

Public Opinion on Wind Energy- Citations and Summaries

Over the past four years there has been an extensive dialogue in the Vermont media about wind energy. We have objectively catalogued articles, editorials, and letters to the editor from regional newspapers that represent the public's opinions in this debate. Articles specific to the Sheffield project start on page 11.

2002

Consensus Statement. Wind Siting Consensus Building Project. 17 May 2002.

The Department of Public Service should continue to be involved in siting wind energy.

Damborg, Steffen. "Public attitudes towards wind power." Danish Wind Industry Association. <http://www.windpower.org/articles/surveys.htm> updated 6 June 2002.

Addresses attitudes in Europe. Romanticized view of country makes city people opposed to wind. NIMBY attitude common, especially in areas with very little knowledge about wind power. Community involvement in siting procedure is important. Wind power remains highly supported in areas that have wind power plants already.

"Wind energy questions from MACRO poll Fact Sheet" survey conducted in late July 2002. Vermonters support renewable energy sources, wind is top choice. People with higher education showed slightly more support. Support was strong regardless of political affiliations.

Blittersdorf, David. "It's My Turn: Vt. could lead in wind power." The Burlington Free Press. 19 Oct. 2002. Opinion section.

Vermont has the technology to develop and produce wind power in-state. Why are we importing energy at high rates from elsewhere? Vermont values independence and self-reliance, wind is a good fit to these values.

The Associated Press. "Ski area might get wind towers." The Burlington Free Press. 9 Nov. 2002.

Catamount Energy Corp. is making plans for wind farm on Magic Mountain ski area on Glebe Mountain. Would be example of "co-mingling" uses. Town not sure how they feel at this point, question of Catamount's "direction."

The Associated Press. "Wind farm meets Manchester resistance." The Burlington Free Press. Date unknown, 2002.

Town of Manchester very concerned over proposed Little Equinox wind towers and view from the village. Different definitions of "pristine" on the different sides.

Putnam, Spencer. "It's My Turn: Vt. should take renewable energy lead." The Burlington Free Press. 31 Dec. 2002. Reader's Forum page 9A.

Clarifies economic benefits of wind power. Stresses need for current information and usage of technology that we already have in state.

2003

Williams, Eesha. "Londonderry residents debate windmill plan." Brattleboro Reformer. 21 Jan. 2003.

Debate at selectboard meeting over Glebe Mountain wind farm focused on "how- not if- the windmills would be built." Residents trying to stop the project even though tests have not been approved. Unbalanced tradeoffs- which type of pollution, from oil or wind, should Vermont oppose more.

The Associated Press. "Londonderry voters to decide on wind towers." The Burlington Free Press. 19 Feb. 2003. Page 3B.

Glebe Mountain Group in opposition has more than 65 members and hired two lawyers, claim wind farm will destroy the scenic resource. Opposition quotes from Sam Lloyd.

Arnold, David. "Wind Proposals Sweeping Region." The Boston Globe. 4 March 2003. Page B1 Metro/Region section.

Regional article but focusing on Vermont. Ridgeline wind development has been overlooked while focus has been on Nantucket sound and other ocean shore projects. Selectmen wish to obtain as much information for their residents as possible, not debate the merits of wind power. Example of Searsburg resident who went from anti-wind to not caring now that they have been built nearby.

2004

Crawford, Matt. "Groups seek halt on wind turbines." The Burlington Free Press. 3 Jan. 2004. Section B.

Anti-wind groups request long-range state involvement of turbine siting on private and public land, and a moratorium on development until that happens. State feels it is inappropriate to put moratorium on private land.

Gram, David. "Douglas launches review of windmills on mountains." The Burlington Free Press. 30 Jan. 2004. Section B.

General facts on commercial windmill development. Alerted public to upcoming policy creation in VT.

Voice of the Free Press. "Don't rush to wind." The Burlington Free Press. 30 Jan. 2004. Editorial section.

Vermont is not the place for wind turbines. Cites environmental damage, low electricity output, and need for subsidies as reasons for the state not to promote wind energy.

Allen, Anne Wallace. "Wind turbine project stirs." The Burlington Free Press. 1 Feb. 2004. Section C.

Glebe Mountain issues. Questions collaborative process from both sides of debate, not sure if anything can come of it. Clash of summer Vermonters and locals.

Editorial. "Putting green ideals into practice." Rutland Herald. 21 Feb. 2004.

