

**REPORTED TURBINE ACCIDENTS/FAILURES IN SCHOOL GROUNDS**  
(see <http://www.caithnesswindfarms.co.uk/AccidentStatistics.htm> )

**FAILURE**

**Structural failure 08/12/2006**

Clarion, North Iowa USA

School turbine 150kW

The school's wind turbine collapsed December 8 about 7 a.m., knocking down a power line and causing school to be cancelled for the day. A school official said the likely cause was a broken brake which allowed the giant propeller to turn too fast. Then, a tip broke off one blade causing the generator to run out of balance. This stressed the tower and the structure eventually came down. No injuries. "Even at 7 in the morning, we have a number of kids in school," said Robert Olson, superintendent for the Clarion-Goldfield Community School district. "There were some students that were weight-lifting (and) they were close...."

Reported by Belmont Independent News, Dec 21st. Also the Fort Dodge Messenger

<http://www.messengernews.net/News/articles.asp?articleID=5648>

*link broken*

**Blade failure 10/12/2006**

Deanburn Primary School, Bo'ness, West Lothian, Scotland UK

15kW, Proven Energy light industrial turbine.

"Alert After Turbine Breakdown". Heavy Part drops from above school grounds. A Scots wind turbine firm has put out an alert after part of a turbine fell off at a school. Proven Energy has ordered the shutdown of 30 of its latest turbine type at locations as far afield as Italy and Orkney. Gordon Proven, managing director of the manufacturer in Stewarton, Ayrshire, says the action follows an incident at Deanburn Primary in Bo'ness. Last month the revolutionary eco-friendly school lost its green energy supply after a damper, used to control the blades, came off when bolts broke. **The three-inch-square part, weighing several kilos, plunged to the ground, luckily outside school hours when there were no children around.** The three bladed 15 kilowatt turbine is in use in various other places, around eight in Scotland.

Locations include a school in Yorkshire, farmland in Orkney and Cornwall, and an estate in the Stranraer area. The actual event happened in November.

The Sunday Post, 10th December 2006

<http://ventdubocage.net/ecosse5.htm>

**Blade failure 2008/9 (exact date not known)**

The Gorran School in Cornwall revealed its 15 metre turbine in 2008 which was designed to provide it with free electricity - and sell any surplus power to the National Grid. The system was seen as a green blueprint for clean, sustainable energy for schools nationwide and received grants from various bodies including the EDF power firm. **But soon after being installed the wind turbine became faulty and after a few months seized up - showering the school's playing field with debris.** Since then the school has been locked in a battle with suppliers Proven Energy which has now gone into administration leaving the school with little hope of any money being returned - and a pile of scrap in their field. Sue Hawken, chair of the school governors, said: "It has been an absolute nightmare from start to finish. "We've put a claim in but realistically I don't expect to get a single penny from this company.

"Unbeknown to us, the 15 kilowatt turbine that Proven Energy installed was completely unproven technology that never really worked. "Proven Energy wrote to us to confirm the design fault. With that in mind we are advising owners to place their wind turbines on brake as soon as it is safe to do so. "It is an absolute disgrace and I feel the company has acted atrociously."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/8808949/Eco-friendly-school-left-out-of-pocket-after-unproven-wind-turbine-breaks.html>

**Blade failure 07/02/2009**

Perkins High School Wind Turbine, Ohio USA

Re Driven Power turbine, 20kw, 20 foot blades

"Perkins High School turbine falls apart" A wind turbine at Perkins High School fell apart Saturday. **Part of a turbine blade flew off and landed in the student parking lot. Out of balance because of the missing blade, the turbine and its tower began shaking, the remaining two blades banging against 60-foot support pole -- and the 30-foot-widewindmill "just blew apart," Sharp said. Pieces reported to be thrown up to 40 yards away**

Reported in Sandusky Register on 9February 2009 (ref 1).

Turbine details and distance thrown reported on 10 February 2009 in Morning Journal (ref 2)

<http://www.morningjournal.com/articles/2009/02/10/news/mj594813.txt>

### Structural failure 06/10/2009

Flackwell Heath, Bucks, England UK

"Part of wind turbine at Flackwell Heath school fell off" **A wind turbine at a school in Flackwell Heath has been repaired after part of it fell off into the school playground.** A panel fell off the back of the turbine at Carrington Junior School and the whole structure had to be taken down and repaired over the summer. ...Photographs and an anonymous letter were received by the Bucks Free Press saying: "If this can happen, the turbine is a danger and should not be installed anywhere near our children."

