

# DIRECTION

## THE FUTURE OF WIND



The US is poised to build its first large-scale offshore wind arrays and projects are queueing up for approval. (Courtesy: REUTERS/Morris MacMatzen)

# President Biden sets offshore wind target of 30 GW by 2030

The Biden administration has set a U.S. target of 30 GW of offshore wind by 2030 and aims to complete environmental reviews of at least 16 offshore wind projects by 2025 in a major set of policies and pledges announced by the White House March 29.

The offshore wind target is more ambitious than the target of 30 GW by 2035 set by the U.S. wind industry. President Joe Biden wants to create a new clean-energy economy, and the new measures will accelerate the transition to large-scale offshore wind projects and help to create thousands of jobs on the East and West coasts.

U.S. offshore wind capacity lags far behind Europe, but project development is booming. Congress recently agreed to a new 30-percent investment tax credit (ITC) for offshore wind farms, providing greater certainty for investors. Earlier, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) completed its final environmental impact statement (EIS) for Vineyard Wind, the U.S.'s first large-scale offshore wind project.

U.S. offshore developers have warned of a growing queue for environmental approvals at BOEM, a division of the Department of Interior (DOI). The Biden administration has already issued an executive order for faster approvals, and BOEM now plans to complete the reviews of "at least 16 construction and operations plans (COPs) by 2025, representing more than 19 GW," the White House said.

BOEM will also "advance new lease sales" and has created a new offshore wind development area in the New York-New Jersey Bight, a shallow water area between Long Island and New Jersey, it said. Following a public consultation, BOEM will tender for leases in the Bight in "late 2021 or early 2022," it said.

Offshore wind developers, component suppliers, and transmission builders will also gain access to \$3

billion of loan guarantees to help scale up capacity, after the Department of Energy (DOE) reopened its Loan Programs Office in March, the administration said. Power industry figures have urged East Coast U.S. states to set plans for onshore and offshore grid networks to accommodate waves of offshore wind build. The Biden administration will also offer \$230 million of federal funding to port authorities to support offshore wind infrastructure.

By 2030, the U.S. offshore wind industry could employ 44,000 workers directly and support 33,000 additional jobs, the White House said.

**MORE INFO** [www.reutersevents.com](http://www.reutersevents.com)

## US Wind begins survey in Maryland offshore lease area

Maryland-based offshore wind developer, US Wind, Inc., has launched oceanographic survey activities within its Maryland offshore lease area. A team of scientists and other experts will collect data beginning in April into July 2021 to inform project design, including foundation type, turbine location, and cable burial routes.

"These seabed surveys are an important next step in our commitment to providing Maryland with clean, renewable energy," said Jeff Grybowski, US Wind CEO. "Data collected will ensure safe and long-term operations and performance of our offshore wind facilities."

The geophysical survey operations will be conducted along a tartan-pattern survey grid by U.S. marine research vessels R/V Brooks McCall and the R/V Miss Emma McCall. Operated by TDI-Brooks, Inc., both vessels are designed to execute geophysical surveys for offshore hazard and site clearance assessments, cable routing, seafloor mapping, fisheries habitat mapping,

and burial assessment studies.

US Wind has already begun an extensive outreach effort to local fishermen to inform them of these survey activities. Dedicated fisheries outreach specialists from Sea Risk Solutions will also regularly provide updates on the vessels' scheduled activities. There will be no restriction on fishing in the offshore wind lease area due to these survey activities.

US Wind is also implementing extensive efforts to minimize impacts on marine life during survey operations. Expert Protected Species Observers will be aboard each vessel to monitor for the presence of protected species, such as the North Atlantic Right Whale, and ensure appropriate measures are taken to protect these species.

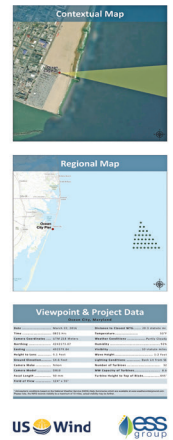
US Wind was founded in 2011 and has established its position as a premier offshore wind energy development company in the United States. In 2014, US Wind obtained a federal lease for site control to develop approximately 1.5 GW of offshore wind power generation off the coast of Maryland. US Wind is majority-owned by Renexia SpA, a leader in renewable energy development in Italy and a subsidiary of Toto Holding SpA. Toto Holding SpA has more than 40 years of experience specializing in large construction and infrastructure projects, primarily in the energy, transportation, and aviation sectors.

**MORE INFO** [uswindinc.com](http://uswindinc.com)

## Global renewables investment manager expands U.S. position

Greencoat Capital recently announced funds managed by Greencoat have agreed to acquire a 55 percent cash equity stake in a 405-MW wind portfolio in Illinois from EDP Renewables.

The transaction marks the second





a threshold greater than 5 MW. This is a tremendous victory that provides the right foundation needed to create good jobs utilizing a highly skilled workforce as we address climate change here in New York State.”

A wide and diverse range of labor and environmental advocates echoed the NYS Building Trades’ sentiments.

“We commend Governor Cuomo, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie for their leadership in moving this groundbreaking legislation, which will not only ensure that we’re addressing the climate crisis, but also creating good union jobs at all stages of work throughout the renewable energy system,” said Vincent Alvarez, president of the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

“These basic labor standards and responsible-contracting requirements are foundational for us as we continue to push for investment in climate action and green infrastructure at the scale science demands,” said

Jeff Vockrodt, executive director of Climate Jobs NY, a coalition of labor unions representing 2.6 million New Yorkers committed to taking on both climate change and inequality. “We applaud Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Heastie, and other key legislative leaders, as well as Governor Cuomo and his team for securing these standards for New York workers in the clean-energy economy.”

According to the new standards for renewable energy systems of 5 MW or more with renewable energy credit (REC) agreements with any public entity, project owners must pay construction workers prevailing wage and be subject to DOL enforcement under Article 8. The project owner may be exempt from the above requirements with project labor-type agreements with state or local trades organizations.

In addition to these prevailing wage standards, the announced budget agreement includes provisions critical to ensuring a just transition for

New York’s tradesmen and tradeswomen in the renewable energy industry, including requiring renewable energy systems of 5 MW or more with a REC agreement to:

► Enter into a labor peace agreement with at least one labor organization seeking to represent employees involved in the necessary operations and maintenance services.

► Comply with Buy American provisions for steel and iron products in the construction phase.

The agreement also creates a process by which NYSERDA or other public entities can create a bidding process to incentivize New York State renewable energy equipment and supplies during construction.

This package of new labor standards on renewable energy systems of 5 MW or more will apply to all RFPs and solicitations beginning October 1, 2021. ✎

**MORE INFO** [www.nybuildingtrades.com](http://www.nybuildingtrades.com)



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