



# The Cape & Islands Renewable Energy Collaborative

*Promoting a sustainable energy future  
for Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket*

Date: June 2004

To: **Federal & State Officials, County Officials & Agency Representatives, Municipal Officials & Agency Representatives, Stakeholder Organizations, Energy Agencies & Organizations**

Re: Invitation for the Cape & Islands Sustainable Energy Stakeholder Committee

On behalf of other CIREC participants, I am pleased to invite you to serve on the **Cape & Islands Sustainable Energy Stakeholder Committee**. The Committee is being created to catalyze collaborative, community-based efforts to address energy-related challenges and opportunities facing Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. It is being convened under a grant to CIREC from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC).

Individuals and organizations representing a broad range of constituencies and technical disciplines are being invited to serve on the Committee. This inclusive approach will help highlight energy's connections to diverse issues, including those identified in the "Who is an Energy Stakeholder?" box at left.

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## Who is an Energy Stakeholder?

Every individual, agency, organization, and business has an important stake in how energy is supplied to and used in Cape & Islands communities and around the world:

- ◆ Energy is essential to the necessities and amenities that define modern society. **Energy production and consumption have a major influence on many issues that define quality of life in local communities.**
- ◆ Almost all of the energy supplied to local communities is imported from elsewhere. **Electricity, gasoline, and heating fuels generally cost more here, which increases cost of living and hinders business competitiveness.**
- ◆ Consuming fossil fuels can degrade local air and water quality, increase health risks, influence national security, and produce greenhouse gas emissions. **The prices paid for energy commodities fail to fully account for these significant environmental and social costs.**
- ◆ Local communities are downwind from major sources of pollution and surrounded by ocean waters, making them particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of the fossil-fueled "Energy Present." **The Cape & Islands region is uniquely positioned to realize multifaceted benefits through an accelerated transition to a sustainable "Energy Future."**

Three tasks are planned for the Committee:

- ◆ Help establish a comprehensive, fact-based context for energy-related decision-making
- ◆ Help define consensus long-term planning goals
- ◆ Help build a coordinated framework for local and regional planning processes

In support of these goals, the web-based **Cape & Islands Energy Information Clearinghouse** is being created under MTC funding. It introduces an approach for collecting, organizing, and delivering information resources that address current and future energy issues. A beta version of the Clearinghouse (see [www.cirenew.info](http://www.cirenew.info)) is described in **CIREnews**, an e-newsletter being distributed along with this invitation.

As an initial task, individuals and organizations represented on the new Committee will be asked to review sections of the Clearinghouse for accuracy and appropriateness. Stakeholder comments will be posted on the website, and its content will be revised and updated to reflect their input.

In follow-on tasks, Committee members will be invited to help plan and participate in projects, events, and activities designed to promote coordinated community planning:

- ◆ A working group process will characterize the connections among energy supply and use and key economic, environmental, and social issues.
- ◆ Contests and surveys will involve students, residents, and visitors in considering energy-related tradeoffs and in providing input to local and regional decision-making processes.
- ◆ Community-based “Energy Visioning Forums” will engage all stakeholder groups in defining shared visions of a cleaner and green energy future.

I hope you will agree to serve on this important committee. **Please contact me by May 14, 2004, at [chrisp@weeinfo.com](mailto:chrisp@weeinfo.com) or 508.362.9599, regarding your willingness to participate, any questions you might have, and whether someone other than yourself will be representing your organization.**

Subsequently, individuals serving on the Committee will be asked to review specific content on the Clearinghouse and to provide comments and other feedback. They also will be asked to contribute energy-related information resources that they or their organizations create. Going forward, they will be solicited for ideas and opinions as additional content is created and activities are planned

On behalf of other CIREC participants, I thank you for your interest and look forward to working with you to begin addressing common challenges and opportunities facing Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard, and Nantucket.

Sincerely,



Chris Powicki  
Principal, Water Energy & Ecology Information Services

cc: CIREC

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***The Cape & Islands Renewable Energy Collaborative (CIREC) brings together citizens, businesses, advocacy groups, educational institutions, and government agencies and officials with common interest in achieving a sustainable energy future, both locally and globally. Through CIREC, individuals, organizations, and communities pursue collaborative activities designed to foster the development and use of energy resources in the Cape & Islands region—and beyond—in ways that maximize local benefits and minimize adverse impacts, now and into the future.***

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