Vermont should allow the development of windpower because of the state's environmental ideals and benefits to local communities. Being cautious is acceptable but not to cover other issues like unreasonable NIMBY people.

2005

Editorial. "Save our ridgelines." The Burlington Free Press. 24 Feb. 2005. Voice of the Free Press section.

Likens wind development to a 1930's proposal to build a highway across the Green Mountains' ridgeline, which, although supported initially was defeated in a referendum. Ridgelines need special attention, shouldn't just use existing act (Section 248) designed for other types of development. Assumes a "Vermont spirit" which would not support this kind of development. Up to the community to prevent this.

Grimes, Barbara L. "Wind turbines can help Vermonters." The Burlington Free Press. 18 April 2005. Opinion section.

Vermont is a working landscape. Wind good for local economy. Creates more independence- a statewide value. Conflict of longtime Vermonters and people moving in for the view.

Vogt, Markus. "My Turn: Rubin is wrong on view of wind towers." The Burlington Free Press. 30 April 2005. Forum section.

Counters Mark Rubin's article. Author doesn't approve of ruining local view to provide others with clean energy in other places. Worried about diminished property values and intonation of calling these large developments wind "farms." Not like farms at all.

September, '05

Wright, Leslie. "Where no business has gone before." The Burlington Free Press. 25 Sept. 2005. Business section.

Programs are available for Vermonters to save money by being conscious about energy efficiency. Efficiency Vermont, which is funded by fees on electric bills, provides coupons and rebates for energy conserving appliances. The Renewable Energy Resource Center runs a program that offers cash incentives for home and business owners who install renewable energy including solar and wind.

Editorial. "Wind energy month: What does that mean?" The Burlington Free Press. 30 Sept. 2005. Voice of the Free Press section.

Wind energy month was declared by Governor but has an unclear purpose. He's not welcoming industrial wind energy projects but wants to focus on small-scale projects. Author wants to focus on and alert local communities where large-scale projects are slated.

Editorial. "Vermont wind energy debate gains clarity." The Burlington Free Press. 30 Sept. 2005. Opinion section.

Applauds Gov. Douglas quote in opposition to large-scale wind but is not content with Douglas supporting the East Mountain wind plan as a demonstration project. Thinks Douglas should stay firm and not allow any turbines.

October, '05

Free Press Staff Report. "Answer may be blowin' in the wind at UVM." The Burlington Free Press. 5 Oct. 2005. Business section.

Single wind turbine has been built on UVM campus. Visible to commuters, hopefully will educate the public and gain support for wind power elsewhere.

Editorial. "A home for wind." Times Argus. 6 Oct. 2005.

Shouldn't be cautious, need to develop wind power now. Vermont needs strong leaders to endorse the cause. Large-scale wind projects aren't suitable everywhere. Most views will remain intact throughout state.

Soininen, Alice H. "Wind proponent changes her mind." Times Argus. 9 Oct. 2005.

Perspective section.

Doesn't feel like she and people in her area should have to sacrifice their view to provide other parts of the state with the power produced in her area. First-hand account of windfarms in CA and Denmark, feels that even in these non-residential places windmills are a "blight."

Soininen, Alice. "Wind towers would be blight." Rutland Herald. October 19, 2005.

Letters section. – Basically same letter as one before

Editorial. "Where is wind leading the state?" The Burlington Free Press. 17 Oct. 2005.

Opinion section.

State government should do more than just warn against wind power development. Disputes need to be addressed and guidelines created to protect the natural features that make Vermont unique.

Patullo, Chip. "Wind systems offer clean solution." The Burlington Free Press. 18 Oct. 2005. Letters to the editor, Opinion section.

Renewable energy systems address issues of future supply, addressing only efficiency is not enough. Wind power provides economic benefits of keeping energy money in state.

Parker, Lauren. "Realize the benefits of wind power." The Burlington Free Press. 18 Oct. 2005. Letters to the editor, Opinion section.

Must consider wind energy benefits: clean energy, low cost and low damage.

Matteson, Mollie. "Let's do wind power right." Rutland Herald. 19 Oct. 2005.

Commentary Section.

Not firmly for or against wind power, although Matteson feels that energy conservation should be fully addressed first, as well as an assessment of wind energy's place in VT, before developing a complete energy plan for the entire state. Stresses threats to wildlife when placed in undeveloped forests.

Matteson, Mollie. "My Turn: Take time on wind energy." The Burlington Free Press. 23 Oct. 2005 and 1 Nov. 2005. Opinion section.

