



Cape Wind: Money, Celebrity, Energy, Class, Politics, and the Battle for Our Energy Future

By Robert Whitcomb, Wendy Williams

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When Jim Gordon set out to build a wind farm off the coast of Cape Cod, he knew some people might object. But there was a lot of merit in creating a privately funded, clean energy source for energy-starved New England, and he felt sure most people would recognize it eventually. Instead, all Hell broke loose. Gordon had unwittingly challenged the privileges of some of America's richest and most politically connected people, and they would fight him tooth and nail, no matter what it cost, and even when it made no sense.

Cape Wind is a rollicking tale of democracy in action and plutocracy in the raw as played out among colorful and glamorous characters on one of our country's most historic and renowned pieces of coastline. As steeped in American history and local color as *The Prince of Providence*; as biting, revealing and fun as *Philistines at the Hedgerow*, it is also a cautionary tale about how money can hijack democracy while America lags behind the rest of the developed world in adopting clean energy.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This well-reported assessment of democracy manipulated by powerful federal, state and local insiders, and other not-in-my-backyard shenanigans surrounding plans for a wind farm five miles off Cape Cod, is certainly upfront about its bias. Williams, a former journalist-in-residence at Duke University, and Whitcomb, editorial page editor of the *Providence Journal*, jauntily champion the cause of energy entrepreneur Jim Gordon's "bold idea" to plant 130 wind turbines in Nantucket Sound—a project still snared in a regulatory maze as this peppery account went to press. The authors decry what they call fear-mongering by Gordon's well-funded opponents (2005 contributions: \$3.3 million) and are particularly peeved by the obstructionism of Sen. Ted Kennedy, whose behind-the-scenes maneuvering is highlighted, as are the fulminations verging "on the incoherent" by environmentalist Robert Kennedy Jr.—normally an outspoken opponent of coal-powered energy generation and a vigorous supporter of alternative energy sources. The Kennedys' stubborn opposition is shared by such moneyed neighbors as Listerine heiress Bunny Mellon and coal, oil and gas magnate William Koch, who are depicted as plutocratic bullies in this rambunctious, unsparing dissection of ruling-class abuse. (May)

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Cape Cod is a place of celebrated beauty and blueblood history. For such powerful and wealthy families as the Kennedys and Mellons, the cape's beaches are a treasured sanctuary. But because Massachusetts' population has grown, the state's aging power grid is under enormous pressure. Enter Jim Gordon, an energy entrepreneur who believed he had the perfect solution: an offshore wind farm. His 2001 Cape Wind proposal shocked and enraged Cape Cod's elite, and so began an epic battle that pits privilege against the common good in a stunning exposure of NIMBY (not in my backyard) hypocrisy. Journalists Williams, who lives on Cape Cod, and Whitcomb, who has family ties to the area, do a bang-up job of chronicling Gordon's tenacity in the face of the brazen machinations of various politicians, especially Senator Edward Kennedy and then governor and current Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney. This true-life tale of a blinding love of place, outrageously irresponsible propaganda, shameful congressional maneuvering, and egregious social injustice is half farce, half political thriller, and altogether compelling. As the fight rages on, Cape Wind serves as a harbinger of future conflicts as we reluctantly consider alternatives to oil. *Donna Seaman*

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Review

"*Cape Wind* is a fun read, and a fun way to learn about renewable energy." -- *The American*, May 11, 2007

"*Cape Wind* is breezy and informative fun." -- *Weekly Standard*, May 14, 2007

"A genuine page-turner...The story as presented could not be more entertaining." -- *Boston Globe*, July 5

"Displaying their impressive combined investigative skills, Williams and Whitcomb unearth some real gems of quotes related to the wind-farm debate. Indeed, it is the authors' ability to cite so many names, dates, and events that give the book such solid ground... *Cape Wind* is an example of investigative journalism at its best." -- *Popmatters.com*, October 16, 2007

"It's a surprise when a book on environmental politics reads like a good whodunit or an exposé." -- *Working Waterfront*, May 2007

"The authors took a potentially dull subject and have turned it into an entertaining read... A crisply written, well-told story..." -- *Hartford Courant*, June 10, 2007

"The book is entertaining and reads at times like a novel, with suspense built in between the chapters." -- *Vineyard Gazette*, April 27, 2007

"[This story] seems to have everything... [A] delicious spectacle of self-described environmentalists...[It has] the ingredients for a first-rate politico-eco drama." -- *New York Times*, May 25, 2007

"[Williams and Whitcomb] gleefully lay out [the] story" and that the Cape Wind controversy is "a ripe subject." -- *Journal*, May 25, 2007

"a fascinating story in which a developer...is David, while Goliath is an alliance of fabulously wealthy summer people." -- *Providence Journal*, May 6, 2007

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mario Berry:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information presently can get by anyone with everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even a concern. What people must be consider if those information which is in the former life are challenging to be find than now could be taking seriously which one is suitable to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you have the unstable resource then you buy it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen inside you if you take Cape Wind: Money, Celebrity, Energy, Class, Politics, and the Battle for Our Energy Future as your daily resource information.

Debra Sudduth:

Reading a guide can be one of a lot of action that everyone in the world adores. Do you like reading book therefore. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoy it. First reading a publication will give you a lot of new details. When you read a book you will get new information because book is one of many ways to share the information or maybe their idea. Second, looking at a book will make an individual more imaginative. When you reading a book especially fictional book the author will bring you to definitely imagine the story how the character types do it anything. Third, you may share your knowledge to others. When you read this Cape Wind: Money, Celebrity, Energy, Class, Politics, and the Battle for Our Energy Future, it is possible to tells your family, friends and soon about yours e-book. Your knowledge can inspire the mediocre, make them reading a publication.

Martina White:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with friends is thing that usually

you may have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. One activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition of knowledge. Even you love Cape Wind: Money, Celebrity, Energy, Class, Politics, and the Battle for Our Energy Future, you can enjoy both. It is excellent combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout men. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Jessica Duncan:

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