

# Clean Energy Resources Development and Incentives **Build-Ready** Program

For Commercial Developers



**REDUCE**  
project risk

**ACCELERATE**  
development

**BENEFIT**  
local communities



Learn more at  
[nyserdera.ny.gov/  
Build-Ready](https://nyserdera.ny.gov/build-ready)

## Minimizing conflicts and speeding up the development of renewable energy facilities

Through the Build-Ready Program, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is working to advance the development of renewable energy resources and accelerate progress toward Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's nation-leading clean energy and climate goals—which include 70 percent of the State's electricity to come from renewable energy sources by 2030—as outlined under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Build-Ready speeds up the siting and development of renewable energy facilities on landscapes that present complicated development challenges for commercial developers. NYSEDA will minimize conflicts and competition with commercial developers while also advancing appropriate renewable energy projects through the development process.

This work will foster and encourage local understanding about the importance of renewable energy and the value it can bring to local communities, including environmental justice consideration.

### Site selection

NYSERDA works with other state, regional, and local agencies; private companies; communities and elected officials; and other stakeholders to identify suitable sites for the development of renewable generation facilities and makes them build-ready for competitive auction to private renewable energy developers. Priority is given to previously developed sites, existing or abandoned commercial sites, brownfields, landfills, former commercial or industrial sites, dormant electric generating sites, and sites otherwise underutilized.

NYSERDA will work cooperatively with commercial developers. To ensure Build-Ready complements the efforts of private sector developers and does not displace them, potential sites are screened for local conflicts and competition. Some sites may pose challenges, receiving only limited attention by private sector developers or commercial development. Particularly challenging sites may benefit from NYSEDA support or potential participation in Build-Ready.

## Identification of active development

To identify commercial development interest and activity, individuals and entities proposing potential Build-Ready sites will be required to complete a standard Site Recommendation Form. The answers will help NYSERDA determine whether a commercial renewable energy developer has expressed a prior or ongoing material interest in the site.

### Form questions will include:

- Has this site been reviewed for renewable energy before?
- If so, why were plans abandoned?
- If applicable, who was the developer, individual, or company who reviewed the site?

Another approach to assess commercial developer interest in a potential site early in the process is to conduct an active development investigation.

### This investigation will include:

- Discussions with the site owner.
- Discussions with any potential developer identified by the site owner or through the Site Recommendation Form.
- Examination of the NYISO interconnection queue to determine if any studies are ongoing for the site.
- Discussions with permitting authorities to determine if any party has engaged in permit related discussions or activities for the site.

Through this investigation, if it is determined there is ongoing active development by a commercial developer, NYSERDA will withdraw from further interaction for a sufficient period of time to allow both the site owner and commercial developer(s) to advance development of the site. NYSERDA may periodically reach out to the site owner and/or commercial developer to assess progress. If at any time during this follow-up period development challenges for the site or a waning interest of the site owner or commercial developer becomes evident, NYSERDA will engage in discussions with both the site owner and commercial developer to see if there is any benefit to moving the site into the Build-Ready program.

## Ready to get started?

Visit [nyserdera.ny.gov/Build-Ready](https://nyserdera.ny.gov/Build-Ready) to learn more, or email us at [buildready@nyserdera.ny.gov](mailto:buildready@nyserdera.ny.gov).