Same as Rutland Herald article October 19.

Sinclair, Mark. "My Turn: Have honest wind debate." The Burlington Free Press. 23 Oct. 2005. Opinion section.

Wind energy should be approached using the community ownership models that have been successful in Europe. The wind industry should not overstep towns' wishes, but should take their concerns seriously.

Resmer, Cathy. "Sabra Field and NRG try to recolor wind turbine views." Seven Days. 26 Oct. 2005. Local matters section.

Possibly disgruntled article regarding the Sabra Field print. Claims it doesn't show true scale and lights. Reception only attended by pro-wind people, opponents don't think a picture will make a difference.

Eagle Staff. "Vermont wind farms- Art or landscape blight?" The Addison Eagle. 29 Oct. 2005.

Sabra Field commissioned by NRG Systems owners to create a print showcasing ridgeline wind turbines. She sees windmills as beautiful kinetic sculptures.

Rapaport, Dave. "State needs thoughtful discussion on wind power." Times Argus. 30 Oct. 2005. Perspective section.

Habitat fragmentation a concern, but areas are already fragmented by logging. Forest clearing for the project would be less than opponents think- only the width of a logging road connecting larger clearing for the turbines. Government Accountability Office has said wind power does not cause significant bird mortality. Ridgelines are only economically feasible location for this development in VT. Public Service Board will evaluate projects, not everyone will get a permit. Need to think about negative impacts of current energy sources.

November, '05

Editorial. "Where is wind leading the state?" The Burlington Free Press. 2 Nov. 2005.

Vermont needs to regulate wind development in a consistent manner. Public Service Board needs to develop more policies. Vermont Natural Resources council has made recommendations that should be considered.

Peirce, Neal and Curtis Johnson. "New England power initiatives on cutting edge." Times Argus. 6 Nov. 2005. Perspective section. Long, regional article.

New England should work together to develop alternative energy. States are too small and interconnected to do it themselves or decide not to individually. Rising support for a regional, cost-effective switch. Civic environmentalism is leading the push for alternative energy but state government needs to take the lead.

Roberts, Hilary Terrell. "My Turn: Don't be quick to reject wind power." The Burlington Free Press. 7 Nov. 2005. Forum section, page 5A.

Wants to think "rationally" about wind power. Compares us to ancient cultures that overlooked the means to prolong their civilizations. We need to "acknowledge reality" and make wind power happen now so future generations aren't left with an undesirable future.

Associated Press. "Burke Mountain opposes wind project, citing development plans." The Burlington Free Press. 9 Nov. 2005. Business section.

Owners of Burke ski area testified against the East Haven project because they are planning to sell the ski area for future development that would be negatively affected by the turbines. However, no studies have been done on the turbines' effect and the public service board was not convinced.

McKeever, Andrew. "Clean, cheap energy source is still controversial." Rutland Herald. 16 Nov. 2005. Southern Vermont section.

Outlines plan for upcoming meeting in Manchester. Town officials want more objective information from sources not involved in the wind project. Local officials don't have experience understanding industrial wind projects. Local experts will speak at meeting. Will help give balanced perspective on project.

McKeever, Andrew. "Public input sought on Mount Equinox turbines." Rutland Herald. 16 Nov. 2005. Southern Vermont section.

Concerns from Manchester Planning Commission meeting. Unusual situation for town planners because state officials will be making the decision. Town will hold a series of meetings on different subjects concerning the development, followed by a nonbinding advisory vote in March. Specific issues: lighting on turbines, amount of fill for widening the road and its potential impact on vegetation, and blasting for turbine foundations.

Johnson, Charles W. "Is wind power the answer? No." Times Argus. 20 Nov. 2005. Perspective section.

While human-made structures can be beautiful, they do not belong everywhere. Concerned that increasing technology will place wind farms in more places. Profits should not be the ultimate standard. Nature is sacred.

Mott, Lawrence H. "Is wind power the answer? Yes." Times Argus. 20 Nov. 2005. Perspective section.

Wind industry knows from mistakes that current turbines don't affect birds. Most ridgelines already have some type of development. Value of wind energy is high despite fluctuations in long-term amount of energy provided. More energy from wind means less energy from fossil fuels.

Schneider, Rama. "On wind power." Times Argus. 20 Nov. 2005. Reader Roundtable weblog.

