

# Imagining Tomorrow: Alternate Energy Futures™

## A Short Story Contest for Massachusetts High-school Students

Presented by NESEA  Northeast Sustainable Energy Association

### *About the Author* – Amanda Bennett, “Keredy's Cape Cod”



Amanda J. Bennett is 13, and an eighth grader - she entered the contest anyway.

She writes: “I am now 14 and live in Sunderland, Massachusetts, a little town on the banks of the Connecticut River. I attended Frontier Regional Middle School and will be going to Deerfield Academy next year for ninth grade. My favorite studies are music, math, history, and literature. I have had wonderful teachers in all of those subjects.

. . . I had a great time at the Genzyme building for the awards reception, and it was nice to meet so many intelligent people and read their wonderful stories.”

In her afterward, Amanda says:

“This story was inspired when I saw a newspaper article and read it. It was in the Greenfield Recorder on Tuesday, April 25. The subject matter was Senator Kennedy’s and Senator Kerry’s views on windmills on Cape Cod. They both disapproved of building turbines, because of the tourism industry. I followed the story on Wednesday and Thursday (today), sadly reading that the windmills were most likely going to fall through. This inspired me to raise awareness of the issue, and I recalled this contest which I had read about in another newspaper over the weekend.

I quickly researched the topic of windmills. Among the things I learned was that New York allowed wind farms, that Atlantic salmon populations were in danger, and that if CO2 emissions were not reduced, global warming would continue to heat up the globe like a greenhouse. The glaciers would melt and oceans *would* rise. This scared me. I had to do something to tell people about this future.

I hope that this story will show people that sometimes they need to consider their government elections very carefully and speak out against lobbying. Sometimes it might take more than protests, and the people must be willing to do whatever it takes. Otherwise, as in the story, bad things could happen. This story is not meant to degrade Congress or any political figures. My apologies if it offended you. Its true purpose was to teach the lesson of conservation and the benefits of a healthy Earth.”