

## **Municipal Wind Projects: Progress Toward Deployment**

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<b>Municipal Wind Projects: Status by Town As of 03.01.06</b>							
	<b>Project Being Actively Pursued</b>	<b>Meteorological Tower Installed</b>	<b>1 Year of Wind Data Collected</b>	<b>Feasibility Study Completed</b>	<b>Project Development Approved</b>	<b>Project Development Initiated</b>	<b>Green Power Being Generated</b>
<b>Barnstable</b>							
<b>Bourne</b>							
<b>Brewster</b>							
<b>Chatham</b>							
<b>Dennis</b>							
<b>Eastham</b>							
<b>Falmouth</b>							
<b>Harwich</b>							
<b>Mashpee</b>							
<b>Orleans</b>							
<b>Provincetown</b>							
<b>Sandwich</b>							
<b>Truro</b>							
<b>Wellfleet</b>							
<b>Yarmouth</b>							

**Summary:** Many local communities are actively pursuing the capture of wind resources on municipal property. Orleans is the furthest along in a project development process facilitated by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) under funding provided by electricity consumers, with two 1.65-MW wind turbines scheduled to begin supplying emissions-free power to the Town by the end of 2006. This project and other community wind initiatives promise to help reduce municipal electricity bills and/or to create new revenue streams, thereby stretching town budgets and freeing up resources for other uses. They also will represent highly visible indicators of a future in which Cape Cod relies on renewable resources to supply increasing amounts of energy.

Community wind projects are helping focus attention on multifaceted challenges that must be addressed to ensure that regionally abundant renewables are tapped in ways that maximize local benefits. For these initiatives, the most significant barriers are economic: all wind installations require substantial up-front investments in exchange for long-term returns, but individual municipal projects do not offer economies of scale. At the state level, proposed legislation would improve project economics by increasing net metering limits, while participation by Massachusetts in the multi-state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) could help level the playing field by providing additional incentives for wind energy development and increasing the cost of fossil-fired generation (in December 2005, the Romney Administration opted to withdraw from RGGI). Alternative development, financing and ownership models also are being examined by towns and by the MTC as possible remedies.

Several institutional challenges relate to the Cape Light Compact. By reducing municipal needs for delivered electricity, community wind projects could undermine the Compact's ability to secure favorable power supply contracts for all Cape & Vineyard consumers. These projects could also create conflicts between the Compact, as a collective of local communities seeking to reduce rates through aggregation, and the towns, as independent entities seeking to maximize economic benefits from wind turbines sited on municipal property. In addition, the Compact's ability to negotiate power purchase agreements with town-owned or developer-owned wind projects is constrained by several factors. Again, multiple approaches for addressing these challenges are being examined, including study of an energy cooperative.

Sources: Data from individual communities, Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, and Cape & Islands Energy Information Clearinghouse ([www.cirenew.info/communitywind.htm](http://www.cirenew.info/communitywind.htm)); analysis by WEEinfo Services.