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OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY

PROJECTS IN NEW YORK STATE

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Wind is a powerful and abundant resource that can provide energy without burning fossil fuel or emitting greenhouse gases. Energy produced from it is clean, cost effective, sustainable and enables U.S. industry growth and U.S. competitiveness. Wind diversifies the national energy portfolio, has low operating costs and is one of the fastest-growing energy sources in the world.

For centuries, sailing vessels and windmills have been turning the wind's energy into mechanical energy to push ships, pump water and grind grain. Today's advanced wind turbines convert wind energy directly into electricity, which can be moved instantaneously to where it is needed.

A single small wind turbine can generate enough clean electricity for local use. By connecting several large turbines to an electric power grid, you have a wind farm; a wind energy system that generates significant amounts of pollution-free, renewable electric power that can be used anywhere that power lines can reach.

The American Wind Energy Association ranks New York eleventh in the nation for installed wind generation capacity. As of the Spring of 2014, twenty wind energy projects are operating with a rated capacity of a little more than 1,812 MW, approximately 2.6 percent of all the electric power available from generation facilities in New York and enough to power more than 500,000 homes. In addition, two wind power projects are under construction in New York, and one is under active review. This wind energy development is critical in meeting New York's renewable energy goals.

Today in New York, wind power makes a small but significant contribution to meeting electric power needs. New York is the 15th windiest state in the nation. Usable wind sites are found in most parts of the state. According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, New York's wind resource has the potential to meet more than half of the state's current electricity needs.

These days, New York is the leading state for renewable energy. In fact, it wants to be able to depend solely on renewable energy by 2050. To achieve this goal, the state is looking to rely 50% on renewable energy. There are currently 123 New York renewable energy incentives and 28 local wind energy ordinances.

In July of 2019, New York State awarded Norwegian firm Equinor and a joint venture between Danish company Orsted and American company Eversource with two offshore wind contracts with a combined capacity of almost 1,700 megawatts. Both projects are expected to begin their operations in 2024.

Equinor's 816 MW Empire Wind facility will be comprised of between 60 to 80 wind turbines and will cover an area of 80,000 acres. It will be able to power more than 500,000 homes.

The Sunrise Wind project, which is a 50-50 joint venture between Orsted and Eversource, will have a capacity of 880 MW and will be built 30 miles east of Long Island's Montauk Point.

These projects came at a time when the state is stepping up its commitment to renewable energy. Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, the

