

New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan

Outreach and Engagement Summary



NYSERDA

NYSERDA Report 17-25w
Report Completion Date

NYSERDA's Promise to New Yorkers:

NYSERDA provides resources, expertise, and objective information so New Yorkers can make confident, informed energy decisions.

Mission Statement:

Advance innovative energy solutions in ways that improve New York's economy and environment.

Vision Statement:

Serve as a catalyst – advancing energy innovation, technology, and investment; transforming New York's economy; and empowering people to choose clean and efficient energy as part of their everyday lives.

New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan Outreach and Engagement Summary

Final Report

Prepared for:

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

Prepared by:

Ecology and Environment Engineering, P.C

New York, New York

Notice

This study was prepared by Ecology and Environment Engineering, P.C. (“Contractor”) in the course of performing work contracted for and sponsored by the State of New York through its agencies and public-benefit corporations (the “State”). The State and the Contractor make no warranties or representations, expressed or implied, as to the fitness for particular purpose or merchantability of any product, apparatus, or service, or the usefulness, completeness, or accuracy of any processes, methods, or other information contained, described, disclosed, or referred to in this study. The State and the Contractor make no representation that the use of any product, apparatus, process, method, or other information will not infringe privately owned rights and will assume no liability for any loss, injury, or damage resulting from, or occurring in connection with, the use of information contained, described, disclosed, or referred to in this study.

No State or Federal agency or entity has committed to any specific course of action with respect to the future development of offshore wind projects discussed in this study. This study does not commit any governmental agency or entity to any specific course of action, or otherwise pre-determine any outcome under State or Federal law. Any future offshore wind project will be required to meet all State and Federal permit or license approvals, including but not limited to under the Coastal Zone Management Act, prior to proceeding with development.

The State makes every effort to provide accurate information about copyright owners and related matters in the documents we publish. Contractors are responsible for determining and satisfying copyright or other use restrictions regarding the content of reports that they write, in compliance with State policies and federal law. If you are the copyright owner and believe a study has not properly attributed your work to you or has used it without permission, please email print@nyscrda.ny.gov.

Information contained in this study, such as web page addresses, are current at the time of publication.

Table of Contents

Notice	ii
List of Tables	iv
Acronyms and Abbreviations	iv
1 Introduction	1
2 Outreach and Engagement – Indigenous Nations	3
2.1 Indigenous Nation Coordination.....	3
2.1.1 Indigenous Nations	3
3 Outreach and Engagement – Agencies	5
3.1 Agency Participation	5
4 Outreach and Engagement – Elected Officials, Community and Industry Leaders, Nongovernmental Organizations, and Commercial Fishing	6
4.1 Elected Officials.....	6
4.2 Industry Leaders	6
4.3 Non-Governmental Organizations.....	7
4.4 Commercial Fishing	8
4.4.1 Commercial Fishing Notification/Communication	9
4.4.2 Commercial Fishing Liaison	9
4.4.3 Commercial Fishing Meetings.....	9
4.4.4 Commercial Fishing Comments	11
5 Outreach and Engagement – Public Participation	13
5.1 Public Information Meetings.....	13
5.1.1 Public Notifications	13
5.1.2 Public Information Meetings.....	14
5.1.3 Public Comments	15
5.1.4 Summary of Public Comment Issues and Commenters	16
6 Comments on Studies	17

List of Tables

Table 1. Portside Meeting Dates with Fisheries Stakeholders/Representatives for the New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan	10
Table 2. Fishery-Focused Meeting Dates and Locations for the New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan.....	11
Table 3. Public Information Meeting Dates and Locations for the New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan.....	14
Table 4. Summary of Comment Type and Number of Comments Received.....	15

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Blueprint	Blueprint for the New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
LIPA	Long Island Power Authority
MAFMC	Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
Master Plan	New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan
MRAC	Marine Resources Advisory Council
NASCA	North American Submarine Cable Association
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NYPA	New York Power Authority
NYS	New York State
DEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
DOS	New York State Department of State
DPS	New York State Department of Public Service
NYSERDA	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
NYSOGS	New York State Office of General Services

1 Introduction

Outreach and engagement are critical components of the New York State (State) Offshore Wind Master Planning process. Outreach activities were led by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) on behalf of the State. A wide variety of governmental entities, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, indigenous nations, and other communities, groups and individuals are interested in the development of offshore wind projects, and throughout the development of the Master Plan, the State committed to ensure the input from these parties was actively solicited and considered. That input contributes to a more balanced evaluation of potential offshore wind sites and the responsible development of offshore wind projects.

