

CONSERVATION MATTERS

CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION

*Clearing
the Air on*
**OFFSHORE
WIND**


SUMMER 2024

clf

RAILING AGAINST THE WIND

A well-orchestrated **disinformation campaign** targets offshore wind projects – to the **benefit of fossil fuel companies.**

BY PAMELA REYNOLDS



Earlier this year, worried residents crowded into a meeting room at the Hyport Conference Center in Hyannis, Massachusetts.

“Let’s begin today’s event by trying to uncover the truth,” announced Hyannis radio host Ed Lambert, who opened the event.

Over the next few hours, a parade of representatives from community groups – one from as far away as Virginia – ascended the stage. A member of Save Greater Dowses Beach said the purpose of the day-long event was to “give voice to citizens’ groups that oppose all or some aspects of ocean wind development.” Questions about offshore wind development, she said, have been “constantly derided as misinformation.”

The president of the anti-wind citizens’ group Green Oceans followed, hastening to explain that fossil fuel companies do not fund her organization. “Our mission is to protect the ocean and biodiversity because that ensures our own survival,” she said. “A healthy ocean is one of our best defenses against climate change.”

Her sentiments were words that almost all of us would agree with. Who doesn’t want a healthy ocean? Or diverse ocean wildlife? As extreme storms pummel our region and New England waters heat up faster than anywhere else, who among us isn’t concerned by climate change?

But here's the trick: Many of the arguments posed by local anti-wind groups have been borrowed directly from fossil-fuel-funded think tanks like the Texas Policy Foundation. That's according to a wave of investigative reporting and two 2023 reports released by Brown University (Green Oceans was among the groups specifically referenced).

The reports, produced by Brown University's Climate and Development Lab, a student-faculty partnership, show how conservative think tanks, funded by oil and gas interests, have seized upon pro-environment rhetoric, especially concern for whales, as a subversive path to turning public opinion against offshore wind. Their secret weapons on that campaign? Local citizen groups like Green Oceans.

"They are unsuspecting foot soldiers in the bigger effort to maintain the status quo, which is fossil fuel dependence in the U.S.," says J. Timmons Roberts, professor of environmental studies and sociology at Brown and executive director of the Climate Social Science Network. "And that's at the expense of our children's future."

"The most significant threat to whales and a healthy ocean is climate change, just as the most significant threat to human health and the vitality of our communities is climate change," says Kate Sinding Daly, senior vice president of law and policy at CLF. "The reality is, we need to quadruple the clean energy

coming into New England to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels so we can have a clean, safe, and healthy environment for future generations. Offshore wind is a critical component of that."

TILTING AGAINST WINDMILLS

Scientists agree that offshore wind is one of our most viable renewable energy sources. It is reliable, local, and readily available. When coupled with diverse sources of electricity and grid-scale storage, it could quickly supplant fossil fuels, preventing further harm to eco- and social systems. According to NOAA, there are no known links between whale deaths and ongoing offshore wind activities. Most importantly, the uncertainties around possible threats to our ocean from offshore wind must be weighed against the scientifically established certainties of the harm burning fossil fuels already inflicts on marine life.

This we know for sure: Climate change is sickening our ocean and killing sea life, from coral reefs to fish species to dolphins and whales. The latter – already under threat from humans – face increased perils as food and habitats shift in a warming ocean.

But oil and gas companies stand to lose billions if the offshore wind industry succeeds. Today, natural gas provides about 50% of New England's power. Should the region replace oil



Photo courtesy of Robert Courtey

“

[Local anti-wind groups] are unsuspecting foot soldiers in the bigger effort to maintain the status quo, which is fossil fuel dependence in the U.S. And that's at the expense of our children's future.

– J. TIMMONS ROBERTS



IMAGE SOURCE: Getty Images

and gas with renewable wind power, it would substantially decrease its carbon pollution. That would also thin the fat wallets of fossil fuel companies that currently power and heat homes and fuel cars. (It's worth noting that the same companies have understood since at least 1954 that they were causing climate change – and spent millions denying responsibility and delaying climate action.)

