

Alternative Energy Source: Wind power
Stakeholder: Scientist

My name is Willett Kempton and I am a professor of oceanography at the University of Delaware. The University of Delaware has created a working group on offshore wind power in the College of Marine Studies. Many of us consider recent findings (since mid-2003) on the effects of CO₂ on the ocean to be very alarming. After examining non-CO₂ electric resources available in the US North East, we find offshore wind is the largest cost-competitive electric source capable of large-scale implementation in the needed 40 - 60 year time frame. Other measures should be also be pursued (e.g. conservation, electrification of the vehicle fleet, and solar), but without offshore wind we know of no way to accomplish the needed 60%+ cuts in greenhouse gases in our region. Other regions will vary. Many areas of the world, including the US East Coast, now appear to have huge energy resources offshore, on their continental shelves. In Delaware, the working group has identified areas where turbines can be built. The technology now exists to build. We have also polled the public and there is tremendous support (more than 90% of coastal residents surveyed) for constructing offshore wind turbines, even if it means a raise in electrical prices. The public is very concerned about the global climate crisis. Offshore wind can generate enough power for the entire state of DE and there is enough for the state to sell of to nearby states such as PA, NJ, and MD.