In fall 2016, the State completed and published a Blueprint (Blueprint) for the New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan (Master Plan). The Blueprint outlines the Master Plan's development process, and describes how input and feedback would inform the Master Plan. To provide a framework for the Master Plan outreach and engagement process, the State developed and implemented a strategic plan that identified key groups, set forth outreach objectives, described tools and tactics for outreach, and outlined a timeline for outreach and engagement. The strategic plan also included outreach and engagement plans for key groups.

The following groups were identified for outreach:

- Commercial and Recreational Fishing
- Consumer Advocates
- Elected Officials
- Indigenous Nations and Tribal Communities
- Labor and Business
- Long Island and New York City Communities
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Offshore Wind Energy Industry
- State and Federal Agencies
- Submarine Cables and Offshore Infrastructure Owners

In addition to targeting specific groups for engagement, the State held seven public information meetings throughout New York City and Long Island to share information about the Master Plan and its associated studies. Each event was widely advertised to ensure that a broad cross-section of the community had the opportunity to engage with the relevant State agencies and authorities.

Each of the seven public information meetings included presentations about the Master Plan and supporting studies, a public question and answer period, and an open house period to allow for one-on-one meetings between State agency representatives and any individuals who wanted to discuss specific issues.

From October 2016 through September 2017, the State completed this rigorous outreach and engagement as part of the Master Planning process. Importantly, the State's efforts have established close relationships with participants, through which continued dialogue and collaboration will be possible. The public involvement process for the Master Plan provided opportunities for groups to participate in a meaningful and timely dialogue, obtain information, express concerns and provide input. The public was also invited to submit comments online, at the public information meetings, and by mail for NYSERDA to consider throughout the drafting of the Master Plan.

2 Outreach and Engagement – Indigenous Nations

2.1 Indigenous Nation Coordination

2.1.1 Indigenous Nations

Based on a review of previous onshore and offshore wind development reports and findings within the United States, indigenous nations generally have noted concerns when development has the potential to impact their traditional resources and indigenous treaty rights; archaeological and architectural resources; visual resources, including views within and to/from landscapes or seascapes; terrestrial and marine habitats; ambient noise levels; and socioeconomic conditions; and when compounding impacts may occur as a result of several simultaneous or consecutive projects. To address these and other potential concerns, NYSERDA provided engagement opportunities and engaged with indigenous nations. Throughout the Master Plan process, NYSERDA reached out to the following indigenous nations:

- Cayuga Nation
- Delaware Nation
- Delaware Tribe of Indians
- Oneida Nation of New York
- Onondaga Nation
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
- Shinnecock Indian Nation
- Seneca Nation of Indians
- Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Nation
- Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians
- Tuscarora Nation
- Unkechaug Indian Nation

NYSERDA sent outreach letters to these indigenous nations on April 7, 2017, to introduce the Master Planning process. The Delaware Tribe of Indians responded indicating an interest, so NYSERDA held a conference call with representatives from the Tribe on June 8, 2017. On August 10, 2017, NYSERDA sent a draft copy of the Cultural Resources Assessment to each of the above indigenous nations seeking feedback. Additionally, NYSERDA traveled to Long Island, New York, on August 22, 2017, and met with the Shinnecock Indian Nation and the Unkechaug Indian Nation to discuss the Cultural Resources Assessment and to provide updates on the Master Plan.

Discussion items with the Shinnecock Indian Nation and Unkechaug Indian Nation included

- Recognizing the indigenous nations for participation in the Master Plan process
- Potential impacts on the marine environment
- Disruption of cultural resources due to potential development
- Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

NYSERDA assured the indigenous nations that the Master Plan would include discussion of their contributions, capture their concerns, and address their comments on the Cultural Resources Assessment.

