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## 'Green Tape' Ties Up Energy Projects

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How can this be? Some environmental activists and their Not In My Backyard (NIMBY) allies—who should be the strongest “green” energy supporters of all—are using every resource at their disposal to block, delay, or cancel clean energy projects. They have organized local opposition, changed zoning laws, opposed permits, filed lawsuits, and bled projects dry of their financing. Call it “green tape” bureaucracy. Their efforts are undermining job creation and slowing the adoption of environmentally friendly energy technologies. They want the benefits of clean energy only if it doesn’t inconvenience anyone in any way!

To cut through green tape, the U.S. Chamber recently launched Project No Project, an interactive Web site highlighting the numerous energy projects that have been delayed or canceled due to unreasonable opposition. The site is designed to offer the truth about NIMBY and extreme environmental activism, make government leaders pay attention to this growing problem, and help put the nation’s energy program back on track.

The Web site highlights Cape Wind, the nation’s first proposed offshore wind farm planned for Nantucket Sound, Massachusetts.

This project can’t get off

the ground because of opposition from activist groups who argue, among other reasons, that local ocean views will be spoiled. At peak generation, Cape Wind could generate enough renewable electricity to power 420,000 homes.

Or consider the Chipmonk Wind Project in Allegany, New York. NIMBY opponents claim that “daytime shadow flicker,” created when the sun hits the turning rotors, creates a health hazard. Stories like these are all too common.

Clean energy offers a lifeline to America’s battered industrial sector, creating jobs and reasserting our nation’s leadership in innovation. These energy projects also offer a way to address climate change. Deploying nuclear, solar, wind, and other clean energy technologies will reduce carbon emissions while providing our economy with the fuel and power necessary to grow.

No one objects to a fair and timely process whereby projects are examined and the affected communities can be heard. But reasonableness and common sense must carry the day. The simple truth is that it takes too long to build almost anything in our country today—even clean, green, and renewable energy resources that create jobs, enhance our energy security, and improve our environment. It’s time for change!

To learn where and how our nation’s energy projects have been delayed or stopped, or to share your own stories about NIMBY, visit [www.projectnoproject.com](http://www.projectnoproject.com). Together, we can get these projects back on track, help our nation responsibly meet its energy needs, and spur a robust economic recovery.



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