

LEF Winter 2022 Newsletter Update on Wind Turbines in Lake Erie

Icebreaker Wind Inc, a subsidiary of Fred Olsen Renewables of Norway, has been granted approval (with conditions) from the State of Ohio to build six 490 foot tall wind turbines approximately 9 miles northwest of Cleveland's shoreline.

The project will cost \$173 million to generate 20 MW of electricity, which is about \$137 million more than the cost to generate 20 MW via onshore wind turbines. The foreign wind developer stands to profit from U.S. subsidies in the form of \$50 million in federal grants, plus reductions in their corporate taxes through multiple tax credits.

Lake Erie Foundation (LEF) supports the pursuit of clean and renewable energy. However, LEF is opposed to the Icebreaker wind turbine project due to potential long-term impacts on Lake Erie. Critical environmental studies have been bypassed by the federal government. The economic impact and job creation claims appear to be overstated by the developers who have a financial interest in the project's completion.

Lake Erie Foundation Board President Jim Stouffer has published letters in the Cleveland Plain Dealer as well as Crain's Cleveland Business, detailing LEF's position. LEF Board members have contacted many Ohio legislators, outlining LEF's reasons for concern about the Icebreaker project.

LEF has also filed an Amicus Brief in federal court, supporting American Bird Conservancy and Black Swamp Bird Observatory's lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The suit focuses on the agencies' failure to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and

Clean Water Act, during their evaluation of environmental impacts of the Icebreaker project.

The Ohio Supreme Court recently heard oral arguments in a suit brought against the State of Ohio by Bratenahl residents Susan Dempsey and Bob Maloney. Their lawyer stated, "we were repeatedly reminded of all the studies that Icebreaker has submitted," "yet there has been no collection of that data at the project site." The court is expected to rule in early 2022.

Icebreaker's proponents have been lobbying Ohio legislators to provide state funding. But Ohio state Rep. D.J. Swearingen of Huron says that he is "vehemently" opposed to providing state money to fund Icebreaker. "This inefficient project would jeopardize not only the ecology of the lake but would also directly threaten the culture and local economy that exists on Lake Erie and is enjoyed by so many throughout and beyond the borders of our state," Swearingen said in a statement announcing his opposition.

"If this pilot program for Project Icebreaker cannot be funded without the assistance of a ratepayer subsidy, then how can the entire project, which includes an additional plan of 1,500 windmills, possibly be successful without further subsidies? I vehemently oppose this request," he said.

This story is certainly not over and further updates will be available on LEF's website, [LakeErieFoundation.org](https://www.LakeErieFoundation.org).

Your Membership Matters

Lake Erie is facing serious challenges - now more than ever! Lake Erie Foundation is honored to be your voice in our work to address the problems affecting the health of Lake Erie.

We cannot express our gratitude enough for the support we have received from our members, donors, and business sponsors to focus on these challenges. Because of your support, LEF operates effectively in collaboration with our legislators, scientists, organizational partners, universities, and farming community to tackle these challenges directly. You can read, that in 2022 we have identified three priority issues where LEF will increase its efforts and resources in correcting the source of these detrimental effects. Harmful algal blooms, plastics and microplastics, and the Icebreaker Project for wind turbines in Lake Erie are at the forefront of our work. Memberships, business sponsorships, and donations provide the necessary funds to keep us actively advocating for accountable progress in reducing these damaging environmental impacts.

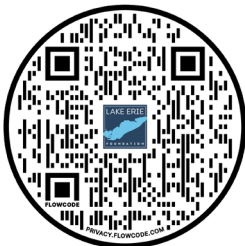
To better serve our members, we have created a membership survey. If you are not a current member, we welcome your input. Please take a moment to complete this survey and help us improve our organization's impact and engagement with you:

[LakeErieFoundation.org/Survey](https://www.LakeErieFoundation.org/Survey)

Your membership matters for the residents, communities, and businesses throughout Ohio that rely on Lake Erie for their livelihood, their enjoyment, and their quality of life.

Join us today! [Go to LakeErieFoundation.org/Join-LEF](https://www.LakeErieFoundation.org/Join-LEF)

or scan the code here.



Lake Erie Foundation Continues Focus on Microplastics

I can still vividly remember the famous movie scene when a salesman whispers, "I have one word for you... plastics". It was in the 1967 movie The Graduate, when young Ben Braddock (Dustin Hoffman) is told, "There's a great future in plastics."

"Boy, did we blow it" wrote Wendy Reichenbach (a CAS scientist) in a recent letter to the Columbus Dispatch. "We're on our way to being engulfed in plastic" wrote Roger Kussow (Geochemistry PHD University of Missouri Columbia), on the accumulation of plastics in our environment. Plastics are on our minds and overwhelming our landfills. They have a useful place in our daily lives, but the over-abundance of single-use plastics is creating a rapidly approaching but avoidable environmental crisis.

Thankfully we have people like Dr. Sherri Mason advising us on the critical nature of microplastics and how they are affecting every aspect of our daily lives. Dr. Mason is a professor of chemistry and a leading researcher in freshwater plastic pollution from Penn State Behrend College. Last year she consulted with students from Case Western Reserve University on a project focused on educating people about the dangers of microplastics.

The work of these students and Dr. Mason was incorporated into a video that explains the challenges and what each and every one of us can do to be part of the solution. Please take some time to view the video on the LEF website:

[LakeErieFoundation.org/Issues/Plastic-Contaminations](https://www.LakeErieFoundation.org/Issues/Plastic-Contaminations)



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Join LEF Today

Become a member of Lake Erie Foundation (LEF) and help us restore and protect Lake Erie for generations to come. Your tax-deductible contribution will help LEF work to ensure that Lake Erie's waters are safe for drinking, fishing and swimming. Your support makes our efforts for advocating, educating, supporting innovative technology development, and legal defense a possibility. For more information regarding membership, visit LEF's website at www.LakeErieFoundation.org or call 419-301-3743.