With their record-high profits at risk, it's no surprise that fossil fuel companies would invent monsters, railing against wind turbines like Don Quixote tilting at windmills. Working through the same think tanks that helped them deny the scientific truth about climate change for decades, they have joined forces with a host of anti-renewable organizations. One includes the American Coalition for Ocean Protection, a network of groups that profess concern for the marine ecosystem. The Coalition was spearheaded by the Caesar Rodney Institute's David Stevenson, a former DuPont executive. As recently as 2019, the Caesar Rodney Institute received funding from the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers and the American Energy Alliance.

PARROTING OIL INDUSTRY TALKING POINTS

According to the Brown University report, a diverse array of anti-wind organizations are “supported by well-funded, national organizations with ties to the fossil fuel industry and dark money.” They are part of an orchestrated effort to foment public opposition to offshore wind by leveraging groups like Green Oceans. While these groups may not receive funds

directly from oil companies, they parrot oil industry talking points that undermine the transition to clean energy. Indeed, Brown's Climate and Development Lab used Green Oceans as a case study of how anti-wind groups, unwittingly or not, have adopted the arguments of the fossil fuel industry. These local groups operate within information networks that “sensationalize” and magnify the dangers of offshore wind while failing to acknowledge the known and, by now, widely experienced hazards of burning fossil fuels.

“Ultimately, their obstruction delays the transition away from fossil fuels to the detriment of all of us,” says CLF's Daly.

Chris Wells, an associate professor and core faculty member with Boston University's Institute for Global Sustainability who studies misinformation around climate change, agrees that the biggest repercussion of false information is inaction.

“What we've already seen is that misinformation on climate has weakened our resolve,” says Wells. “People believing lies is as big a problem as people feeling a lot of uncertainty about what's true. And so, our capacity for collective action on this problem has been systematically undermined.”



IMAGE SOURCE: Kirk Moore/ National Fisherman

NAVIGATING THE DISCOURSE OF CLIMATE DELAY

Most people find it difficult to navigate a fog of disinformation – and that’s intentional. According to the Brown analysis, anti-wind groups use four broad rhetorical strategies. They emphasize the downsides of action on climate change, redirect responsibility for it, push non-transformative solutions, and, in the end, often endorse surrendering to climate change. In doing so, they offer up fake experts, cherry-pick facts, and adopt conspiracy theories.

Boston University’s Wells says fossil fuel companies add to the confusion by paying for print and online articles that mimic news content. These articles offer a veneer of credibility while intentionally misleading the public about the viability and scalability of renewable energy sources.

For those onto the fossil fuel industry’s game, the sound and fury around offshore wind can simply add more noise to our days. But in today’s social media-saturated world, false arguments buoyed by misguided outrage too often go viral, and plenty of people believe what they see and hear. Emotions get riled up even more by “grassroots” groups that intentionally pit two causes people care about – endangered whales and our warming climate – against each other. This is especially

frustrating because important issues, including offshore wind and regional energy planning, need thoughtful consideration informed by science, not fear.

“The claims being made about the impacts on whales and ecosystems are not supported by the science,” affirms Roberts. “These claims are scary and have played on people’s fears... That’s why it’s important to remember [offshore wind] is a mature industry in Europe, which has 6,000 turbines. The world didn’t come to an end over there.”

CLF’s Daly agrees. “A lot of what people are hearing about offshore wind is rhetoric derived from the fossil fuel industry, which doesn’t have the interests of New Englanders at heart.” CLF is committed to scaling up offshore wind in ways that don’t hurt marine life. Says Daly, “The reality is that with good science and careful planning, we can build offshore wind in a way that gets clean energy to grids quickly while also protecting our marine resources and the people who depend on them.”

“

A lot of what people are hearing about offshore wind is rhetoric derived from the fossil fuel industry, which doesn't have the interests of New Englanders at heart.”

– KATE SINDING DALY

This we know for sure: Climate change is sickening our ocean and killing off sea life, from coral reefs to fish species to dolphins and whales.

IMAGE SOURCE: AdobeStock

OFFSHORE WIND: THE FACTS

Offshore wind energy is the best strategy we have for ditching fossil fuels. Because wind is such a crucial part of New England's energy transition, CLF is working to expose disinformation about it. We're launching our own campaign to educate New Englanders so they don't fall prey to false arguments concocted by the oil and gas industry and unsuspecting local groups. Here's what we know about the impacts of offshore wind on marine environments:



No evidence exists that offshore wind turbines harm whales and marine ecosystems.

