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## Wind farm offers a chance to shrink carbon footprint

March 28, 2010

Nantucket Sound is a national treasure. Apart from its scenic beauty and once-rich fishing grounds, Nantucket Sound's offshore winds reveal its most endearing charm — the opportunity to shrink our growing carbon footprint.

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Repeated reports of polar ice breaking in the face of warmer global temperatures underscore the speed at which climate change is now altering the face of our planet.

World-renowned NASA climatologist James Hansen calculated the atmospheric limit for carbon to be 350 parts per million. At 390 ppm, nature's ability to neutralize man's collective carbon output is exhausted. To paraphrase environmental writer Bill McKibben, physics and chemistry don't budge €; it's not as if the environment can simply suspend the laws of nature to suit our needs.

To survive we must adapt. Rather than deny the environmental challenges we face (and lose catastrophically), endorsing Cape Wind's proposed offshore wind farm seems — on balance — so rational. Cape Wind will deliver clean electricity and a more vibrant local economy based on green-collar employment. Legal hurdles by project opponents only risk our ability to respond proactively to the stunning challenges upon us.

Stacy Clark

Dallas and Jamaica Plain

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