



IMAGE: BY Julia Cumes/Associated Press

## THE CASE OF CAPE WIND: EXPLORING WIND POWER PROGRESS AND PERSPECTIVES

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL [#7: Affordable and Clean Energy](#)

#### POSSIBLE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How can wind power best benefit the people and environment where it is created and used?

#### BACKGROUND

The world is trying to find and use more new sources of energy that will last and will not harm the environment. Wind energy is one of the top alternative choices to fossil fuels like oil and coal. Wind turbines exist all over the world, on land and in the ocean. Many renewable energies are seen as completely positive in contrast to oil or coal. In some places that have never had electricity, wind is providing power for the first time. However, as alternative energies like wind power spread, they face barriers and complications. Changing to a completely new power source like wind creates new pros and cons for the places and people where the wind power is collected and used.

One example is the Cape Wind project failure on the East Coast of the United States. Cape Wind was planned to be the first water-based wind farm in the US, a farm of 130 wind turbines in the Nantucket Sound off the coast of Massachusetts. Cape Wind was debated by community members, businesspeople, politicians, environmentalists, and others for 16 years before it failed. Many try to look back at the project to find hope and lessons about how to move forward with wind power. Since Cape Wind failed, there have been new offshore wind farms built in the US. However, wind power continues to cause debates about endangered species, sacred land, waste, real estate values, job creation, and more. Globally, wind power brings up topics like energy affordability, increasing access to electricity, and new resources for lower resourced countries. These topics bring up important opportunities to think about where and how wind power is used, changes that could be made to wind power, and what the switch to new energies should look like.

#### KEY VOCABULARY

- clean energy
- fossil fuels
- renewable energy
- power grid
- stakeholders
- climate change
- affordable energy
- economic
- offshore

## RESOURCES

### Personal Stories

#### Cape Wind

- [Cape Wind Protester Perspectives on Both Sides](#) (Video: 5.5 mins, All Access Cape Cod)
- [Jim Gordon, Cape Wind President, Interview](#) (Video: 2 mins, Cape Cod Times)
- [George "Chuckie" Green speaks out against Cape Wind](#) (Video: 1 min, Save Our Sound)

#### Other Wind Power Stories

- [Jessica Kilroy - Climbing Wind Turbines for a Living](#) (Video: 5.5 mins - Great Big Story)
- [William Kamkwamba - The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind](#) (Video: 2 mins - Netflix movie trailer)
- [Louis Brooks - This Texan cattle rancher is turning to wind power](#) (Video: 4.5 mins - World Economic Forum)
- [Mason Fleenor - Many farmers oppose Iowa's wind power expansion](#) (Video: 1.5 mins - Des Moines Register)

### Background

#### Cape Wind

- Article: [Case Study: Cape Wind Project](#) (National Geographic)
- Map: [Massachusetts Wind Resource Map](#) (NREL)
- Photo Timeline: [The Cape Wind battle, 2001-2010](#) (Boston.com)
- Video: [CAPE WIND. A Controversial Wind Farm](#) (4.5 mins, FLYP Media)
- Video: [Cape Spin: An American Power Struggle](#) (4.5 mins, IMBD- documentary trailer)

#### Wind Power

- Data: [Interactive: global energy sources](#) (Nature.com)
- Data/Map: [Global Wind Atlas](#)
- Data/Map: [All of the world's power plants, in one handy map](#) (Washington Post)
- Infographic: [Every Way the Wind Blows](#) (OPPD)
- Video: [Energy 101 - Wind Power](#) (2 mins, Energy Now News)
- Video: [History of wind energy](#) (1 min, DOB)

- Video: [Why are wind turbines white?](#) (1 min, DOB)
- Webpage & Images: [Putting Wind to Work](#) (National Geographic)
- Website: [Wind - US Department of Energy](#)

### Problems + Perspectives

#### Cape Wind

- Article: [Feds OK Building Plan For Cape Wind](#) (WBUR)
- Article: [Yes to Cape Wind](#) (The Hill)
- Article: [For Cape Cod Wind Farm, New Hurdle Is Spiritual](#) (New York Times)
- Data: [The Cape Wind Controversy Report](#) (DensityDesign)
- Data: [Public Opinion of Cape Wind Through Time](#) (ResearchGate)
- Radio: [Opponents Face Last Chance To Nix Cape Wind Plan](#) (NPR, 4 mins)
- Video: [The Unswitched Project](#) (6.5 mins, DensityDesign)
- Video: [Cape Wind Rally](#) (1.5 mins, Boston Herald)
- Video: [Cape Wind and Birds](#) (4.5 mins, Tufts, ENVIS)

#### Wind Power

- Article: [Kahuku wind farm opponents protest along Kamehameha Highway](#) (Honolulu Star Advertiser)
- Article: [Wind turbine shutdowns during polar vortex stoke Midwest debate](#) (Energy News Network)
- Article: [Offshore Wind Companies Are Racing To Develop America's East Coast. First They Must Appease The Fishermen](#) (Forbes)
- Article, Photos, Videos: [Is wind power saving rural Iowa or wrecking it?](#) (Des Moines Register)
- Photos: [What happens to wind turbine blades after they're replaced?](#) (Des Moines Register)
- Video: [Birds Versus Wind Turbines](#) (6 mins, New York Times)

### Progress + Solutions

#### Cape Wind

- Article: [The Collapse of the United States' Inaugural Offshore Wind Farm Project](#) (University of British Columbia)
- Article: [America's second offshore wind farm completes construction](#) (CNBC)
- Video: [America's First Offshore Wind Farm Just Started Producing Energy](#) (4.5 mins, HBO)
- Video: [America's First Offshore Wind Farm](#) (1 min, US Department of Energy)

#### Wind Power

- Art: [Drab Turbines to Works of Art](#) (InHabitat)
- Article: [How wind turbines are changing](#) (CNBC)
- Article: [Wind power gets downsized — but in a good way](#) (ScienceNews for Students)
- Article: [World's wind power capacity up by fifth after record year](#) (The Guardian)
- Video: [This Wind Farm Powers Jordan's Future](#) (2 mins, IFC)
- Video: [Kenya launches Africa's largest wind farm](#) (2 mins, Africa News)

- Webpage & Photos: [Annual Windmill-Wildflower Hike \(WindWorks.org\)](#)