

# Painting wind turbine blades

Should wind turbine blades be painted black?

In this publication synthesis, AWWI summarizes the results from a 2020 study in Norway that investigated the effect of painting one of three blades black on a sample of wind turbines as a strategy to increase the visibility of rotating blades to birds thereby reducing bird collision fatalities at wind energy facilities.

Can black paint reduce birds killed by wind turbines?

Photo by Julian Stratenschulte/picture alliance via Getty Images Dousing just one of a wind turbine's three blades in black paint dramatically reduced the number of birds the turbines killed in a multi-year study conducted in Norway, report Heather Richards and David Ferris for E&E News.

Does painting wind turbine blades reduce fatality rates in situ?

We tested the hypothesis that painting would increase the visibility of the blades, and that this would reduce fatality rates in situ, at the Sm&#248;la wind-power plant in Norway, using a Before-After-Control-Impact approach employing fatality searches.

Can painting a turbine blade Black prevent collisions?

This piece originally ran in the Summer 2024 issue as "Test Pattern." To receive our print magazine, become a member by making a donation today. Painting one turbine blade black has shown promise for preventing collisions. Now researchers are seeing if it can work in Wyoming.

Did black paint make a wind turbine more visible?

The theory goes that the black paint made the blades more visible, especially at the tips, essentially creating dark streaks in the sky that alerted incoming birds to the turbines and gave them time to change course. The results are promising, says Garry George, director of Audubon's Clean Energy Initiative, but they're also preliminary.

Could turbine blades get a fresh coat of paint?

If the test in Wyoming is as successful as the one in Norway, turbine blades across the country could soon get a fresh coat of paint. This piece originally ran in the Summer 2024 issue as "Test Pattern." To receive our print magazine, become a member by making a donation today.

Wind energy is heralded as one of the cleanest and most sustainable sources of power. But even this green energy solution has its share of environmental challenges. Notably, bird deaths caused by turbine collisions ...

We've been with the wind industry since the beginning and offer corrosion solutions for wind turbines - from towers to blades and now leading edge protection (LEP). [LEARN MORE](#) ... But ...

According to a study conducted at a wind farm on the Norwegian archipelago of Sm&#248;la, changing the

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color of a single blade on a turbine from white to black resulted in a 70-percent drop in the...

In Glenrock, Wyoming, three dozen wind turbines are each getting a single blade painted black. The new study will evaluate how this paint job increases visibility--and reduces risks--for eagles, other birds, and bats.

...

A wind turbine with a painted rotor blade in the Smøla power plant, Norway. May et al. (2020)/Ecology and Evolution A bird's eye view. The recent study is one of many attempts to apply our ...

This work to adapt the wind turbines takes place 100 metres above the ground on fully assembled wind turbines and requires sanding, cleaning and painting the blades. The tasks are ...

One small-scale study in Norway found that painting a single blade black allowed birds to likely see the turbine better and avoid collisions. The reduction was over 70 percent, with raptors like white-tailed eagles ...

If painting turbine blades proves effective, it will offer a low-tech, low-budget way to reduce harm. There's good reason for optimism. In 2003 the National Renewable Energy Laboratory ...

Oregon State University researchers are part of a team looking at reducing bird collision risks with wind turbines by painting a single blade of the turbine black. Wind energy ...

Painting one turbine blade black has shown promise for preventing collisions. Now researchers are seeing if it can work in Wyoming. Workers descend from one of 36 turbines being partly ...

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