



It's not the view, it's

The Vision

The Newsletter of Clean Power Now

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

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Your letter can make a difference!

by Chris Stimpson

February 24th, that's the deadline set by the US Army Corps of Engineers to receive your written comments and opinions on the Nantucket Sound Wind Farm. Your written comment will be seriously evaluated by the Corps as part of their permitting process.

If you believe that the wind farm is in our interest, *now is the time to share that belief* with the Permitting Authority. We can't provide you with a 'standard letter', since the Corps would count all such letters received as a single comment! However, here are some facts and independent projections that you could incorporate into your own letter:

Health Benefits: Displacement of fossil fuel emissions will reduce respiratory diseases, cut premature deaths and save over \$50M in health costs annually. The Cape needs these benefits, since its air is, on average, 50% dirtier than downtown Boston's

Economic Benefits: On average, \$25M in electricity charges will be saved annually, energy prices will tend to stabilize, and the Cape's projected increased need for power can be met without new fossil fuel plants. No harm to property values, tourism or fishing is expected, but jobs will be created.

Who are our members?

by Jim Liedell

CPN Operations Director

Dugan Hayes, an MIT freshman who graduated with honors from Hyannis' Barnstable High School, joined CPN last month. Dugan's Wind Farm interest was ignited when his 10th grade History teacher assigned a Cape Cod Times article critical (as his teacher was) of the project.

Assigned to read the article, do separate research, come to his own conclusion on the Farm, and then to discuss it with classmates, Dugan studied facts, concluded he was in favor, and ended up convincing many classmates.

A Chemistry major who earned a good scholarship, Dugan has long been interested in renewable energy; he obtained Grants while at Barnstable High to advance the school's electrical efficiency and lower costs (modeling electricity generated by solar panels and applying it to air-conditioners). At his own initiative, Dugan took an internet course on solar panels. Last Spring, Dugan volunteered for the Housing Assistance Corporation (which provides new homes for the homeless) writing original computer programs to update the Town of Barnstable 1990 census statistics. He was surprised by the extremes of

Depth of windfarm support revealed by Army Corps hearings

by Chris Stimpson

Over the course of four public hearings in December on the Cape and Islands and in Cambridge, the US Army Corps of Engineers heard testimony from politicians, elected town officials, representatives of citizens' groups and individuals on the proposed Nantucket Sound Wind Farm.

If your only exposure to these hearings were the reports that appeared in the local press, you may have concluded that prevailing opinion was opposed to the project. At the West Yarmouth forum, for example, some fourteen public officials, starting with Governor Romney and Attorney-General Reilly, spoke against it. Only four officials spoke for the wind farm, and by the time reporters left to file their stories the count definitely favored the opposition. This hearing, however, continued until almost 1 a.m., and when the last speaker had finished his remarks the weight of opinion was evenly divided. A similar balance characterized the Martha's Vineyard hearing, although the Nantucket hearing leaned in the 'opposed' direction.

At the hearing at MIT in Cambridge, however, the situation was very different. CPN members from the Cape, the South Coast and Boston, as well as representatives of Healthlink, the Conservation Law Foundation, Cape Clean Air, Clean Water Action, Mass. Climate Action Network, MassPIRG and other organizations, made their points

Effects on Wildlife: Few adverse impacts to marine mammals, fish, birds or bats are expected during operation, and very little seabed disturbance is envisioned during construction.

Effects on Energy Supplies: Reliance on imported fossil fuels, as well as the need for additional fossil fuel plants, will be reduced.

Effects on Climate Change: The wind farm can serve as a prototype for a nationwide net of renewable energy facilities large enough to buffer us against our own misuse of the planet's resources.

Effects on Navigation: Air and surface navigation would not be adversely affected, and the turbine towers would serve as aids to navigation.

Noise Effects: There would be no noise impacts on recreational boaters, and no long-distance surface or underwater sound effects.

The above information is taken from the studies overseen by the Army Corps of Engineers, or by some of the State or Federal agencies contributing to the environmental review.

So sharpen your pencils, or flex your typing fingers! If the issue of renewable energy and its implications for the region and the world are important to you, please send your letter(s) of support to reach the address below by February 24th. Your letter can make a difference!