There is no scientific evidence that noise resulting from offshore wind sites could potentially cause whale deaths, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the lead federal agency for marine mammal science and management, and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. There are also no known links with recent whale deaths. Even so, the Department of Energy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife agencies continually monitor the issue. They also plan to use artificial intelligence and passive acoustic monitoring to determine whale movements. Other precautions include establishing noise limits during construction and supporting the development of quieter technology. CLF is pushing agencies and developers to take every precaution to protect whales and other marine life.



Power cables under beaches are considered safe.

High-voltage electric cables buried under the seafloor are already widely used, especially in tying islands to the electrical grid. The electromagnetic fields of these cables never exceed the strength of the Earth's natural electromagnetic field. According to experts from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Department of Energy's Wind Energy Technologies Office, the electromagnetic frequency emitted from these cables will be "less intense than that of hair dryers and televisions."

In addition, according to Real Offshore Wind, a group of academics and community members who research the pros and cons of offshore wind developments, electromagnetic frequencies from buried power lines running through neighborhoods are about the same as the frequencies of regular power lines running overhead.



Offshore wind developers have worked to minimize harm and compensate commercial fisheries for impacts to fishing.

Because large-scale wind farms sit in federal waters, federal agencies approve projects. One of the first assessments agencies make is a review of impacts on marine life and fishing. Large swaths of the East Coast have been removed from offshore wind development to accommodate navigation, wildlife, and fishing interests. When projects are approved, the government works with offshore wind developers and the Coast Guard to minimize the effects of turbines on commercial fisheries.

