



# The RESOLVE Reporter

27 Years of Results through Consensus

Untangle Problems Using  
the RESOLVE Model.

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## Welcome...

When I first studied peace and conflict resolution in the 1970s, I learned how mediators with backgrounds ranging from labor and racial conflict to Peace Corps and community-building applied their skills to resolving environmental impasses. Many were connecting with a growing number of local collaboratives and partnerships, a flourishing phenomenon led by ordinary people concerned about the health of their cities, rivers, lakes, forests and landscapes.

Last summer, I had a rare opportunity to meet many such leaders at the fourth-ever White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation. The first such conference, convened by Teddy Roosevelt in 1908, set a 40-year course for conservation in the United States. This year's theme was "Strengthening shared governance and citizen stewardship."

Initially invited to organize a break-out session on incorporating science and technical information into collaborative work, I soon found myself immersed in the work of incredible partnerships like the one formed by the Philadelphia Horticultural Society, city agencies, the University of Philadelphia, and the citizen group Philadelphia Green to inventory and reclaim abandoned vacant lots within the city. Other collaborative conservation efforts included: a joint initiative by federal, state and local governments and the private and non-profit sectors to improve the Detroit River and surrounding areas; the Central Texas Sustainability Partnership, in which ranchers and the military are working to restore habitat on private range land at Fort Hood; and a Montana watershed group of private landowners and public agencies collaborating to keep large landscapes and rural lifestyles intact.

In her opening remarks to the White House Conference, Interior Secretary Gale Norton called for a new chapter built on "communication, consultation, and cooperation in the name of conservation." The rest of this e-newsletter highlights the work of various efforts to meet this challenge. We hope that, like the nearly 1500 White House Conference participants, you too will discover useful approaches, develop new contacts, and become energized in your collaborative leadership efforts.

-- *Juliana Birkhoff*, Senior Mediator, D.C. Office, RESOLVE

## Upcoming Events

### Community-Based Collaboratives Research Consortium.

A group of researchers, mediators and facilitators, community collaborative groups, environmental organizations and agencies interested in the controversies over the impact of community-based collaborative groups upon the management of local natural resources. Conference Nov. 17-19, 2005. [www.cbcr.org](http://www.cbcr.org)

### Water Environment Federation.

Focused on point and non-point sources of pollution, along with water quality and wastewater management practices, science, practice, regulation, public health, and education, WEF's annual conference is Oct. 29 - Nov. 2, 2005 and will cover "Watershed Management Issues," including sustainability, permitting and stakeholder collaboration. [www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org)

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Senior RESOLVE Mediator to work from Utah: One of our Senior Mediators in the Portland, Oregon office, Paul De Morgan, will now be spending a significant amount of time working out of Logan, Utah. He will continue to work on projects throughout the West and beyond. Contact: Paul DeMorgan

## Recent Results

### Offshore Wind Collaborative Proposes an Agenda for Addressing Issues Critical to Deep-water Wind Energy Development

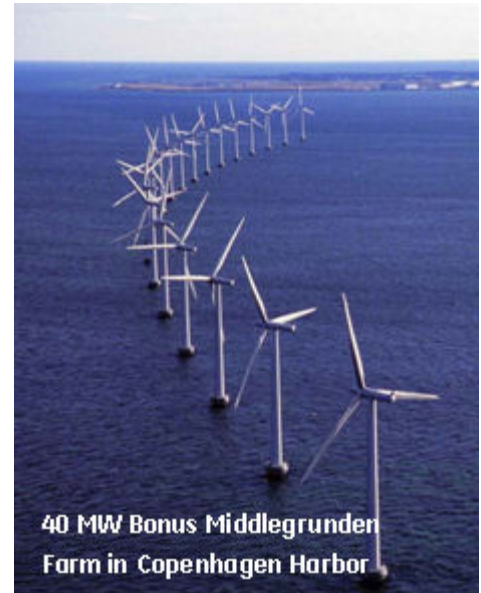
Offshore wind energy has the potential to generate significant amounts of renewable electric power where it is needed most, in the United States' densely populated coastal zones. However, developing the deep-water wind energy resource in a responsible manner poses a complex set of challenges.

To address these challenges, General Electric (GE), the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC), and the US Department of Energy (US DOE) have collaborated to produce A Framework for Offshore Wind Energy Development in the United States. Developed with input from 60 interested parties and the help of a RESOLVE-led team, the Framework proposes an integrated set of strategies aimed at addressing the issues critical to developing wind energy in deep water (beyond 5 miles offshore) as a commercially, politically, socially, economically and environmentally sustainable energy resource.

In 2002, a developer's proposal to construct 130 wind turbines in Nantucket Sound generated a high-profile public controversy in Massachusetts. Both GE, which had been selected to design turbines for the Cape Wind project, and MTC, which administers the state's renewable energy trust fund, had reason to be concerned. MTC set up a series of public meetings to ensure that the public got good information to participate in the permitting process. "We wanted to make sure the project either happened or didn't happen for legitimate reasons," explains MTC Vice President for Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy Greg Watson.

At the same time, GE sent a high-level delegation to the Massachusetts State House to urge policy-makers to look beyond the public controversy over Cape Wind. "We wanted to send a message that wind in the Northeast is bigger than any one project," says GE Advanced Technology Leader Jim Lyons. "If [offshore wind] is developed wisely, it could create a lot of jobs." Follow-up meetings between GE and MTC suggested an opportunity for collaboration. "We wanted to get every issue on the table and get the right people come to the table - to create a legitimate process from the start," says Greg Watson.

