



## The Cape & Islands Renewable Energy Collaborative

*Promoting a sustainable energy future for the Cape and Islands*

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***The Cape & Islands Renewable Energy Collaborative (CIREC) brings together citizens, businesses, advocacy groups, educational institutions, and government agencies and officials with common interest in achieving a sustainable energy future, both locally and globally. Through CIREC, individuals, organizations, and communities pursue collaborative activities designed to foster the development and use of energy resources in the Cape & Islands region—and beyond—in ways that maximize local benefits and minimize adverse impacts.***

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### **CIREC Awarded Funding for Outreach and Education on the Energy Present and Energy Future in the Cape & Islands Region**

The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) has awarded a \$20,000 grant to the Cape & Islands Renewable Energy Collaborative (CIREC) to provide individuals and communities with information on the risks and rewards associated with alternative approaches for transitioning to a clean, green energy future.

CIREC's outreach and education initiative will seek to establish immediate- and longer-term issues—including economic development, ecosystem integrity, public health, and climate change—as important context for local and regional discussions over renewable energy. It will also encourage coordinated planning, fact-based debate, and informed individual and community decision-making on energy-related issues and opportunities throughout the Cape & Islands region.

CIREC's initiative will build on the *2002-2003 Cape Cod Sustainability Indicators Report*, which is scheduled for public release on August 21. The report defines the characteristics of a sustainable Cape Cod and describes current economic, environmental, and social conditions. In addition, it identifies tangible actions that could accelerate progress toward sustainability on several fronts.

Under the MTC grant, CIREC will provide fact-based information on the adverse impacts imposed on Cape & Islands communities by the present energy economy, and it will communicate visions of an energy future that improves environmental, economic, and social conditions by leveraging, rather than depleting, natural capital. CIREC will also provide web-based access to resources and tools to help local communities in managing the transition to a sustainable energy future.

CIREC's initiative will be funded under the Commonwealth's Renewable Energy Trust Fund, which is administered by MTC on behalf of the state's electricity ratepayers. It will be directed by Chris Powicki, principal of Water Energy & Ecology Information Services in Cummaquid. Contributors will include Megan Amsler and Richard Lawrence, Cape & Islands Self-Reliance Corp.; Martha Twombly, Cape Cod Commission; Mary Jane Curran, Cape Cod Community College; Tom Wineman, TJ Design; Joan Muller, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Joe Hackler, Michael Ernst, and George Woodwell, Woods Hole Research Center; and additional CIREC participants.

CIREC will work in coordination with other recent recipients of MTC community planning grant awards, including the Cape Cod Commission, the Vineyard Energy Project, and the town of Barnstable. CIREC will also solicit input from and participation by additional community officials, local and regional agencies, and stakeholder groups throughout the Cape & Islands.