

Environmental Groups Celebrate Commencement Of Maple Ridge Wind Power Project

Fiddling while costs rise and our technology declines

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New York's environmental community gathered today to celebrate the commencement of the new Maple Ridge wind facility in Lewis County at the start of 2006. The project is currently 198 MW, making it the largest wind project in the eastern United States, with further expansion planned. Its turbines are already transforming wind into enough electricity to power 67,000 average New York homes each year. The project quadruples the amount of pollution-free wind power in New York.

A broad group of twenty-two prominent environmental and public health organizations also released a statement titled "New York Needs Renewable Wind Power". Many of these organizations actively advocated for New York's latest renewable energy policy, which seeks to ensure that 25 percent of the electricity used in New York be produced by clean, renewable technologies, like wind, solar, fuel cells and low-impact hydropower, by 2013. Maple Ridge is one of the first projects to be constructed under this new renewable energy policy and is by far the largest.

The organizations also announced the launch of www.aceny.org, a new Internet resource to promote clean renewable technologies and energy efficiency in New York. "With wind power we have a proven technology that can provide substantial amounts of reliable, affordable and pollution-free electricity to New Yorkers across the state," said Gordian Raacke, Executive Director of Renewable Energy Long Island. "I'm proud to be part of this unprecedented effort of environmental organizations and clean energy companies coming together to promote wind power and other clean energy technologies throughout our region."

"Here's a New Year's Resolution come true -- the New York environmental community is coming together to celebrate the opening of the Maple Ridge wind project and the many clean air and public health benefits of wind power," said Katherine Kennedy, Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council. "We need to support sustainable energy solutions, and well-sited wind power is an important part of the answer to New York's energy needs."