

Join Hands Across the Sand on June 26 Against Offshore Oil Drilling Local Climate Group to attend event at King's Beach in Lynn

Wakefield Climate Action Project (WCAP) encourages all local residents to join WCAP members and friends in attending a Hands Across the Sand gathering at King's Beach on Lynn Shore Drive on the Lynn/Swampscott line on June 26.

On this day, Americans and the people of the world will join hands on beaches, as well as at parks and in cities to raise awareness of the dangers that offshore oil drilling present to our oceans and marine wildlife, fishing industries and coastal economies. As of June 21, close to 600 events are planned throughout the United States and Canada.

The plan is simple:

- Go to your beach (or inland location) on June 26 at 11 AM in your time zone.
- Form lines in the sand and at 12:00, join hands.

The image is powerful, the message is simple. NO to Offshore Oil Drilling, YES to Clean Energy.

Hands Across The Sand's mission is to change our energy policy away from its dependence on fossil fuels and into the light of clean energy. The aim is to convince our leaders to abandon expanded offshore oil drilling and adopt policies that encourage clean and renewable energy sources.

"The image is powerful, the message simple," said event founder Dave Rauschkolb of Florida. "No to offshore oil drilling, yes to clean energy. We are drawing a line in the sand against offshore oil drilling along America's beaches and in solidarity events across America and around the world. No one industry should be able to place entire coastal economies and marine environments at risk with dangerous, dirty mistakes."

Hands Across The Sand was founded by Dave Rauschkolb in October of 2009. He organized a statewide gathering on February 13, 2010, to send a message to Florida's legislators and Governor Crist that Floridians did not want them to lift the bans on near and offshore oil drilling in Florida's waters. Thousands of Floridians representing 60 towns and cities and over 90 beaches joined hands to protest the efforts by the Florida Legislature and the US Congress to lift the ban on oil drilling in the near and off shores of Florida. Thousands joined hands from Jacksonville to Miami Beach and Key West to Pensacola Beach. The lifting of the near shore ban would have brought oil rigs as close as 3 miles from Florida's shores. Shortly after the event the Florida Legislature tabled the effort.

Hands Across The Sand is endorsed by national and international environmental organizations including Sierra Club, Audubon, Surfrider, Oceana, Greenpeace, Defenders of Wildlife, Alaska Wilderness League, Ocean Conservancy, Friends of the Earth, Environment America, 350, MoveOn.org, Center for Biological Diversity and CleanEnergy.org

For more information, additional event locations, and downloadable posters, T-shirt designs, and newspaper ads, go to www.handsacrossthesand.org. For local climate change and environmental information and resources, see www.wakefieldcap.org. If you need help getting to the event or would like more information, email info@wakefieldcap.org. Carpooling and biking encouraged!