

Paris Électrique



Many of America's wind power detractors claim that the turbines and their supporting towers negatively impact the scenic views of the surrounding countryside. But a similar argument was made in 1900 by *Aucun vent pour la France* ("No Wind for France") when Paris Électrique erected a wind turbine on the Champs-Élysées. Opinion against the device grew until sofa magnate Jacques Dinklaker affixed to the exterior of the wheel 40 davenportes, then charged a franc per person to ride around the wheel's perimeter on one. It was an instant success, not least because it catered to curiosity seeking attendees of the *Exposition Universelle*, which was conveniently in town at the time. So, why contemporary wind energy proponents don't factor an entertainment component into their designs is beyond me.