Emma Bravard

CRP 558

Final Project Peer Review

Wind Farms in Iowa – Collin Baker

The concept for this webpage is very interesting and timely as alternative, renewable forms of energy are continuing to gain popularity across the country and globe. Wind energy has a specific appeal in Iowa, given our favorable conditions for it. The map Collin created had good elements and layers to it. The ESRI World Imagery basemap was a good choice to display this type of data. The addition of a picture of a wind farm was helpful to ensure all viewers understand what wind turbines look like. The zoom in feature for each of the buttons made it easier to see where many wind turbines currently are and where there is opportunity for more.

The wind map of Iowa was particularly interesting to me. I have not looked closely at where Iowa's greatest average wind speeds are before. Looking at the Iowa wind and current turbine locations layers together on the map was intriguing due to the fact that a decent number of wind turbines are located in Central, North, and Northwestern Iowa. Some of these wind farms are in ideal locations where wind speeds are high, but a few others are in less ideal locations. However, none are located in Southeastern Iowa where wind speeds are not favorable for generation of wind energy.

There are few elements I would have changed or liked to see on this project. First, the title of the webpage is not well placed on the page and the background color for it does not line up with the full title. Additionally, the map and picture look scattered on the page and you must scroll horizontally to see the whole picture. It is almost as if this webpage was made for a larger screen. Also, I found the legend on the interactive map to be confusing. At first glance, it is not clear which layer this legend was intended for since the population and Iowa wind layers have the same colors. I assume this legend was created to work for both layers, but it would have been helpful as a viewer if that had been made clear. Additionally, Collin states that the "Ideal Location" button will take you to where his analysis shows the best location for a new wind farm would be located. I assume he came to this conclusion based on there being ideal wind speeds in combination with a county with low population density, but I would have liked more explanation about that.