



It's not the view, it's

The Vision

Legislative Update

By CPN Board Member, Charley Cummings

You might have read about several near-miss proposals in Washington that threatened Cape Wind and other renewable energy projects in the past few months. But chances are you have not heard of some of the happenings on nearby Beacon Hill - where some proposals have the potential to profoundly impact renewable energy in the Commonwealth. As part of our ongoing effort to inform and empower our membership and the wider community with factual information about renewable energy projects and policies, this month we offer our commentary on some timely pending legislation on Beacon Hill.

Not all renewables are created equal. Democratic Rep. John Binienda of Worcester, a supporter of the Cape Wind Project, has proposed a strict limit of 20 percent on Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste as a portion of a biomass generators' total fuel source for the purposes of the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). The RPS puts the onus of embracing renewable energy on energy providers by requiring that an incrementally increasing percentage of the electricity

they provide come from renewable sources. Under the RPS, much to the chagrin of cleaner and more sustainable technologies, biomass generation is defined as "renewable." Proponents argue that biomass generation is a sustainable, carbon dioxide-neutral source (since the fuel naturally absorbs carbon dioxide in the course of its growth and then emits it during combustion). But burning C&D waste - which often contains nasty things like plastic laminates, chlorinated adhesives, phenol and urea formaldehyde res-



This...

ins, and lead paint - is decidedly more dangerous and more unhealthy than burning non-renewable natural gas. Under the RPS, energy providers are essentially acting in a market environment in which biomass competes (often successfully) with less powerful wind, solar, hydroelectric and geothermal industries. Thus although

we would perhaps go as far as to question the inclusion of biomass in the RPS, we support Rep. Binienda's efforts as a forward step towards improving the position of more sustainable renewable technologies in competition with biomass for the benefits of the RPS.

Small-scale projects matter too. Democratic Rep. Matthew Patrick and Sen. Rob O'Leary propose an increase in the individual unit Net Metering law to 2 megawatts from the current 60 kilowatts. "Net-metering" refers to the method of measuring the amount of energy consumed and produced in a single building with its own source of electricity. Excess energy produced and unused by the owners will spin the meter backwards, thereby provid-

Or This!



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ing the house or business with the retail value of the electricity they produce, even if they themselves do not use it. This can often result in a check from the electric company - instead of a bill - at the end of the month for the consumer. The law increases the incentive for individuals to invest in small-scale renewable energy projects. Increasing the unit limit allows businesses and individuals the opportunity to invest in larger projects to create self-sustaining households and buildings. Currently New Jersey has 2 MW Net Metering limits, the highest in the nation. We support Patrick's proposal to position Massachusetts

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Clean Power Now: Village & Town Groups

by CPN Board Member, Bill Eddy

We are now in the early stages of helping many of our members to form small village and town groups across the Cape.

On May 11th, in Hyannis, seventy-five people met to discuss concrete ways by which they could promote a variety of renewable energy projects within their towns and across the region. Forty-one people volunteered to head up specific efforts within their towns. On June 27th we met again to further develop the program. Town gatherings are already being planned for Sandwich, Mashpee, Falmouth, several villages in Barnstable, Orleans, and Eastham. Groundwork has been laid for similar efforts in Yarmouth, Dennis and Brewster. We are contacting members in Chatham, Harwich, Bourne, Truro and Provincetown.

For many years on the Cape, organizations like Cape & Islands Self-Reliance, Cape Clean Air, the Cape & Islands Renewable Energy Collaborative (CIREC),

Cape Cod Community College, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative and Clean Power Now have been involved in the creation of educational programs and renewable energy projects. These organizations have created curricula for our schools, held public forums on new energy initiatives like the proposed Nantucket Sound windfarm, erected a land-based wind turbine, installed more than fifty photo-voltaic arrays on homes, installed a fuel cell at our community college, began a bio-diesel program, to name a few. The expertise of the people behind these efforts is one of the Cape's greatest resources.

Coupling the knowledge of people already involved in promoting renewable energy initiatives with citizen groups in every town is the next step. Heading up the effort are Diana Duffley and Bill Eddy.

If you are interested in participating, please contact us at Clean Power Now.

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as a national leader in embracing small-scale renewable energy.

