine “avoided emissions” numbers are wrong because they use a generic methodology that assumes wind can perform these base load/peak load functions, and it assumes that Maine wind power is deployed in a grid using coal for a theoretical 25% of load, instead of New England’s actual 3%.

So to the extent that wind is replacing or displacing existing generation it is already-clean generation.