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Wind Energy Collaboration is Great Idea

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WIND ENERGY COLLABORATION IS GREAT IDEA

While much attention has been paid to proposals to develop wind farms in Rhode Island waters, a group of East Bay communities has been working together quietly to propose buildings on oceanfront property to serve as wind farms.

This is a positive development in a number of ways.

First and foremost, it is encouraging to see these local communities, including cities such as Little Compton, Portsmouth, Tiverton and Littleton, begin meeting regularly for more than a year to pursue this idea that would work together to enhance energy costs and dependability on local sources.

And as individual wind turbines spread across the com-

munity and the state, it becomes clearer that it is impractical for any municipality to have its own turbine. There isn’t a turbine at every high school in the state.

It is to the state’s benefit to have a wind farm, or a group of wind farms, that make use of the state’s wind energy. A wind farm would be a huge asset to any state. And the idea of a cluster of turbines would be an added economic benefit to the state.

Yet, because this generation of turbines is so visible, wind energy has become a focal point for discussions at the state level.

As communities debate how to regulate individual turbines and where they can and cannot be placed, the East Bay Energy Council is developing a proposal for a wind farm that would compete with other wind farms in the Tiverton Industrial Park that would serve as a regionalized and economic asset.

The RIC and The Rhode Island Center for Economic Development, an arm of EKU, 521 Lancaster Ave., Richmond, Ky. 40475-3102.

The RIC and the Center have agreed to make offshore wind energy a priority, with an focus on collaborative opportunities to increase the state’s energy production. In late April, the Tiverton School Committee approved a vote to become a member of the Tiverton Industrial Park, which would serve as a regionalized and economic asset.

All of this is very preliminary, but the very early discussions about the future of wind energy are promising for the future of communities.

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