



A mid-October wind turns the blades on one of the three wind towers erected a few years ago as part of the Beaver Ridge project in the Waldo County town of Freedom. Apex Clean Energy of Charlottesville, Virginia is developing a 90-megawatt wind-energy project in western Washington County. (County Wide News Photo by Brian F. Swartz)

## Virginia company will invest \$100 million-plus in wind-power project

By Brian Swartz  
County Wide Free Press

**COLUMBIA** — Pending final approval by regulatory agencies, construction should start in 2018 on a 90-megawatt wind-power project in western Washington County.

The project, which will generate enough electricity to power 27,000 homes, represents a \$106 million investment in the region.

Being developed by Charlottesville, Virginia-based Apex Clean Energy, the project known as Downeast Wind would involve erecting 30 wind towers and connecting their turbines to the Emera Maine substation on the Station Road in Columbia. Each turbine could produce three megawatts of electricity.

Based on several factors (including favorable wind studies and proximity to existing electrical transmission lines), the wind turbines will be located on higher land north of Route 1 and east of Route 193.

"It's a premier site," said Paul Williamson, development manager for Apex Clean Energy. The terrain, which he described as a "higher plain geographically," catches the onshore coastal winds. Agriculture, in the form of blueberry barrens, dominates the existing use of the land, and "there are transmission lines that already run through the area," he said.

And a ready market exists for wind-generated electricity. "New England right now is one of the most competitive renewable energy markets" in the United States, Williamson noted.

According to Williamson, Apex Clean Energy is studying properties in Cherryfield, Columbia, and townships 18 and 19. No final site selection has been made; the company "will decide where to best site the turbines" to achieve cost- and -power production efficiency, he said.

Apex Clean Energy started looking at potential sites in the area in 2013. Voters in Cherryfield and Columbia enacted moratoriums on wind-energy projects to give each town time to develop wind-energy ordinances, and with these now in effect, development of Downeast Wind can proceed.

The project's timeline should take about three years. The tower sites under consideration have "as little environmental impact as possible while generating clean energy," Williamson said. The related environmental permitting will continue while scientific studies focus on bird migrations, locations of wetlands, wildlife habitats, and other environmental concerns.

According to Williamson, Apex Clean Energy plans to submit a full application to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in June 2017. The DEP could take six-to-nine months to respond, he indicated.

Construction should start in 2018; Downeast Wind should become fully operational in 2019 at the latest. "We might consider doing a

winter construction on this project," Williamson said.

Founded in 2009, Apex Clean Energy has "projects all over the country right now," said Cat Strumlauf, public affairs associate with the company. Of Apex projects under way in 25 of the 48 continental states, Downeast Wind is the only one in New England.

The wind towers currently proposed for Downeast Wind will be approximately 80 meters (262 feet) tall, and each turbine blade will be about 50-60 meters (164-197 feet) in length. Each turbine will have three such blades. A Spanish company will supply the turbines; the towers and blades could come from American or Canadian manufacturers.

"The turbine models are typically picked based on the wind characteristics of the site," said Williamson.

According to Williamson, the power lines from each turbine will run underground to a small substation at the Downeast Wind site; above-ground power lines approximately three miles in length will connect that substation to the power grid via the existing Station Road substation, which has one unused bay.

Apex Clean Energy "will be selling the power into the Maine grid" and "has a term sheet with the [Maine] Public Utilities Commission," Williamson said. "This is the first step prior to the contract" for selling power in the state.

Apex Clean Energy is working with local landowners who will lease land for the wind towers. The company plans to hire as many local businesses as possible for the construction phase of Downeast Wind.

"A lot of the ground work and the preparatory work can be done by local contractors," said Charles Rudelitch, executive director of the Machias-based Sunrise County Economic Council. Its board of directors "voted to support" Downeast Wind "primarily based on the permanent jobs, the property-tax revenue, the lease payments ... [and] the economic impact of the construction jobs," Rudelitch noted.

When completed, the project will employ six full-time turbine technicians.

Downeast Wind has received "really positive feedback" from many local business owners, government officials, and residents, Williamson said. The wind-tower sites under review are located on relatively remote terrain, several miles from busy Route 1, and between landowner leases, construction activity, and tax revenue produced by Downeast Wind's projected 30-year lifespan, many people realize that the project will be "very beneficial" for Washington County, Williamson said.

"I'm glad they want to invest in Washington County," Rudelitch said. "It is the only proposal I know of at this stage and of their scale in coastal Washington County. The whole region will benefit."