3 Outreach and Engagement – Agencies

3.1 Agency Participation

State and federal agencies and authorities are responsible for the planning, siting, and permitting of activities in the offshore space. As such, state and federal agencies are critical partners in developing the Master Plan. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), U.S. Department of Defense, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and U.S. Coast Guard are among the federal agencies consulted as part of this outreach and engagement effort. In regard to New York State agencies and authorities, NYSERDA consulted with the Department of State (DOS), Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Department of Public Service (DPS), Office of General Services (NYSOGS), Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Long Island Power Authority (LIPA), New York Power Authority (NYPA), Empire State Development, and Department of Labor. Additionally, the State sought feedback from the Rhode Island Department of Environment Management and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries regarding commercial fishing data and stakeholder engagement. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection was consulted regarding the Cumulative Effects Study and the Benthic Study.

The goals of agency coordination included reaching a consensus regarding the content of Master Plan studies and surveys, and coordinating the State’s recommendations to BOEM regarding the area identification process. The State created an open dialogue in which agencies could share knowledge, data, and best management practices. Specific accomplishments of engagement included

- Agency review and comment on the preliminary work to inform the studies and surveys
- Discussion of scopes of work regarding studies and surveys for the Master Plan
- Developing outreach plans for public meetings
- Participation in the public meetings
- Developing outreach plans for commercial fishing stakeholders
- Soliciting feedback on studies and surveys for the Master Plan
- Coordinating on the Area of Consideration as presented to BOEM

4 Outreach and Engagement – Elected Officials, Community and Industry Leaders, Nongovernmental Organizations, and Commercial Fishing

4.1 Elected Officials

The State reached out to hundreds of elected officials throughout the Master Planning process. On April 25, 2017, the State sent letters to town and city leaders on Long Island to provide information on offshore wind development and request the opportunity to meet to further discuss any interests, questions or concerns. On July 3 and July 28, 2017, the State sent letters to elected officials from New York City and Long Island, including local elected officials, and elected officials in the New York State Assembly, New York State Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, and U.S. Senate. These letters announced the State’s public information meetings on Long Island and in New York City and welcomed the opportunity to speak further regarding the Master Plan. Additionally, emails were sent to elected officials in New York City and Long Island throughout the engagement process to provide updates on the Master Plan.

In addition to written correspondence, the State met with a number of elected officials to provide information on the Master Plan. Elected officials expressed views about potential impacts on the environment, ratepayers, the fishing industry, the tourism industry, and visibility of turbines from the shore. Elected officials also recognized the benefits of offshore wind development for New York State, and expressed a desire to move away from the use of fossil fuels, increase energy security, and create jobs. The State conducted meetings with local elected officials prior to public outreach events to increase local awareness in the upcoming public meetings and inform elected officials in advance of questions they might receive from constituents during or following public meetings.

4.2 Industry Leaders

The State consulted with experienced professionals in the offshore wind industry to understand more fully the challenges surrounding offshore work and engaging groups in the offshore space. The State formed a Market Advisory Group that included representatives from companies that develop offshore infrastructure, manufacturers of wind energy equipment, offshore wind industry groups, engineering

firms, and law firms. Around 20 members participated in each of the approximately monthly webinars in 2017, which covered topics such as public outreach, visual assessments, benthic surveys, offtake provisions, New York State policies and incentives, and lessons learned from the European experience in offshore wind energy development.

Besides the Market Advisory Group, representatives from the North American Submarine Cable Association (NASCA) and companies that install, maintain, or own submarine telecommunications cables were consulted, in addition to industry leaders and labor and business organizations. The State hosted a Long Island Labor Union Leadership Roundtable on July 27, 2017, in Hauppauge, New York and an Offshore Wind New York City Briefing and Roundtable with Labor Leaders on August 31, 2017 at NYSERDA's New York City Office. Participants included representatives from local labor unions, building trade councils, the Teamsters, The Workforce Development Institute, Department of Labor, and chambers of commerce.

