**Transcript: Introducing: Windfall**

***Note: Episodes of Outside/In are made as pieces of audio, and some context and nuance may be lost on the page. Transcripts are generated using a combination of speech recognition software and human transcribers, and may contain errors.***

Sam Evans-Brown: This is Outside/In, I’m Sam Evans-Brown.

Justine Paradis: And I’m Justine Paradis.

Sam Evans-Brown: Okay Justine… are you the type of person who gets to the movies on time because you want to see the trailers, or are you the type who shows up late because you KNOW that there’s that minimum of ten minutes of ads before the feature starts?

Justine Paradis: This thing called “going to a movie”. It’s been years. [laughs]

[mux]

Sam Evans-Brown: [laughs]

Justine Paradis: Oh… you know, you gotta get there in time for snacks, right?

Sam Evans-Brown: Mmm

Justine Paradis: But yeah, no, I wanna see the trailers.

Sam Evans-Brown: I aspirationally want to see the trailers. But knowing that you’ve got the 15-minute cushion means we always use it.

Justine Paradis: I am chronically late… like I can’t… so no, I guess, I don’t see the trailers.

[mux]

Sam Evans-Brown: Okay, so in this scenario, I guess we are the preamble to the main event -- which is in fact the audio trailer of a big project that I have been working on for quite some time… I looked back: the first piece of audio that we gathered for this series was 2018.

Justine Paradis: Three years?!

Sam Evans-Brown: It was late 2018, so two and change.

Justine Paradis: Still. Oh my god.

Sam Evans-Brown: And it’s going to launch next week. And it’s called Windfall.

[Ben Cosgrove mux]

Justine Paradis: Yes. So let’s hear the trailer, and then stick around… because we have a really big announcement about the podcast that we’re going to make right after we hear it.

Sam Evans-Brown: Okay. Hit it. Somebody.

Justine Paradis: I got it.

Sam Evans-Brown: Hit it. Mystery person.

*TRAILER*

*Biden: There is simply no reason why the blades for wind turbines can’t be built in Pittsburg instead of Beijing. No reason. None.*

*[mux: Ben Cosgrove]*

*SEB: Right now, there are seven offshore wind turbines spinning off the east coast of the United States.*

*Seven.*

*But if everything goes according to plan, in less than 10 years… there could be thousands.*

*[turbine FX]*

*[mux: Ben Cosgrove]*

*The economics of climate change have shifted. Big money is pivoting away from fossil fuels. And it’s often moving toward this one solution in particular: offshore wind.  Everything about offshore wind is big. The stakes are big.*

*Newsreel: Now to a dire new report on climate change…*

*The emotions are huge.*

*West Virginia constituent: I’m asking you to be heroes here. Make a few sacrifices.*

*And the technology is enormous. These turbines are so big, they don’t really fit on land. Each taller than the Washington Monument.*

*[Turbine/ocean/seagull SFX]*

*In fact, offshore wind is so big, it’s shaking up our ideas of who is breaking the earth’s climate and who is positioned to fix it.*

*Because some of these giant corporations looking to capitalize on offshore wind — companies like BP and Shell — they are the same companies who arguably got us into this mess in the first place.*

*Mijin Cha: Like, I feel like you see these ads from BP that are like, ‘BP means beyond petroleum,’ and I just want to, like, throw up.*

*[theme rise]*

*But I guess we could think of it more in the sense of, like, the renewable economy is the economy of the future.*

*After decades of politicization and red tape, America is about to witness the birth of an industry: offshore wind.*

*And no matter how you might feel about it. this change is coming.*

*CHERYL ANDREWS-MALTAIS: So, what is it going to take to make you agree? And I said there is no price.*

*Fisherman: I do not want to see one wind turbine in the water. Not one.*

*Lars Pederson: I’m calm and relaxed. It’s not in my hands. But I’m so eager to get moving and actually start building.*

*[theme music swell]*

*This June, NHPR’s award-winning podcast Outside/In presents Windfall. A deep dive into a sea change on the horizon.*

*Subscribe to Outside/In wherever you get your podcasts – and look for episodes of Windfall to start dropping on June 24th. Learn more at windfallpodcast.org.*

*[theme music fade]*

Justine Paradis: I am so excited for this! I’m so excited to share this on the feed!

