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**When it Comes to Wind Power Size Matters**

***Clean Power Vermont Says Wind Farms Needed in Vermont***

**Montpelier** – Wind energy will be an essential part of Vermont’s energy supply according to a new grassroots organization here in the state. Clean Power Vermont (CPVT) launched their organization today highlighting the need for cleaner, more affordable energy options.

Individuals from the community, nonprofit organizations and various colleges gathered to emphasize the importance of turning to clean energy sources, primarily wind, in order to diversify our supply and move toward more affordable and locally generated energy options.

“Clean Power Vermont was created to foster and advocate for wind development while promoting the best energy choices for a clean energy future” said Rob Roy McGregor of Clean Power Vermont. “We know that the majority of Vermonters are in support of wind energy and acknowledge its critical role in Vermont’s future; we want to provide a way for those voices to unite and be heard at the both the local and state level”.

The group stressed that wind power has the most potential here in Vermont with the ability to provide the state with twenty percent of its energy needs within the next twenty years. It also highlights the need to develop a limited number of commercial wind farms in order to effectively capture this wind energy.

“Residential turbines cannot provide for our energy appetite as over 1,400 of these would be required to equal one utility scale wind turbine. That would equate to 5,600 residential turbines vs. the four large turbines being proposed for East Haven” said Lawrence Mott of Earth Turbines. “Commercial scale wind power has the potential to help all Vermonters by supplying a large amount of affordable, clean and locally generated energy. That is the Vermont way, doing what is right for the greater community and our environment.”

1,400 pinwheels were placed on the statehouse lawn to illustrate the number of residential turbines that would be needed to produce the same amount of power as one commercial turbine.

CPVT has been working for the past six months to build a membership which already consists of more than 600 people who support wind power development in Vermont and are willing to advocate for it. They have also been working to educate individuals about the benefits of wind energy not only on the environment but on Vermonters’ wallets.

With energy costs higher than ever this year, Vermonters are getting hit at the gas pumps, on their home heating bills and electric bills. Wind power, according to CPVT, will provide the state with a reliable and affordable energy source. The group claims that wind power can provide Vermonters with lower energy costs while decreasing our vulnerability to the highly volatile market prices of fossil fuels.

Connor Driscoll of St. Michael's College noted that "[people] recognize that carbon dioxide, smog, and nuclear waste are not healthy or clean and they recognize that coal and oil are not renewable, and that nuclear energy is not safe. Now is the time when we have to start thinking about the future. We have the technology and we have the ability to turn to renewable options. We need to realize that the future is now".

Future generations will certainly be impacted by energy problems and many are calling for a shift toward renewables to ensure a cleaner and safer future. "Others will look to Vermont as an example" said Moriah Helms of Bristol. "Future generations will hold us accountable for our actions today. Born and raised in Vermont, I, along with others of my generation, want to be able to raise my children in a state that generates its own renewable energy."