



Citizens' Greener Evanston

Act Locally. Breathe Globally.

Wind Farm Update

September 1, 2011

Evanston's proposed offshore wind farm project has had a number of exciting updates in the last few months. The Mayor's Wind Farm Committee completed their work and presented their report to the Evanston City Council on July 18, 2011. The City Council voted to accept the recommendations of the Mayor's Wind Farm Committee with a 7-2 vote.

The report

http://www.cityofevanston.org/government/boards_committees/WFC%20Review%20Document%20Post.pdf

The report included four working group reports and eleven recommendations to the City for next steps. Included in the list of recommendations were;

- 1.** To have the City promptly request that an Evanston representative be named to the expected Lake Michigan Offshore Wind Energy Advisory Council (see below).
- 2.** Encourage and facilitate establishment of a meteorological station for obtaining wind speed data which will enable developers to assess energy production and forecast revenue streams. This step is essential for project feasibility, now or in the future. Collaboration with other interested partners, perhaps including Northwestern University, will minimize or eliminate direct expenses by the City.
- 3.** Continue the efforts of the Mayor's Wind Farm Committee to investigate in more detail the issues noted in the report.

On August 8, 2011, Governor Quinn signed into law HBI558, which creates the Lake Michigan Offshore Wind Energy Council. The council will include a variety of stakeholders and will examine certain topics related to offshore wind energy facilities on Lake Michigan and report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by June 30, 2012.

This bill was initiated by CGE's own Jonathan Nieuwsma (Co-Chairman of the Renewable Energy Task Force) and Nicolai Schousboe. They started discussions with Representative Robyn Gabel and Senator Jeff Schoenberg, both of whom were the bill's sponsors. All in all, an amazing feat of legislative work by everyone involved.

As of August 18th, a representative from CGE has been nominated to serve on one of the positions of the council. Additional members of the Evanston environmental community have also been nominated for other positions. The status of these nominations should be known very shortly.