

"Global climate change, sea level rise, dependence on foreign oil, and the health impacts of local and regional air pollution create an urgent need for sustainable alternatives to energy produced from fossil fuels," said Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles when approving Cape Wind's Final Environmental Impact Report¹.

Indeed, the Cape Wind project will serve as the flagship for New England's role as a leader in renewable energy and greenhouse gas reductions. While supplying over three-quarters of the Cape & Islands power, the wind farm will displace 733,000 tons of carbon dioxide² which is equivalent to taking 175,000 cars off the road each year, making this the largest generation project in the United States to offset this much carbon dioxide.

This offset is comparable to a quarter of the emissions reductions required from all Massachusetts power plants in order to meet the new Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative by 2019³.

The consequences of global warming are well documented elsewhere. To illustrate just one aspect, a recent study indicates that 15-37 percent of all bird species could face extinction due to global warming by the year 2050. Secretary Bowles said in approving the FEIR that "the most dire threat that birds face comes from global warming, which Cape Wind would help begin to address."

Cape Wind is the gateway to our renewable energy future. The project is in its sixth year of a rigorous environmental review and no significant drawbacks have been found. It is the right project, for the right place, at the right time.

For more information on how global warming will affect Cape Cod, visit www.capecodflooding.org, an interactive map detailing the projected impact on Cape Cod, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard of a potential 1-meter ocean level rise due to global warming. The Flash-based web map includes close-up coastal flooding details for Hyannis, Truro and a total of four points on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.

1. "Cape Wind Moves on to Federal Review," Stephanie Ebbert, Boston Globe, March 31, 2007
2. Based on a conservative prospective (future) model of marginal emissions called PROSYM (La Capra Associates). Cape Wind FEIR, Section 3.5, p. 3-87. The use of ISO NE marginal emission rates for 2006 yields 881,600 tons/yr.
3. The Massachusetts share of the RGGI agreement is a cap at current levels of 26.7 million tons of CO₂ a year. The cap will be in place beginning in 2009 and remaining until 2015. Then the cap must be reduced by 10% (i.e., 2.67 million tons) over four years by 2019. The 733,876 tons/yr avoidance from the wind farm is 27.5% of that allocation to Massachusetts.
4. Thomas et al. 2004. Extinction risk from climate change. *Nature* 427: 145-148.