

What is New York State's role in developing offshore wind?

New York State wants to ensure that offshore wind is developed in the most responsible and cost-effective manner possible. That's why the State, under the direction of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), is developing the New York Offshore Wind Master Plan to provide a road map for responsible offshore wind development.

As part of the Master Plan process, NYSERDA is conducting more than 20 studies and surveys and reaching out to residents of Long Island and New York City, and other interested stakeholder groups to provide feedback in the development of the Master Plan. The Master Plan will propose best possible sites for offshore wind development off New York's Atlantic Coast, establish guidelines for private developers, and provide recommendations for the purchase of offshore wind energy to ensure the lowest cost to the ratepayer.

What are the benefits to reaching the state's 2.4 gigawatts (GW) offshore wind goal?

Offshore wind is a clean, renewable energy resource that will provide many benefits to New Yorkers. In addition to being a renewable local power source that will support the state's goal of 50 percent of its electricity to come from renewable energy resources by 2030, offshore wind will result in significant investments in New York's coastal communities, be a source of thousands of construction, manufacturing, and operations jobs, and diversify the State's energy resources to provide cost-effective, reliable and resilient energy. It will also help protect the environment—the development of 2.4 GW of offshore wind will reduce harmful emissions by 5 million tons per year.

How will the state ensure that the local communities will benefit from the Northeast's new offshore wind industry?

Offshore wind is predicted to support 160,000 U.S. jobs over the next thirty years in the United States.* New York State must mobilize its resources and efforts to become an industry leader and commercial hub for offshore wind development off the Atlantic Coast. Through the Master Plan, NYSERDA is determining the current workforce and infrastructure capabilities available in New York State, and will identify what gaps may exist to develop an offshore wind industry in the State. NYSERDA will consider solutions to address these gaps to bring the most jobs and investments

to New York State, for example through apprenticeship programs and specialization programs at New York's universities and community colleges. Additionally, New York announced the Clean Climate Careers initiative to grow New York's emerging clean energy economy and prepare the workforce for the long-term careers associated with this industry.

What will the cost of offshore wind be?

NYSERDA is conducting a full analysis of offshore wind costs and procurement options, which will be subject to a robust public comment process later this year. New York State is committed to advancing offshore wind in a way that maximizes competitive bidding and ensures the lowest cost, while stimulating economic development and fostering local job creation.

Will the turbines be visible from shore?

Offshore wind turbines will be located far offshore and will not be noticeable from the shoreline. NYSERDA is undertaking a visual impact study to make sure this is achieved. New York State will set development guidelines, including a minimum distance from shore, that must be met by developers.

Will the wind farms impact shipping in the area?

Ensuring safe navigation is vital to preserve the significant shipping activity that occurs off New York's coast. NYSERDA is conducting studies to ensure impacts to shipping are minimized. Agencies are also engaging in consultation with the shipping industry and related stakeholders to understand their operational requirements and concerns. Wind farm developers will also be required to perform a separate navigation risk assessment, in consultation with the United States Coast Guard. Additionally, the turbine bases will be lit (and will not be seen from the shoreline) so they are visible to mariners and marked on navigation charts, just like any other offshore structure.

Will the construction of the wind turbines impact transmission cables or other offshore infrastructure?

Wind farm developers are required to coordinate with the owners of those existing offshore assets to mitigate impacts.

Will fishers still be able to fish in/around the wind farms?

The State and the federal government do not anticipate imposing any restrictions on fishing among or around the wind turbines, which will likely be located nearly a mile apart from each other. New York is committed to working with commercial and recreational fishers to understand the areas important for fishing and identify strategies for turbine configurations and spacing to allow for fishing access.

Do wind turbines destroy the habitat of fish?

Impacts on marine habitats from installing wind turbines will be largely limited and temporary. For example, potential sediment disturbance and changes in currents will be assessed during site-specific analysis to mitigate these effects. Once installed, offshore wind turbines have been shown to benefit certain species of marine wildlife by creating artificial reefs that serve as active gathering points for certain fish and local marine inhabitants.

What happens at the end of the turbines' 25-year life span?

The federal government requires that offshore wind farm developers submit a decommissioning plan as well as post a bond to cover the cost of those decommissioning activities.

Do offshore wind turbines negatively impact birds, bats, fish, whales, or any other species?

The State is currently conducting studies on marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, bats, and fish to ensure that offshore wind will be responsibly developed and will mitigate and minimize any environmental impacts. Additionally, the wind turbine permitting process is incredibly thorough, and involves federal, state and local authorities, who review and consider every aspect of the project's impact to the environment, and can request additional research from developers, or require specific mitigation. For example, based on the best available information, projects will be sited carefully to avoid the most critical flyways for birds and bats, and habitat areas for fish and marine mammal species. Additionally, protective measures will be taken to reduce effects from construction and operations, and ensure co-existence of wind farms with these species

How can I provide comments for consideration for the New York Offshore Wind Master Plan?

Comments for New York's Offshore Wind Master Plan can be provided to NYSERDA at nyserda.ny.gov/offshore-wind-comments through August 31, 2017.

NYSERDA offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and support to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. NYSERDA professionals work to protect the environment and create clean energy jobs. A public benefit corporation, NYSERDA has been advancing innovative energy solutions since 1975.