

Cleveland Legislature:

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Issue:

New Jersey has unique conditions to place offshore wind turbines to fuel the state, but the government is doing nothing to either promote wind energy or prevent harmful carbon emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels.

Necessary Background:

NJ has the natural resources to support alternative energy but has failed to develop it for the state and its residents. America has enough wind energy capabilities to fuel the United States ten times over, and New Jersey has the ideal place for a source of energy that will not pollute the ocean [3]. Wind energy, unlike fossil fuels, generates energy with little to no carbon emission. According to a recent study, offshore wind has the potential to fulfill 80 percent of New Jersey's energy needs [2].

Evidence of Problem Existing:

The Jersey Shore, the pride of New Jersey, is the perfect location for wind farms. The strong ocean winds will constantly turn the wind turbine generating clean, renewable energy that can be used by the State of New Jersey for years to come. There have already been some attempts to create wind farms on New Jersey shores by Fisherman Energy. Their effort was declined by state government and there are no wind farms currently in New Jersey at all [5]. Many legislators question the actual economic benefits of Wind Energy.

Impact:

As of 2012, New Jersey has released 106.08 metric tons of carbon [1]. This number is directly the consequence of the combustion of fossil fuels and neglecting the use of renewable energy like wind turbines.

Possible Solutions:

The government should make it a priority to incentivize offshore wind energy and allow companies to create wind farms. These deep water wind turbines are barely visible from land and have little to no effects on the marine life around them in comparison to offshore drilling for oil that has the potential for catastrophic effects [4]. Wind Energy has economic potential aside from the many environmental benefits it has. By developing Wind Energy in communities like Atlantic City, jobs are created locally that will stay for a very long time and create an economy that has the potential to grow.

Sources:

1. http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/documents/pdf/CO2FFC_2012.pdf
2. http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2014/12/nj_stalling_on_offshore_wind_despite_environmental_economic_benefits_report_claims.html
3. <http://www.environmentnewjerseycenter.org/reports/nje/more-wind-less-warming>
4. <http://dwwind.com/why-wind/>
5. <http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/new-jersey/79084-nj-lawmakers-push-for-development-of-offshore-wind-farms>