4.3 Non-Governmental Organizations

From the outset of the Master Plan, NYSERDA engaged with environmental and public advocacy focused non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These organizations included, but were not limited to: Audubon New York, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, New York City Audubon, Renewable Energy Long Island, Sane Energy, Sierra Club, South Shore Audubon, Surfrider Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Uprose, and the Wildlife Conservation Society. During meetings and consultations with these organizations, NYSERDA delivered updates on the Master Plan; solicited feedback on studies, surveys, data, and outreach; and gathered concerns related to offshore wind area site selection. Engagement with NGOs provided the following benefits:

- Feedback on studies and surveys
- Collaboration on best management practices for offshore wind energy development and outreach and engagement
- Value or concerns relating to various datasets
- General interest or concerns with OSW development

In addition to in-person meetings and conference calls, NYSERDA disseminated a questionnaire to NGOs. The intention of the questionnaire was to gather relevant contact information and background information on each NGO; understand the organization's interest and/or experience in offshore wind energy development and ocean planning; identify potential gaps in the Master Plan areas of study;

and inquire about the organization's interest in engaging throughout the Master Planning process. NYSERDA sent the questionnaire to nearly 50 NGO contacts and received responses from 350 Brooklyn, Jewish Climate Action Network-New York, All Our Energy, Sane Energy Project, The Nature Conservancy, and New York Offshore Wind Alliance. Overall, responses indicated general support for offshore wind and experience in outreach and environmental education, data collection, and analysis surrounding environmental impacts of offshore activities. Collectively, NGOs suggested NYSERDA focus on the following areas in its Master Planning efforts:

- Ratepayers and vulnerable populations
- Jobs and training for transitional workers
- Supply chain development
- Outreach and engagement (education, involvement, and knowledge sharing)
- Environmental impacts
- Shipping and navigation impacts
- Visual impacts
- Potential offtake mechanisms

4.4 Commercial Fishing

New York State hosts a diverse commercial and recreational fishing industry in its marine waters. The Blueprint for the Master Plan recognizes the importance of the fishing industry to New York State. The Blueprint identifies the fishing community as one of the key groups whose views should be actively solicited and fully considered as plans for offshore wind development move forward.

New York's diverse fishing industry has concerns over impacts from offshore wind development on fisheries resources, including habitat, noise, socioeconomics, and cumulative impacts. The State felt it was essential to engage fishing community stakeholders early in the development of the Master Plan to ensure concerns and ideas can be addressed early and throughout the process.

It should be noted that, although the commercial fishing industry is identified as the primary fisheries stakeholder, concerns of the recreational fishing community are recognized as well. These groups are often considered together, particularly when considering the ecological impacts on species and habitats. In addition, commercial and recreational fishing stakeholders often participate in the same formal and informal groups. During outreach efforts, recreational fishing stakeholders expressed concerns regarding access to fishing grounds and potential effects on fish and fishery resources. While this section focuses on the commercial fishing industry, it is acknowledged that the goals, concerns, and resources of these two groups are not identical, and both were solicited and considered in the formulation of the Master Plan.

4.4.1 Commercial Fishing Notification/Communication

A range of tools were used to reach out to the fishing community. NYSERDA appointed a fisheries liaison (as described below in Section 4.4.2) to communicate directly with stakeholders. The State's outreach included repeated phone and email correspondence, attendance at state and regional fisheries meetings, site visits to fishing docks, and public meetings. Notices regarding public meetings were sent through State and regional electronic mailing lists, such as the New York Marine Resources Advisory Council (MRAC) list and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) list. Notifications regarding the offshore wind Master Planning process and meetings specifically related to fishery outreach was provided through the NYSERDA offshore wind webpage (<https://www.nyserdera.ny.gov/offshorewind>).

4.4.2 Commercial Fishing Liaison

A key part of the State's outreach strategy for local fishing communities was the May 2017 appointment of Stephen Drew of Sea Risk Solutions LLC as the State's Fisheries Liaison. Mr. Drew is a respected figure in the industry, and his role is to help advise and facilitate communication strategies and interactions with fisheries stakeholders, and generally to serve as a mediator between NYSERDA and fisheries stakeholders to assist in the development of outreach activities.

