

Strategy Pathways for Offshore Wind

On March 13th mothers from around New York state gathered in Brooklyn and chose offshore wind as our first Mothers Out Front statewide campaign.

We are asking decision makers to make a commitment to offshore wind that is:

- Long-term
- Large Scale
- Megawatt Specific

Background:

New York state's energy grid is undergoing a major overhaul as aging, unprofitable, and polluting coal and nuclear plants are going offline. A variety of different power sources will be needed to make up the shortfall. Natural gas power plants are the quickest and easiest way to add power to the grid. We need to exert public pressure on the state government and utilities to invest in clean, renewable energy rather than natural gas power plants. Offshore wind can eventually supply 40% of the power for NY's energy grid.

New York has a world class wind resource far off our shores that can deliver clean, reliable power right where we need it. Offshore wind has tremendous potential to deliver utility-scale, locally-sourced renewable power to New York families and businesses. Offshore wind blows the strongest during times of peak demand – afternoons, winter cold snaps, and summer heat waves – and can diversify our energy mix with large amounts of valuable, clean power just when we need it most. Reducing pollution throughout New York helps protect the most vulnerable among us including children, the elderly, and low-income communities.

Countries around the world are already reaping the many economic and environmental benefits of offshore wind power. In Europe, this booming industry currently supports 75,000 long-term, quality jobs in both coastal and inland communities. This incredible economic development story can be replicated here in New York, creating thousands of jobs across a range of high tech, manufacturing, construction, and operations sectors. The U.S. is poised to benefit from more than 25 years of lessons learned across the Atlantic, including technology advancements that have lowered costs and enabled development in areas far offshore where stronger wind resources can deliver even greater environmental and economic benefits.

Recent progress by the federal Department of the Interior in advancing the offshore wind leasing process for New York underscores the need to take action now to seize this opportunity. With a large area already leased for offshore wind development far off the East End of Long Island, a newly designated area off the Rockaways on track for a lease this year, and a process currently underway to identify additional areas for development off of Long Island, now is the time for New York to make a firm commitment to offshore wind power that ensures the market certainty needed to drive projects forward in these areas.

Pathway #1: LIPA

The Long Island Power Authority or LIPA has a proposal by Deepwater Wind for a 90 MW wind farm. Their Board of Trustees will meet on 5/18 and 7/20 and made a decision on 7/20.

Tactics:

- Turn out Long Island mothers and allies to both board meetings.
- Have Long Island mothers submit comments via e-mail.
- Postcard campaign. Mother's Day cards (virtual or actual)
- Other?

Pathway #2: Clean Energy Standard

Clean Energy Standard (CES) is a proceeding of New York's Reforming the Energy Vision (REV). There will be 9 public hearings throughout the state in May. There is also an open public comment period until at least the end of May. A coalition of environmental groups is working together on advocating for offshore wind to be included in the CES. There are prepared talking points we can use.

Tactics:

- Turn out mothers and allies to make public comments at as many different CES hearings as possible (we have posted all the hearings as events on our website).
- Encourage mothers and allies to submit public comments to the Public Service Commission before 6/1.
- Join rally in NYC on 5/31
- Target Cuomo directly via petition, phone calls, tweets, etc.
- Other?

Pathway #3: Bill deBlasio

Mayor deBlasio has the power to contract directly for offshore wind to power for NYC. The ask is for him to issue a "request for proposals" or RFP this year to get the maximum tax benefit from the Federal Renewable Energy Tax Credit.

Tactics: ?

Pathway #4: Make LIPA adopt CES provisions.

