

Embracing Wind Power for a Sustainable Future

October 10, 2024

Letter to the Editor:

Here's where I must part company with those opposing wind towers in our surrounding waters. Wind power is essential to our surviving the climate crisis.

If your concern is the welfare of marine or avian life, remember that extinction of species of birds and sea life is already underway due to human-caused climate change. The loss of human life across the globe due to climate impacts is catastrophic in some parts of the southern hemisphere, it is responsible for deaths in our region due to extreme weather events, and it is a growing threat everywhere.

If your concern is the view from the shores of Cape Cod, I say, we must learn to love wind towers as we must love the trees, even if they block our water views. Trees, other vegetation, and marshland are absorbing (sequestering) some of the carbon that otherwise causes further devastation to our atmosphere.

Instead of opposing wind and solar farms, think about what you can do to stop burning fossil fuel. Make a plan to eliminate your use of fossil fuel and start taking whatever steps you can manage as soon as possible. Your plan should include installing mini-splits to heat and air condition your home (get rid of your oil/gas boiler and tanks,) heat your hot water with a heat pump, replace your gas stove with a convection range (which eliminates a health and fire hazard by doing so,) replace your washer-dryer and other household appliances fueled by oil or gas with electric ones. And make your next car/truck an electric vehicle. To offset your increased use of electricity (some of which is still produced with fossil fuels,) conserve energy in your daily life and install solar panels on your roof and on solar canopies over your paved driveway (but not over vegetated areas)—adding your bit to the switch we must make to renewable, clean, and safe electricity.

Obviously, you cannot do all this overnight. It will take time (probably years); but, make your plan, your "to-do list," and take your first steps, no matter how small. Maybe your first step will be to start thinking about the climate crisis and our collective responsibility to assure that life on Planet Earth will continue.

Last weekend I met a young man (about 20 years old) who spoke to me of the stresses his generation is experiencing over the threat to its future—will there be a future they wonder? It breaks my heart to hear the fear and despair young people are living with. It is about so much more than "will they find a job, a partner, a place to live"—the age-old uncertainty every young adult has always felt. Today it is, "Will there be a tomorrow?" At the very least, we older adults must demonstrate that we will do everything we can to make the answer to that question "YES."

— Joan Holt