4.4.3 Commercial Fishing Meetings

The State participated in numerous regional and local fisheries meetings to gather input from fisheries stakeholders. Outreach efforts to the fishing community have included over 200 in-person meetings, conference calls, webinars, and conversations via email. Key companies, agencies, and organizations that were engaged throughout the process include the following:

- Alice's Fish Market
- Alyssa Ann Sportfishing
- Atlantic Capes Fisheries
- Charterboat OH Brother
- Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation
- Coonamessett Farm Foundation
- Double D Charters
- Fisheries Survival Fund
- Fishermen's Dock Cooperative, Inc
- Fishing Vessel Illusion
- Fishing Vessel Patriot
- Garden State Seafood Association

- Long Island Commercial Fishing Association
- Lund’s Fisheries
- Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- New England Fishery Management Council
- Other Offshore Wind Fisheries Liaisons
- Sea Keeper, LLC
- Seafreeze Shoreside, Inc
- Surfside Foods, LLC
- Weejack Charters

In-person meetings with fisheries stakeholders and their representatives occurred at many events and through on-site meetings at or near fishing ports (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1. Portside Meeting Dates with Fisheries Stakeholders/Representatives for the New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan

Date	Location
June 16, 2017	Greenport, NY
June 17, 2017	Shinnecock, NY
June 23-24, 2017	Shinnecock, NY
July 11, 2017	Freeport, NY
July 12, 2017	Shinnecock, NY
July 13, 2017	Montauk, NY
July 14, 2017	East Hampton, NY
July 15, 2017	Shinnecock, NY
July 24, 2017	Cape Cod, MA
July 24, 2017	Narragansett, RI
July 25, 2017	Fairhaven, MA
July 28, 2017	Point Judith, RI
July 28, 2017	Jamestown, RI
August 4, 2017	Point Pleasant, NJ
August 15, 2017	Cedar Beach, NY
August 18, 2017	East Hampton, NY
August 21, 2017	Patchogue, NY
August 28, 2017	Belford, NJ
August 30, 2017	Montauk, NY
August 30, 2017	Point Judith, RI
August 31, 2017	New Bedford, MA

Table 2. Fishery-Focused Meeting Dates and Locations for the New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan

Date	Meeting	Location
November 15, 2016	New York MRAC	East Setauket, NY
December 6, 2016	Long Island Traditions	Port Washington, NY
December 12, 2016	MAFMC	Baltimore, MD
January 17, 2017	MRAC	East Setauket, NY
April 17, 2017	MAFMC	Avalon, NJ
April 18, 2017	MRAC	East Setauket, NY
May 19, 2017	Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Body Ecologically Rich Areas Workshop	Dover, DE
June 22, 2017	East Hampton Trustees Meeting	East Hampton, NY
August 9-10, 2017	Fisheries Open House at MAFMC	Philadelphia, PA
August 16, 2017	Fisheries Open House	Shinnecock, NY
August 17, 2017	Fisheries Open House	Montauk, NY
August 28, 2017	Fish & Fisheries Study Stakeholders	Webinar

Key:

BOEM = Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

MAFMC = Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council

MRAC = Marine Resources Advisory Council

DEC = New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

DOS = New York State Department of State

The State’s representatives participating in fisheries outreach were also present at public outreach meetings (outlined in Section 5) to engage with stakeholders expressing fisheries concerns. Additionally, three meetings identified in Table 2 were held in direct response to stakeholder feedback regarding concerns that time and locations of public meetings were not conducive for the schedules of active fisheries stakeholders. In response, NYSERDA coordinated with the MAFMC, NYSDEC, and stakeholders to hold several days of fisheries-focused open house meetings in August. Meetings were held during the MAFMC meeting in Philadelphia, PA, on August 8-9, 2017; in Shinnecock, NY, on August 17, 2017; and in Montauk, NY, on August 18, 2017. State representatives staffed these meetings for 8 to 11 hours per day, allowing stakeholders to visit at their convenience, ask questions, and provide input to the State.