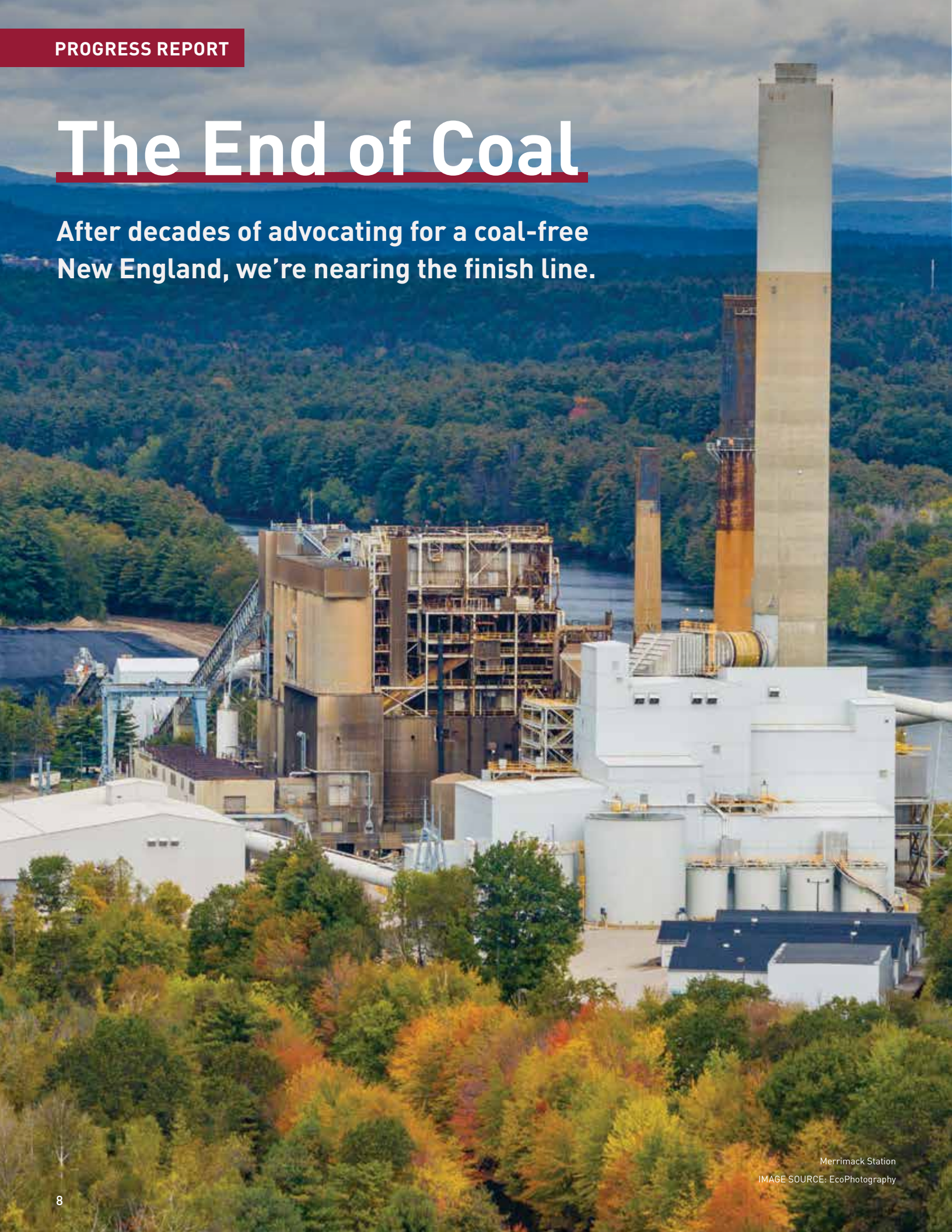


Worry over offshore wind turbines' visibility is often overstated.

Beauty may be in the eye of the beholder, but worry over sightlines from the shore is often exaggerated. Turbines in projects like that proposed off the coast of Barnstable, Massachusetts, will be barely visible, depending on the season and weather conditions. On hot, hazy days when more people are on the beach, wind turbines will likely not be visible at all.

The End of Coal

After decades of advocating for a coal-free New England, we're nearing the finish line.



Merrimack Station

IMAGE SOURCE: EcoPhotography

THE PROBLEM

For decades, coal plants across New England polluted our air with particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and ozone. As late as 2005, Massachusetts alone had 12 coal-fired power plants spewing 10.3 million tons of carbon dioxide, 36,000 tons of sulfur dioxide, and 9,000 tons of nitrogen oxide into the atmosphere. The emissions from these plants were a toxic brew linked to asthma, upper respiratory problems, and premature death across the region. And they were a major source of carbon pollution.

CLF IN ACTION

We refused to stand by as air quality dropped and climate change ramped up. With tenacity and dogged advocacy, CLF took on coal plants across our region. Our reasoning was simple: Not only were these outdated coal-fired power plants bad for people, but they were terrible for our climate and environment. They also stood as a roadblock to developing the sustainable, clean energy we need.

As part of our coal-free New England campaign, CLF worked with local communities, decision-makers, and the regional electric grid operator to pursue alternatives to this dirty energy, allowing for a swift and responsible phase-out of coal from New England's energy mix. Our advocacy paid off: By 2017, Massachusetts' "filthy five" coal plants – including New England's biggest coal plant, Brayton Point Station in Somerset – were shut down for good. We then focused on our region's last dirty coal plants in New Hampshire: Merrimack Station in Bow and Schiller Station in Portsmouth.

PROGRESS

In March, we won our decades-long fight. Granite Shore Power agreed to shutter Merrimack Station by mid-2028 (and possibly as early as mid-2027) and Schiller Station by the end of 2025. The closures are part of an agreement to resolve a lawsuit and other advocacy brought by CLF and the Sierra Club. With the shuttering of these outdated, polluting plants, New England takes a decisive step closer to an age of clean energy. Thanks to CLF's decades-long campaign and the persistence of grassroots groups working on the ground in Bow and Portsmouth, including the No Coal No Gas campaign and 350 New Hampshire, Granite State residents can breathe a little easier.

NEXT STEPS

The end of coal in New England is a massive victory over polluting fossil fuels. But our work doesn't stop there. We must develop more wind and solar power across our region and build an electricity grid ready to handle the increased electricity required to power our cars, appliances, and more, as well as reduce reliance on gas. New Hampshire must update its outdated Climate Action Plan. And it must back that plan up with a climate law that ensures the cuts to carbon pollution necessary to address the climate crisis.

We are thrilled that years of work to eliminate coal have paid off. But we'll continue pushing for what we know is right: leaving fossil fuels behind where they belong. It's time to embrace clean wind and solar for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

Coal-free New England campaign highlights:

1994

CLF stops construction of three coal-fired power plants in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

2010

85-year-old Somerset Station in Massachusetts closes down after years of advocacy by CLF and Somerset residents.

