



Setting the Record Straight: Renewable Energy and the Environment

A recently distributed one-pager purports the benefits of **Senate Bill 819** towards protecting Texas' environment related to renewable energy, in particular bird populations. As one of the state's leading advocates for parks and wildlife, Environment Texas is eager to correct misleading information feeding this harmful and skewed narrative.

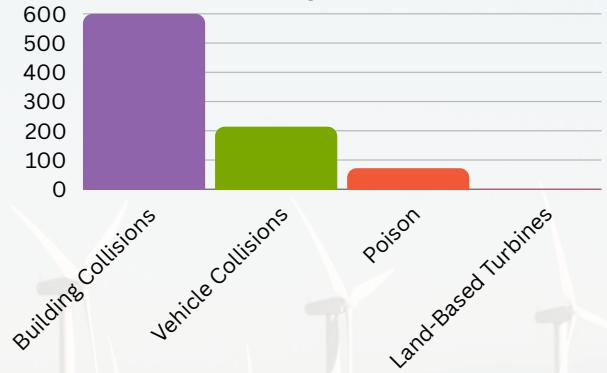
S.B. 819 would decimate renewable energy development in Texas under the guise of environmental stewardship.

Context is Important

A 2012 study found the estimated annual bird **mortality rate from wind turbines was 0.27 birds per gigawatt** of electricity generated. In comparison, the estimated **mortality rate from fossil fuels is a whopping 9.4 birds per gigawatt** generated — that's **35x as many dead birds.**²

Greater Threats Facing Bird Populations¹

annual average in millions



Research shows climate change, driven by our continued over-reliance on fossil fuel resources, is by far the greatest threat facing bird and other wildlife populations and their habitats.³

Learn More

Join **State Rep. Rafael Anchía, conservation leaders and industry representatives** for a virtual conversation on **S.B. 819** and the broader renewable energy and environmental landscape.

Monday, March 17, 6-7 p.m.

RSVP at environmenttexas.org/events/



Three Key Takeaways

- Wind and solar energy cut more than a **half billion tons of CO2 pollution** between 2010 and 2022 and saved **250 billion gallons of water**.
- Impacts of renewable energy infrastructure on wildlife and habitats can be mitigated through **careful siting, responsible operation, and ongoing research**.
- Targeted policy solutions** can help clean energy and wildlife coexist by reducing impacts while also supporting the renewable energy sector.

Though well intentioned, **S.B. 819** is a overreaching policy approach that will do more harm for wildlife and our environment than good.

As a statewide organization working to protect our state's wildlife and natural resources, we believe one of the best ways to **protect threatened bird populations** is by **conserving their habitat**, not enacting burdensome regulations on renewables. These **tailored policy solutions** are critical to maintaining Texas' **energy independence**, meeting **statewide electricity demand**, and **reversing the decades-long decline** of bird populations across North America.

References

1 <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds>

2 <https://doi.org/10.1080/1943815X.2012.746993>

3 <https://www.audubon.org/our-work/climate/clean-energy/birds-and-offshore-wind-report>
<https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees>

https://media.audubon.org/2024-10/Final_BirdsAndTransmission_Audubon2024.pdf

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