While Europe has led the way in developing offshore wind energy to date, DOE's Wind and Hydropower Technologies Program Director



## How do you know when you need a mediator?

Visit RESOLVE's website to find out how to determine if mediation assistance is right for you.

Peter Goldman sees an opportunity for the US to take a leadership role in deep-water wind energy development. "Offshore wind is in its technological infancy," adds GE's Lyons. "There are 5 Gigawatts of wind energy off the shore of Long Island alone - out of sight of shore, outside of shipping lanes."

**For more information about the Offshore Wind Collaborative contact: [Abby Arnold](#)**

Photo Courtesy of GE Electric

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## Keep an Eye On

### **Community-Based Collaborative Research Consortium**

Since its inception in 1999, the Community Based Collaborative Research Consortium (CBCRC) has organized four workshops and funded nine participatory action research projects aimed at building understanding among local, regional, and national interests, and among community practitioners, agency managers, and analysts. The work of the Consortium will culminate in a national workshop to be held at the end of this year, and a book, edited by RESOLVE's Juliana Birkhoff, synthesizing what the CBCRC has learned about the human and natural dynamics of collaboration concerning community environmental resources. For more information, see <http://www.cbrc.org/about.html>.

### **American Bar Section on Dispute Resolution Establishes Hurricane Working Group**

In response to Hurricane Katrina, The American Bar Association's Section on Dispute Resolution has established a small working group to explore opportunities for Section members to become involved in pro bono as well as entrepreneurial efforts to aid hurricane survivors. See: <http://www.abanet.org/dispute/katrina.html>. To assist in gathering ideas for a plan of action, the Section has established a listserv: [DRDISASTERRELIEF@MAIL.ABANET.ORG](mailto:DRDISASTERRELIEF@MAIL.ABANET.ORG). To subscribe to this listserv, send the message "subscribe drdisasterrelief" to [listserv@mail.abanet.org](mailto:listserv@mail.abanet.org).

### **FEMA Hiring Mediators After Katrina**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has posted announcements for highly qualified "Conflict Resolution Specialists" and "Alternative Dispute Resolution Attorneys" to join a special ADR team to assist in disaster response and recovery. A total of 25 positions will be filled. This has been put on the fast track: closing date for these positions is Monday, October 10, 2005. For Conflict and Resolution Specialists (non-attorneys): [http://www.fema.gov/career/get\\_desc.jsp?id=10805](http://www.fema.gov/career/get_desc.jsp?id=10805). For ADR Attorneys: [http://www.fema.gov/career/get\\_desc.jsp?id=10806](http://www.fema.gov/career/get_desc.jsp?id=10806)

### **Model Conduct for Mediators Updated**

The American Bar Association's Section on Dispute Resolution has updated its Model Conduct for Mediators from 1994.

# RESOLVE, Inc.

**Washington DC Office**  
1255 23rd Street , NW  
Suite 275  
Washington, DC 20037  
(202) 944-2300

**Portland Office**  
720 SW Washington Street  
Suite 710  
Portland, OR 97205  
(503) 228-8350

**Email:**  
[resolvereporter@resolv.org](mailto:resolvereporter@resolv.org)

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.resolv.org](http://www.resolv.org)

## New and Notable

### **Collaborating to Clean Up the Anacostia River**

Running through Southeast Washington, DC to meet the Potomac at the Washington Naval Station, the Anacostia is an extremely polluted urban river. Disparate efforts by local organizations to clean up the river have been hampered by the fact that it spans four jurisdictions (Washington, DC, the State of Maryland, Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties) and involves multiple federal property owners. Marci DuPraw of RESOLVE collaborated with Don Edwards of Justice and Sustainability Associates (JSA) to interview stakeholders and develop recommendations for how to leverage the variety of good efforts underway to clean up the river and modify watershed management practices to protect the river. Drawing on DuPraw's natural resource background and Edwards' familiarity with local community development efforts, the team presented preliminary recommendations to interviewees and other interested parties at the end of June. A transition team met for the first time on September 7 to begin shepherding the recommendations into fruition.

**Contact:** [Marci DuPraw](#)

### **Oregon State Forests Advisory Committee Dialogue:**

The Oregon Department of Forestry asked RESOLVE to facilitate a new dialogue process for the State Forests Advisory Committee meetings. Based on the "Multi Stakeholder Dialogue" model utilized by the United Nations, the intent of the issue-specific dialogues is to improve the communication between committee members and provide input to the Oregon Board of Forestry on policy matters.

**Contact:** [Rob Williams](#)

### **National Network of the Community Land Trust:**

RESOLVE and the Consensus-Building Institute will co-facilitate a 200-person meeting to establish a new National Network of the Community Land Trust, complete with an interim Board of Directors.

**Contact:** [Rob Williams](#)

### **Involving the Public in Land Management Planning:**

As part of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)'s process of revising six Resource Management Plans in Western Oregon, RESOLVE is conducting an independent assessment of the interests and concerns of stakeholders and soliciting ideas on how to involve the public. The results of the assessment will be used to shape public involvement elements of the Western Oregon Plan revision effort. RESOLVE's partners in this effort are the Public Policy Research Institute at the University of Montana and the Consensus-Building Institute.

**Contact:** [Paul De Morgan](#)

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## Contact Us

We welcome your feedback. Email us at [resolvereporter@resolv.org](mailto:resolvereporter@resolv.org).