Against industrial wind power because it will just be added to grid and lost to other places. Wants local wind power that stays in the community, we should build closer to home and conserve to make a difference. Wants local integrated power generation.

Palmer, Robin. "New Hampshire also sees winds of change; projects are smaller." 20 Nov. 2005. Times Argus.

Comparison of Vermont and New Hampshire wind development. NH has more small-scale projects underway because NH has lenient regulations for the small size. Opponents say Vermont is being flooded with projects but there are really only a handful.

Palmer, Robin. "Proposed wind farms could set 135 turbines spinning in Vermont." Times Argus. 20 Nov. 2005.

Outlines six projects currently underway. Lots of debate but nothing new coming out of it. Governor's stance not realistic. Proposed turbines getting bigger and better as they are stalled because of newer technology. Multiple applications will strain Public Service Board. Turbines may hurt quality of life.

Associated Press. "New England wind farm proposals spreading." The Burlington Free Press. 21 Nov. 2005. Page 3B.

Compares NH and VT wind proposals. NH has smaller turbines because they do not require state approval. Although Vermont could be looking at up to 135 turbines, there are only a few areas that would support them. Interest in wind energy remains high, Searsburg Wind Farm had largest tour season ever this past summer.

Page, Candace. "Environmental agency opposes permit for wind project." The Burlington Free Press. 26 Nov. 2005. Local/Vermont section.

ANR decided not to support East Haven project. Decision put them at odds with other state departments. Biologists want more bird and bat studies, developers say they are unneeded.

Associated Press. "Two state agencies split on wind power project." Times Argus. 27 Nov. 2005. Local & Regional section.

ANR and Department of Public Service are split on East Haven project. Same as Nov 26 Candace Page article.

Joyner, Ginny. "Let's view towers as sculpture." The Burlington Free Press. 29 Nov. 2005. Letters to the editor.

Thinks wind turbines could be sculptural works of art, painted crazy colors and a tourism draw.

Editorial. "Wind developer thumbs nose at state." The Burlington Free Press. 29 Nov. 2005. Voice of the Free Press.

Because East Haven windfarm is not providing wildlife studies as part of their application to the Public Service Board, their application shouldn't be considered. Since this project is supposed to be a demonstration, there is even more reason to do these studies. Currently the project is a poor demonstration.

December, '05

Rapaport, Dave. "My Turn: Wind project safe for wildlife." The Burlington Free Press. 2 Dec. 2005. Opinion section.

Opinion piece by vice president of East Haven Windfarm. Asserts windfarm's impact on wildlife as "vanishingly small." Claims existing evidence is being ignored and opposing studies are self-admittedly "unclear." Makes comparisons to wildlife impacts of other products of development like domestic cats.

Barber, Cynthia. "Wind developers blowing hot air." Times Argus. 2 Dec. 2005. Letters section.

Author is unsettled by realization that wind turbine process is controlled by developers and state bureaucrats. Thinks PowerPoint presentations are a “sham” and these public meetings don’t provide real answers to citizens’ questions.

Editorial. “A yes for wind.” Times Argus. 5 Dec. 2005.

Ten percent of total energy from wind may seem small, but combined with other renewables it will make a difference. While residents have a right to decide how they feel, they must weigh their opinions against the benefits. Wind turbines are better in some places than others.

Field, Sabra. Commentary on Vermont Public Radio. 12 Dec. 2005.

Describes her commissioned piece depicting windmill view. Defends Vermont as a cultural landscape, not wilderness. Windmills are a symbol of Vermont values of independence etc.

Nelson, Shirley. “My Turn: Don’t sell out ridgelines to wind.” The Burlington Free Press. 12 Dec. 2005. Opinion section.

Wind development leaves a larger footprint than people assume. Searsburg not a good comparison. Towns will face more of a burden with local services and maintenance than the developers are responsible for. Raises questions on health effects and radio/TV interference.

Symington, Gaye. “My Turn: Let’s talk about energy.” The Burlington Free Press. 18 Dec. 2005. Opinion Section, page 10C.

Imperfect tradeoffs must be addressed. Vermont needs to “get real.” Criticized formal discussion being used on only case-by-case basis, Vermonters need to become engaged.

Leverette, Annie. “My Turn: A beautiful ridgeline.” The Burlington Free Press. 18 Dec. 2005. Opinion Section, page 10C.