Making the RPS work. Patrick has also put forth a proposal which effectively gives teeth to the RPS by requiring utility companies to enter into long-term (greater than 15 years) contracts with renewable energy providers to comply with the annually increasing percentage electricity they produce from renewable sources, as mandated by the RPS. It is high time the legislature made a long-term commitment to embrace the RPS, and we support Patrick's effort to do just that.

O'Leary continues to frustrate us. Sen. O'Leary is also continuing to propose a myriad of bills to stall or forever imperil the Cape Wind Project. S 528 prohibits the offering of any permits to any offshore development until a "comprehensive ocean resource management plan has been enacted." We believe an adequate plan already exists: the Massachusetts Ocean Sanctuaries Act,

which designates five distinct ocean sanctuaries that cover the vast majority of state waters and outlines lawful and unlawful activities in each zone. Nonetheless, O'Leary details what his plan might look like in S 529: it effectively centralizes the decision-making process for offshore developments in the Secretary of Environmental Affairs. The bill would exempt projects that already have been granted projects from review, but would not offer such protection for projects like Cape Wind, which has not yet been granted a permit, despite struggling through years of one of the most rigorous reviews any power plant in New England has ever been subject to. We believe that effective ocean resource management is a sensible concept – but much like the British system, an underlying purpose of such a plan should be to advance the development of responsible and viable offshore renewable energy projects. For these reasons, we do not support O'Leary's proposals.

Members in the Press:

Don C. Hayward

Upper Cape Codder: 6/3/05 issue

Give credit to people for thinking about wind farm issue...

To the Editor: The most recent of polls on the wind farm project, together with the ballot question in Mashpee, go a long way toward narrowing the real issue of "view" alteration.

More surprising is the level of support from those areas that do, in fact, have a higher threshold of acceptance. Even in the most visually impacted areas the level of support runs at least 30 percent or so.

It is encouraging to note that in spite of, and perhaps because of, the Alliance's persistent campaign of misinformation, the people have given adequate thought to this vital step toward energy independence.

The operative word to describe all such projects is "incremental." Those who think in terms of absolutes, as in shutting down a fossil fuel generator, think of life as black and white. After all, horses are still used where cars can't go and planes haven't replaced cars or trains.

Don C. Hayward, Monument Beach



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

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From the Desk of the Executive Director, Matt Palmer



Matt Palmer at Nysted, Denmark, May 2005 (Laura Wasserman photo)

Many of you may have noticed the article in the Cape Cod Times in mid-June entitled "Wind farm 'dead heat.'" This

piece described a poll conducted on the Cape and Islands in May on the wind farm issue. The results were 37% supported the wind farm, 39% opposed it, and 24% were undecided. They also found that 93% of the people polled were aware of the wind farm issue. Based on the margin of error of 4%, the pollster said the results were "statistically...a dead heat."

In their article, the Times briefly touched on a similar poll conducted in February of 2004. In that survey, residents were asked whether or not they supported the wind farm, but were not given "undecided" as a response option. As a result, 20% chose not to answer the question. Of the remainder, 36% were supportive and 44% were opposed, with a 4% margin of error.

Comparing those two results shows a

clear shift in public opinion in favor of the wind farm.

What caused this shift to occur? Certainly, the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on the project last November played a significant role. The DEIS identified the tremendous benefits that the Cape Wind project will bring, and showed that there will be no significant negative impact on birds, fishing, tourism, or property values. In the fifteen months since the first poll, the Cape Wind project has also received its permit from the Energy Facilities Siting Board, an approval to proceed to the next permitting step from the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act office, and a strong endorsement from the US Department of Energy.

Grass roots efforts have played a significant role as well. At the Yarmouth public hearing on the DEIS, the speakers were almost exactly split between opponents and supporters of the wind farm. If you include the testimony taken by the stenographers outside the hall, supporters outnumbered opponents 51% to 47%. At the public hearing in the Boston area, supporters overwhelmed opponents by almost 3 to 1.

Clean Power Now has been working diligently to inform citizens regarding the benefits of clean energy and the Nan-

tucket Sound wind farm. During November of last year, we published "The Winds of Truth," an eight-page newspaper insert that was distributed to almost 100,000 residents of the Cape and Islands. Our membership has doubled since June of last year, and we have added chapters in Boston and on the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. We continue to give presentations to various groups, providing them with valuable information on renewable energy and Cape Wind. Our first Denmark trip video, "Prevailing Winds in Denmark," continues to be in demand and has seen significant airplay on cable access stations. Last summer we brought nationally-renowned environmentalist Lester Brown here to provide us with a deeper understanding of the urgent need to develop clean energy sources.