4.4.4 Commercial Fishing Comments

In meetings, calls, and emails with fishermen and their representatives from ports from New Jersey to Massachusetts, many diverse ideas were expressed. Fishermen identified important fishing grounds on charts, as well as areas where they believed impacts of offshore wind may be minimized.

Fisheries stakeholders expressed concerns over the following potential issues:

- Access to fishing grounds
- Economic impacts on commercial fishing
- Thoroughness of consideration of public comments in development of plans to implement offshore wind energy development
- Cumulative effects of multiple offshore wind areas and regulatory actions
- Effects on fish and fishery resources
- Environmental impacts
- Safety, technical, and economic challenges regarding feasibility of fishing among turbine towers

5 Outreach and Engagement – Public Participation

Public participation is a fundamental part of the State’s outreach process. NYSERDA has conducted numerous public information meetings throughout the communities of interest. NYSERDA considered all comments received during the public outreach process in preparing the Master Plan. Comments and discussions helped determine the topics that should be studied and given careful consideration. Additionally, feedback often provided more up-to-date information about marine resources than can be provided through existing datasets.

5.1 Public Information Meetings

5.1.1 Public Notifications

A range of notification tools were used during public outreach efforts to: (1) publicize the Master Planning process; (2) provide details on the times, dates, and locations of meetings; and (3) describe ways to comment/participate. The NYSERDA offshore wind webpage (<https://www.nyserderda.ny.gov/offshorewind>) has served as the central repository for information to notify and update groups throughout the project. The public website provides an option to join the mailing notification list, review information as it becomes available, stay current on upcoming events, and provide comments. Aside from updates to the public website and emails blasts to the mailing lists, public notification tools include mailings; phone calls to elected officials and community/industry leaders; newspaper display advertisements; digital advertisements; press releases; and social media.

Print ads for the July 2017 public meetings appeared in the following papers: East Hampton Star; Fire Island News; Long Island Business News; Long Island Herald; Newsday; The Wave; Islip Bulletin; Suffolk County News; Long Island Advance; Southampton Press (Eastern and Western); East Hampton Press; and Dan’s Papers. For the July public meetings, online newspapers ran digital ads in communities along the south shore of Long Island, with a total of 3,171,882 impressions (number of times the ad is displayed on a web page).

Print ads for the August 2017 public meetings appeared in the following papers: New York Daily (Island Zone); Staten Island Advance; The Wave; Queens Chronicle (South, Southeast, and Eastern editions); Bay News/Brooklyn Graphic; Mil Basin/Marine Park Courier; Bay Ridge Courier; Times Ledger; South Shore Record; Rockaway Journal; Nassau Herald; Jewish Star; Queens Courier; Brooklyn Home Reporter; Brooklyn Spectator and Spectator News; and The Press of Southeast Queens. For the August public meetings, online newspapers ran digital ads in communities along Staten Island, Southern portions of Brooklyn and Queens, and within the five towns of Nassau County, with a total of 2,265,801 impressions.

5.1.2 Public Information Meetings

NYSERDA held two sets of public information meetings and an additional public information meeting following the BOEM New York State Task Force Meeting in Riverhead, New York (Table 3):

Table 3. Public Information Meeting Dates and Locations for the New York State Offshore Wind Master Plan

Date	Location
July 10, 2017	Long Island Association Melville, New York
July 11, 2017	Long Beach Public Library Long Beach, New York
July 12, 2017	Southampton Inn Southampton, New York
August 14, 2017	Queens Library at Peninsula Rockaway Beach, New York
August 15, 2017	New York Public Library, St. George Library Center, Staten Island, New York
August 16, 2017	New York Aquarium Brooklyn, New York
October 3, 2017	Hotel Indigo East End Riverhead, New York

The State employed a two-fold approach for each public information meeting, which meetings were designed to enhance public understanding of the project and allow members of the public to identify issues and concerns they would like to see addressed in the Master Plan. All meetings included a prepared presentation given by NYSERDA offshore wind team leaders with a facilitated question-and-answer session where attendees had the opportunity to ask questions. The second portion of each meeting was the open-house portion during which attendees could speak individually with NYSERDA offshore wind team representatives and submit written and oral comments. Public meeting materials

were made available in electronic data files available for download from the project website. Meetings ran from 6 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. or 8:30 p.m. to accommodate travel for regional community attendance, public transportation schedules, and peak hours for public attendance. Across all seven public information meetings, a total of 510 individuals were counted in attendance, including community members, federal and State elected officials, the media, city government agencies, NGOs, and local community planning groups.

