

# Green conflicts – environmental controversies over the use of land

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# Environmental conflicts

Traditional environmental conflicts  
'Black' versus 'green'

Economic growth & jobs  
versus environmental concerns



New green-(on green) conflicts  
'Green' versus 'green'

Environmental concerns versus  
environmental concerns  
Fx climate versus local nature



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## Foreninger og naboer bekæmper nyt større testcenter ved Østerild

Naturen kommer til at lide, hvis der kommer til at blive placeret endnu højere møller på testcenter Østerild, lyder kritikken fra flere fronter.



For nuværende har den største vindmølle på Østerild en højde på 280 meter. Med den beslutning om at udvide testcenteret vil man åbne op for møller med en højde på 450 meter. | Foto: René Schütze

### Kristeligt Dagblad

## Rewilding har skabt stor debat. Nu viser et nyt studie, at det gavner biodiversiteten

Det omdiskuterede og kritiserede rewildingprojekt i Mols Bjerge får opbakning fra nyt studie, der viser, at de store dyrs afføring gavner biodiversiteten i området



**Benjamin Krasnik**  
Journalist

FØLG



# A typologi of green conflicts?

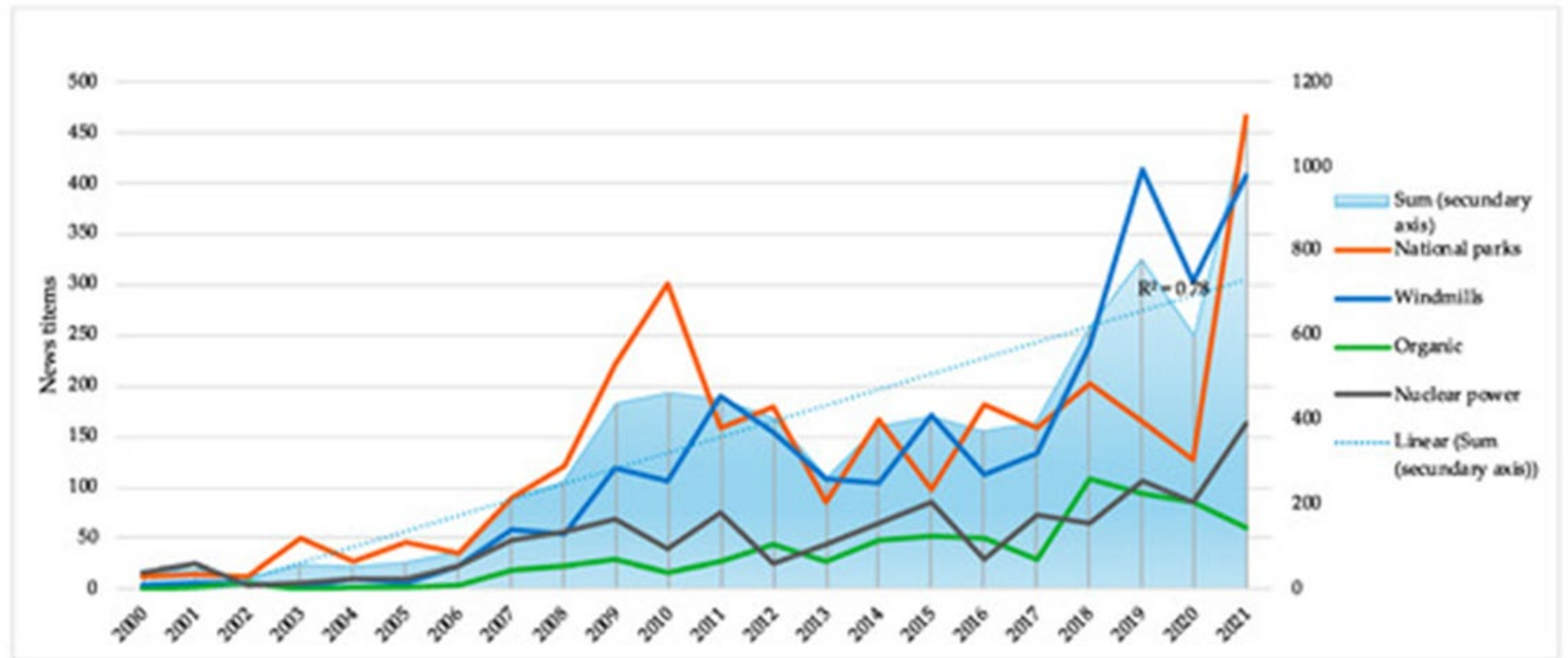
Table 1. Typology of green conflicts.

	Environment	Climate Change
Environment	I. Conflict between two or more environmental concerns	II. Conflict between environmental problems and climate concerns
Climate Change	III. Conflict between climate intervention and environmental concerns	IV. Conflict between two or more climate change challenges

(Eskjær & Horsbøl, 2023)

Examples from  
the Danish  
media

Timelines of  
green conflicts  
(2000–2021)



# Features of green conflicts

- Conflicts often play out in local arenas (news media, SNS, physical space)
- Climate change is a main driver
- New actor-constellations
  - NGOs sometimes on both sides
  - Academic experts sometimes on both sides
  - Citizens sometimes on both sides
  - Volatile positions taken by political parties
- Escalations of time and space matter
- Different forms of 'green' knowledge are mobilized
  - CO2-reduction
  - Biodiversity
  - Local nature quality

What counts?

# Epistemic struggles

Struggles over knowledge base for navigating in the conflicts

Visuals: How to visualize future consequences? (Johansen, 2021)

Auditory: How to measure noise?

”[i]t is possible that those who have set the noise limits hold the view that this [the noise] does not disturb unduly, but those who are exposed to this effect hold a completely different view” (Stiften.dk, 18.5.2015)



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Fig. 8. Wind Farm Visualizations from the [EIA](#) Material and by an Opposition Group

# Citizen and community perspectives

Different concerns and reasons for local opposition against renewable energy projectse:

- Visual disturbances, auditory experiences, safety issues.
- Negative impact on local nature
- Lack of transparency, dialogue and involvement in the decision-making processes
- Poor information and communication
- Lack of respect for local identity and cultural heritage
- Lack of individual or collective compensation

*(Engaging Communities in the Green Fuels Transition (COMON)*





# Background: The emergence of the environment

The discourse of the environment has **manifold origins**

- insecticides in agriculture (such as DDT)
- acid rain and 'Waldsterben'
- the ozone hole
- use of nuclear energy
- biodiversity, loss of species
- air pollution
- organic food
- global warming/climate change
- ...

Each issue has its own distinct history.

Over time, the 'environment' has emerged as an umbrella term.

# Background – changing discourses of nature

To talk about nature is nothing new, but  
We have come to talk about nature as  
fragile, at risk, degraded **because** of human  
activity.

The ‘Anthropocene’

“Green thinking is a creation of the  
industrial revolution” (Giddens, 2009: 50).

Protection against nature

Controlling nature

Protecting nature

Diversification of nature



# Agriculture and environmental controversies?

Environmental issue	Public perception of agriculture
Climate change and CO2-reduction	<b>Insufficient contribution</b>
Biodiversity	<b>Advances monoculture</b>
Landscape	<b>Industrial farming</b>

Triple cross-pressure – from public perception of threatened common resources.

Agriculture seems to be on the wrong side in all three issues!

What to do?

Thank you for your attention