Skit: Wind Turbines Are Beautiful

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Climate solution addressed by skit (from Drawdown): Onshore Wind Turbines

Learning Objective: to explore the ways in which the form and function of wind turbines could be seen as beautiful to overcome one major resistant to them, which is that they are an eyesore

Characters: Wind Turbine #1, Wind Turbine #2, Art Teacher, Art student #1, Art student #2, Art Student #3, Wind (optional)

Properties or costumes needed to perform skit: wind turbine costumes, two easels, wind costume, two canvases, fly swatter

Setting for skit: An Art teacher is taking her students on a field trip to paint a thing of great beauty

Appropriate number of participants: 7
Script

Art Teacher: I hope this hike wasn’t too far. Come on students, we’re here. Go ahead and look for a place to set up your canvases. Look at this, doesn’t it all just sing?

Art Student #1: Wow, beautiful! I can hear it, yeah! It sings! This was worth it. What a view. (begins setting up easel and canvas to paint)

Art Student #2: What are you talking about? I don’t hear anything. (whacking a bug) Missed it! Ugh, these bugs! (sees the bug land on Art Student #1 and tried to slap the bug)

Art Student #1: Ouch! What are you doing?

Art Student #2: Missed it again. (swats at bug on Art Student #3)

Art Student #3: Hey!

Art Student #2: Got it.

Art Student #3: Gross. (rubs dead bug off and looks annoyed at Art Student #2)

Art Student #2: Your Welcome.

Art Teacher: Do you see? Just like I promised, a thing of beauty to paint.

Art Student #2: Really? All I see is an eye sore.

Art Teacher: Your eyes are sore? Do you need some eye drops.

Art Student #2: No, my eyes are fine. It’s these wind turbines—they are the eye sore. They are wrecking the view.

Art Teacher: Hmm, I don’t have any drops for that. But can I ask you why you think this?

Art Student #2: These big wind turbines take up so much room—look at them all. They take up the whole field.

Art Teacher: Yes, but look at how tiny their footprint is. Show them how small your feet are. Wind turbines hardly use any of the actual land so there can be cows, or agriculture, or even recreation, all in the same place where these wind turbines are making good clean energy.

For more embodied activities for youth engagement with drawdown solutions visit: https://insidethegreenhouse.org/content/draw-down-act
Art Student #2: Even with little feet, they're still ugly to look at.

Art Teacher: I have a question; do you use energy? Could you function in your life without access to energy?

Art Student #2: I turn on my lights and drive in a car like everybody else.

Art Teacher: That energy has to come from somewhere and you can see other sources of energy too—you can see coal mines or coal plants, and you can see oil wells, so of course you can see wind energy too.

Art Student #2: All I know is that I paid good money to take this art class. I came on this hot, bug ridden hike to paint this beautiful scenery, and these wind turbines are wrecking the beauty.

Art Teacher: Wrecking the beauty? There has been a big misunderstanding. When we arrived at this spot, did you think I wanted you to paint this open field?

Art Student #2: Of course. What other thing of beauty could you possibly want me to paint here?

Art Teacher: But now that I look at it, this field is quite lovely. But, no, no, no. This is a modern art class. A true thing of beauty is when form meets function to satisfy an essential need. These wind turbines are the thing of beauty.

Art Student #1: Hey, teach. We got this. (use the tune from The Lion King song, Can You Feel the Love Tonight? Go to https://vimeo.com/user41631648/review/291062441/b0eef73bce to view a recording of this skit with the song)

Intro 1
Art Student #1, Art Teacher, and Art Student #3:

Art Students #1: Is this a modern art class?

Art Student #2: Yeah.

Art Student #3: And did you come to learn?

Art Student #2: Sure.

Art Students #1 & 3: Then open wide your contemplation. And watch these babies turn.

Intro 2
Art Teacher: I give you form and function in modern art both dwell essential needs get met with beauty

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Aesthetically that’s swell

(Refrain all sing)

Wind turbines are beautiful
They turn both day and night
Provide the world with good clean energy
that make our homes so bright

Wind Turbine #1: Once made I don’t pollute air
and power from me’s free
you need power, and I make energy
seems we’re meant to be

Wind Turbine #2: I get it, when I ’m too close,
to your very back yard
the noise and decrease in property value
can make our friendship hard

(Refrain, all sing)

Wind turbines are beautiful
In function and in form
Provide the world with good clean energy
That keep our homes so warm

(hold the final pose with great anticipation towards Art Student #2)
Everyone leans in towards Art Student #2 and asks: So?
Art Student #2: These wind turbines aren’t an eye sore; they’re a sight for sore eyes.

(all cheer)

The End

Discussion Questions:
• Who decides when something is beautiful or ugly?
• Do you think wind turbines are beautiful or ugly?
• If people think they are ugly, do they want them in their community where they can see them?
• How would you feel if you could see wind turbines from your home? In your town or city?
• How could you talk with your community about wind turbines