

[Floating Wind Turbines May Cause Happiness To Return To Cape Cod](#)

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By [Michael d'Estries](#) in [Energy, Wind Power](#) | March 17, 2008



There's been plenty of opposition over the proposed ocean wind farm off the shores of Cape Cod. Frankly, we don't really "see" what all the fuss is about (for an amusing take by the Daily Show on this issue, [jump here](#)) but for some it would be a travesty akin to Jennifer Garner marrying Ben Affleck. Seriously, I'm still upset.

Anyways, the debate over spoiled views may be brought to an amicable resolution should a Dutch company called Blue H come to the rescue. See, the wind turbines would still exist — but they would be much further out to sea — and would float. No one would see them from shore, but clean, green energy would nonetheless get produced. The technology is modeled after deep sea oil rigs, but no one is exactly sure if it will really work. Still, that hasn't stopped opponents to the Cape Cod Wind Farm from embracing Blue H and pushing for the government to grant a test of the technology in deep water. [From the article.](#)

Commercial wind turbines for offshore projects like Cape Wind's employ technology now in use in Europe. In deep water, however, it is prohibitively expensive to affix wind turbines to the sea floor. The world's deepest offshore wind turbines today are in about 147 feet of water off Aberdeen, Scotland. Blue H officials say their technology can work in waters as deep as 1,000 feet.

In the proposed project off Martha's Vineyard, the turbines would rise about 328 feet above the water's surface and generate 420 megawatts. That's about the same size as Cape Wind's project, which Cape Wind says could, in average winds, provide three-quarters of the electric needs of the Cape and Islands.

Cool tech — but will it survive the plummeting waves and, well, wind? Methinks it will be awhile before Blue H is ready to commercially employ it's technology in open sea — which doesn't bode well for the ulcers of those opposed to the current operation. Cape Wind is expected to receive final government environmental approval next year and begin construction shortly after that. Bring it.

For more on the Blue H and the floating turbines, [click here](#).

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1. [Cindy Szponder](#) said,

March 18, 2008 at [8:26 am](#)

My first thought was whether these wind turbines would survive rough weather. Otherwise, sounds like a great idea. I'm not sure why people are so against wind turbines at times. Of course, out here in Colorado, the turbines are out in flat areas with little population. Anytime I've seen the wind turbines at work, I find them fascinating to watch, almost hypnotic. I'm glad to say that a new factory has opened up nearby for producing the turbine blades. A double win situation since it provides local jobs, and is working toward creating renewable energy.

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