Reported by Bucks Free Press on 6 Oct2009

[http://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/4666787.Part\\_of\\_wind\\_turbine\\_at\\_Flackwell\\_Heath\\_school\\_fell\\_off/](http://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/4666787.Part_of_wind_turbine_at_Flackwell_Heath_school_fell_off/)

### Blade failure 21/10/2009

Akron, South Dakota USA

"School's wind turbine's energy production on hold" Blades the length of almost two school buses from a wind turbine owned by Akron-Westfield School District rest on the ground while repairs are underway. The turbine's gearbox was also brought down using a tall crane to reach the top of the 11-year-old structure's 165-foot-tall tower. **One of the turbine blades was splitting open.**

Reported by Le Mars Daily Sentinel on 21October 2009

<http://www.lemarssentinel.com/story/1580586.html>

### Update 04/02/14

School wind turbine at Akron-Westfield school reported to be running out of control, **suspected braking failure.** School Superintendent Randy Collins described it as "life threatening". The turbine had been shut down since 2009.

<http://akronhometowner.com/pages/?p=7887>

### Structural failure and Noise 21/11/2009

Raasay Primary School, Highland Region, Scotland UK

"Wind blades fell in school yard" Raasay children sent home after 50ft turbine collapsed. Children at an island primary were sent home after a newly-installed wind turbine next to their school collapsed, it emerged yesterday. Parents of youngsters at the 18-pupil Raasay Primary School were asked to collect their children following the incident on November 13. The 50ft turbine will "remain out of commission" until an investigation has been carried out. The 6KW machine was installed at the school earlier this month, but was soon the subject of complaints due to the noise it was making. **The turbine then collapsed, landing in the school's playground, although no one was hurt.**

Reported by The Press and Journal on 21November 2009

[http://www.windaction.org/posts/23222-wind-blades-fell-in-school-yard-raasay-children-sent-home-after-50ft-turbine-collapsed#.VTPf\\_iFViko](http://www.windaction.org/posts/23222-wind-blades-fell-in-school-yard-raasay-children-sent-home-after-50ft-turbine-collapsed#.VTPf_iFViko)

### Structural failure 01/12/2009

Fakenham High School, England UK

"Wind turbine topples over on high school field" **Stunned students watched as a 40ft wind turbine crashed to earth during its installation on Fakenham High School playing field this lunchtime.** The field was evacuated after the giant turbine toppled over, crushing a contractor's van.

Reported by EDP 24 on 1 December 2009



<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1232540/School-wind-turbine-collapses-crushes-contractors-van.html>

### Blade failure 28/11/2010

Perkins School turbine, Ohio USA

"Perkins wind turbine drops blade" School turbine threw the blade. The second blade incident with the same turbine in two years.

Reported in Sandusky Register on 28 November 2010

<http://www.windaction.org/news/30152> (press link broken)

*(the following is comment on the same incident:*

### ***Proven 35-2 falls to the ground ...***

*Within two years after installation, one of the three Proven 35-2 Wind Turbines installed at our Local High School came loose and crashed to the ground. It landed outside of the fenced off "Fall-Zone" behind the school. Is that huge liability or what?*

*<http://www.wkbn.com/mostpopular/stor...PiKDMPmCQ.csp>*

*\$400,000 paid for 3 Turbines, 3 Towers & 3 Inverters to generate \$5,600 worth of electricity per year?*

*First, the turbines are down for warranty repair for 6 months and now we cannot even keep them bolted to the towers.*

*<http://www.wind-sun.com/ForumVB/showthread.php?11051-Proven-35-2-falls-to-the-ground>*)

### Miscellaneous 16/03/11

Willmar High School, Minnesota, USA

"City shuts down operation of second turbine". Second turbine #4 reported to have been shut down on Monday 13 March after the public reported a "clunk" every time the blade rotated.

<https://www.wind-watch.org/newsarchive/2011/03/16/city-utility-shuts-down-operation-of-2nd-turbine/>

### Structural failure 10/04/11

Western Reserve High School, Ohio USA

**A wind turbine came crashing down** near Western Reserve High School in Berlin Center on Sunday.

The piece of the turbine that fell was one of three installed at the school back in 2009. The company that makes the equipment is out of Scotland, they work with an Indiana company.

The turbines supply about 40-percent of the school's electricity.