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District
Cape Wind Energy EIS Project
Attn: Karen Kirk Adams
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742*

Or send your letter via e-mail to: wind.energy@usace.army.mil

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housing, with such a large difference between waterfront homes and the less fortunate others. Dugan says he learned then that economic, environmental and Good Works factors often face one in the same direction, as on the Wind Farm. He likes to discuss such issues, and has found the Wind Farm will result in many social benefits to Cape residents.

Dugan likes to discuss the factual material he finds on CPN's website with others, working gently but steadily to convince them to join CPN. He feels strongly that active support such as letter-writing and distributing Fact Sheets is something he gladly finds time to do, despite his demanding MIT class schedule.

CPN/South Coast Chapter News

CPN/SC discussed some of the latest political, social, and technical aspects of Renewable Technologies (RTs) and how various MA cities and towns are already using them at its latest meeting. We discussed educational presentations, to whom / about what, and what formats and information have proved successful; Jr. High students have been very receptive to RT presentations already made by some of our members. We traded informational sources, for educational programs and personal knowledge. Interested members will study an RT topic or two in depth.

We also discussed how we might teach our local community teachers, politicians, contractors, and other public how .to be open to change and saving money at the same time (as well as the steep learning curve involved for all of us), Up and coming events were also discussed.

cogently and persuasively, and informal tallies of speakers at evening's end showed twice as many supporters as opponents.

The Cambridge proceedings were enlivened in unexpected ways, with appearances by 'Billionaires for Bush', a satirical group, demonstrating for the fictional 'Yachtsmen Against Wind Now' (YAWN!), and a Cape-based CPN member submitting his remarks in the form of a special CPN edition of 'Blowing in the Wind' (with audience participation).

Many legitimate concerns, some of which may lead to further analysis of data by the USACE, were raised by supporters and opponents at these hearings. When this second tier of analysis is complete, the USACE will issue its final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). To judge by the tone and content of the Draft EIS, and the degree of support for the wind farm evidenced by the official hearings, we have every reason to believe that this gift to the Cape's air quality, power supply and economic health will become a reality.

Each Newsletter will highlight a recent member Letter to Editor or public remarks. Below are excerpts from Lesley Miller's for the December Yarmouth Corps of Engineers Hearing. Lesley and her husband Fred are very active CPN members.

Having read the Executive Summary of the DEIS, and studied much of the full report, I wish to express my unqualified support for the project.

Increased electricity generation is needed to meet our growing power use. Yes, natural gas is much less polluting than crude oil, but supplies to our area are limited by pipeline capacity, and are increasingly expensive. Because the lowest grade of crude oil is much cheaper than natural gas and available (for now), it is routinely burned in the Mirant Canal Plant. Along with the Brayton Point Plant, it fills our air with carbon dioxide, noxious gasses, and damaging particulate matter, which are deposited in the ocean, on land

and in our lungs. Cape Wind's clean energy will displace enough pollutants annually to allow 15 people who would die prematurely to live 14yrs longer. That's 300 people over 20 years! How many lives shall we trade for a distant view?

Reducing the barge loads of crude oil transported to the Mirant plant will also minimize disasters like last year's spill which blackened beaches, killed large numbers of water fowl, and closed shell fish beds. And smokestack pollution must also harm marine life.

You and I are speeding global warming by our proliferate use of foreign fossil fuels. How many acres of the Cape's shore do we want washed out to sea in our children's lifetime? How many servicemen and women's lives shall we risk to preserve our supply of foreign oil?

It's high time we bit the bullet and put our priorities straight. We need a source of renewable, clean power now.

We need your support!

Membership in Clean Power Now is free, but your contribution will help us spread the word about renewable energy.

Yes, I would like to make a donation!

\$10

\$20

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\$100

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Let Your Legislator Know How You Feel

Although the permitting of the Nantucket Sound Wind Farm is mainly a Federal process, opponents have put a lot of pressure on State lawmakers to subvert the process. That's why it's also important to write to State representatives, senators and others in Government to make it clear to them that there is grass-roots support for the project.

You can find contact these legislators by e-mail through our website: http://www.cleanpowernow.org/html_help.php (go to the Clean Power Now website, click on 'how you can help' then 'contact your legislator').

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