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## AOS 96 Cross Country Championship at Machias

### Girls Grade 3-5 1 mile course

Top ten		
Leyla Wright	Bay Ridge School	6:59
Iris Johnson	Elm Street School	7:17
Kellan Scwinn	Rose M. Gaffney	7:34
Jolan Look	Rose M. Gaffney	7:42
Chloe Kilton	Rose M. Gaffney	7:43
Sydney Anderson	Elm Street School	7:46
Audry Faulkingham	Bay Ridge School	7:52
Reese Crosman	Bay Ridge School	7:55
Presley Day	Rose M. Gaffney	7:57
Payge Beal	Rose M. Gaffney	8:00
Team Champion	Rose M. Gaffney	

### Boys Grade 3-5 1 mile course

Top ten		
Clay Crosman	Bay Ridge School	6:44
Caden Schwinn	Rose M. Gaffney	6:48
Colton Whitney	Rose M. Gaffney	6:49
Ryan Schoppee	Elm Street School	6:53
Luke Ingalls	Rose M. Gaffney	6:59
Dylan Parker	Rose M. Gaffney	7:01
Neaven Little	Jonesboro Elementary	7:02
Max Cates	Bay Ridge School	7:02
Tyler Alley	Jonesboro Elementary	7:11
Sethlen Lester	Rose M. Gaffney	7:12
Team Champion	Rose M. Gaffney	

### Girls Grade 6-8 1.5 mile course

Top ten		
Ashlyn Dinsmore	Lubec Elementary	11:10
Jaydin Anderson	Rose M. Gaffney	11:11
Raeannah Reynolds	Bay Ridge School	11:29
Marissa Cates	Bay Ridge School	12:02
Summer Sizemore	Lubec Elementary	12:14
Isabel Cates	Bay Ridge School	12:17
Caitlyn Link	Fort O'Brien School	12:21
Hadlee Renolds	Elm Street School	12:24
Kailee Parker	Rose M. Gaffney	12:26
Kyla Townsend	Elm Street School	12:28
Team Champion	Bay Ridge School	

### Boys Grade 6-8 1.5 mile course

Top ten		
Hayden Farrell	Lubec Elementary	9:14
Ethan Libby	Rose M. Gaffney	9:34
Evan Ackley	Elm Street School	9:52
Tristan Hicks	Jonesboro Elementary	10:06
Ethan Graham	Jonesboro Elementary	10:34
Ethan Hicks	Jonesboro elementary	10:40
Leif McKenna	Rose M. Gaffney	10:44
Mavon Look	Elm Street School	11:26
Matt Gardner	Jonesboro Elementary	12:00
Derek Keeton	Elm Street School	12:10
Team Champion	Jonesboro Elementary	

**From:** Cat Mosley  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 11, 2016 10:49 AM  
**To:** countywidenews@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Media Advisory: Apex Clean Energy's Downeast Wind Office Opening Set for Tuesday, May 17, 4:00–6:30 p.m.

## **Downeast Wind, LLC**

### **Washington County, Maine**

#### **Media Advisory**

**Apex Clean Energy's Downeast Wind Office Opening Set for  
Tuesday, May 17, 4:00–6:30 p.m.**

**Who:** Downeast Wind, a Project of Apex Clean Energy  
**What:** Office Opening  
**When:** Tuesday, May 17, 4:00–6:30 p.m.  
**Where:** 366 U.S. Highway, Suite 4  
Columbia, ME 04623

Downeast Wind, a project of Apex Clean Energy, opens its doors to the public on Tuesday, May 17, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. at 366 U.S. Highway, Suite 4, in Columbia, Maine. Light refreshments will be served, and the public is invited to meet the staff and learn more about the project.

#### **About Downeast Wind**

Downeast Wind is a utility-scale wind energy project that is expected to generate 90 to 150 megawatts of clean, homegrown energy. Local wind monitoring confirms that the area under consideration is ideal for a project of this size, which will produce enough safe, pollution-free energy to power approximately 45,000 U.S. homes. Located in rural Washington County, construction is expected to begin as soon as summer 2018. For more information, visit [www.downeastwindfarm.com](http://www.downeastwindfarm.com).

#### **About Apex**

Apex Clean Energy builds, owns, and operates utility-scale wind and solar power facilities. Last year, Apex completed 1,042 megawatts of new wind capacity, enough clean energy to supply the population of a city the size of Boston or San Francisco each year for the life of the project.

With a team of over 200 professionals and the nation's largest wind energy project pipeline, Apex is a leader in the transition to a clean energy future. For more information, visit [www.apexcleanenergy.com](http://www.apexcleanenergy.com).

#### **Downeast Wind Media Contact**