

RUTGERS ENERGY INSTITUTE PRESENTS **TURBINES ON THE HORIZON: PUBLIC PERSPECTIVES ON OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY IN THE U.S.**

by **David Bidwell, PhD**

Assistant Professor in Marine Affairs, University of Rhode Island

BIO

Dr. David Bidwell is an assistant professor at the University of Rhode Island, who currently leads a project about “Capturing Wind Farm Attitudes on Block Island.” He is an environmental social scientist by training and recently served as the program manager of the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments Center (GLISA), a NOAA-funded collaboration of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. Professor Bidwell holds a PhD in Sociology from Michigan State University, also earning doctoral specialization in environmental science and policy. Dr. Bidwell served as an associate at the National Center for Environmental Decision Making, conducting case studies on habitat conservation planning under the Endangered Species Act. He also co-edited *Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region: Navigating an Uncertain Future*, a publication by eminent scholars on climate and decision making.

Professionally, Dr. Bidwell has worked as a facilitator and public participation consultant for clients including state agencies, the U.S. EPA, and the U.S. Department of Energy. Projects included community-scale planning processes, statewide environmental justice policy making, and the cleanup of contaminated sites. These experiences inform his current work on decision making under uncertainty and risk management. Dr. Bidwell has Research interests including, but not limited to: public acceptance of renewable energy technologies, public participation, environmental attitudes and decision making, and climate adaption.

ABSTRACT

In 2016, the first offshore wind farm in the United States, a 5-turbine development three miles off the coast of Block Island (Rhode Island), began producing electricity. This project bolstered the confidence of the U.S. offshore energy sector, which is now planning for hundreds of turbines along the Atlantic continental shelf. Although there is a robust social science literature on offshore wind energy in Europe, the Block Island Wind Farm serves as an important laboratory for understanding how the U.S. public will respond to offshore wind energy proposals and operations. Dr. David Bidwell will summarize what is known about public acceptance of offshore wind energy, give a snapshot of U.S. offshore developments, and report findings from studies of the Block Island Wind Farm, including surveys of Rhode Island residents and visitors and an assessment of tourism and recreation impacts.



WHEN
Friday,
November 30
10:45am – 11:45am

WHERE
Room 101
NJ Institute for Food,
Nutrition, and Health

rei.rutgers.edu

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<https://rudots.nupark.com/events/Events/Register/1526c6d0-92b9-498a-9d11-0cb2c6aa3612>

Visitors may park in Lots 97 & 98A.

Contact Preethy Thangaraj at p.thangaraj@rutgers.edu with any questions.