

New York State Offshore Wind

Responsible Development in Our Ocean and Coastal Environments



Credit: NOAA

Offshore wind is key to achieving New York State's nation-leading clean energy goals of 70% renewable energy by 2030 and 100% clean electricity by 2040

Building a clean energy future

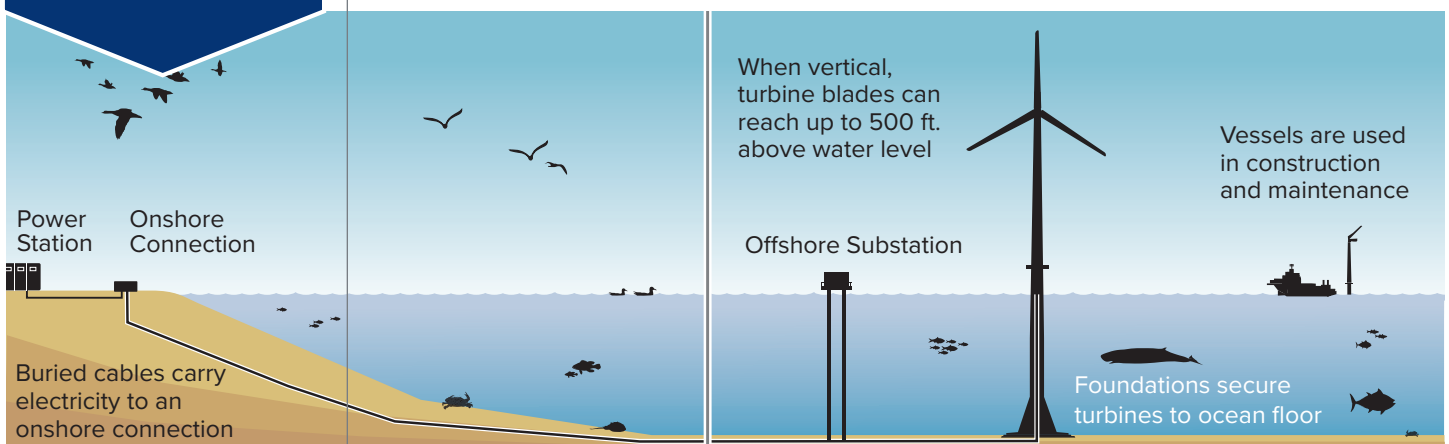
Offshore wind's significant energy potential can help New York State transition away from fossil fuels to a 100 percent carbon-free electric system, part of the State's comprehensive plan to combat climate change and build a reliable, resilient electricity grid. This transition will have environmental benefits, including reducing air and water pollutants, greenhouse gas emissions, and ocean acidification. To minimize the environmental impacts of building a new infrastructure, New York State is committed to a proactive and collaborative approach with stakeholders to responsibly developing offshore wind.

Protecting a rich ecosystem

The waters near New York that will host offshore wind farms provide habitat for more than 300 fish species, a variety of marine mammals (whales, dolphins, porpoises, and seals), sea turtles, bats, and dozens of sea and migratory bird species, among a wealth of other ocean and coastal wildlife.

Environmental stakeholders, including subject experts and non-governmental organizations, actively participate as formal advisors in New York's offshore wind planning and development. Through modeling, research, and knowledge-sharing, these stakeholders are helping the State understand and account for cumulative impacts to species and habitats and how timing and sequencing of construction activities may affect their populations and behaviors.

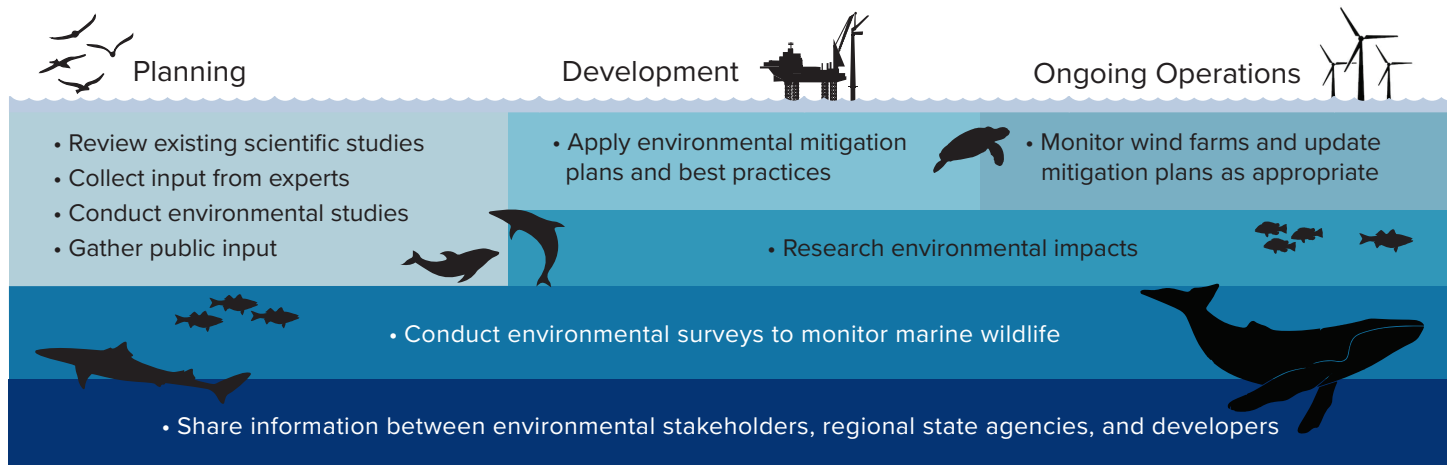
Offshore wind has multiple points of contact with marine and coastal environments. The State is working with experts to explore and address these implications.



Shaping the Master Plan

The New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan outlines the State's approach to responsible and cost-effective offshore wind development. While forming the Plan, the State conducted extensive wildlife and environmental research, which sets the expectation that all offshore wind development supported by the State will take steps to mitigate environmental impacts.

To view the full Master Plan and associated environmental studies, visit nyserdera.ny.gov/offshorewind



Engaging in the development process

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) leads the Environmental Technical Working Group (E-TWG), a solutions-oriented advisory group that helps guide environmentally responsible offshore wind development. Comprised of non-governmental organizations, offshore wind developers, and federal and state agencies, its initiatives include:

- Identifying best management practices to reduce the amount and extent of impacts on wildlife caused by offshore wind development.
- Working with developers to create, follow, and adjust environmental mitigation plans that outline strategies to minimize the environmental impacts of their projects and become part of their contracts.
- Creating a database that provides a publicly accessible, searchable tool for wildlife and fisheries mitigation and monitoring practices, drawing from offshore and onshore wind, as well as other marine industries.
- Advising on research priorities to support environmentally responsible development of offshore wind.
- Organizing 'State of the Science' workshops to bring together the broader environmental community to discuss environmental studies, research gaps, and ways to use findings to inform responsible offshore wind development.
- Developing a regional coordination framework to conduct and fund critical research and mitigation efforts that are best addressed at a regional scale.

Staying engaged throughout operations

The State is supporting ongoing marine wildlife surveys and other research to monitor the environmental impacts of offshore wind farms. The State and the E-TWG will work with developers throughout operations to ensure the approaches in their environmental mitigation plans reflect best practices and are updated based on availability of new data.

Learn more about the E-TWG at nyetwg.com

Learn more about offshore wind in New York State.

nyserdera.ny.gov/offshorewind