Sam Evans-Brown: Yeah. We were listening to some of the finalish drafts and it’s like, it’s real! It’s happening.

Justine Paradis: It’s real. But yeah, so like you mentioned before the show, the first piece of tape you gathered was two and a half years ago or so, but part of the reason this happened is, surprise surprise, the pandemic certainly made things harder reporting-wise, right?

Sam Evans-Brown: Yeah, we actually planned and had to scrap two separate reporting trips to Europe… one that we ourselves were going to take and one where we hired a journalist who is based in Europe to go and do the interviews for us… but we kept at it. And it feels like a really big deal that we’re about to put it out in the world. But, as you know, the feelings right now are a little bittersweet.

Justine Paradis: Yeah. And, um, this brings us to our big announcement.

Sam Evans-Brown: Which is that I was recently offered another job and I accepted it. So the five episodes of Windfall are going to be my last five episodes as host of Outside/In.

Justine Paradis: Yeah. It’s kinda hard to fathom. Like, I want to say right up front so there’s no confusion - the show is continuing. We’ll talk more about that in a sec! But this is… you’ve been on the show for five years. It’s a big deal.

Sam Evans-Brown: Yeah and this has been literally my only real job… like the only job I’ve used to fully support myself. [laughs] It was this and slinging popcorn at movie theatres.

Justine Paradis: Wait, did you really sling popcorn at movie theatres?

Sam Evans-Brown: Yeah of course!

Justine Paradis: Oh man!

Sam Evans-Brown: I learned how to be a projectionist, I threaded the film through the camera.

Justine Paradis: Oh man, different media times. [laughs] But yeah I mean you’re what they call the founding host of the show. it’s really going to be a bittersweet moment after Windfall. Not least because, who are we going to turn to for dad jokes and snow news?

Sam Evans-Brown: Is this all I am to you? [laughs]

Justine Paradis: Ohh...

Seriously, it’s a big moment. There’s been a lot of reflection on the team and for me personally, and we’re really gonna miss you. This show, the reporting, the humor, it’s so rare to, I think, to have an environmental show that’s also funny, but also to learn about what’s happening in the world in a way that doesn’t feel superficial, and I think that a lot of that is down to how you approach things, Sam. It’s pretty cool.

Sam Evans-Brown: Well, I hope too that we’ve built something that’s more than just a person.

Justine Paradis: Yeah.

Sam Evans-Brown: And, to the listeners, it really isn’t just me that makes the show. It’s a huge team effort. And I really hope that everyone does stick with the show because there are great things to come, and that’s just based on the stories that I know are in the pipeline, but also just, this team is so good. And you know, there are so many great stories to come.

#Justine: Yeah, I mean, you’re right, it is a team-based show.  Like Sam said, we’ve got a lot in the pipeline. A story on ecotourism - more Book Club episodes --  Taylor Quimby’s been reporting on an episode about ~~ potpourri ~~ …

Sam Evans-Brown: It’s going to be delightful just you wait.

Justine Paradis: And our producer Felix Poon has a couple awesome stories up his sleeve. I will say we are still figuring out what certain things will sound like in the future -- like we’ll be finding ways to keep the spirit of Ask Sam going - and that’ll probably be in a slightly different form. So even though you could say this is “the end of an era” -- we are excited about the future too.

Sam Evans-Brown: So again - keep listening, folks! I’m going to keep listening.

Justine Paradis: Yeah, I’ll show you how to download a podcast, Sam.

Sam Evans-Brown: [laughs] Oh, sick burn.

[mux interlude]

Justine Paradis: We don’t want to make this sound like a goodbye, because we’re not there yet. We still have these five episodes of Windfall to come. But we do think it was important that we talk a little bit about your new job, because it’s the sort of thing that might raise some questions about the reporting for the Windfall series. So, Sam, can you talk a little bit about that? What are you going to be doing?

