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To: [CCC 2018 Tech Bulletins](#)
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Subject: Comment on Cape Cod Commission Regional Policy Plan
Date: Sunday, January 13, 2019 10:51:19 PM

Hello, Cape Cod Commission.

I am a year round resident in Falmouth, Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Please accept my comments on the Draft of the Cape Cod Commission's Regional Policy Plan (The Plan). In the interests of time, my comments are limited to what I would like to see changed in The Plan.

The energy part of the Plan has too much emphasis on "context sensitivity" and minimizing "detrimental visual impacts." We are all concerned about "context sensitivity" and "visual impacts," but, given the threat of the hazards being intensified by global warming, concern with context and visual impacts should be secondary. If we recognize the existential threat of global warming to all the communities and people of Cape Cod, we will put our primary emphasis on the immediate urgency of installing renewable sources of energy everywhere we can, as soon as we can. If the Plan gives the priority and magnitude of emphasis to context and visual impacts that is expressed in the current draft, local authorities will be too likely to justify yielding to the inevitable outcries and fears of "not-in-my-backyard" and proceed to deny permits to many renewable energy projects. Please find a way to turn up the volume on the imperative of renewable energy and turn down the volume on context sensitivity and visual impacts.

The Plan's emphasis on "green power purchase agreements" is another way in which The Plan cuts the rug out from the emphasis we need on green power. It is as if we were to say, "We know we have to do this, but, oh no, not here. We don't want to have to look at what we have to do. Put that somewhere else."

We need green power. We need it now. And we need it here. For many of us, it is beautiful and hopeful to behold. Implicitly suggesting that it is ugly will only keep us from doing what we have to do.

The Plan refers to The 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report, stating that that "report calls on the global community to act collectively to reduce emissions

to achieve a net zero CO² emission rate as soon as possible in order to allow time for adaptation to the inevitable changes.” That should be the driving focus of The Plan, because there will be no Cape Cod, no communities on Cape Cod, no housing, no employment, nor any human survivors here, unless we act in time.

We need a Plan for Cape Cod that offers a more realistic positive orientation to our chances. The current Plan states that, “While the problems posed by climate change appear unstoppable, there are actions the Cape community can take to reduce emissions and participate in the effort to slow the rate of change.” Of course we must slow the rate of increase in global temperatures, but that is not enough. That must not be our rallying slogan. The problems are stoppable. We need to actually return the planet to temperatures in which our kind of life and all those forms of life that our life depends on can survive. The Plan should call for an all-out mobilization of resources to not only slow the rate of global warming but to reverse it. And The Plan should make it clear that we are capable of doing just that. As a society, the U.S., including Massachusetts, is capable of a far faster transition to renewable energy than is currently occurring. We possess alternative technologies for energy. And we have proven technologies in forestry, agriculture, land management, and other areas that can remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

For EN1, The Plan encourages the incorporation of “renewable energy generation or alternative energy use, including but not limited to: solar photovoltaic (PV), solar thermal, geothermal, solar carport, fuel cells, the use of biofuels.” The Plan should also explicitly encourage the use of wind. Cape Cod has abundant resources of wind energy, and recent weather patterns have raised concerns about a decline in the number of days with extended hours of clear, strong sunlight. Diversity of energy resources is the key. Let us use what we have. “Not-in-my-backyard complaints” have resulted in denial of permits for wind energy, without substantive verified objective evidence. Do not let The Plan fall into that trap.

Thank you.

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