



Helping Massachusetts Municipalities Create a Greener Energy Future

***Cape and Islands Self-Reliance Corp
November 2, 2009***

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

*Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor
Ian A. Bowles, Secretary
Phil Giudice, Commissioner*

Creating Model By-laws for Wind Projects Webinar

*Meg Lusardi, Deputy Director
Green Communities Division*

Background

- **Patrick Administration Goal: 2000 MW of Wind by 2030**
 - Currently we have 7 MW
- **Green Communities Act of 2008**
 - Established Siting Commission
 - Do current laws adequately facilitate the siting of renewable energy facilities
 - Do current laws Make it Easier to Site Fossil-fueled facilities than Renewables?
 - Created the Green Communities Grant Program
 - In order to qualify as a Green Community, you must have as-of-right siting for renewable or alternative energy generation, or renewable or alternative energy manufacturing, or renewable or alternative energy R&D facilities

Siting Commission – Siting Study

- Created an advisory commission of industry, environmental agencies, utilities, municipalities, environmental groups, legislators
- Engaged a national consulting firm to investigate siting in Massachusetts
- Firm interviewed power plant developers, reviewed permitting history of 6 wind projects in MA, and analyzed other states' siting laws

Siting Study - Conclusions

- **Wind energy projects need clear and predictable siting standards**
- MA requires many permits issued by many entities with many opportunities for appeal.
- MA has one-stop permitting, but only for facilities > than 100 MW – this discriminates against renewable facilities
- Other states have much lower thresholds, e.g, VT (0); CT (1), NH (5), Maine (20 acres)

MA - Tools to Help

- Educational Information on Wind at www.mass.gov/doer, under Renewable Energy
- Model “Special Permit” Wind By-law (revised - Oct 2008)
 - Special Permit Process for > 100 KW

<http://www.mass.gov/Eoeea/docs/doer/renewables/wind/model-wind-bylaw-0810.pdf>

- Model “As-of-Right” Wind By-law (March 2009)

<http://www.mass.gov/Eoeea/docs/doer/gca/gc-model-wind-bylaw-mar-10-2009.pdf>

Green Communities - As-of-right Siting

- Provides for the allowed use of, and does not unreasonably regulate – no special permit allowed
- For Green Communities Program, siting is in ***designated locations***
- May be subject to site plan review to ensure consistent with as-of-right bylaw and other local zoning as well as state and federal law
- Development projects that are consistent cannot be prohibited

Contact Information:

Meg Lusardi, Deputy Director, Green Communities Div

Meg.lusardi@state.ma.us

617-626-7364

Steven Clarke, DOER Dir of Wind Development

Steven.clarke@state.ma.us

617-626-1049

www.mass.gov/energy/greencommunities