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METACOMET RIDGE

## Middletown, Middlefield Proposing Committee On Wind Farm Project

By MONICA POLANCO  
 The Hartford Courant  
*August 8, 2009*

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Officials in [Middletown](#) and [Middlefield](#) who want to build a joint wind farm expect to create an ad hoc committee to find out whether there is enough natural energy along the Metacomet Ridge to sustain the project.

Middlefield First Selectman Jon Brayshaw and Middletown Mayor Sebastian Giuliano began discussing the project in June and have drawn up a memorandum of agreement. They've asked volunteer consultants to begin preliminary studies on the wind patterns and speeds along the ridge.

Brayshaw and Giuliano are proposing to build what would be the Metacomet Wind Farm behind the ridge line that extends north from Powder Ridge in Middlefield to Middletown's watershed on Mount Higby, which is also in Middlefield, according to the memorandum of agreement.

If the wind study shows that there's not enough energy to sustain the project, Brayshaw and Giuliano said that they would end the initiative.

"This is not a fait accompli," Brayshaw said. "It's a huge undertaking, and it has many detours and many different trails you have to follow."

Still, Brayshaw said he's excited about the possibility. Officials in Middlefield have been meeting every Monday for the past two months and hope to create a steering committee with Middletown soon. Brayshaw also said that the wind farm would not be built along the ridge, which is legally protected from such a development, and that a yearlong wind study would also be required before the towns could move forward with the initiative.

Giuliano said that Middletown is well positioned to work on the project because its watershed is in Middlefield. The property, he said, is near a [Connecticut Light & Power](#) transmission line, and does not have homes on it.

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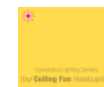
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Mon	Tue	Wed
<b>89   71</b>	<b>85   63</b>	<b>85   63</b>
Chance of T-storms	Chance of T-storms	Mostly Cloudy

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