All of us, as Clean Power Now members, can be very proud of what we have accomplished. Our efforts have certainly played a role in shifting public opinion, and clearing the path for the nation's first offshore wind farm. Our work is far from done, and we will need the efforts of all our members to help prevent the permitting process from being de-railed by political intervention in the coming months. We have been successful thus far, and I am sure we will be successful in the future.

CPN's SouthCoast Chapter Sponsors Energy Fair on July 28

The SouthCoast Chapter of Clean Power Now is proud to announce a major event for southeastern Massachusetts and the advocates of clean, renewable energy. On July 28th, 2005, Clean Power Now's SouthCoast Chapter will host the region's first ENERGY FAIR—designed to bring vendors of solar, wind and water products that use renewable energy to the public of Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island from Quonset Point to the Buzzards Bay Canal.

This event, held from 9 am—9 pm at the Fairhaven Mills building at 85 Coggeshall Street, New Bedford, provides a central location for renewable energy enthusiasts at the Gateway to New Bedford with its key location between the Cape and Rhode Island.

The SOUTHCOAST ENERGY FAIR has invited dozens of companies and vendors who can inform the public of renewable energy sources; technologies that allow for clean, reliable power for households and businesses; and access to the companies, government agencies and businesses that can help homeowners and businesses utilize the tools of the future.

The SOUTHCOAST ENERGY FAIR invites all interested parties in renewable energy to mark the date of July 28th as the time when they can learn of technologies and processes that can mean "clean power now!" for details, contact SouthCoast Chapter Director, Mark Howland via e-mail at markahowland@comcast.net, or via the web at www.wickedneat.com.

For a VENDOR'S PACKAGE, contact Mark Howland at 508-990-0711; FAX: same or to 508-763-8781.

Denmark Memories: May 24–29, 2005

Thirty-five people from Cape Cod and beyond left Boston on the evening of Tuesday, May 24th, 2005, bound for Denmark to visit offshore Danish windfarms and to see and hear for themselves the impact these have had on tourism, the local economy, and the lives of those living within sight of the turbines.

Clean Power Now's second trip to Denmark in the past 18 months brought together a wide and diverse cross-section of men, women and one young boy on this fact-finding adventure. Occupations of this diverse group of travelers included: nurse, artist, photographer, videographer, dock worker, landscape designer, attorney, refuge manager, environmental technologist, student, social worker, columnist, writer, editorial writer, renewable energy consultant, electrical consultant, as well as retired firefighter, engineer, researcher, occupational therapist, transportation manager and teacher. Two members of Clean Power Now, William and Dorte Griswold of Centerville, capably and admirably organized the trip....hats off to them for all of their good work on our behalf!

We thought you might enjoy a look at some of the wonderful photographs that were taken on the trip... special thanks to Carl Borcherdt, Matt Palmer, Michael Piniewski, and Laura Wasserman for sharing some of theirs with us!

And if you'd like more detailed information about the trip, please visit our website at: www.cleanpowernow.org.



Greenpeace Activities on Cape Cod This Summer

by Chelsea Harnish, Cape Cod Community Organizer for Greenpeace

Greenpeace says “yes” to wind for the Cape and Islands

Greenpeace will be working on the Cape and Islands this summer to educate people on the effects of dirty pollution and how clean energy projects, such as the proposed wind farm, is the right solution. Most of our nation’s current power supply comes from dangerous nuclear power and polluting fossil fuels, which are major contributors to our global warming problem. Cape and Island residents have felt the frontline assaults of global warming from more intense, beach eroding storms and rising sea levels. Transitioning to clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar will protect our health, environment, and quality of life.

Greenpeace is offering fun activities throughout the Cape and Islands this summer to promote the need for clean energy including a recent mercury testing event that allowed participants to determine their mercury level exposure via a small hair sample. Mercury is emitted from dirty energy sources like coal-fired power plants. Our mercury testing events are a great opportunity to talk with people about the damaging effects of dirty pollution and the need for a clean alternative.