Vermont’s views are what draw tourists whether one is entitled to it or not. State would lose that source of income if wind power allowed. Author is surprised that her neighbor, a lifelong Vermonter, doesn’t notice the view. Defends family connection to Vermont although writer herself grew up out-of-state.

Rosenbloom, Eric. “Big wind wouldn’t reduce need for power.” Times Argus. 18 Dec. 2005. Perspective section.

Wind energy added to grid won’t change our energy use, or reduce the use of fossil fuels. There are no measurable benefits.

Associated Press. “Douglas reiterates opposition to industrial wind farms.” The Times Argus. 19 Dec. 2005. Local & Regional section.

Gov. Douglas specifically said he opposed the UPC Wind project. He supports small-scale wind towers and the East Haven project at its current size.

Editorial. “Slow down on wind; protect the ridge tops.” The Burlington Free Press. 19 Dec. 2005. Opinion section.

Governor convinced that large-scale wind power is not right for Vermont. Planning Board should listen to this. Surrounding towns see this as a regional issue not a town issue and should be addressed at a higher level.

McKeever, Andrew. "Manchester considers wind power proposals." Times Argus. 19 Dec. 2005. Local & Regional section.

Manchester is planning to vote at the March town meeting for a public opinion on the Little Equinox Mountain wind project and whether to hire advisors during Act 248 hearings. The town could also submit a petition. Town is holding public forums to provide information.

Rosengrant, Karl. "Wind turbines are positive symbols." The Burlington Free Press. 22 Dec. 2005. Page 7A, Reader's Forum.

Opponents see wind farms as an eyesore, ski areas can also be an eyesore but they are seen as symbol defining Vermont. Windfarms could gain that same symbolism if given a chance.

Grant, Walter. "Windmills preferred over ski trails." The Burlington Free Press. 22 Dec. 2005. Page 7A, Reader's Forum.

Personal preference for windmills over ski trails.

Various. "Asking tough questions about energy." The Burlington Free Press. December, 2005. Various letters.

David Anderson- alternatives not as attractive as wind energy, we should follow the example of other countries.

Anita Kelman- sick of Free Press's anti-wind editorials, people are overlooking environmental damages happening elsewhere to keep our society functioning, including in Vermont.

Walter Judge- Free Press's bias is showing in reporting as well as editorials. Real story is that the ANR and Dept. of Public Service are in conflict, not opinion.

Michael H. Lipson- Government should "speak with one voice" and the Free Press should find this important instead of sensationalizing conflict.

Julia Austin- Gov. Douglas has "zero credibility" when it comes to clean energy issues. Needs to get serious in Vermont before trying to impose on issues elsewhere, like International Paper's tire burning.

Vos, Francie Hersey. "Bald, blinking moaning ridges." The Burlington Free Press. 26 Dec. 2005. Readers' Forum.

The only people with the right to support wind energy are those who already have the structures in their lives and accepted them without being sold out. Reverse NIMBY people who are paid for their opinions don't have a right to be heard.

Schulz, Robert. "Searsburg shows wind not the answer." The Burlington Free Press. 26 Dec. 2005. Reader's Forum, page 5A.

Searsburg project shows that wind can only contribute a negligible amount of power to the grid. No reason to build new demonstration projects since Searsburg has already proved this point.

Brink, Damon. "Wind energy and the future of Vermont." 29 Dec. 2005. Forum section, page 9A.

Supports wind power on ridgelines, but thinks development should be done by in-state companies, and a moratorium put on out-of-state developers. We should own this change.

Letters to the Editor. The Burlington Free Press. 29 Dec. 2005.

Jeffrey Pascoe- UVM windmill a good idea but possibly has efficiency problems. UVM students could do study to improve it.

Greg Bryant- Counters Avram Patt's article. Vote in Sheffield not "comfortable" to him. Feels that only proponents represented in the paper are those who can gain financially from the government, like the developers etc.

2006- January

Christoffersen, John. "Debate swirls as wind farms grow." The Burlington Free Press. 2 Jan. 2005. Page 2A. Also in Times Argus 9 Jan. 2006.

National article on wind projects across country. Major criticism is making sure the public sees benefits from the switch and not costs, which should be seen by the industry. Conflict over wind power as a "national resource," and the areas being developed as intrinsic "national treasures." Texas in strong support of wind development.

Anonymous. "Glebe Mountain to reduce towers." The Burlington Free Press. 2 Jan. 2006. Local/Vermont section.

