



P R E S S - R E L E A S E

"NANTUCKET AWARDED \$555,000 IN WIND ENERGY GRANTS"

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) recently announced grants supporting 18 new wind energy projects under the Commonwealth Wind Community Scale Wind Initiative. Two of the grants were awarded to projects on Nantucket.

“These grants will allow communities and institutions to reduce their use of fossil fuels, as well as help the Commonwealth reach Governor Patrick’s goal of developing 2,000 megawatts of wind power capacity by 2020,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles, who serves as chairman of the MassCEC’s board of directors.

The MassCEC board of directors approved the grants totaling more than \$2.66 million. The awards include design and construction grants for six new wind projects totaling more than 12 megawatts (MW) in capacity, and 12 feasibility studies for wind energy that would total more than 23 MW in capacity if built. The 18 grants go to public and private projects, cities and towns, and the Massachusetts Military Reservation. The Commonwealth Wind Community Scale Wind initiative is a program of MassCEC’s Renewable Energy Generation division, which is funded by renewable energy charges on electric bills, generating roughly \$23 million a year to support renewable energy installations and companies.

The goal of the Commonwealth Wind Incentive Program is to assist responsibly-sited wind energy projects of all scales in achieving successful and timely installations. The two projects receiving MassCEC Design and Construction grants on Nantucket are the Town of Nantucket wind project and the Nantucket Public School wind project. Both had previously been awarded MassCEC grants to perform their projects’ feasibility studies. State Representative Tim Madden enthusiastically supports the projects. “I applaud all the individuals who helped pull together this project at the school. Not only will this be a great teaching tool for the school, but also a source of pride,” said Madden. Regarding the Town’s wind turbine project, he stated, “How appropriate that the Town will be building its first wind turbine at its award winning, first in the Commonwealth, recycling and composting facility.”

Through an application process executed by the Nantucket Energy Committee, the Town of Nantucket was awarded \$390,000 to assist in the design and construction of a 1.5 MW wind turbine at the Nantucket Department of Public Works compound. The town is exploring different ownership models for the project, known as the Madaket Wind Turbine Facility. The DPW site has strong winds and a large onsite demand for electricity. The town plans to use the majority of electricity generated onsite and will net

meter any excess energy to other municipal buildings. Citizens will have opportunity to be involved in further development processes through a series of public forums, and a vote at Town Meeting. "Nantucket is ideal for wind energy with some of the highest rates for electricity and the highest average wind speeds in the country," said Whitey Willauer, a selectman and member of Nantucket's Energy Committee. "The site at the landfill is ideal because it's on already disturbed land with very few houses nearby."

Nantucket Public Schools was awarded \$165,000 to help fund the construction of a 100kW wind turbine at Nantucket High School. Additional funding for the high school project is being provided by a generous donation from the Schmidt Family Foundation. The wind turbine will provide clean energy, meeting 13-14% of the annual electricity demand at NHS, and serve as an educational tool for students to learn about renewable energy. Curriculum to coincide with the turbine installation is currently being created. "It's really exciting to be awarded these grants from the state," said Colin Carr, who serves as the student representative to the Nantucket High School wind turbine project and founder of NHS Students for Sustainability. "It will help us move ahead with the wind turbine construction, and it will bring awareness about renewable energy to Nantucket students and the whole community."