In the video you'll learn that we have only touched the surface on the complexity and under-told story of microplastics. It is in our drinking water and food supply, and is directly affecting our health. A recent MLive article pointed out that detectable levels of BFAS and other forms of plastic were measured by the EPA in seasonal rainfall. (search "raining pfas" at MLive.com).

The constant addition of these plastics to Lake Erie, whether intentional or accidental, is extremely concerning. Surveys show there is a strong public interest in curbing our reliance on single-use plastics, however data indicates we are presently only recycling about 8% of plastics.

With no current requirements of the manufacturing industry to recycle their plastic parts, devices, and containers, we are heading towards an overload in the Lake Erie biosphere.

LEF is actively involved in efforts to educate the public about this critical issue. Check the LEF website [LakeErieFoundation.org](https://www.LakeErieFoundation.org) for news of other events we will be at to continue focusing attention on microplastic dangers. Lake Erie Foundation urges all of us to take an active role and "reduce, reuse, and recycle"!

By Peter Huston, Lake Erie Foundation Board Member



From the President

I'm pleased to report that 2021 was a productive year for Lake Erie Foundation (LEF). We are excited to announce Paul Klein from Great Lakes Publishing and nuclear energy expert David Amerine to our Board of Directors. We also added Dr. Sherri A. Mason, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College as an advisor to our Board regarding microplastics. From outreach events including the April Catawba Island Boat Show at Catawba Island Club, the July 2021 All Washed Up event in Vermilion, the November Scubas and Shipwrecks to name a few, to advocacy, to spreading our mission, adding to our membership; LEF made a noticeable impact in preserving and protecting Lake Erie!

In August we welcomed our first Director of Development – Kate Burke. Kate has a successful and knowledgeable background in development and we are excited to have her on board!

LEF has stated, and firmly believes, there can be a clean Lake Erie while still allowing for profitable farming. We continue to communicate with key players discussing the importance of addressing the management of manure on Ohio's animal farms. Based on sound research and science, LEF has consistently taken the position that all nutrients, whether from commercial fertilizer or manure should be applied at the agronomic rate; the amount of nutrients to successfully grow a crop. We recognize these standards are potentially more difficult and costly for livestock farmers. Accordingly, we want to utilize available funds and resources to determine what is required to assist these animal farms to transport and/or manage their manure more effectively. Lake Erie Foundation continues to work to help innovators transform manure into usable products for farmers.

LEF worked with key legislators and several universities in Ohio, including Ohio State University, to obtain federal funding and also funding as a part of the 2022 H2Ohio budget for a pilot program in a sub-watershed in northwest Ohio. This pilot will help determine which agriculture practices have an impact improving water quality. Farmers will be encouraged to implement phosphorus reducing runoff practices and Heidelberg University will measure water quality downstream of these farms.

LEF continues to educate and create awareness of LeedCo's wind turbine project. LEF also filed an amicus brief (which has been accepted by the Court) in Federal Court in the District of Columbia to support a lawsuit filed by American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and Black Swamp Bird Observatory against the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This lawsuit continues to move its way through the Court and we are hopeful that at the very minimum an Environmental Impact Study will be required before this project goes forward. To be clear, LEF is in favor of renewable energy; however, we feel that there are many questions that should be answered by LeedCo, the group initiating the project, before wind turbines are built on Lake Erie.

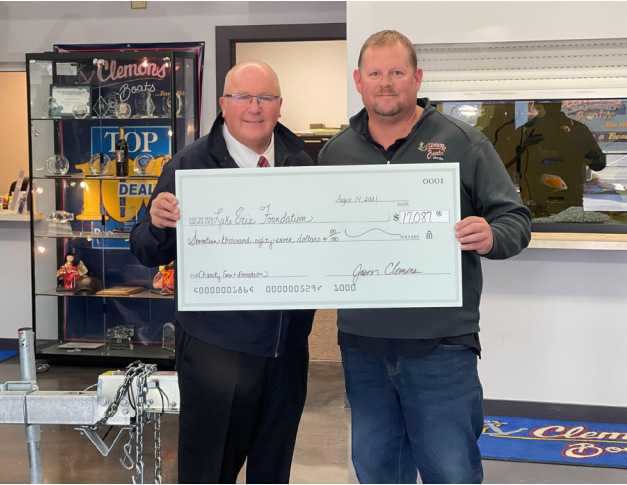
In closing, my sincerest thanks to all LEF members, donors and volunteers for your contributions to our critical mission. Because of your support, we continue to make a noticeable difference in preserving and protecting Lake Erie. Through knowledge, communication and mutual respect, the mission of keeping our beautiful natural resource secure for generations to come is possible. Thank you for your help and support...all the best in the new year!

Jim Stouffer, Jr.

President, Lake Erie Foundation



Jason Clemons and Clemons Boats



We are thrilled to have Jason Clemons and Clemons Boats as our friend and strong supporter. Jason presented a \$17,087 check to the Lake Erie Foundation Board President Jim Stouffer. Jason raised these funds during Clemons Boats annual customer appreciation and charity event in August 2021. Thank you Jason and customers of Clemons Boats! See you at the CLE Boat Show and on Lake Erie in 2022!



Tributes

Lake Erie Foundation Board and Staff share these gifts in memory and honor of family members, loved ones, and special people. These donations affirm the love and lasting memories created by Lake Erie to these special people.

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