

The Northeast Wind Resource Center

Presentation to the Massachusetts Wind Working Group

September 10, 2014

- Warren Leon, Executive Director, Clean Energy States Alliance
- Deborah Donovan, Senior Consultant, Sustainable Energy Advantage



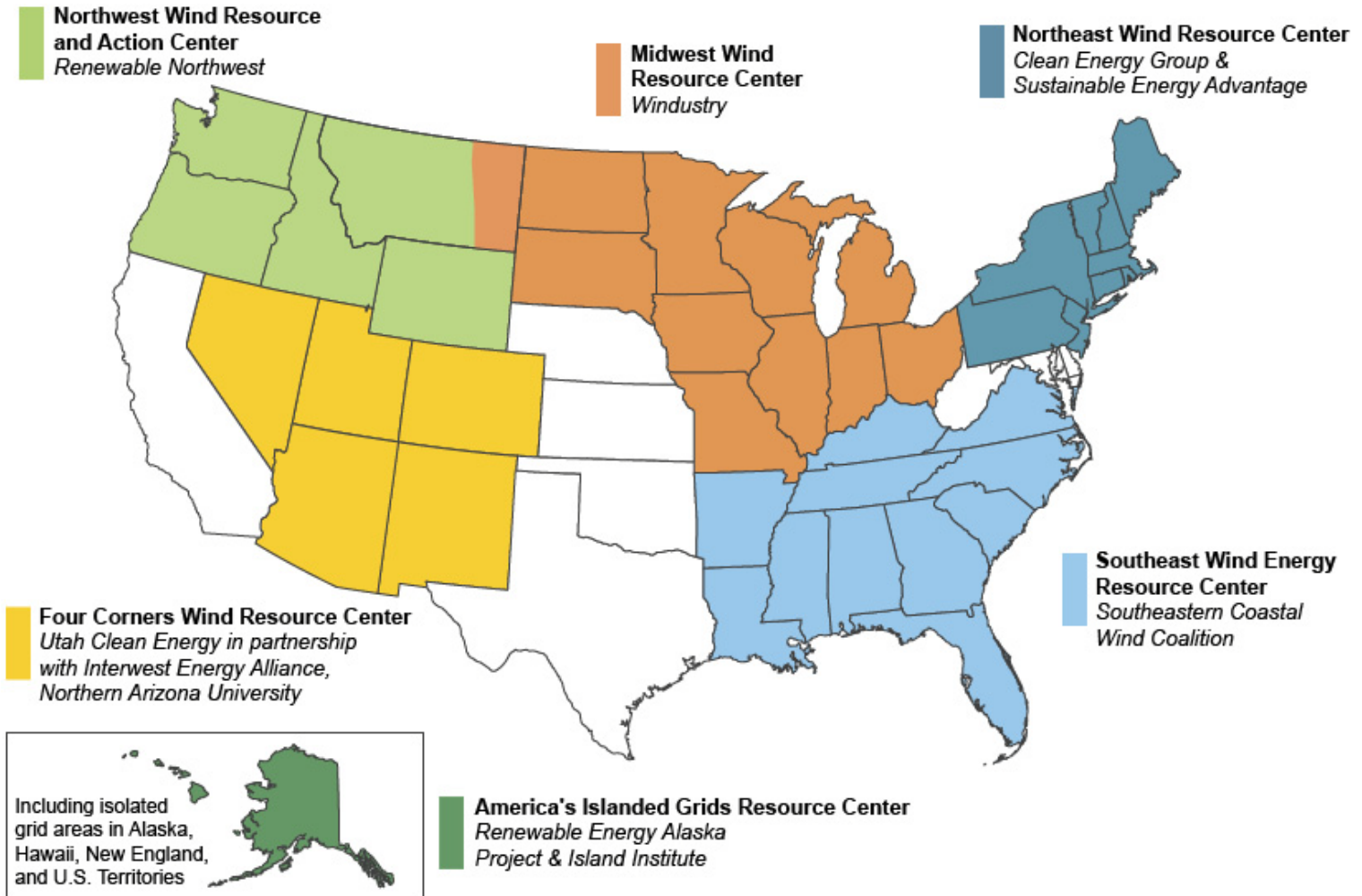
The US Department of Energy's Wind Energy Regional Resource Centers

- Purpose: support well-informed, fact-based decisions regarding wind projects
 - Provide accurate, credible information
 - Deliver this information to stakeholders
 - Work with decision-makers to ensure they have the tools to make informed decisions
- DOE announced awards to 6 centers in March
- Three-year grants with declining funding
 - Each RRC's budget is \$250,000/year
 - DOE pays 80% in year one; 65% in year two; 50% in year three
- Grants administered through the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL)
- Extensive reporting requirements to NREL/DOE

Our Focus

- New England and New York for land-based wind
- New England, New York, and New Jersey for offshore wind
- Opportunity for people in Pennsylvania to receive and share information
- The work is divided between land-based wind and offshore wind
 - Different information needs and different approaches

DOE's 6 Regional Resource Centers



Core Team

- **Clean Energy Group**
 - National nonprofit
 - Administers Clean Energy States Alliance
 - Research/outreach/advocacy activities
 - Responsible for overall project administration
 - Lead for work on offshore wind
- **Sustainable Energy Advantage**
 - Consulting firm
 - Managed the New England Wind Forum and the New England Wind Energy Education Project
 - Lead for work on land-based wind
- **Maine Ocean & Wind Industry Initiative**
 - Founded to work with Maine companies
 - Liaison to the wind industry
- **Consensus Building Institute**
 - Nonprofit focused on negotiation and dispute resolution
 - Work on the NWRC funded by MassCEC
 - Developing process to set criteria & procedures for legitimacy, credibility of Clearinghouse content