2017

Massachusetts' "filthy five" coal plants – including New England's biggest coal plant, Brayton Point Station in Somerset – shut down for good.

2025

New Hampshire's Schiller Station will close.

2028

New Hampshire's Merrimack Station will shutter, marking the end of coal in New England.



STAY UP-TO-DATE

CLF member support was crucial in helping to reach this milestone. Sign up for emails at [clf.org](https://www.clf.org) to get the latest news about our ongoing work across the region.

Your Questions ANSWERED

We answer readers' questions about climate, the environment, and our work.

Offshore wind could provide us with lots of clean electricity to power our lives, **but can our antiquated electrical grid handle that energy?** And if it can't right now, how long will it take?

– JAN MADISON, NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Greg Cunningham, vice president of CLF's Clean Energy and Climate Change Program, responds:

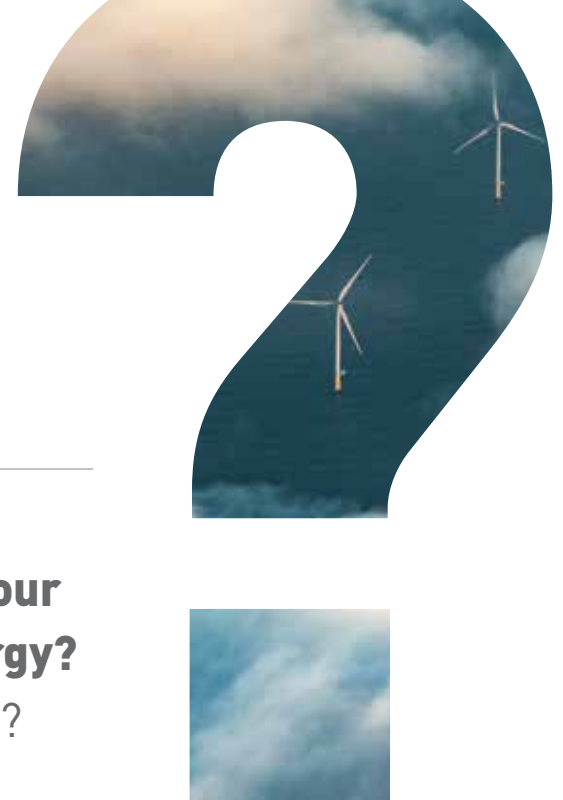
Some of us may have heard warnings that the country's electrical grids may be in trouble in the coming years. The reason is that new wind and solar projects will be coming online rapidly as we try to reduce the carbon pollution overheating our planet. Also, more of us will be heating and cooling our homes with electric heat pumps and driving electric cars. That will, in turn, place demands on the aging power grids throughout the country.

In New England, there's some very good news. Our region's electrical grid can handle much more electricity from clean sources like offshore wind without needing significant upgrades through 2030. For example, the Vineyard Wind project of 62 turbines will generate enough electricity to power more than 400,000 homes. But in general, our grid can handle enough clean energy to power nearly 3 million homes. With that capacity, most offshore wind projects proposed for the next few years should have no problem connecting with New England's electrical grid.

However, to cut carbon pollution regionwide, we must plan for more clean power generated here

and more consumer demand for that electricity. So, we do need to update and reinforce our region's electricity infrastructure in the long term. ISO-New England, the nonprofit entity that runs our electricity grid, is studying how to meet the increased electrical generation and demand expected over the next few decades. That includes ISO-New England working closely with communities to build the new transmission lines critical to our clean energy transition. ISO-New England is also planning how we will store all this new energy as the electrical grid becomes more complex as sources of electricity become more varied. Batteries and other technologies are being developed to seamlessly access electricity even when the sun isn't shining, or the wind isn't blowing.

As we expand our electrical grid, CLF remains on the case to ensure that all community voices are heard as we work toward a cleaner tomorrow. We will continue to press ISO-New England for greater transparency and inclusion in energy decision-making and a fair and equitable energy system that benefits us all.



HAVE A NAGGING QUESTION ABOUT OUR POLICY WORK?

Submit it to cmquestions@clf.org, and it may be selected to be featured in an upcoming issue of Conservation Matters. Be sure to include your name and state with your question.

