

A local solution to air pollution

The two greatest threats to our air, water and land are global warming and air pollution. For those of us who can remember back 50 years to 1956, it is not difficult to project forward 50 years to 2056. Based on the latest available studies, by 2056 melting glaciers will have caused a sea level rise of 40 inches. One-fifth of Cape Cod will have disappeared under water!

We moved here to enjoy the fresh air, only to find out that the air on Cape Cod is 50 percent dirtier than the air in Boston. For this we can thank the two coal-fired power plants at Brayton Point in Somerset, and the oil-fired power plant on the Cape Cod Canal in Sandwich. Add to this our right to ignore completely how much gasoline each of us burns, and you have a recipe for environmental disaster.

A starting point, and only a starting point, would be to build the wind farm proposed for Nantucket Sound, preferably yesterday. Our Cape Cod wind farm has the potential of serving as the demonstration project for other wind farms up and down the East Coast. Worldwide, electricity produced by wind turbines increased by some 40 percent last year. By the year 2056, the United States could generate 20 percent of its electricity from wind. Our need to import oil from unstable countries could be reduced by a similar amount. The spread of global warming would be reduced, and the air over Cape Cod would be a lot cleaner.

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