Glebe Mountain wind project to have longer blades and fewer towers, developers hoped opposition would approve but Glebe Mountain Group doesn't want any development at all.

Campoli, Gina. "Think of visual impact of turbines." The Burlington Free Press. 8 Jan. 2006. Letters to the Editor.

Not every ridge has same impact, some more dramatic than others. Views change as we move around and with the weather. Peaks are already developed. Wind power should be looked at with computer simulations and fieldwork, landscape architects, etc.

Schubart, Bill. "State must break logjam on wind." The Burlington Free Press. 8 Jan. 2006. Opinion Section, Free Press Writers Group.

Vermonters need to find a middle path in the wind debate. Both sides being hypocritical by continuing to consume while bashing alternatives. Current power poles have become part of our landscape, windmills would do the same.

Mckeever, Andrew. "Computer simulates ridgetop with turbines." Rutland Herald. 10 Jan. 2006.

Coverage of Manchester meeting. Cites presence of landscape architects including David Raphael. Praised computer simulations, which gave a clear view of what it would look like.

Letters to the Editor. The Burlington Free Press. 11 Jan. 2006.

Ethelyn Parizo- wind turbines better reason for mountaintop development than ski areas.

David Gratton- forests and mountaintops are already industrialized with logging, wind would fit there.

McKeever, Andrew. "Developer donates 203 acres on Mt. Equinox." Rutland Herald. 11 Jan. 2006. Southern Vermont section.

Rocking Stone Farm LLC is donating 203 acres along the ridgeline between Mt. Equinox and Little Equinox to the Nature Conservancy. Says it has nothing to do with wind farm. TNC will study the Indiana bat populations in the area. Nearby caves support wintering populations of the rare species.

Unknown date

Rheume, Patrick G. "Villagers oppose turbines." Bennington Banner.

The Manchester Planning Commission expects local-level impact data from Endless Energy Corp. in order to produce a recommendation to the state on the proposed Little Equinox Mountain wind project. Residents already understand the energy crisis argument but need more specific information.

Comments from Warren voters. Source unclear, Senator Bill Doyle?

Windmills should be approached creatively, designed to blend in. Majority approves windmills on VT ridgelines.

Ober, Lauren. "Poll examines quality of life." The Burlington Free Press. Date?

Vermonters place considerably less priority on preserving scenic views than in past years.

Sheffield specific

The Associated Press. "Mass. Developer proposes wind project in Sheffield." The Burlington Free Press. 26 June 2005. Page 4c.

UPC Wind defending their position with completed studies of wildlife effects, and visual impact studies by UPC experts and the state, which are yet to be completed. Sheffield concerned with financial gains the town will see. Developer Caffyn clashed with residents at public meeting.

The Associated Press. "Residents divided over wind proposal." The Burlington Free Press. 8 Oct. 2005. Page 3B.

Sheffield residents asking selectmen to reject UPC project. Others unsure, need more information, or see benefit of tax breaks.

Editorial. "Sheffield wind project faces stiff resistance." The Burlington Free Press. 9 Oct. 2005. Opinion section.

Opposition to wind project bringing together many parts of the community that are usually divided or even apathetic. UPC pulled out of a similar project in NH because of local opposition, perhaps will happen in this case. Governor even expressing opposition to projects of this size. King George School would close. Question of industrial development on ridgelines, not just wind turbines.

Associated Press. "Sheffield wind project ready for state permit." Times Argus. 10 Oct. 2005. Local & Regional section.

Town concerned about how much income will come from tax payments by the wind power company. If approved by the state, UPC Vermont Wind will build in 2007.

Editorial. "Wind turbine plan expands to Sutton." The Burlington Free Press. 11 Oct. 2005. Opinion section.

The town of Sutton was blindsided with UPC Wind Management's plan to apply for VT Public Service Board approval for wind farm construction. Feel it is wrong that the town's plan, already in effect, is being ignored. "Industrial wind turbines don't belong on Vermont's ridgelines."

Occaso, Carla. "Sutton panel opposes project." Times Argus. 19 Oct. 2005. Local & Regional section.

Opponents think wind turbines will "ruin the mountains." Proponents think that the area has been an "oil taker" so if it can contribute energy now, it should.

Brown, Brian. "Environmental group takes on environmentalists." Iburlington.com citizen journalist website. 23 Oct. 2005. <http://www.iburlington.com/article.php/ridgeprotectors>
 Criticizes Ridge Protectors' ad that ran in the Burlington Free Press because the link it listed to the group's nonworking website is hosted by an outside company when the group's major complaint is that the project is being done by outside developers. Systematically counters all facts as opinions.

