

Climate Action Council Report Highlights Need for More Offshore Wind

Analysis Demonstrates Essential Role of OSW in Meeting State Climate Targets

ALBANY, December 20, 2022 — A coalition of environmental, labor, and business organizations hailed yesterday's historic approval of the New York Climate Action Plan, which charts the path for New York state to achieve its nation-leading mandate for a carbon-free grid by 2040. In particular, the coalition highlighted the Plan's reliance on a minimum of 20 GW of offshore wind (OSW) under all future scenarios as a demonstration of the need for New York to extend and increase its current target of 9 GW by 2035. This follows a [letter sent last week by the coalition urging Governor Hochul](#) to increase New York State's offshore wind goals to achieve 15 gigawatts by 2040 and 20 gigawatts by 2050.

"The fact is, without a significant ramp-up in offshore wind capacity, New York's climate goals would remain out of reach. Instead, with today's milestone vote and their analysis demonstrating the need to build 20 GW of capacity by 2050, the Climate Action Council has put New York on steady footing toward a 100% clean energy grid," **said Julie Tighe, President of the New York League of Conservation Voters.** "We applaud the Climate Action Council for recognizing the need for this increase and ensuring New York remains the nation's leader in offshore wind development. That is why we are calling on Governor Hochul to increase New York's statutory offshore wind goal to 20 GW by 2050."

"The Climate Action Plan demonstrates the essential role that offshore wind will play in decarbonizing the New York grid," **said Fred Zalcman, the director of the New York Offshore Wind Alliance.** "Simply put, as a large-scale emissions-free energy generating source that can tap directly into high electricity consuming regions of the state, offshore wind must be a cornerstone of the state's carbon reduction strategy going forward. It is time for the state to ramp up its ambitions and retain its position as the most attractive American market for offshore wind."

"New York continues its leadership in embracing and building a clean energy economy. Our state and especially Long Island are on the front lines of climate change--extreme weather events, catastrophic flooding, tornadoes, and mudslides are too often in our weather reports. Investing in large-scale renewables, such as offshore wind energy is vital to our survival and sustainability. CCE applauds the hard work of NYS Climate Action Council, who has put forth a blueprint to meet our ambitious clean energy mandates. Ramping up and expanding our offshore wind energy goal is critical to this pathway. NY is quickly becoming an international leader in the offshore **Windustry,**" **said Adrienne Esposito, Executive Director, Citizens Campaign for the Environment.**

"We fully support New York's ambitious clean energy goals of achieving 70% clean energy by 2030 and 100% clean energy by 2040, and believe that a critical element to achieve these clean energy goals is the development of offshore wind off New York's coast," **said Cullen Howe, Senior Renewable Advocate at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)**. "Increasing the state's offshore wind statutory goal to achieve 20 gigawatts by 2050 is not only in line with the Climate Action Council's recommendations, but it will also inform the infrastructure decisions that New York State needs to make now – including transmission development, supply chain upgrades, and port modernization."

"The Climate Action Plan signals that it's time to increase New York's offshore wind goal with a strong commitment to robust labor standards that will create good, family-sustaining union jobs throughout the supply chain," **said Lenore Friedlaender, executive director of Climate Jobs NY**. "New Yorkers deserve an ambitious, pro-worker offshore wind plan that supports working families, revitalizes local communities and economies, helps close the racial wealth gap, and builds an equitable and carbon-free future for all New Yorkers."

"We applaud Governor Hochul for her nation-leading actions to curb emissions to reach a clean energy future," **said Vincent Albanese, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, New York State Laborers' Organizing Fund**. "We call on the Governor to build upon this commitment by increasing the state's offshore wind statutory goals to reach 20 gigawatts by 2050. This ambitious objective will produce countless union jobs with family-sustaining wages and benefits, bolstering the state's economy and assisting in the just transition from fossil fuels."

Said Tricia Brown, Political Director for the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters:

The North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters applaud today's Climate Action Council vote to more than double the state's offshore wind targets to 20 GW by 2050. The development of offshore wind will create thousands of good paying union jobs for the working people of New York, creating careers that will support middle class families and allow workers to retire with dignity. We are excited to work with the administration as we prepare the workforce to take on the challenge of constructing the power generation of the future and we thank Governor Hochul and the Climate Action Council for making this goal a priority.