‘Why I Give’

FEATURING VI PATEK

Nahant, MA | Donor since 2012 | Advocates Society

I am a strong advocate for protecting natural resources. In 2010, my husband and I moved to Nahant and quickly became involved with Nahant SWIM Inc. (Safer Waters in Massachusetts). I have been President since 2011. Peter Shelley of CLF worked closely with SWIM, given his central role in cleaning up Boston Harbor decades ago.

Over the years, my involvement with CLF has grown. I served as a standing witness in CLF’s successful case to protect the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale. My husband and I traveled with fellow CLF members and staff to Svalbard, Norway, developing even stronger ties.

I believe that we need a variety of tools and strategies to protect our environment, and I enthusiastically support a wide range of environmental organizations. What I appreciate most about CLF is its simple and effective strategy for enforcing existing laws.



“
What I appreciate most about CLF is its simple and effective strategy for enforcing existing laws.”

Left: North Atlantic right whale

IMAGE SOURCE: Getty Images

Right: Courtesy Vi Patek.

It is a brilliant approach that CLF created and has successfully replicated across New England.

I know that I can count on CLF to take on tough challenges and see them through to the end. As we face more threats to our coastline and natural resources, we need CLF’s legal prowess and leadership to push for lasting systemic change. My husband and I are proud to support these efforts.

HEAR MORE FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

Our donors inspire us to never give up because so much is at stake. Hear more from CLF supporters at clf.org/whywegive.



Double your Donation

Does your employer have a matching gift program? Many companies support causes their employees care about.

That means they will match your donation to CLF. Some even match gifts made by spouses and retirees – so your support for CLF can go twice as far.



Other Ways to Give

Do you have an IRA? If you’re at least 70½ years old, you may be eligible to make a charitable contribution from your IRA. You can help the environment while meeting minimum distribution requirements and lowering your tax burden! Find out more at <https://plannedgiving.clf.org/give-from-your-ira>



Contact Us

Contact us today to learn more about giving to CLF.

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THE **OPPORTUNITY** OF Community Benefit Agreements

These legal contracts should ensure that **neighborhoods hosting clean energy infrastructure** see benefits, too.

By Adilson González Morales

Salem Coal Plant.

IMAGE SOURCE: MassMatt

For years, in Salem, Massachusetts, residents couldn't hang their laundry on the line because it would get covered in coal dust. Families endured noise, pollution, and a black film on their front porches – a direct result of living with the old Salem Harbor Power Station, a coal-fired power plant that was a nuisance and a health hazard for 50 years until it shut down in 2014.

Now, there's an opportunity to do things better. In the coming years, the Salem Offshore Wind Terminal will replace the old coal plant on Salem's waterfront, serving as a new staging ground for wind turbines. This time, Salem residents have a say in how the facility will affect their lives, thanks to a community benefits agreement.

"It's incredible how we learned and grew as a community," says Bonnie Bain, Offshore Wind Program Manager at Salem Alliance for the Environment (SAFE). "We hope to stay together to ensure new projects are guided by our voice and environmental justice principles. That's the only way everyone can benefit in the process."

What Are Community Benefit Agreements?

Community benefit agreements are legal contracts between developers and community-based organizations representing residents. These agreements allow developers and

communities to get on the same page before a project moves forward. They can help ensure that while a community may host clean energy infrastructure – such as Salem's planned staging site for wind turbines – it will also enjoy benefits, including jobs, financial investments, credits toward utility bills, and more.

In the past, far too many communities, particularly Black, Brown, and lower-income neighborhoods, have been forced to cope with the hazards of energy infrastructure but have received nothing in return. Community benefit agreements can be used as a way of safeguarding neighborhoods from potential harm.

But it's not just communities that want community benefit agreements. There are good reasons why developers want them, too. For starters, the permitting process for new industrial infrastructure can be time-consuming and complicated. Getting communities on board before kickstarting a project helps ease the path to approval.

“These agreements can really be a win-win situation for both the community and developer. The developer gets the project approved, and the communities see the improvements they seek and deserve.”

ANXHELA MILE, STAFF ATTORNEY AT CLF

“These agreements can really be a win-win situation for both the community and developer,” says Anxhela Mile, staff attorney at CLF. “The developer gets the project approved, and the communities see the improvements they seek and deserve.”

