



Cape & Islands Renewable Energy Collaborative

Promoting A Sustainable Energy Future

December 13, 2006

Recommendations to the Patrick-Murray Transition Team from Cape & Islands Energy Stakeholders

On December 1, 2006, the Cape & Islands Renewable Energy Collaborative (CIREC; www.cirenew.org) organized a “Beyond Cape Wind” visioning session to explore the energy future for Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard, and Nantucket. In addition to establishing high-level goals for a *Cape & Islands Renewable Energy Action Plan* to be issued in the first quarter of 2007, CIREC participants and other attendees at the session agreed upon several energy-related recommendations for the Patrick-Murray Transition Team. This document summarizes key findings from the event.

The document reviews points of concurrence among Cape & Islands stakeholders, some of whom have differing views on an individual offshore wind project but agree on many other issues relating to energy, the economy, and the environment. The hope is that the recommendations provided below on how to advance conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy will carry extra weight because they arise from a region characterized by spirited dialogue for more than 5 years.

Event Summary

The recent visioning session began with consideration of a mission statement developed in 2005 by regional stakeholders through “Beyond Cape Wind” community planning activities initiated by CIREC participants:

“Our goal is to accelerate progress toward a sustainable energy future for Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard, and Nantucket. We will consider energy supply, delivery, and use from all perspectives; address common challenges relating to our reliance on fossil fuels; and define shared goals relating to efficiency and renewables. We will initiate activities and develop tools for informing, shaping, and changing decision-making at the individual, local, and regional levels. By working together, we will make a difference.”

At the meeting, goals, milestones, and priority actions relating to conservation, efficiency, and renewables were discussed by a total of 18 attendees representing environmental advocacy groups, regional and state agencies, businesses, educational and research institutions, nonprofits, and regional business associations. Below, attendees are listed, and key findings are summarized.

John Abrams , South Mountain Co.	Alison Alessi , A+E Architects
Megan Amsler , Cape & Islands Self-Reliance	Mary Jane Curran , Cape Cod Community College
Dan Dray , Cape Cod Economic Development Council	Phil Forest , South Mountain Co.
Joe Hackler , Woods Hole Research Center	Barbara Hill , Clean Power Now
Chuck Kleekamp , Clean Power Now/Cape Clean Air	Richard Lawrence , Cape & Islands Self-Reliance
Theresa Martin , Cape Cod Technology Council	Joan Muller , Waquoit Bay Research Reserve
Wendy Northcross , Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce	Chris Powicki , WEEinfo Services
Bruce Torrey , Building Diagnostics	Tana Watt , Cape Cod Commission
Tom Wineman , Clean Energy Design	Charles Vinick , Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound

An Optimistic View of the Energy Future

Cape & Islands stakeholders are pursuing energy independence to strengthen our economy, protect our environment, and improve our present and future. By 2020, we plan to be using 50% less fossil fuel than in 2006, we plan to be relying on renewable resources to meet 100% of net electricity demand, and we will have a much smaller carbon footprint.

Our immediate objectives are to emphasize conservation, efficiency, and distributed applications of renewable and clean energy technologies across the electricity, heating, and transportation sectors. We also plan to implement community-based processes leading to policy frameworks, institutional structures, and offshore wind, wave, and tidal energy projects that accelerate progress toward independence while supporting sustainability objectives, maximizing local benefits, and minimizing adverse impacts.

We will seek to designate energy enterprise zones encouraging use of green practices, high-performance construction, distributed renewables, and cogeneration in growth centers. We will continue and strengthen community outreach, public involvement, consumer education, workforce development, and practitioner training activities, and we will create a regional clean energy incubator to organize, support, and stimulate economic activity and public-private investment. We also will build a locally owned cooperative/utility structure to promote efficiency, deliver clean and green energy services, keep dollars local, and concentrate the benefits of renewables development on local communities.

State-Level Implications & Recommendations

Achieving these goals will require coordinated and concerted action at the federal, state, regional, local, organizational, and individual levels. Through CIREC and in partnership with others, individuals and organizations in this locale already are working together in many key areas (see next section).

We believe that state officials and agencies can help by adopting a strategic perspective and becoming much more effective in the use of the bully pulpit, policy levers, institutional resources, and revenue streams to encourage conservation, increase efficiency, accelerate renewables development, and grow the clean energy cluster within Massachusetts.

Detailed below are some broad recommendations from the recent "Beyond Cape Wind" stakeholder meeting. These reflect specific discussions and general agreement among meeting attendees, some of whom may be providing additional input to the Patrick-Murray Transition Team of relevance to the issues addressed below. The recommendations directly address the following principles and objectives defined by the transition team:

- **Civic Engagement:** Rebuilding communities throughout the state
- **Economic Development:** Promoting an innovation economy based on renewable energy; Investing in our infrastructure
- **Environment & Energy:** Driving our economy around renewable energy technologies; Promoting conservation; Ensuring government practices what it preaches; Addressing utility regulations and how they impact alternative investment
- **Smart Growth:** Addressing the affordability of housing; Promoting smart growth development
- **Technology:** Using technology to rebuild communities
- **Transportation:** Making infrastructure investments; Investing in public transportation

Develop an Energy Strategy

1. The Commonwealth should develop a comprehensive energy strategy encompassing all sectors, spanning all resource development and use options, and addressing issues relating to fuel security, climate change, economic growth, environmental integrity, public health, quality of life, and sustainability. This strategy should reflect public aspirations, scientific and technological realities, and input from regional and local decision-makers and leaders in the academic, economic, environmental, and social communities. It should motivate a restructuring of the state's energy policies and institutions, guide its asset management decisions and purchasing practices, and inform its positions on specific energy issues, options, policies, regulations, and projects.