Sam Evans-Brown: Yeah. I’m moving into a job in clean energy advocacy. Which means that I’m not just taking another podcasting or journalism gig. I’m leaving journalism and stepping into a more active role in actually shaping rather than just reporting on energy stuff.

Justine Paradis: Can you just explain why are we so worried this could be a conflict for Windfall?

Sam Evans-Brown: Because there’s a big difference between journalism and advocacy. As a journalist, I can say that… there is powerful evidence that climate change is real, and has very real human harms… and that we as a society would be better off trying to prevent those harms. Those things all strike me as well-established facts. We even present and investigate different possible solutions but in this job we don’t say here are the solutions we should adopt.  That’s the main difference— as journalists lay out the facts, as far as we can tell, and let you decide what to think about it.

Justine Paradis: Right and I will say this is all kind of a huge debate. There are people that fall on different places along this spectrum within journalism and advocacy but it’s a topic for another time. But the simple way to say it is in within advocacy… you will be supporting specific solutions. And saying which you think is better or worse… and getting paid to do that.

Sam Evans-Brown: Like offshore wind —  the subject of this final series — in my new job, I will, very likely, be advocating FOR offshore wind in a very direct way.

Justine Paradis: Right. And since Windfall is ABOUT offshore wind, and about the huge money and political power around it -- like you said in the trailer, a lot of companies in charge of installing offshore wind farms -- are actually oil companies! So, the task of journalism and of this project is to be skeptical of those efforts.

And we want to be as clear as we can about the choices we made for this series.

So, let’s talk about that a little bit. First things first: when did you get this job?

Sam Evans-Brown: It was literally just a couple of weeks ago. I guess, the end of May, to be precise. And most of the series was reported before I had even considered taking another job. And since I made the decision to move on, we have been careful to set a hard date so that my future duties will not overlap with my current role in the slightest.

Justine Paradis: So that means the show will be wrapped in the production sense before you start your new job.

Sam Evans-Brown: Yes the scripts will be written, the mixes will be mixed.

Justine Paradis: Even if they’re not all out yet.

Sam Evans-Brown: Exactly, yes. So, we have also reached out to a bunch of media ethicists, for their opinions. Some of whom suggested that the quote “cleanest” unquote thing to do would be to kill the series… but we felt that, you know, offshore wind is an important subject and you should be able to hear about it.

Justine Paradis: Yeah. And it was also years of reporting. So we’ve opted for the next best thing, we felt, which is transparency. So, it’s, again, worth saying that all our stories are not the product of any one person.

Sam Evans-Brown: Yes, and I think a prime example of that is that since the fall or so I’ve been working with another producer on this series, Jack Rodolico. And to bring in an extra set of ears for this series, we’ve asked NHPR’s environment reporter and friend of the podcast Annie Ropeik to co-host and serve as an editor as well. And we did that because we felt like we needed a gut check from people who are going to continue to be working journalists to just triple check that we’re backing up all of our assertions. And they can carry the series forward once I’m gone, like the whole team will carry Outside/In forward.

Justine Paradis: And for this series we’ve also hired an outside fact-checker, Sara Sneath, who is going through all the scripts and double-checking the reporting. So, we’re doing our best to make sure that we are getting it right and it’s clear as possible what’s been happening on the show. So, that’s why we are telling all of you this right now.

[mux]

Sam Evans-Brown: So… to get back to Windfall. The first episode comes out next Thursday, June 24th… and we’ll have new episodes weekly through July 22.

And I just want to say I’m very excited about this series and also very conflicted about leaving the show.

You know, I just want to say thanks for tuning in  all these years. And, you know, keep listening, keep emailing, keep showing this team your support. And… yeah, and we’ll talk to you next week!

[mux swell]

If you’re interested in more information, visit <windfallpodcast.org>, all one word.

Music in this update came from Blue Dot Session and Ben Cosgrove.

Outside/In is a production of New Hampshire Public Radio.