No official word on what caused the turbine to fall. However, officials say it may have been the result of fatigued bolts.

Reported on WKBN (tv news) on 11 April 2011



<http://www.wkbn.com/mostpopular/story/Wind-Turbine-Crashes-to-Ground/qOtvYFilpES61PiKDMPmCQ.csp>

### Mechanical Failure 16/09/11

Inverclyde Academy, Greenock, Scotland UK

"Wind turbine is 'embarrassment'". School turbine reported to have been at a standstill for a year, following **mechanical failure**. Parts have been awaited for over a year.

<http://www.greenocktelegraph.co.uk/news/roundup/articles/2011/09/16/417426-wind-turbine-is-embarrassment>

### **Blade Failure 20/12/13**

Seascale School, Cumbria, England UK

"Wind turbine blade shears off" Blade on the turbine at Seascale School **blown off and landed 200m** away in a field.

<http://www.whitehavennews.co.uk/news/wind-turbine-blade-shears-off-1.1104503>

### **Blade Failure 23/10/14**

St Michael's School, Rowley Regis, England UK

A FAMILY were left traumatised after a 4ft blade broke from a wind turbine in the grounds of a Rowley Regis school and **spun out of control narrowly missing their house.**

[http://www.halesowennews.co.uk/news/11552138.Wind\\_turbine\\_blade\\_smashes\\_into\\_Rowley\\_Regis\\_garden/?ref=rss](http://www.halesowennews.co.uk/news/11552138.Wind_turbine_blade_smashes_into_Rowley_Regis_garden/?ref=rss)

## **FATALITY**

### **Fatality – 14/06/11**

Bellevue, USA

The door to a ladder on a wind turbine at Bellevue High School wasn't locked, allowing access to a teen who fell and died from his injuries, the victim's friend told Bellevue Police.

Reported in Sandusky Register on 14 June 2011

<http://www.sanduskyregister.com/news/2011/jun/14/bellevuefall061411azxml>

## **BIRDS**

### **Environmental 03/07/2010**

Portland, Dorset, England UK

"Portland school turns off wind turbine to halt seabird slaughter". A £20,000 6kW wind turbine has been turned off after taking the lives of at least 14 birds in six months. The manufacturer stated one fatality per year. Pupils reported to be upset when the birds were killed at lunchtimes and playtimes.

Reported by Dorset Echo on 3 July 2010 and in the Telegraph Online on 4 July 2010



<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/7870929/Primary-school-forced-to-turn-off-wind-turbine-after-bird-deaths.html>

## **NOISE**

### **Miscellaneous 26/07/2010**

Wooton-Under-Edge, Cotswolds, England UK

"Wind turbine at Wotton school has been out of action for four months" Turbine was turned off due to excessive noise and complaints from local residents.

Reported by Gazette Series on 26 July 2010

[http://www.gazetteseries.co.uk/news/8287521.School\\_wind\\_turbine\\_has\\_been\\_out\\_of\\_action\\_for\\_four\\_months/?ref=rss](http://www.gazetteseries.co.uk/news/8287521.School_wind_turbine_has_been_out_of_action_for_four_months/?ref=rss)

**Miscellaneous 02/05/12**

Blacklaw Primary School, Lanarkshire, Scotland UK

"School turbines still putting the wind up locals". Reports that the two 18m turbines at the primary school are a health hazard with "unbearable" noise and shadow flicker to neighbours.

<http://www.eastkilbridenews.co.uk/lanarkshire-news/local-news-lanarkshire/local-news-east-kilbride/2012/05/02/school-turbines-still-putting-the-wind-up-locals-68653-30878656/>

**Human Health 03/07/13**

Gates Primary School, Westhoughton, Lancashire, England UK

"Residents demand demolition of 'noisy' school turbine". A group of residents reported to be suffering from noise and other issues since the turbine was erected.

<http://www.windaction.org/posts/37616-residents-demand-demolition-of-noisy-school-wind-turbine#.VEoiYvnF-nw>

**Human Health 12/01/14**

Crawley Green School, Luton, England UK

"Noisy neighbour is being moved on" A wind turbine at a Luton school, which has stood unmoving for 4 years, is being taken down. The turbine was installed in 2009 but proved to be far too noisy when tested and was never switched back on.

<http://www.lutontoday.co.uk/news/local/noisy-neighbour-is-being-moved-on-1-5800532>

**N.B. There are numerous reports of school turbines not working for various reasons and subsequently being removed not listed here.**