



100 Market Street, Suite 204 Portsmouth, NH 03801

## **Statement in Support for the Cape Wind Project**

February 15, 2005

These comments have been prepared and submitted on behalf of Clean Air-Cool Planet to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs, to help them consider whether to approve the Draft Environmental Impact Statements/Reports prepared for the Cape Wind Energy Project. In light of the important contribution of this indigenous wind resource and the Cape Wind Project's role in helping enable Massachusetts and the region curb its consumption of fossil fuel for electric generation and helping the state in satisfying its important policy objectives as reflected in its Renewable Portfolio Standard and its Climate Action Plan, Clean Air-Cool Planet urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs to approve the environmental reports for this project.

Clean Air - Cool Planet is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that exists to address the threat posed by global warming. We work with corporations, campuses, and communities in the Northeast region, promoting cost-effective and pragmatic solutions to this growing environmental problem.

Scientific evidence has unequivocally established that the earth's climate is changing as a result of human activities. Unless we act decisively, the negative consequences of global warming will be felt strongly throughout the region, transforming our unique forest and mountain ecosystems, altering the coastal landscape, and aggravating risks to human health. Global warming is remaking the world as we know it.

Clean Air - Cool Planet has engaged with many organizations and institutions throughout the region to help them understand the nature of climate change and to advise and assist them in taking actions that combat this pressing problem. Our experience at Clean Air - Cool Planet is that every day the organizations we serve are presented with opportunities to make better choices for both our environment and our economy. They choose to take responsibility for their environmental footprint because doing so is not only good for their organization's bottom line, but also because such leadership serves the greater good and inspires others to make such choices as well.

Soon, those choices will, of necessity, include new ways of further reducing the amount of carbon dioxide they produce. States with renewable portfolio standards will search the market for purchasing options, and utilities will seek carbon credits to bring them in line with a carbon cap. If there are insufficient safe, renewable sources of electric power, they will be unable to meet their needs.

Of all the human activities that affect the global climate, none is more powerful than the production of electricity. Burning fossil fuels in power plants is one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases globally, as well as here in the Northeast. Like other regions of the United States, we remain utterly dependent on fossil resources to power our economy and make our homes livable.

Electricity is one of modern life's essentials, and electric companies serve the common good. Insofar as the electric industry poses risks or does harm to society, society has the responsibility to respond with realistic solutions. Inevitably, building our power supply infrastructure pits the interests of individuals against the public good. When a solution employs a generating technology that possesses a superior environmental profile, strengthens the local economy, and helps put us on an environmentally and economically sustainable path, the common good should take precedence over individual concerns. That is the case with the Cape Wind Energy Project.

Cape Wind represents a bold and innovative solution to our energy needs, and it sets an important precedent for our region and the nation. Clean Air - Cool Planet believes that developing and deploying advanced clean-energy technology within the region is essential to our economic and environmental future. On Cape Cod, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and throughout New England and the Northeast, we must bring on line local energy resources that are sustainable, helping to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and slowing the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Our partner institutions, leading campuses, communities and corporations, have shown a growing interest in supporting regionally based renewable energy resources. Of the current choices, wind is perhaps most cost-effective, and the technology exists today to harness this natural resource on a scale that can make a significant impact by eliminating aging power plants linked to carbon pollution. Modern turbines, carefully sited to have limited impacts, and designed to provide cost-competitive electricity, pollution-free wind energy win our enthusiastic support.

We are not blind to aesthetic considerations, but we do not believe that they can be allowed to control decisions regarding our region's energy future, and the well being of future generations. Indeed, wind turbines have an inherent beauty, and we are even more forcefully moved by the beauty of what they represent: support for a future that is safe, healthy, economically sustainable, and pollution-free.

Therefore, we support the timely approval of environmental reports related to the Cape Wind Project so that this important project can move forward and begin to help the region meet and eventually beat the challenge of global warming.

Respectfully submitted,

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