

What is the purpose of the Great Lakes Wind Feasibility Study?

To achieve the ambitious goals of New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act), the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) [directed](#) NYSERDA to investigate the feasibility of including Great Lakes wind power in the State's clean energy portfolio. The main purpose of the Great Lakes Wind Feasibility Study is to objectively collect as much information and data as possible so that an informed decision can be made about whether or not wind energy should be pursued in the Great Lakes.

When will the Study be completed?

The draft study is expected by Fall 2021 and a final version of the study will be filed with the Public Service Commission by early 2022.

How will you get public feedback?

Based on feedback received during the first Great Lakes Wind informational webinar held on March 19, 2021, we will be using a number of different methods to ensure stakeholders' comments and concerns are heard and considered in the study preparation. These include direct email communication, website resources, and additional question and answer sessions within future webinars. In addition, a dedicated Virtual Public Feedback Session will be held on Wednesday June 9, 2021. Please check the [website](#) for more information on next steps.

Where can I go for the most up-to-date information on the Study?

There will be quarterly, virtual updates through informational webinars that will highlight the latest findings from the study research team. These updates will also be posted to NYSERDA's Great Lakes Wind [webpage](#). A recording of each webinar, as well as the slide deck presented during each webinar are available on the website among other resources. Please sign up for the [email list](#) on the webpage for other announcements and opportunities to learn more about the study.

What happens after the Study is completed?

The final Great Lakes Wind Feasibility Study will be formally filed with the Public Service Commission along with options and/or suggestions from NYSERDA based on the information and conclusions of the report. The Public Service Commission will determine next steps in the context of the State's renewable energy policies based on the findings of the Study and feedback provided by NYSERDA.

Will you be studying impacts to bird and potential bird collisions?

The Study considers current environmental conditions and uses – including wildlife habitats, migration patterns, potential risks associated with a “stressor and receptor” analysis and potential mitigation measures.

Will I be able to see the turbines from my home and/or the shoreline?

The Great Lakes Wind Feasibility Study is a foundational, feasibility study and does not commit the State to a posture of developing wind projects on the Lakes. Currently, there are no turbines in New York State's Great Lakes to see. As part of the Study, a visual impact study of potential turbines is being conducted. The visual study will include consideration of the potential distance from the shore and consider turbine size but will not make recommendations. There will be special focus on direct viewshed impacts from points of interest (public spaces, tourist destinations) and population centers (cities, lakeshore properties).

How will NYSERDA design these wind turbine towers to be impervious to large amounts of ice floes?

NYSERDA is not designing wind turbine towers but is developing a feasibility study that includes an assessment of icing issues and technology solutions in Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

What is the expected cost for wind projects in the Great Lakes? What changes will I see in my energy bill?

Cost is an important topic that is being explored in the Feasibility Study. This Study will not be affecting current energy costs.

What impact will this have on recreational fisheries and fish populations?

An assessment of fisheries impact and opportunities is included in the Feasibility Study.

How does the New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan relate to this feasibility study?

The Offshore Wind Master Plan (OSW MP) has no impact on this Feasibility Study. The OSW MP was designed to understand how to advance the State's original goal of 2,400 MW of offshore wind by 2030, reflecting State policy for offshore wind in the Atlantic Ocean as of 2018. The State's current active policy for offshore wind is now 9,000 MW of offshore wind by 2035, which addresses a goal for projects in the ocean only. Great Lakes Wind Feasibility Study is designed to understand the opportunities and risks associated with Great Lakes Wind, not advance a predetermined development goal of wind resources from the ocean.

How do you plan to get feedback from both supporters and opposers to Great Lakes Wind?

The Great Lakes Wind Feasibility Study is an initial assessment which includes cataloging the various opportunities and challenges of Great Lakes Wind. Where the Feasibility Study is technical in nature, NYSERDA is eager to cultivate an understanding of stakeholder views alongside the study to thoroughly understand the various perspectives and opinions from the public on the creation and contents of the Study. Additionally, formal public comments will be collected on the Study by the Public Service Commission through the State Administrative Procedures Act, or SAPA process if the Commission elects to take steps after the Feasibility Study has been filed.

Under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), New York State is committed to use 70% renewable energy by 2030. Given that goal, what is the overall power need for the State of New York in 2030 and of that how much (megawatts and number of turbines) does NYSERDA plan to be sourced from Great Lakes wind?

