



It's not the view, it's

The Vision

The Newsletter of Clean Power Now

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In this Issue

- 1 Where Are Our Leaders?
- 1 Cutting through the Fog
- 2 Now that the gift-giving season is upon us...
- 3 Names & Addresses
- 3 Neighborhood Groups
- 4 The Winds of Truth...

For the complete details and sources of the facts mentioned in this newsletter, please see <http://www.cleanpowernow.org>

Clean Power Now

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Where Are Our Leaders?

Although we elect our leaders based upon a variety of factors, we vote—for the most part—based upon how closely a candidate's views match our own.

But we also elect our leaders to lead. When times are tough or when difficult decisions must be made, we expect them to stand up for us even when it contradicts their own views.

Take, for example, the suggestion that Cape Wind will save us just \$0.35 per month on our electric bills. This is based on the false assumption that Cape Wind will sell its electricity to all of New England. But in order to get the capital needed to build the windfarm, Cape Wind needs to enter into a long term contract to supply electricity to a provider such as NSTAR. If the Cape Light Compact signed up with Cape Wind, the savings would be dramatic: for the roughly 200,000 Cape Cod electric consumers, those pennies could become many dollars per month.

But we will see this kind of savings only if our leaders stand up and make it happen. Cape Wind could sell its electricity to NSTAR with its 1.4 million customers, in which case Cape

Codders will see a significantly smaller savings.

The Cape Light Compact and some of our other local leaders—state representatives & senators, town administrators and selectmen—have expressed their opposition to the Cape Wind project and/or ignored the very real possibility that the windfarm will be built. Unfortunately, their opinions and actions are not in our best interest because the refusal to acknowledge and work with Cape Wind could cost you and me money.

Cape Cod will benefit from the Cape Wind farm, but we would benefit more if our leaders stepped up to the plate. ✦

Cutting through the Fog: The Facts about Windfarms and Cape Wind

"The truth is out there."

– The X Files

Windfarm opponents have used a lot of facts to support their position, but those facts are often used out of context.

Just as quoting someone out of context can make it look like they said something that they didn't, taking facts out of context can make an environmentally benign

windfarm look like a disaster waiting to happen.

So let's take some time and examine these "facts" to see if they really hold water:

"The United States gets only 2% of its electricity from oil so the Cape Wind farm will have little effect on oil imports." This is very misleading because Cape Wind will not sell its electricity to the entire United States! A better figure to use would be Southeast Massachusetts' generating capacity based on oil as a source of fuel – 44%. Since the Cape Wind farm will directly offset these local plants, it will have a dramatic effect upon our local imports of oil. More importantly, the bulk of that oil goes to the

Canal Station power plant via Buzzards Bay, and the bay is still feeling the effects of a 55,000 gallon oil spill that occurred in April. This plant uses more than 350 million gallons of oil a year; the oil spilled would have provided for just a few minutes of electricity generation. Offsetting Canal Station alone would eliminate the need to import more than 90 million gallons of oil a year.

"Nantucket Sound – Not for Sale" This is not even close to being a fact, but it illustrates a huge misconception about the private use of public resources.

The truth is that there are a variety of private industries that utilize public lands. Fishing, mining,

livestock, farming, tourism and timber companies—to name a few—all use publicly owned lands. Our nation has a long history of allowing for the private use of public lands when the public benefits.

Cape Wind is asking for permission to site a windfarm in Nantucket Sound. In order to get that, they must meet the stringent requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act which includes a determination as to whether this project is in the public interest.

Furthermore, there are already a variety of private businesses that use the waters of Nantucket Sound without paying for the use of this

Now that the gift-giving season is upon us...

As you go about making up your Christmas lists, why not think about making a donation to Clean Power Now?

Membership in Clean Power Now is free, but your contribution will help us spread the word about renewable energy (and unlike certain other organizations, we *won't* spend more than we have!).

Yes, I would like to make a donation!*

\$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

YES NO You may publicly acknowledge me as a financial supporter of Clean Power Now.

Please make checks payable to: Clean Power Now

Mail your donation to:

Clean Power Now P.O. Box 549 West Barnstable, MA 02668-0549

*Members who contribute \$10 or more get a free bumper sticker; contribute \$35 or more and get a free t-shirt. Alternatively, bumper stickers can be purchased outright for \$3 each; t-shirts for \$15 each (prices include shipping).

public resource.

For example, fishermen ply the waters of Nantucket Sound, extracting a limited resource (fish) without paying a cent to any federal authority. There is no fee for the required federal commercial fishing license and no per-pound royalty paid for the fish caught. The fish are literally free for the grabbing.

