

U.S. Offshore Wind Industry

STATUS UPDATE - DECEMBER 2019

Offshore Wind Energy Development in the U.S.

The United States has a vast offshore wind energy resource with a technical potential of more than 2,000 gigawatts (GW), or nearly double the nation's current electricity use. Harnessing America's offshore wind resources presents an enormous opportunity to create tens of thousands of highly-skilled jobs, revitalize coastal communities, and deliver large amounts of clean, reliable energy to the country's biggest population centers.

The U.S. currently has one operational offshore wind project with many more on the way. The nation's first commercial offshore wind project, the Block Island Wind Farm, came online in December 2016. Developed by Deepwater Wind, the Block Island Wind Farm is a 30 megawatt (MW) project with five turbines located three miles off the coast of Block Island, Rhode Island.

As of December 2019, the U.S. had a total offshore wind pipeline of over 26,000 MW in federal lease areas issued to date. Out of this pipeline, project developers expect 14 offshore wind projects totaling 9,112 MW to be operational by 2026.

States are driving strong demand for offshore wind energy and have established 25,400 MW of offshore wind procurement targets to date. As of December 2019, six states had selected nearly 6,300 MW of offshore wind through state-issued solicitations. Additional solicitations are planned for the coming years to help states meet their offshore wind energy goals.

On the federal side, the Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has issued 15 active commercial wind energy leases. In a December 2018 offshore wind lease auction, three separate parcels each went for a record \$135 million, underscoring robust competition and market interest. The record more than tripled the previous \$42 million set in 2016. All offshore wind lease auctions to date have totaled over \$472 million. BOEM is now in the planning stages for areas off of California, Hawaii, New York, and South Carolina, and expects to hold lease auctions for new California and New York Bight lease areas in 2020.

With stable policies in place, the Department of Energy found the U.S. could develop a total of 86 GW of offshore wind projects by 2050. As we continue to develop this homegrown resource, costs will continue to drop, value to consumers will grow, and the U.S. will see new jobs and investments in manufacturing and port infrastructure.



Recent State Activities Driving Offshore Wind Demand

Connecticut

- In June 2018, Connecticut selected 200 MW from the Revolution Wind project as a winner of a renewable energy RFP. The Connecticut PUC approved Ørsted's 20-year PPA with Eversource Energy and United Illuminating Co in December 2018. Connecticut selected an additional 100 MW from Revolution Wind at the end of 2018.
- In June 2019, Connecticut enacted a law requiring the state to procure 2,000 MW of offshore wind by 2030. The state issued an RFP for offshore wind in August and selected Vineyard Wind's 804 MW Park City project in December.

Maine

- In June 2019, the Governor of Maine directed the PUC to approve a contract for the 12 MW Maine Aqua Ventus floating demonstration project and announced a new Maine Offshore Wind Initiative. The PUC approved the contract between Central Maine Power and Maine Aqua Ventus in November 2019.

Maryland

- Maryland's Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2013 amended the state's RPS to include offshore wind and to provide financial support for projects in the form of Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Credits (ORECs).
- Maryland completed the first large-scale solicitation of offshore wind in the U.S. in May 2017, awarding ORECs to U.S. Wind and Deepwater Wind for two projects totaling 389 MW off the coast of Maryland.
- In May 2019, Maryland passed an offshore wind mandate of 1,200 MW by 2030 with an increase in the state's RPS.

Massachusetts

- Massachusetts passed a law in 2016 for utilities in the state to procure 1,600 megawatts of offshore wind by 2027. In 2018, the state passed legislation expanding authorization for utilities to procure an additional 1,600 MW, bringing the state's total target to 3,200 MW by 2035. Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources formalized that recommendation in May 2019.
- In May 2018, Massachusetts utilities selected 800 MW from the Vineyard Wind project as the winner of their first offshore wind solicitation. National Grid USA, Eversource Energy, and Unitil Corp signed power purchase agreements for Vineyard Wind at a total levelized price of \$65/MWh.
- In December 2018, BOEM held an auction for three offshore wind lease areas off the coast of Massachusetts. After 32 rounds of bidding, the lease areas were awarded to Equinor, Mayflower Wind Energy, and Vineyard Wind for a record total of \$405.1 million.

- Massachusetts issued its second offshore wind RFP in May 2019 and selected the 804 MW Mayflower Wind project in October as the winning bid.

New Jersey

- New Jersey passed legislation in May 2018 to raise its offshore wind target from 1,100 MW to 3,500 MW by 2030, fulfilling an Executive Order by Governor Murphy. In November 2019, Governor Murphy issued another Executive Order to increase the state's target to 7,500 MW by 2035.
- In June 2019, New Jersey granted the state's first OREC award to Ørsted's 1,100 MW Ocean Wind project, the largest offshore project planned in the U.S. to date. The project has an estimated levelized net OREC price of \$46 per MWh after revenues are refunded to ratepayers.

New York

- In January 2017, New York Governor Cuomo announced a commitment to develop 2,400 MW of offshore wind by 2030. In January 2019, Governor Cuomo increased the state's target to 9,000 MW of offshore wind by 2035, which was signed into law in July 2019.
- The Long Island Power Authority signed a 20-year power purchase agreement with Deepwater Wind for the 90 MW South Fork Wind Farm in 2017, and agreed to buy an additional 40 MW in November of 2018.
- In July 2019, New York announced the winners of its first offshore wind solicitation: Ørsted & Eversource's 880 MW Sunrise Wind project and Equinor's 816 MW Empire Wind project. NYSERDA signed 25-year OREC contracts with both projects in October 2019.

Rhode Island

- In May 2018, Rhode Island selected 400 MW from the Revolution Wind project through a competitive procurement. National Grid and Ørsted signed a contract for the project at a real levelized price of \$74 per megawatt hour, which the Rhode Island PUC approved in May 2019.

Virginia

- In July 2019, Dominion Energy and Ørsted started construction of the 12 MW Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Project, the first project in federal waters.
- In September 2019, Governor Northam issued an Executive Order calling for 2,500 MW of offshore wind by 2026. Shortly after, Dominion Energy announced plans to build and own a 2,640 MW offshore project by 2026, the largest project announced in the U.S. to date.

For more information visit www.awea.org/offshorewind or email Laura Morton, lmorton@awea.org.