New York State continues to grow a strong pipeline of renewable energy projects to meet the CLCPA goal that at least 70 percent of New York's electricity come from renewable energy sources by 2030 and a 100% zero emissions electrical grid by 2040. We need a diversity of projects and technologies to ensure a resilient grid for the future and one that serves all New Yorkers.

Why do we need wind energy in the Great Lakes when the energy demands are downstate (New York City)?

Diversification of the renewable energy portfolio with Great Lakes Wind could offer New York State an additional resource to support a diversified supply mix to support the energy needs of the entire state. The Great Lakes Wind Feasibility Study is an effort to understand this potential resource and how it could support our suite of cost effective and responsible potential solutions to meet our ambitious clean energy goals while building grid resilience through diversified resources. This Feasibility Study will help provide this type of information so that informed decisions can be made about what projects can be pursued that will add to New York State's grid resilience.

Can't you just add more wind turbines in the ocean to meet the State's energy goals?

New York needs a diversity of projects and technologies to ensure a resilient grid. Therefore, we will need to consider a number of large-scale renewable energy project options including solar, wind, energy storage, and other innovative technologies. At least 9,000 MW of Offshore Wind are being actively developed in the Atlantic Ocean by 2035 to support our State's clean energy goals. Great Lakes Wind may offer an additional resource in complement to offshore wind and other on-shore renewable technologies to meet our goals.

How many megawatts of installed capacity are expected?

An assessment of potential hosting capacity will be included in the Feasibility Study.

How will the Study be different than the Great Lakes Offshore Wind Project (GLOW) completed ten years ago?

The Great Lakes Offshore Wind Project (GLOW) was a competitive solicitation issued by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) in 2009 for proposals to develop a wind project in Lake Erie or Lake Ontario of 120-500 megawatts of capacity. The solicitation received five proposals but was ultimately canceled by NYPA in 2010. In contrast, this Great Lakes Wind Feasibility Study is not a request for proposals, or a directed effort to build projects. It is an effort to review existing data, analyze new information and gather some initial public feedback to present the feasibility of Great Lakes Wind for possible additional clean energy resource opportunities to the Public Service Commission. It should be noted that a lot has changed in the time since GLOW was being considered more than a decade ago. Advancements in technology (both onshore and offshore wind and solar), as well as a shift in State energy and climate policies, have led to the consideration of Great Lakes Wind as part of the renewable energy portfolio for New York State.

Will there be consideration of coordinating permitting processes with neighboring states, Ontario, and the national government of Canada about the possibility of Great Lakes Wind?

Yes, NYSERDA is currently having conversations with these other entities. An assessment of regulatory control at the local, county, state, regional, national, and international levels is included in the Feasibility Study.

Will the study contact Indigenous Nations with ancestral connections to Lake Ontario-related cultural resources in order to understand their impact on this feasibility study?

An assessment of cultural resources is included in the Feasibility Study and New York State is currently in contact with indigenous nations to understand areas of importance and sensitivity.

As a source of drinking water for many New Yorkers, what type of polluted sediments exist in Lake Erie and Lake Ontario that could potentially be exposed during surveying or construction activities?

New York State values its freshwater resources and recognizes the importance of water quality to New Yorkers. An investigation of how Great Lakes Wind could relate to water quality considerations is included in the Feasibility Study's assessment of sediment disturbance and mapping of known sediment contamination.

How will wind energy help reduce the use of fossil fuels?

Great Lakes Wind has the potential to help support our statewide clean energy goals and decarbonization goals. New York's 100 percent zero emissions by 2040 targets are aimed to ultimately facilitate the responsible retirement of aging fossil fuel plants in our state - including highly polluting peaker plants. Our clean energy goals are expected to deliver more than \$11 billion in societal benefits in the form of carbon and health benefits to New Yorkers.

Great Lakes Wind may be a possible clean energy solution, but what is New York doing to make sure the grid is ready?

In pursuit of the Climate Act goals, New York State is planning for the future grid. In April 2020, New York State enacted the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act as landmark legislation aimed at improving the siting and construction of large-scale renewable energy projects in an environmentally responsible and cost-effective manner. Additionally, in January 2021, NYSERDA and the Department of Public Service published a comprehensive Initial Report of the New York State Power Grid Study to accelerate the planning and build out of bulk and local transmission and distribution infrastructure to ensure that renewable energy can be reliably and cost-effectively delivered to power New York homes and businesses. NYSERDA is now working with the Department of Public Service to cultivate stakeholder feedback on this plan. The goal is to find the best approach to ensure that wind energy can interconnect with the grid in a timely and cost-effective way.



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