Editorial. "Kingdom town opposes wind project." The Burlington Free Press. 23 Oct. 2005. Opinion section.

UPC Wind as well as the Vermont Public Service Board should listen to Sheffield and Sutton. Similar to October 9 editorial.

Occaso, Carla. "Kingdom residents blast wind energy in regional plan." Times Argus. 4 Nov. 2005. Local & Regional section.

Coverage of Northeastern Vermont Development Association's public hearing on the 2005 Regional Plan for the Northeast Kingdom. NVDA has supported wind power. Plan can be vetoed by town selectmen. Opponents want local economy to be primary consideration.

Occaso, Carla. "Sheffield wind developer hires PR firm to boost support." Times Argus. 15 Nov. 2005. Local & Regional section.

Calls UPC's partnership with Spike Advertising an attempt at "Madison Ave magic." Spike says their work has been to find and organize local supporters and help them spread the word. Hoping for a "yes" vote at the upcoming meeting.

Occaso, Carla. "Sheffield wind project presents latest plans." Times Argus. 18 Nov. 2005. Local & Regional section.

Update on Sheffield project from meeting between UPC and planning commission. All audience speakers were against and asked that UPC listen to the result of their vote.

Occaso, Carla. "Sheffield readies for wind farm vote." Times Argus. 28 Nov. 2005. Local & Regional section.

Public's opinion is just one factor in the debate. Opponents also worried about tourism, traffic- which UPC says it would address.

Editorial. "Town to have its say on wind development." The Burlington Free Press. 30 Nov. 2005. Opinion section.

Questions influence of upcoming Sheffield vote. Town select board would respect it, developers haven't said anything. Public Service Board would consider it in their decision.

Occaso, Carla. "Sheffield cozies up to wind." Times Argus. 2 Dec. 2005. Local & Regional section.

Sheffield votes for wind but not divided enough to sway the Public Service Board one way or another. The vote does give some sense of public opinion. Town is negotiating with a lawyer.

Rathke, Lisa. "Sheffield votes for wind farm." The Burlington Free Press. 2 Dec. 2005. Local/Vermont section.

Opponents worried about the message this vote sends about rural communities' opinion on large industrial projects. Believe it is a matter of scale, and this is one that is inappropriate for Vermont. Proponents hope it will make residents more energy conservation conscious and support renewable options.

Editorial. "Sheffield wind vote is a wake-up call. The Burlington Free Press. 5 Dec. 2005. Opinion section.

Sheffield vote for wind doesn't match petitions in opposition that were signed by more of the community's residents. Many more surrounding towns that don't receive tax benefits will be affected and weren't represented in vote.

Bryant, Greg. "Point/Counterpoint: Wind turbines on mountaintops- No to wind turbines." The Burlington Free Press. 11 Dec. 2005. Page 7C.

Thinks people need more information about the local economies that will be affected by the wind proposals. Specifically, the Sheffield decision clouds over the issues of low income in the area and low voter turnout.

Patt, Avram. "Point/Counterpoint: Wind turbines on mountaintops- Wind turbines would help co-op." The Burlington Free Press. 11 Dec. 2005. Page 7C.

Sheffield looked hard at the issue and made a good decision. Opponents need to get used to actually looking at where their energy comes from. Time for "real energy choices."

Occaso, Carla. "N.E. Kingdom lawmakers sound off against wind power." Times Argus. 12 Dec. 2005. Local & Regional section.

Area legislators are surprisingly against the project. Concerned with regional plan, NVDA agreed to remove support of wind energy from plan until further studies are done. Quotes six legislators who are in opposition.

LaRosa, Leila. "Sincere belief in wind power." The Burlington Free Press. 27 Dec. 2005. Letters to the Editor.

Stresses pro-wind advertising is actually information distribution with intent of residents making up their own minds, not "slick advertising."

Bryant, Greg. "Enormous wind towers a poor power choice." Times Argus. 1 Jan. 2006. Letters section.

Sheffield vote not representative. This development is targeting poor communities. Should renew hydro or switch light bulbs to fluorescent.

Associated Press. "Board rejects wind proposal." Times Argus. 6 Jan. 2006. Local & Regional.

Sheffield select board rejected UPC wind proposal, questions about money and terms of contract. Town says it needs legal advice.