Greenpeace’s own *Rolling Sunlight* arrived on the Cape just in time for the 4th of July festivities. The *Rolling Sunlight* is a biodiesel fueled demonstration and edu-



cational truck featuring 256 square feet of solar panels and a small wind turbine which can supply enough energy to power three homes. This energy can be used to power concerts, events and meetings without creating any pollution. The *Rolling Sunlight* made it’s debut on the Cape at the Welfleet and Hyannis 4th of July parades. It then traveled to Nantucket for Clean Power Now’s Nantucket chapter meeting then hit the beach for some sun, fun and public outreach. By the end of the month it will make it’s way around the Cape and Martha’s Vineyard ending it’s tour at the Barnstable County Fair.

After we say goodbye to the *Rolling Sunlight* we will prepare for our ice-



breaker the *Artic Sunrise* and our Arctic explorers, Lonnie Dupre and Eric Larson to arrive. The *Sunrise* will visit several ports around the Cape and Islands offering the public an opportunity to meet global warming scientists, who have seen first hand the effects of global warming as well as providing a unique opportunity to showcase the dire need for clean energy solutions.

We wrap up the summer with seminars given by seasoned Arctic explorers, Lonnie Dupre and Eric Larson, of the *One World Expedition* – an attempt to document the dramatic impacts of global warming in the Arctic. This journey would have been the first summer crossing of the Arctic Ocean. While harrowing conditions, including unusual snow storms and spring ice conditions, cut short the two explorers’ attempt, both have vowed to continue voicing their concerns about global warming. In late August/early September 2005 they will arrive here to discuss their Arctic journey and the dramatic effects of global warming they experienced first hand. They will speak at several locations around the Cape and the Islands to show pictures from their journey, display their gear (canoe, backpacks, etc.), and discuss local solutions to global warming.

This is going to be a great summer and we look forward to working with Clean Power Now. If you would like more information about any of the events mentioned please feel free to contact me at Chelsea.Harnish@wdc.greenpeace.org.

We Need Your Support!

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

You can now make contributions by credit card (MC, Visa, Discover) online.

To do so, please visit us at www.cleanpowernow.org Or, complete the form below and return with a check as indicated below.

Name: _____ Donation amount \$ _____

Address (Street/P.O. Box) _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

Clean Power Now is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

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**Launching America's
Renewable Energy
Revolution!**

**Join or Support the
Clean Power Now
Team riding in the MA
Lung Association's
Autumn Escape
Bike Trek,
September 16 -18,**

Check out the details at the MA
Lung Association's official Autumn
Escape Bike Trek website at:
www.autumnescape.kintera.org/faf
OR
Call the CPN office: 508-775-7796
JOIN OUR TEAM AND TAKE PART IN
THE FIGHT AGAINST ASTHMA AND
OTHER LUNG DISEASES.

EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Friday, JULY 22–Saturday, JULY 30: BARNSTABLE COUNTY FAIR:**
Route 151, Mashpee
Fri./Sat./Sun. : 11am–11pm
Mon./Tues./Wed./Thur. : 4–11 pm

VISIT THE CLEAN POWER NOW
BOOTH ON THE FAIR'S MAIN CON-
COURSE TO PICK UP ONE OF OUR **NEW**
BUMPER STICKERS AND OTHER
INFORMATION MATERIALS!

- **Thursday, JULY 28:**
SOUTHCOAST ENERGY FAIR,
Fairhaven Mills, off Rt. 195,
New Bedford, 9am–9pm: CPN'S
South Coast Chapter hosts this pre-
mier event on wind, solar and water
renewable power at Fairhaven Mills,
off Rt. 195 in New Bedford. \$5 fee.
Call Mark Howland at 508-763-5253,
for more information.

- **Sunday, AUGUST 21: DENNIS
FESTIVAL DAYS:** Open at 11 am:
Visit the CPN Booth!

New Video!

Announcing...
Liz Argo's latest Video,
**THE VISION & THE VIEW:
DENMARK 2005**

The video produced during Clean Power
Now's second trip to Denmark last month
is now ready!

For a contribution of \$25 made payable
to Clean Power Now, a copy of this DVD
can be on its way to you.

Send your check and full mailing

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