



It's not the view, it's ...

Winter 2009

# The Vision

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A Special Edition Publication of Clean Power Now

## Critical Time-Sensitive Action Alert!

## Cape Wind Update! By: Sarah Cote

We need you to contact Dr. Janet Snyder Matthews, the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and state your opposition to the determination of eligibility of Nantucket Sound for listing on the National Register as a TCP. Dr. Matthews has 45 days to make her decision (with a deadline of January 3, 2010). We need you to take action NOW!

### Mail a letter to:

Dr. Janet Snyder Matthews

Associate Director for Cultural Resources

Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

National Park Service

1849 C Street, NW

Washington, DC 20240

AND

The Honorable Kenneth Salazar

Secretary of the Interior

US Department of the Interior

1849 C Street, NW

Washington, DC 20240

You can view a template letter in our Action Alert Center at [www.cleanpowernow.org](http://www.cleanpowernow.org)

After you mail your letter, **please email it to:**  
[Jan\\_matthews@nps.gov](mailto:Jan_matthews@nps.gov)

and copy and paste into the comment section on this page: <http://www.doi.gov/contact.html>

**IMPORTANT:** Please follow up with phone calls!

National Park Service: (202) 208-3818

Remind Dr. Matthews that Nantucket Sound is **NOT** an eligible TCP and that the chilling effect this designation would have on the offshore wind industry is unacceptable, especially during a time when industry, jobs and bold action to combat climate change are so desperately needed!

### Regulatory

After eight years of environmental and regulatory review Cape Wind is on the brink of final permitting. With an overwhelmingly positive Final Environmental Impact Statement released in January of 2009 and the securing of all state and local permits in May, few hurdles remain for America's first offshore wind farm.

The Section 106 process is one of the final steps in the permitting process. Section 106 has to do with the impact the wind farm will have on certain historical and cultural sites on Cape Cod and the Islands. Recently, the local Wampanoag tribes from Mashpee and Gay Head/Aquinnah have been fighting to have all of Nantucket Sound designated as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP). Although the Minerals Management Service has stated that the site is not eligible, Brona Simon, MA State Historic Preservation Officer sent a letter to the National Parks Service on November 6 arguing that the Sound should be considered for TCP eligibility because of the cultural significance. As the "People of the First Light" the local tribes are claiming that an unobstructed view of the horizon is sacred to them and that the wind farm has the potential to damage ancestral burial sites in the Sound.

In response, Governor Deval Patrick said, "I respect the Wampanoags, but this decision is ridiculous. We are going to have to get serious about alternative energy installations where they make sense, and every environmental and regulatory review has concluded that Cape Wind makes sense."

The decision now lies with Dr. Janet Snyder Matthews, the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. Matthews has 45 days to make the decision regarding the eligibility of Nantucket Sound. This decision must be made by January 3, 2010.

### Breaking News

On December 2, 2009 Secretary Ian Bowles announced on behalf of Governor Deval Patrick that Cape Wind has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with National Grid. "For both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and launching the offshore wind industry that will achieve those reductions, it is essential for Cape Wind, like offshore wind in general, to move from wishful thinking to reality," said Governor Patrick. "A contract with an electric distribution utility like National Grid will move Cape Wind one step closer to reality."

Please visit [www.cleanpowernow.org](http://www.cleanpowernow.org) to stay updated with recent news articles, editorials and opinion pieces!

## CPN 2009 Annual Report Letter

Dr. Herman Scheer, Time Magazine, 2002 Hero for the Green Century, and author of *Energy Autonomy*, states emphatically that for “the stakes to shift to renewable energy involve nothing less than the most thorough and far-reaching structural change since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. Only the naïve can believe that this change can be achieved without friction and in agreement with the institutions responsible for traditional energy supplies, or even the basis of common values.”

The energy sector is the largest and most politically powerful business on the planet, which explains why this journey has become so fraught with fiction. And as Einstein is often quoted as saying “No problem can be solved from the same consequences that created it. Resistance to renewable energy will most assuredly grow as we get closer to tipping the scales to actually replacing non-renewable supplies.

Since 2003, Clean Power Now (CPN) has been passionately committed to this shift. The organization has played a crucial role, most notably in the discussion surrounding the Cape Wind proposal to build the nation’s first offshore wind farm, but also in the expanding national dialogue on the creation of a clean energy economy. CPN provides a venue that has given thousands of average citizens a voice in this important and timely discussion that will help determine the country’s energy future. This year we celebrate the shift as reflected in historic Cape Wind permitting milestones, tremendous growth in membership, national press coverage, turbines sprouting up locally and a continued fruitful and dynamic collaboration with CLEAN – Citizens Lead for Energy Action Now.

On January 17, 2009, the Cape Wind project cleared a major hurdle when the Final Environmental Impact Statement was issued finding significant public interest benefits and mostly “negligible” and “minor” effects on the environment. Randall Luthi, former director of the U.S. Minerals Management Service, said Cape Wind could be a “bellwether” for the future of offshore wind projects. And in May of this year, all remaining local, state and regional permits were secured by the issuance of the Composite Certificate by the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board.

Our collaboration with CLEAN has yielded dynamic new relationships as well as coverage in the national media with the LA Times, National Public Radio and the Chicago Tribune. Over 140 organizations in every region of the country are working together to create new policies based on decentralized control of energy whereby energy is generated by regionally-appropriate, reliable and renewable sources. This work of building relationships and connective tissue among organizations and their members is advancing this new energy future by educating and coordinating the citizenry to exercise its own power and influence and reclaim its rightful role in democratic self-determination.