How Do These Agreements Work?

In Salem, after many years of living next to a coal-fired power plant, neighbors were understandably leery of any new energy projects entering the community. So, when Crowley Maritime Corp. selected the city's port as the site for a new offshore wind launching station, residents knew they had to get involved.

Crowley first reached out only to the mayor's office to negotiate a potential agreement. The company, however, failed to involve community members. Residents were concerned the benefits proposed by the company would not go far enough in supporting the community for any burdens they could encounter.

That oversight galvanized the members of SAFE into action. The group was instrumental in helping to shut down the Salem coal-fired power plant 10 years ago. Now, with the help of CLF, SAFE pushed to be included in negotiations about the new offshore wind terminal. And its efforts paid off. The coalition's advocacy led to a more comprehensive community benefit agreement that includes a path for residents to get clean energy jobs, increased affordable housing and climate resilience funding, and a working community group to ensure Crowley keeps its side of the deal.

The Road Ahead

Though community benefit agreements positively impact communities, there is no formal process under the law for how such agreements must work. That can lead to the oversight or exclusion of critical community concerns. To avoid that, community members should get direct negotiating power as signatories in these agreements. That's why CLF is taking action so that communities – not developers – have the upper hand.

Across New England, we are pushing state agencies and elected officials to pass stronger laws governing how energy infrastructure projects are sited. We want to ensure that communities have negotiating power and representation in benefit agreements. That's the only way residents' voices can be duly heard.

In Salem, the community benefit agreement will strengthen residents' ability to find jobs and affordable housing. As New England benefits from the production of clean electricity, Salem residents will wake up to new economic opportunities – plus, the ability to hang their laundry out to dry.



5 QUESTIONS WITH... Mireille Bejjani

Mireille Bejjani is Co-Executive Director of Slingshot. She supports communities fighting fossil fuel infrastructure and manages Slingshot's campaign to reform our regional electric grid operator.



How did you get involved in community organizing?

I wasn't looking to become an organizer, but I ended up doing a training program in organizing right out of college. I got hooked on building power through people, supporting residents in learning they have more agency than they're led to believe, and nurturing a community of people who show up for and with each other.

How does the way New England's electricity grid operates affect low-income communities and people of color?

These communities are being impacted three times over by how our electricity grid operates: through their wallets, health, and representation.

Electric rate increases disproportionately impact low-income families and communities of color, to the point that a 30% hike in an electric bill can mean choosing between keeping the lights on and putting food on the table. Those same families are often the ones living in the shadow of fossil fuel power plants spewing out pollution and harming the neighborhood's air quality and physical health. On top of that, they face the most obstacles to having their voices heard in ISO-New England's [New England's electricity grid operator] decision-making spaces regarding how the grid works because of language barriers, travel distance, meeting times, and the complexity of the information presented.

What are some challenges in preparing the grid for clean energy like solar and wind?

We know that solar and wind are different types of energy sources than fossil fuels. And that means our electricity grid isn't well equipped to support them. Reimagining and redeveloping new systems are a challenge – but this challenge is what I find most exciting.

Getting our grid ready for solar and wind is an opportunity to put thought and intention into reforming our infrastructure for what people need and want. As we make this transition, we can truly innovate, carefully plan, and thoroughly reinvent what a grid means and looks like.

How do everyday people get involved with reforming our regional electric grid?

Everyone is an expert in their own experience.

While residents from frontline communities may not be policy experts or utility employees, they know more than anybody else what it is like to be an electricity customer in their neighborhood. And that's the lens through which people get involved – by being vocal about how they are, or are not, being served by the existing system and how they deserve to be treated instead.

How do you recharge after tackling such large and complicated issues?

One of my favorite things about being an organizer is being surrounded by incredible and inspirational people. Talking to them keeps me grounded in why I do this work. I also try to maintain a good work/life balance, recognizing when I need to momentarily step away to stay in the fight more long-term. While the climate crisis demands urgency, we must remember that overhauling bureaucratic systems is a marathon, not a sprint. So, we fire up a good playlist, run alongside friends, take water breaks, gratefully accept high fives along the way, and keep pushing towards the finish line.

LEARN MORE

Learn about Slingshot at slingshot.org. And get involved in CLF's and Slingshot's work to reform New England's electricity grid operator at clf.org.

