IEC seminar by Christopher Petrone

The UD-Lewes Wind Turbine: Clean Energy and a Charismatic Teaching Resource

In partnership with the City of Lewes and Gamesa Technology Corporation (now Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy), the UD College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment erected a 2-megawatt utility scale wind turbine on the Lewes campus in 2010. With a hub-height of 256-feet—just fifty feet shorter than the Statue of Liberty—the wind turbine has become a fixture on the town’s (flat) landscape and a beacon to mariners on Delaware Bay, but is also an incredible resource for teaching about climate change and renewable energy. Working with funding from the NSF-funded MADE CLEAR climate change education project, Delaware Sea Grant has directly educated well over 1,500 K-12 students, and over 400 classroom teachers and informal educators on not only climate science and renewable energy, but also careers, sustainability, and policy, all using the wind turbine as the centerpiece. The turbine is also a focal point at UD-Lewes’ annual open house, Coast Day, which welcomes 8,000-10,000 participants each October.

Bio:
Christopher Petrone is the Director of the Delaware Sea Grant Marine Advisory Service, which is housed within UD’s College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment. Based at the UD Hugh R. Sharp Campus in Lewes, Chris oversees eight Marine Advisory Service specialists who work with stakeholders and partners to solve community issues using the best available science. The MAS team focuses on coastal hazards, fisheries and aquaculture, coastal community development, coastal ecology, environmental literacy and workforce development. Prior to his current position, Chris was the Marine Education Specialist with Delaware Sea Grant, conducting professional development opportunities for classroom teachers and informal educators in ocean and climate science. He worked with classrooms and informal students groups, such as the Boy/Girl Scouts, to increase environmental and ocean literacy and access to ocean science research. Chris has a B.S. in Biology from Washington College and an M.S. in Marine Biosciences from the University of Delaware. Prior to working with Delaware Sea Grant, he has been a classroom teacher, commercial oyster farmer, and a Marine Education Specialist with Virginia Sea Grant and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.