

Why the Wind Initiative?

We live in a world that faces many challenges. One set of challenges is being brought on by the end of cheap oil and the significant environmental damage being caused by extracting and burning fossil fuels. We can no longer assume that cheap energy will be delivered to our doorsteps. We can no longer ignore the impacts caused by the production and consumption of our energy choices.

To be sure, there needs to be a multifaceted effort as we confront our energy problems. Strategies from conservation to new settlement patterns to alternative energy sources (solar, wind, geothermal, biomass) are all needed.

Our economic vitality will depend in part on our abilities to forge local solutions to energy needs. Indeed, we can turn problems into advantages - communities that “go green” will be positioned for long-term prosperity.

The Lenox Wind Initiative

Agenda for the Oct 5th Forum Town Hall Auditorium

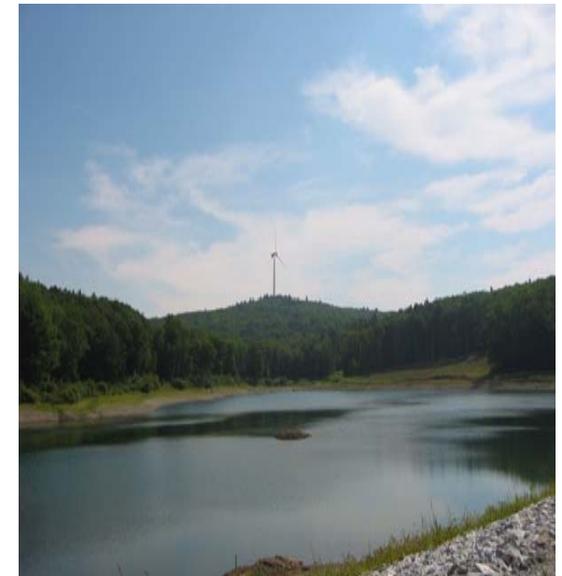
- 7:30: Welcome and Project Status Report: Lenox Selectmen & LEC
- 7:45: The Community Wind Program: MassTechnology
- 8:00: The Proposed Lenox Site/ Site Evaluation Process
Black & Veatch, Engineers
- 8:45: Questions and Answers

As we anticipate a large audience, we ask that those who wish to speak line up behind one of two microphones set up for audience use and that your question or comment be limited to 2 minutes. If everyone has had a chance to speak once and time remains, you may line up for a second round.

For further information, contact the Selectmen’s Office at 637-5500 or on the web at www.townoflenox.com



The Lenox Wind Initiative: A Public Information Forum



**Wednesday
October 5
7:30 - 9:30PM
Town Hall Auditorium**

Simulated View from the Upper Reservoir Dam
Additional simulated views will be presented at the forum

A Brief Overview of Efforts to Date

Responding to a solicitation from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's Community Wind Program, the Board of Selectmen voted in February 2004 to study the feasibility of a wind turbine supplying power to the Town's water supply treatment plant. The Selectmen asked the Lenox Environmental Committee (LEC), a group of citizens who make recommendations to the Selectmen on measures that strike a balance between environmental and economic concerns, to assist in researching wind energy for the town. The current concept is for one 1.5 megawatt turbine on a town-owned hilltop near the reservoirs that can power the water treatment plant and feed enough additional power into the electric grid to supply electricity to approximately 300 homes.



Timeline to date:

February 2004: Selectmen vote to study
April 2004: Earth Day Wind Forum Wind Energy Group formed
Summer 2004: Possible sites near water treatment plant explored
October 2004: Site Report completed by RERL/UMASS
March 2005: Black & Veatch Engineers completed more in-depth analysis of site
Summer 2005: Additional research
October 5, 2005: Public Forum/Status Report

We are at the very beginning

If the efforts continue, much work lies ahead before construction begins including:

- * Temporary Wind Measuring Tower
- * Bird and bat studies
- * Access analysis & improvement plans
- * Visual assessment/analysis
- * Habitat & Wetland assessments
- * Environmental Impact Report
- * Business Plan Development
- * State and Local permits
- * Town Meeting Approval

Preliminary Financial Analysis

While a detailed analysis of costs and revenues is dependent on confirmed wind data and more detailed studies of site access, a preliminary run of the numbers for 20 years for a 1.5 megawatt turbine reveals:

Capital Cost:	\$2,520,000
Borrowing Costs:	\$1,000,000
Maintenance Costs:	\$ 540,000
Total Costs:	\$4,060,000
Projected Revenues:	\$6,450,000
Net Revenues:	\$2,390,000

(Estimates from B&V March 2005 Report)

(Revenue projection assumes a municipal project with no tax credits)

Goals for the October 5th Forum:

- * Provide a status report on efforts to date
- * Describe needed next steps if the efforts are to continue
- * Gauge public interest in continuing the Wind Initiative and other "green" efforts