

**Question for written answer E-003523/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Gerald Hauser (PfE)

Subject: Local warming effects and the impact of wind turbines on soil moisture and droughts

Scientific studies show that wind turbines can impinge on the local climate. The 2018 Harvard study ‘Climatic Impacts of Wind Power’ by Lee M. Miller and David W. Keith calculated that generating all of the country’s electricity with wind turbines would warm the continental USA by 0.24°C.¹ At night, local warming of up to 1.5°C was simulated. The researchers chiefly attribute this to the wind turbines’ mixing air with the near-surface atmosphere. Their model further determined that in the first century of use, the direct warming effect of wind power during would exceed the cooling effect of the avoided emissions. This poses questions, particularly in respect of ever-increasing heatwaves and droughts.

1. What information does the Commission have on the local warming effects of wind turbines?
2. Has the Commission investigated the extent to which wind farms in the EU are already influencing local temperatures, and, if so, what conclusions has it drawn?
3. What consequences does the Commission expect the further expansion of wind power to have on local temperatures, soil moisture and the frequency and intensity of dry spells and droughts in the EU?

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¹ <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2018/10/large-scale-wind-power-has-its-down-side/>.