NWRC Steering Committee

(In addition to NWRC staff)

- Land-Based Wind
 - Rachel Ackerman / Nils Bolgen, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center
 - Sue AnderBois / Danny Musher, Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
 - Kerry Campbell, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
 - Karl Rabago/Andrea Cerbin , Pace Clean Energy Center
 - Edgar DeMeo, Utility Variable Generation Integration Group
 - Meredith Hatfied, New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning
 - Ben Hoen, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
 - Anne Margolis, Vermont Public Service Department
 - Sunshine Menezes, URI Metcalf Institute
 - John Saintcross, NYSERDA
 - Lisa Smith, Maine Governors Energy Office
- Offshore Wind
 - Ted Diers, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
 - Chris Kearns, Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
 - Anne Marie McShea, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
 - Bill White, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center
 - John Saintcross, NYSERDA

Next Milestone

- Website to go live by September 19th with a preliminary version
- www.northeastwindcenter.org
- Will ultimately feature an extensive resource library – the Information Clearinghouse
- Opportunity to sign up for updates, webinar announcements, and news of other Center activities

Offshore Wind Activities

- Three tracks
 1. Encourage information sharing and collaboration among state decision-makers
 2. Disseminate information to other stakeholders through webinars, newsletters, and websites
 3. Provide a comprehensive library of offshore-wind-related documents: The Offshore Wind Hub

The Offshore Wind Hub

- Created and initially implemented by the US Offshore Wind Collaborative in 2012
 - With funding from MassCEC and NYSERDA
 - Not updated since 2012
- Organized by state and searchable by topic and key words

- Northeast states currently being updated
- Re-launch in October
- Southeast Wind Energy Resource Center and others will later update other states

The screenshot displays the Offshore Wind Hub website interface. At the top, the URL 'offshorewindhub.org' is visible in the browser's address bar. The main header features the 'US Offshore Wind Collaborative Offshore WindHub' logo and navigation links for 'Home', 'States', 'Federal', and 'Regional'. A search bar is prominently displayed, along with a 'Browse Resource Library by Category' option. A sidebar on the right contains 'QUICK LINKS' such as 'Register for Updates', 'Suggestions & Feedback', 'Offshore Wind Basics', and 'Search Tips'. The main content area includes a 'FEATURED RESOURCE' section with a link to 'Strategy for Renewable Energy' and a 'STATES OVERVIEW' section listing states like Delaware, Georgia, and Maryland. A 'REGIONAL OVERVIEW' section discusses inter-state cooperation. The bottom of the page shows social media sharing options and 'SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom indicates the date as 9/6/2014 and the time as 7:01 PM.

Land-based Wind Objectives (1)

- Support interstate cooperation and coordination
- Support stakeholders so that:
 - decision-makers feel better armed for robust decisions
 - concerned citizens feel more confident about and accept decisions arrived at through due process
 - developers find out sooner whether or not their project will be viable.
- Create information resources that assist and support decision-makers and communities engaged in siting decisions, and facilitate a more effectively engaged press

Land-based Wind Objectives (2)

- Act as a central provider and repository of accurate, high quality information in order to assist decision-makers and other stakeholders as they consider wind policies and projects
- Focus will be on information that is:
 - scientifically legitimate
 - credible
 - widely accepted
 - directly salient
 - available early in the process

Land-based Wind Activities

- Form and utilize Steering Committee
- Engage with priority stakeholders via Partner Network
 - State & Local decision-makers
 - Media members
- Set priorities for issues/topics
- Information Clearinghouse
- Education and outreach

Opportunities for Involvement (1)

- Completing Steering Committee Roster
 - Up to 4 more members
 - Must be willing to **constructively contribute** to the implementation of the NWRC
 - Expand diversity to include additional perspectives
 - Seeking candidates who directly represent:
 - Local decision-makers
 - Community concerns
 - Mission-based organizations such as
 - Land/wildlife protection
 - Business/Commerce
 - Project development

Opportunities for Involvement (2)

- Participate in:
 - Partner network
 - Working Groups
 - E.g., CBI information resource project
 - Internships
 - See job description at seadvantage.com

For Discussion – Priority Issues

- We must focus on 1-2 issues a year
- Setting priority(ies) based on input from steering committee, targeted stakeholder groups, past input from NEWF/NEWEEP, and discussions like these
- Which issue(s) have the greatest impact on wind siting **and** for which useful information would improve decisions?

For Discussion – Examples of Issues

- Sound/vibration
- Shadow flicker
- Property values
- Aesthetics
- Health Impacts
- Electricity grid impacts
- Costs, subsidies and incentives

For Discussion – Engagement

- In order for NWRC to meet its objectives, we must create, publicize, and deliver our materials in a way that is:
 - Cost-effective
 - Timely
 - Useful to the intended audience
- What are effective engagement activities for decision-makers and media members?

Possible Engagement Activities

- Education and outreach may include:
 - Webinars
 - Workshops
 - Materials supporting partner network participation in siting discussions
 - In-person presentations
 - Training (e.g., How to apply Info Clearinghouse criteria to new information)
 - Guidance
 - Regular Updates/Newsletters

For Discussion – Covering NWRC Costs

- We need to consider ways to generate some revenue to achieve our goal of having the NWRC self-sustaining.
- We will make quality and added value our mission.
- What are some ways that users of NRWC resource might be asked to contribute?
 - Nominal attendance fees
 - Annual subscription dues
 - Other ideas?

Staying in touch

- Visit the website
- Sign up for our announcements
- Leave your card at the door
- Contact
 - Land-based Wind:
 - Deborah Donovan
 - Ddonovan at seadvantage dot com
 - Offshore Wind:
 - Val Stori
 - Val at cleanegroup dot org