

Wind power is no stranger to Americans. Still working today are about 150,000 of the old skeletal galvanized iron windmills that--70 or more years ago--creaked above almost every ranch and barnyard.

Time was when a bucolic rhyme scrawled on a western Nebraska barn spoke for countless contented farmers:

"We like it in the sandhills,  
We like it very good,  
For the wind it pumps our water,  
And the cows they chop our wood."

But, just as burning cow chips from the farm's fuel factory ended decades ago, the windmill surrendered its chores when the electricity power line reached the farm during rural electrification in the 1930's.