Around CLF

MAINE

Conservation Law Foundation, Maine Youth Action, and the Sierra Club are suing Maine's Department of Environmental Protection to enforce Maine's Climate Law passed in 2019. The state has missed deadlines to implement regulations for cutting climate-damaging emissions, most recently from cars and trucks, the largest contributing sector of climate pollution in Maine.

MASSACHUSETTS

CLF has continued to fight against the construction of an Eversource electrical substation in East Boston. This neighborhood is already overburdened by pollution and noise from Logan Airport, petroleum terminals, and highways. In an appearance before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, our advocates argued that the substation's state-level approval violates a 2021 state law intended to protect environmental justice communities from the burden of industrial infrastructure. The Court is expected to decide on this case in the coming months.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

CLF is working to advance important New Hampshire legislation to ban products with intentionally added PFAS or per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances. As of this writing, the bill has passed the New Hampshire House with strong bipartisan support and is making strong progress in the state Senate.

CONNECTICUT

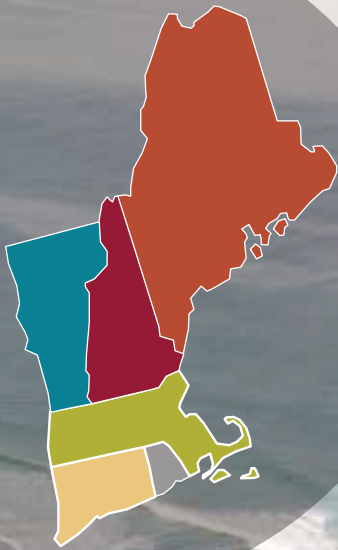
A Connecticut court denied a motion to dismiss our lawsuit against All-Star Transportation LLC, which serves public schools in Connecticut. The bus company is violating the state's regulations against excessive idling, which is defiling air quality in several locations around the state. The Court ruled that CLF members' exposure to air pollutants is traceable to All-Star, and the case can now move forward.

VERMONT

In a big win for Vermonters, the State General Assembly approved the Climate Superfund Act, landmark legislation that will require Big Oil companies like ExxonMobil and Shell to pay their fair share of the costs Vermonters have borne to clean up after extreme weather caused by climate change.

RHODE ISLAND

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management will set new requirements for industrial and commercial property owners in the Mashapaug Pond watershed to clean up polluted stormwater runoff. CLF has been urging the state to regulate this pollution for years, and the state attorney general has also joined the call for action.





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



In the first half of this year, CLF has celebrated two significant milestones in our transition to clean energy. First, the region's last remaining coal plants – under pressure from a CLF lawsuit – announced permanent shut down dates. And, second, electricity began flowing from the Vineyard Wind 1 project, the nation's first large-scale offshore wind farm. By December, 62 turbines will spin in the waters south of the Cape Cod peninsula, powering about 400,000 New England homes.

Finally, we can say that New England is coal-free and that clean, renewable, offshore wind energy is here at scale.

Although we have much to celebrate, we remain attentive. A well-orchestrated disinformation campaign and cynical lawsuits seek to thwart the progress we've made on offshore wind. It is designed to brew resistance to a renewable energy source critical to reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

Scientists and policy experts largely agree about the risks and benefits of offshore wind. But these anti-wind voices, sometimes funded by fossil fuel companies or conservative think tanks, continue

to push their unsubstantiated falsehoods. These groups – represented by lawyers with unrivaled hostility to environmental protection – profess a new-found concern with whales and marine health, but only in relationship to the narrow issue of offshore wind. They ignore scientific consensus: that burning fossil fuels is sickening our seas and climate change is the greatest threat to healthy whales and a thriving ocean. The fact is that wind power is a necessary step to preserving our ocean and planet.

That's why we're working to support offshore wind projects that hold the key to a clean energy future. We agree that offshore wind must be approached responsibly and remain committed to ensuring that happens.

We have no time to waste and no tolerance for the false narratives peddled by the fossil fuel industry in the media and in the courts.

We've got the wind at our backs, and thanks to your support, we are determined to move full speed ahead into a clean energy future.

Gratefully,

Bradley Campbell,
CLF President

BRADLEY CAMPBELL
President

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