

Out of the Birdbath Into the World: Franciscan Campaign for Clean Energy in Maryland



“Preach the Gospel always, use words if necessary.”
— St. Francis of Assisi

In the Gospel of Mark, we read that Jesus Christ has commissioned his followers to, “go into all the world and proclaim the good news to all creation.” (Mark 16:15). In the world that is imperiled by over-consumption, unsustainable patterns of behavior, and the global climate change, we are called to safeguard life on our planet and champion new, creative solutions to problems that beset us.

As Marylanders and the Franciscan hearted people who are inspired by St. Francis of Assisi - the Patron Saint of Ecology - we can assist with the transition from our costly reliance on the dirty, fossil fuels to a more sustainable, green energy. The MD Offshore Wind Energy initiative proposed by Governor O’Malley is an important step in that direction.

Offshore wind power means cleaner air, less climate pollution, healthier communities, thousands of new jobs, and clean domestic energy for Maryland families.

Given the value of stable energy prices, a relatively small increase in our electric bills for clean, offshore wind is more than worth the investment. What else will we gain? We’ll save money over the long-term, protect the health and life of our children and of the future generations, and help avert the dire consequences of global climate change that disproportionately impacts the poor and most vulnerable people in our country and around the world.

The Franciscan tradition as well as extensive teachings of the bishops and the popes on the environmental justice make it eminently clear the urgent need to call for the “ecological conversion” and for supporting initiatives that would put us on a more sustainable path.

We also draw inspiration from the Vatican, which has already achieved a status of the “carbon neutral state,” made possible by its investments in extensive solar panels and re-forestation efforts.

Please, learn more about the offshore wind power. You can access the background material and **TAKE ACTION** at: www.marylandoffshorewind.org.

Peace and all good,
Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, OFM

P.S. (To see photos from the past, local actions by FAN’s members in regard to offshore wind energy [go to their Flickr page](#).)