“Noise from the proposed Nantucket Sound wind power may adversely impact people living along the southern shores of Cape Cod.” This simply will not happen. According to the opposition’s own documentation, “Within 1,000 meters of the edge of the proposed wind farm, noise levels will be in the vicinity of...60 dB.” This is roughly equal to the volume of a normal conversation. When was the last time you were able to hear a conversation that was six miles away?

“...in the area of the wind farm’s proposed location, the ‘typical weather conditions’ to which Cape Wind refers have been ‘clear,’ ‘mostly clear’ or only ‘partly cloudy’ nearly every month for the preceding five years.” The terms ‘clear,’ ‘mostly clear’ or ‘partly cloudy’ refer to cloud cover—not the clarity of the atmosphere. Although there might not be a cloud in the sky on a Cape Cod, the air could be hazy, and it is atmospheric haze—not cloud cover—that has a greater impact on the visibility of a distant object such as wind turbines.

Haze is simply molecules in the air. Some molecules cause the sky

to take on a different color; nitrogen oxides—a major component of air pollution—turn it brown. The more molecules, the more haze, and the more difficult it is to see distant objects. During the summer, the air over Nantucket Sound is humid and polluted, which creates haze. Even when the sun is shining and the sky is cloudless, the windfarm could be difficult to see.

Ironically, the air quality in the Cape Cod National Seashore is among the worst in our nation’s parks according to an article in the Cape Cod Times. And Barnstable County has the worst air quality in the state of Massachusetts—50% worse than downtown Boston! Because a significant amount of this pollution comes from local power plants, the windfarm would offset a quite a bit of this bad air from those nearby generators. ✦

Neighborhood Groups

The focus of the General Membership Meeting on November 15th was on creating and supporting Clean Power Now groups in communities around the Cape. The purpose of these groups is to bring the facts about the Cape Wind farm and wind power in general to as many people as possible. This will be done by locating and reaching out to organizations for presentations, signing up new members, sponsoring public forums, and engaging in debate whenever and wherever the opportunity arises. The first of these will take place in Orleans and Yarmouth Port on

Names & Addresses

In this continuing feature, we provide yet more names & addresses of those people and organizations that will have influence over the Cape Wind project.

Please take some time to write them and let them know how you feel.

Barnstable Town Council

Town Hall
367 Main Street
Hyannis, MA 02601
Fax: 508-862-4770

Yarmouth Board of Selectmen

c/o Administrator’s Office
1146 Route 28
South Yarmouth, MA 02664
Fax: 508-398-2365

MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Ellen Roy Herzfelder
251 Causeway St, 9th Flr
Boston, MA 02114
Fax: 617-626-1181

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Colonel Thomas L. Koning
New England District
696 Virginia Rd.
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management

Thomas Skinner, Director
251 Causeway St, Ste 800
Boston, MA 02114-2136
Fax: 617-626-1240

Massachusetts Energy Facility Siting Board

1 South Station
Boston, MA 02110
Fax: 617-443-1116

The Winds of Truth...

...come to Massachusetts.

During the week of November 10th, Cape Wind Associates sponsored the visit of two Danish visitors: Soren Krohn, the author of the web site www.windpower.org, an internationally recognized reference work on the technological, economic and environmental aspects of wind energy, and Jan Toftdal, the Director of Business Development and Tourism for Blaavandshuk. Blaavandshuk is a Cape Cod-like vacation area on the west coast of Denmark, and it also happens to be the closest region to Horns Rev, the world's largest off-shore windfarm consisting of 80 turbines, which is approximately eight miles away.

Messrs Krohn and Toftdal gave presentations on and off Cape, describing the Danish wind farm experience. Like the current debate over the Cape Wind proposal, Horns Rev had been marked with public concerns about property values, ocean views, effects on avian and marine life, and the loss of tourist income. However, all these concerns vanished when the wind farm was actually built. Property values have not declined, beachgoers barely notice the turbines, and marine life and tourism flourish.

Clean Power Now members who attended the presentations were delighted by the information and the Q&A session, the tone and content of which defused the fears of many. Our thanks go out to Messrs. Krohn and Toftdal for visiting our state, and to Cape Wind for hosting them.

December 13th and the 20th respectively, but we hope for many, many more!

So if you know of any organizations—church groups, business organizations, schools, newcomers' groups, retirees' associations, college alumni groups, etc.—please contact your Outreach Chairman Jim Liedell (jeliedell@comcast.net). We will provide whatever support we can by way of speakers, handouts, visual aids, sign-up sheets, etc. Let's keep putting out the good word! ✦

“The future belongs to those who realize the beauty of their dreams.”

—Eleanor Roosevelt

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