5.1.3 Public Comments

Comments to support the Master Plan and the identification of a wind energy area for New York State to submit for BOEM consideration were received from elected officials, federal regulatory and State resource agencies, business and community leaders, organizations, and individuals. Comments received were provided through one or more of the following comment-submittal methods:

- In writing at one of the public meetings
- Orally at one of the meetings
- Electronically via the project website
- Electronically via email

NYSERDA accepted comments relating to the identification of a wind energy area for New York State to submit for BOEM consideration from June 22 to August 31, 2017. NYSERDA continued to accept comments concerning the Master Plan until November 30, 2017. Table 4 summarizes the total public comments submitted through all methods made available to the public during the public outreach process.

Table 4. Summary of Comment Type and Number of Comments Received

Method of Comment Submittal	Number of Comments Received
Written Comments Submitted at Public Meetings	17
Oral Comments Received at Public Meetings	97
Comments Submitted via the Website	61
Comments Emailed	1
Petition Emailed by the National Wildlife Federation	1 Petition with 1,009 Signees

5.1.4 Summary of Public Comment Issues and Commenters

Comments received were categorized by issue or topic area. The primary topics of comments included (1) a shift away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy; (2) labor/jobs, supply chain development, and development of ports; (3) wildlife; and (4) general support for offshore wind. Overall, comments were supportive, with 79 comments in support of offshore wind, 85 comments posing questions with a neutral tone, and 12 comments with a negative view on offshore wind. Additionally, the majority of negative comments highlighted potential impacts that should be mitigated rather than simply stating opposition to offshore wind.

Additionally, NYSERDA received one petition submitted by the National Wildlife Federation on behalf of 1,009 signees. The petition stated support of New York's offshore wind goals, citing environmental, health, and economic benefits.

Public meetings aimed to educate communities about offshore wind, provide details of the Master Plan studies and surveys, deliver information on potential public input opportunities, and address concerns and/or questions. Through outreach and engagement with the public, NYSERDA learned that most community members were supportive of offshore wind, especially due to the increase in job creation and transition from fossil fuels. Several community members expressed a desire for a higher state goal regarding production of electricity from offshore wind. NYSERDA also learned that the major concerns expressed by communities were environmental impacts and commercial/recreational fishing. All of the feedback received was considered when drafting the Master Plan.

6 Comments on Studies

NYSERDA, working with other State agencies, developed the Offshore Wind Master Plan to ensure that offshore wind in New York is developed in the most responsible and cost-effective manner possible. As part of the Master Plan process, NYSERDA conducted over 20 studies and surveys. NYSERDA reached out to organizations, agencies, and interested groups to review these studies.

The feedback received has been incorporated into final updates of each specialized study and survey and was used to inform final site selection and other elements of the Master Plan. Review and comment resulted in many benefits, including but not limited to updates to analysis, incorporation of new information, clarification of existing data, consistency of terminology, additional references and resources, and expanded discussion.

NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, 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. NYSERDA has been developing partnerships to advance innovative energy solutions in New York State since 1975.

To learn more about NYSERDA's programs and funding opportunities, visit nyserdera.ny.gov or follow us on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, or Instagram.

**New York State
Energy Research and
Development Authority**

17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

toll free: 866-NYSERDA
local: 518-862-1090
fax: 518-862-1091

info@nyserdera.ny.gov
nyserdera.ny.gov



NYSERDA

State of New York
Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
Richard L. Kauffman, Chair | Alicia Barton, President and CEO