

The Cape Wind project will greatly benefit our health. Since electricity cannot be stored on the transmission grid, the wind power generated by the wind farm will reduce a like amount of energy from fossil fuel generating plants such as the Canal plant in Sandwich. With less fuel burned, polluting emissions will be diminished, eliminating some 430 tons of nitrogen oxides, 1,600 tons of sulfur oxides¹ and 386 tons of particulate matter².

These pollutant concentrations are the root cause of health effects recognized in a report by the Harvard School of Public Health³. The reduction of these pollutants in the New England region will statistically eliminate⁴:

- 2 premature deaths every year
- About 32 emergency room visits
- 800 asthma attacks, and
- 5,500 cases of daily upper respiratory symptoms and other related afflictions
- A monetary impact of approximately \$8 million dollars every year on healthcare spending⁵.

Furthermore, the decrease of nitrogen oxides will reduce unhealthy ozone concentrations thus improving the air quality of Barnstable County, declared by the American Lung Association as having the worst air quality in the state⁶.

Overall, the Massachusetts Energy Facility Siting Board concludes not only is wind power needed for reliability purposes, but also that “the air quality benefits of the wind farm are significant, and important for Massachusetts and New England.”⁷

1. Displaced pollutant calculations based on “2004 New England Marginal Emission Rate Analysis,” by ISO New England, May 2006, Table 1.1, p. 1. Wind farm yearly energy production is expected to be 1.6 million MWh.
2. Particulate matter reduction based on wind farm offset of Canal plant emissions in 1998 of 1,450 tons/yr times the offset ratio of 0.27 = 386 tons/yr. The offset ratio is the ratio of average yearly wind power (1.6 million MWh) to the three year average of the Canal energy output (6 million MWh) = 0.25. Canal data from a petition before the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board of October 1999, Figure 1-9.
3. “Estimated Public health Impacts of Criteria Pollutant Air Emissions from the Salem Harbor and Brayton Point Power Plants,” Dr. Jonathan Levy and Dr. John D. Spengler, dated May, 2000, p.4.
4. Cape Wind Final Environmental Impact Report filed with the MEPA office on February 15, 2007, p. 3-343.
5. Based on the updated EPA value of a statistical life and monetary valuation of healthcare in the Harvard report.
6. “‘F’ For Air Quality,” Cape Cod Times, May 2, 2003, and “The Air We Breathe,” Cape Cod Times, May 15, 2003. Data from the air monitor in Truro as reported in the American Lung Association survey of 2003, www.lungusa.com.