Adopt Climate Policies

2. The Commonwealth should immediately commit to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to acknowledge the gravity of the climate challenge (RGGI), to start creating the policies and institutions required to mandate and verify the massive emissions reductions that ultimately will be required to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, and to begin preparing energy producers and consumers for the carbon-constrained future.
3. Acknowledging that RGGI does not cover the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts, the Commonwealth should introduce carbon pricing to the transportation sector by basing the vehicle excise tax on fuel efficiency, rather than market value.

Restructure Efficiency & Renewables Programs

4. The Commonwealth should conduct a top-to-bottom review of the objectives, funding levels, administration, and effectiveness of ratepayer-funded energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, including those administered by utilities, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, and regional and local agencies. This review should guide a comprehensive restructuring of these programs to focus ratepayer funds on four areas:
 - a. Deliver fuel-blind efficiency services.
 - b. Expand use of green building practices, cogeneration systems, and renewable energy technologies as demand-side management options.
 - c. Accelerate renewables development within the state's borders.
 - d. Stimulate economic activity and create jobs within the state's clean energy cluster.

Stimulate Economic Activity

5. The Commonwealth should support the creation of regional incubators to encourage entrepreneurship, nurture startups, and induce private investment in the areas of conservation, efficiency, and renewables.

Encourage Community-Based Action

6. The Commonwealth should enact and/or amend legislation and regulations to facilitate community-based siting, development, and/or ownership of economically viable wind and other renewables projects located on municipal and private property and intended to meet on-site, proximate, and/or community demand for clean energy.
7. Acknowledging the significant renewable resource base available in offshore environments, the Commonwealth should promote and support community-based processes for evaluating, siting, designing, developing, and/or owning viable wind, wave, and tidal energy projects in local, state, and federal waters to achieve sustainability objectives, maximize near-term benefits, and minimize adverse impacts.

Set a Green Example

8. The Commonwealth should require the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management to ensure that sustainable design practices, high-performance construction techniques, and advanced energy systems and technologies are employed for all new state buildings and major renovation projects.

Major Areas of Work by CIREC Participants

These broad recommendations allude to or imply numerous more specific actions as the Patrick-Murray Administration moves forward. Active CIREC participants and other Cape & Islands stakeholders would welcome the opportunity to discuss the process of setting and pursuing goals relating to the Commonwealth's energy future.

State officials and agencies also are encouraged to look to this region as a model for coordinated and concerted action in other areas and across the Commonwealth, and they are asked to expand support for ongoing and planned community-based activities pursued through CIREC.

Major areas of CIREC activity and a primary point of contact are listed below.

Workforce Development & Training

- Development and implementation of an integrated renewable energy and energy efficiency curriculum at the community college and technical high school levels
- Organization of hands-on installer, electrician, and plumber training workshops to provide experience with solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, and wind energy systems
- Organization of “Shades of Green” workshops to introduce green building practices and provide continuing education for architects, builders, developers, and practitioners

Public Outreach & Education

- Organization of public meetings and periodic exhibits, workshops, and tours to highlight issues and challenges relating to current energy supply and use practices, introduce clean energy concepts and technologies, promote efficiency and green power, and encourage individual action
- Creation of tools to support education, outreach, and action, including the Renewable Energy Trailer; the Cape & Islands Energy Information Clearinghouse (www.cirenew.info); and the *Cape & Islands Go Green Guide*, a directory designed to connect consumers with businesses providing resource-efficient products and services (in process)

Technology Deployment

- Installation, operation, maintenance, and promotion of high-quality solar thermal, solar photovoltaic, and wind energy systems
- Design, construction, and promotion of institutional and residential green buildings
- Introduction and promotion of biodiesel for transportation and heating applications

Community Planning

- Organization of “Beyond Cape Wind” activities to engage regional and local stakeholders in defining and pursuing common goals
- Organization of a high-profile regional conference, “Shaping Cape Cod’s Energy Future”
- Organization of regional workshops for municipal officials and business decision-makers addressing the impacts of energy supply and use practices, community wind project development and financing, applications of green building practices and clean energy technologies, and institutional options for deriving maximum local benefit from renewables development
- Participation in and support for activities led by the Vineyard Energy Project and the Cape Cod Renewable Fuels Partnership
- Development of a community-based *Cape & Islands Renewable Energy Action Plan* (in process)

Policy Development & Implementation

- Development of informative communications to support effective and efficient climate policymaking at the international, domestic, state, and corporate levels
- Support for and participation in public processes designed to support a comprehensive reworking of the energy elements in the Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan to emphasize emissions reduction, environmental quality improvement, climate mitigation, and sustainable economic development via increased conservation, efficiency, and renewables usage
- Support for and participation in public processes designed to inform development and implementation of local energy and climate policies encouraging conservation, efficiency, and use of renewable fuels and technologies

Clean Energy Cluster Building

- Assessment of the current status and future potential of the Massachusetts clean energy cluster
- Creation of the Cape Cod High-Performance Building Group to help transform local markets on behalf of green practices and clean energy technologies by expanding capacity and building demand
- Creation of the *Cape & Islands Go Green Guide* to assist businesses in marketing resource-efficient products and services to consumers (under active development)

For more information contact

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The Cape & Islands Renewable Energy Collaborative (CIREC; <http://www.cirenew.org/>) was formed in 2000 to bring together diverse individuals and organizations with common interest in achieving a sustainable energy future, both locally and globally. CIREC participants work together to build awareness of the benefits of renewable energy, increase the use of clean energy technologies, and lay the groundwork for transforming the energy basis of the Cape & Islands region. CIREC also is the local chapter of the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (<http://www.nesea.org/>), the leading regional membership organization in the United States focused on promoting the understanding, development, and adoption of energy conservation and renewable energy technologies.