Climate change is arguably the greatest challenge the human species has ever faced. Changing the energy paradigm is absolutely critical in minimizing the impacts of industrial society’s carbon loading of our Earth’s atmosphere. CPN’s belief in the premise that a well informed citizenry will make wise decisions-and in fact is one of the pillars of democracy-should be held up as a model that others should emulate. CPN has demonstrated that it is possible to be both passionate and objective advocates on behalf of the planet and humanity.

Scheer states, “Making renewable energy the foundation for a sustainable future is a priority for the human condition. This priority calls for a kind of renewable energy that is intellectual and spiritual-as a political condition.” We are doing this at Clean Power Now and CLEAN –through the success of one project at a time, one conversation at a time and new dynamic collaborations where the seeds of transformation are born, nurtured and open.



We want to extend a very special

**THANK YOU**

to everyone who helps make the work that we do here at CPN possible. We can not thank you enough for your generosity, your time and your wisdom and the collective passion we all share for leaving our Earth a little better than we found it.

## Support Clean Power Now

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your continued support of Clean Power Now. You have continued to help give Cape Wind and renewable energy a voice which was truly instrumental, especially during the many years it has taken to reach the issuance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement on Cape Wind in January 2009; securing all state and local permits this past May and, the recent MOU between Cape Wind and National Grid.

Even though the regulatory review process has now taken eight years - longer than any coal, oil or nuclear plant in history - we've been winning.

But, the only thing that could delay our realizing the significant benefits from Cape Wind is well-funded opponents have promised to drag this visionary project through a lengthy court battle, because they think that YOU are just going to give up. Did you realize that every legal battle is only costing you and all of us tax payer's money? Not to mention the delay in the significant public interest benefits of clean air, economic development and stable energy prices.

American energy policy is overly influenced or outright controlled by the major, non-renewable energy providers - Coal, Nuclear, Oil - and not by the United States citizens or for our common good. This energy policy and the political climate that enables it, has created a reliance on fossil fuels that now endangers our health, environment, security, and economic prosperity.



Now is the time to hold the politicians' feet to the fire and execute what more than 86% of the citizens in Massachusetts want: to support renewable energy and Cape Wind: a long term solution for many, not just a short term gain for some. But, to mobilize and educate as many people on Cape Cod and elsewhere in Massachusetts as possible, we must raise some \$50,000 by the end of the year to counter efforts by the opposition to delay, litigate and mis-inform.

The release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement shows once again the significant public interest benefits and minimal negative environmental and socioeconomic issues standing in the way of getting the project built. We firmly believe in the Cape Wind project. And we are not alone.

As a supporter of Clean Power Now, you are part of a major nationwide collaboration with other grassroots groups, all in all an estimated 640,000 supporters, organized through Citizens Lead for Energy Action Now (CLEAN). In two years, this collaboration has led to several success stories in protecting renewable energy and the environment in Indiana, Texas and West Virginia and, hopefully soon Cape Cod.

Together, we will advance the new energy future by educating and coordinating concerned citizens like you to support viable renewable energy projects and policies and moving away from the use of fossil fuels. It's time we reclaim our rightful role in democratic self-determination.

Would you please consider a special year-end gift to Clean Power Now, so you can make your voice heard even louder, along with thousands of other supporters, in favor of clean energy?

Bill McKibben says that, "Clean Power Now has been helping people understand that doing nothing isn't one of the options for our energy future - and they've been succeeding at that task. It's precisely the kind of tireless advocacy we'll need if we're going to come anywhere close to heading off the climate crisis."

Your support today is an essential investment in a more secure and clean future, right now, right here, and right in our own backyard. Thank you and happy clean energy holidays.

Sincerely,

Barbara J Hill

Executive Director

**PS. Please consider a tax-deductible year-end gift to Clean Power Now.**

Check out our web site: [www.cleanpowernow.org](http://www.cleanpowernow.org) for updates and for more information about Eve the Electrician and CLEAN.



**Picture 1:** CPN met with Congressman Delahunt's Chief of Staff as part of an international CLEAN Campaign. **Picture 2:** Volunteers lend a helping hand during a Newsletter Mailing Party! **Picture 3:** CPN out and about educating and empowering!



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Clean Power Now  
PO Box 2717  
Hyannis, MA 02601

Phone: 508-775-7796  
Fax: 508-775-7782  
E-mail: windfarm@cleanpowernow.org



### Donate to Clean Power Now!

Please consider a tax-deductible year-end donation to Clean Power Now to support our energy future. Rest assured every penny of your donation will be put to good use carrying out our mission of informing, educating and empowering citizens to support renewable energy projects and policies.

Please find the enclosed donation envelope and please give as generously as you can or give online by visiting [www.cleanpowernow.org](http://www.cleanpowernow.org)

*Happy Holidays from Clean Power Now!*

### The Vision Series Update!

Clean Power Now's Community Access TV Program now has a new episode available on our web site!

Episode 4 of "It's Not the View It's the Vision" is titled "Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream" and features clips from a Symposium hosted by Power Shift and attended by CPN staff, directors and supporters. Over the summer, CPN teamed up with Power Shift to help with their "Mass Climate Summer" campaign. These college students dedicated their summer to biking across Massachusetts to raise awareness about climate change!

Check it out!

You can also view Episodes 1, 2 and 3 in their entirety at [www.cleanpowernow.org](http://www.cleanpowernow.org)