WHY NOT IN MY BACKYARD?

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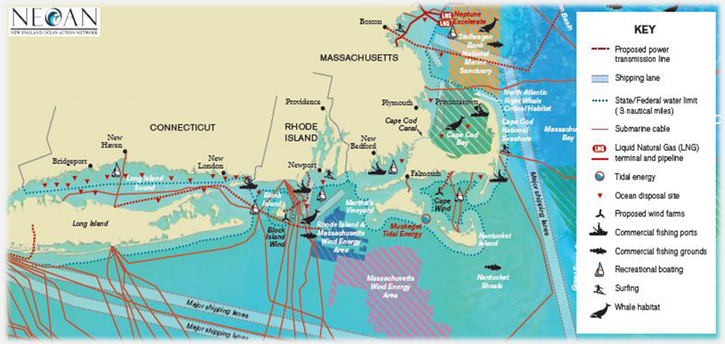
Abstract

Roughly 45% of all new clean and renewable energy projects are hindered or shut down due to NIMBYism (Not-In-My-Back-Yard), a normally local movement expressing opposition to a nearby civic project. Massachusetts residents are familiar with this term from the Cape Wind project, a proposed offshore wind farm in the Nantucket sound which was ultimately shut down due to opposition from area communities. Danish Oil and Natural Gas (DONG Energy) has since proposed the Bay State Wind project, located roughly 15 miles southwest of Martha's Vineyard. It is likely that Bay State Wind will receive opposition similar to that which Cape Wind received. We have compiled information regarding the opposition that Bay State Wind might anticipate and determined what can be done to ensure that the project is successful for both the communities affected and the parties backing it.

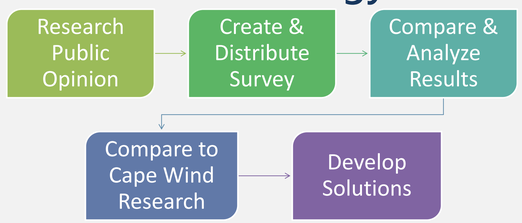
Offshore Wind in Massachusetts

- Several New England power plants are scheduled to shut down in upcoming years.
- Massachusetts has incredible potential for offshore wind energy
- Cape Wind was shut down due to higher projected energy costs, poor effect on the tourism and fishing industries, lower property values, and some political problems.
- Bay State Wind will produce up to 1000MW, double the proposed capacity of Cape Wind and enough to power 600k homes.



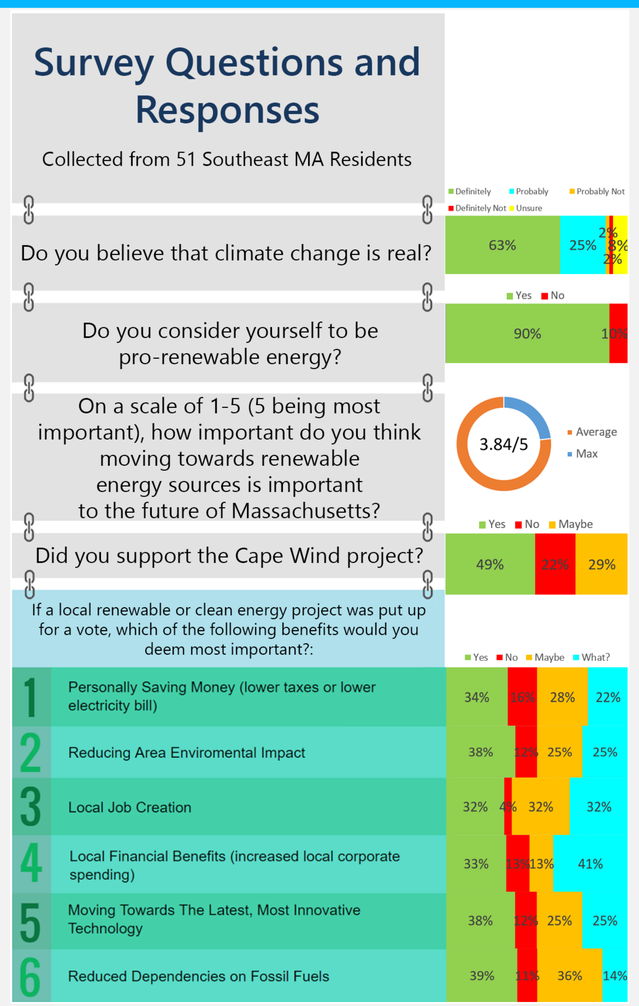
Projected locations for the Bay State Wind & Cape Wind projects

Methodology

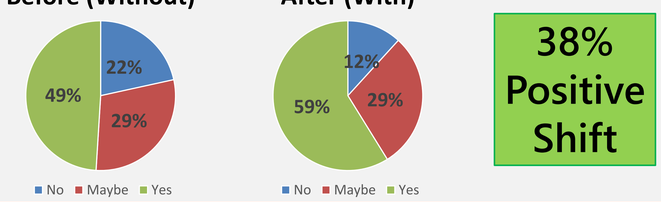


Survey Questions and Responses

Collected from 51 Southeast MA Residents



Support for local offshore wind with & without financial benefits:



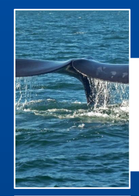
Problems & Solutions

Energy Costs

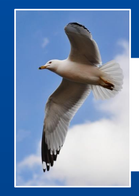
- Electricity prices are the number one concern in acceptance of the project
- Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions of 1990
- If Bay State Wind is not approved, Massachusetts has to import hydropower from Quebec
- Transmission lines from Canada would have to be built, prices increase
- DONG energy should present their project as a comparison to this alternative

Aesthetics and Noise

- Create visualizations of the wind farm from Martha's vineyard and other locations further away to release to the public
- Simulate the sound heard from the shore
- Use the visualizations in advertisements and public outreach



Sea Wildlife



The Atlantic Flyway

Recreational Boating & Shipping Lanes

Conclusion

With several New England power plants scheduled to shut down in the upcoming years, Bay State Wind has the opportunity to steer Massachusetts away from imported or fossil-fuel based energy sources and towards the utilization of the abundance of coastal wind energy. If DONG Energy can adhere to some of our suggestions and work alongside area communities and involved parties to produce a wind farm that minimizes negative impact and maximizes cost-effectiveness, we believe that the Bay State Wind project could become a model for future offshore wind projects in the U.S.

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