

Building an Energy Cooperative For Martha's Vineyard

NESEA BUILDING ENERGY 2010

Boston, MA

March 10, 2010



- *NESEA is a registered provider with the American Institute of Architects Continuing Education Systems. Credit earned on completion of this program will be reported to CES Records for AIA members. Certificates of Completion for non-AIA members will be mailed at the completion of the conference.*
- This program is registered with the AIA/CES for continuing professional education. As such, it does not include content that may be deemed or construed to be an approval or endorsement by the AIA of any material of construction or any method or manner of handling, using, distributing, or dealing in any material or product. Questions related to specific materials, methods, and services will be addressed at the conclusion of this presentation.

A photograph of an offshore wind farm with several white wind turbines in a row over a blue sea under a clear sky. The word "Objectives" is written in a white box at the top.

Objectives

- Explain how the Vineyard Energy Project formed an offshore wind cooperative
- Explain how the Vineyard Energy Project delivered the cooperative message to the community



Outline

.Background

.Timeline

.Nuts and Bolts

.The Message and the Community



Background

- Almost 100 percent of Martha's Vineyard's energy is delivered from the mainland
- Martha's Vineyard Commission developed the Island Plan, for a sustainable future
- Energy portion of that plan called for a local, reliable, affordable renewable energy source
- Vineyard Energy Project was given the mandate to reach this goal
- VEP determined that offshore wind was the best way to address community-wide energy needs



Timeline

- Sept. 2008 - Feb. 2009
Research
Financial and Legal
- Feb. 2009
rescue
George Baker to the
- Mar. 2009 - May 2009
Develop business plan
- June 2009 - Oct. 2009
Community outreach
- November 2009
Incorporation

A photograph of several white offshore wind turbines in a row, extending into the blue ocean under a clear sky. The turbines are viewed from a low angle, looking down the line of the project.

Nuts and Bolts

- Cooperative incorporated under M.G.L. Chapter 164, Sections 136 and 6
- No stock, controlled by members
- Cooperative structure allows benefit to be delivered directly to members
- Completely democratic
- Offshore wind project uses Minnesota Flip financial structure, relies heavily on federal assistance (only 3-4 percent of development costs from member equity)



The Message and the Community

- Cape Wind and MA Ocean Management Plan are divisive issues on Martha's Vineyard
- Islanders do not want plans imposed on them
- Cooperative offers:
 - Local control and decision making
 - Sustainability
- Vineyard Energy Project held living room gatherings at first, then large community forums to discuss the cooperative
- Met with 400 islanders, all were supportive



Final Thought

“It is difficult to accept such a facility in our community. But not accepting this burden means not taking responsibility for our lifestyle, which includes the use of electricity.”

- Gosnold Selectmen to the State of Massachusetts

A photograph of an offshore wind farm with several white wind turbines in a row over a blue sea under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

Thank You!

QUESTIONS?

David McGlinchey

dave@offshorewindwire.com