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GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

**Governor Cuomo Announces New Solicitation for Large Scale Renewable Energy Projects to Develop Clean Energy and Combat Climate Change**

***Expected to Spur Up to \$1.5 Billion in Private Investment, Up to 20 Large Scale Renewable Projects Creating More Than 1000 Good-Paying Jobs***

***Projects Accelerate Progress Toward Governor Cuomo's Mandate for 50 Percent of State's Electricity to Come from Renewable Sources by 2030***

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced the second solicitation for large-scale renewable energy projects under the state's Clean Energy Standard. The solicitation for up to 20 projects will accelerate New York's transition to a clean energy economy and is expected to spur up to \$1.5 billion in private investment and create more than 1,000 new well-paying jobs for New Yorkers. The solicitation is expected to support 1.5 million megawatt-hours of renewable electricity per year, enough to power 200,000 homes, and advance New York's nation-leading commitment to secure 50 percent of the state's electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

"This administration continues to champion renewable energy projects across New York, and this is a major step forward in our efforts to create clean jobs and set an example for the rest of the nation," Governor Cuomo said. "With this action we will continue to capitalize on our natural assets, expand economic opportunities and lay the groundwork for a cleaner, greener New York for generations to come."

The state is issuing this solicitation as the second in a series of major procurements that are expected to result in the development of dozens of large scale renewable energy projects by 2022 under the Clean Energy Standard. Community engagement and on-the-ground support is crucial for the successful development of renewable energy projects, and the RFP released today includes new standards and requirements for effective community outreach and planning. The RFP also ensures that good-paying jobs will be created by requiring the prevailing wage for applicable positions.

Notable new provisions in this solicitation include:

- Requiring that workers associated with the construction of any awarded facility be paid the applicable prevailing wage, a standard set by the New York State Department of Labor, ensuring that the projects will result in quality, good-paying jobs for New Yorkers;

- Preserving and protecting New York's valuable agricultural resources by providing bonus points for renewable energy projects that avoid overlap with land of agricultural importance to New York State;
- Ensuring that communities that would host successfully awarded projects are fully aware of the development process, proposers will be required to demonstrate that they have engaged with those communities and have also commenced the associated permitting processes; and
- Continuing to encourage proposals that cost-effectively pair renewable energy with advanced energy storage technologies to help meet Governor Cuomo's commitment to deploying 1,500 MW of energy storage by 2025.

To learn more about the large scale renewable solicitation, visit NYSERDA's website.

The announcement maintains a predictable pace of annual solicitations for renewable energy developers and will support continued development and investment in clean energy projects across New York State.

The move builds on the Governor's announcement with Vice President Al Gore in March when the state reaffirmed its commitment to cleaner, smarter energy solutions, including the announcement of large-scale renewable energy project awards and a formal request to the federal government for an exclusion from the new five-year National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

This solicitation supports NYSERDA's 2017 solicitation through which a \$1.4 billion investment dedicated to renewable energy projects was announced earlier this year. That investment included 22 utility-scale solar farms, three wind farms and one hydroelectric project. One of the wind farms features an energy storage component, marking the first time a large-scale renewable energy project has done so in New York State.

The request also builds upon a New York Power Authority solicitation announced last June in concert with NYSERDA's first solicitation, that will procure 1 million MWh. This investment in large-scale clean energy supply will further expand NYPA's leadership role as the state's largest supplier of renewable electricity. NYPA received more than 130 proposals from 51 clean energy developers in response to its RFP. NYPA plans to announce selected developers and customers once contracts are signed, which is expected to be this summer.

These projects will advance the Clean Climate Careers initiative announced by Governor Cuomo in June 2017. The initiative focuses on accelerating renewable energy and energy efficiency to make New York home to 40,000 new, good-paying clean energy jobs by 2020. According to the 2017 New York Clean Energy Industry Report, 146,000 New Yorkers were employed in the clean energy sector, including 22,000 in renewable energy power generation.

**Richard Kauffman, Chairman of Energy and Finance** said, "Investment in clean energy has been a proven catalyst in jump-starting the economy and providing jobs throughout the State. The significant interest the state is seeing from companies to invest in New York's clean energy agenda is testament to our resolve to ensure generations to come can enjoy the natural resources which surround us."

**Alicia Barton, President and CEO, NYSERDA** said, "Making progress in the battle against climate change requires a sustained commitment to supporting clean energy projects that will

make our communities stronger and more resilient. Governor Cuomo has set the stage for New York to lead this effort through his bold commitment to 50 percent renewable energy by 2030, and we expect that this solicitation being announced today will help us maintain the early momentum we witnessed in the last round, and to pick up our pace in the march towards a cleaner future."

**Gil C. Quiniones, President and CEO, NYPA said,** "Renewable energy is a priority for New York State. With these latest sizeable investments in clean and green energy projects and jobs, we are making great progress toward Governor Cuomo's Clean Energy Standard. Through large-scale renewable projects, we are changing the energy landscape in New York, and ensuring that our energy mix is viable and affordable now and into the future."

**Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee Chair Senator Joseph Griffo said,** "The development of renewable resources is crucial to New York's efforts to become more energy efficient. This announcement is a significant step forward and will support the state's investments in a clean energy economy and job growth across the state."

**Assembly Energy Committee Chair Michael Cusick said,** "While fighting climate change, the State is also investing in our economy by providing jobs for New Yorkers. With this plan, Governor Cuomo is ensuring opportunities for businesses to participate in the State's agenda to have 50 percent renewable energy by 2030. Once again, New York is leading the nation in creating clean energy."

**Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee Chair Steve Englebright said,** "I am thrilled to see New York taking more aggressive steps towards meeting our renewable energy goals, and in turn, our climate change mitigation goals. The state must rapidly move to produce clean power for homes and business and create well-paying, stable jobs for New Yorkers. Renewable projects, in concert with smart, economy-wide policies, will show that New York is a trendsetter in climate action."

**The Alliance for Clean Energy New York Executive Director Anne Reynolds said,** "The renewable energy industry is committed to investing in New York to create jobs and help achieve Governor Cuomo's ambitious clean energy goals. We applaud the Governor for his commitment to clean energy and for the release of the second solicitation for projects under the Clean Energy Standard. Our member companies look forward to competing for the opportunity to serve New Yorkers and provide pollution-free power."

**Climate Jobs NY Executive Director Ya-Ting Liu said,** "New York has become a model for the rest of the country on how to tackle climate change while creating good, middle-class jobs with benefits. We applaud Governor Cuomo's ongoing commitment to build a robust clean energy economy in New York that supports working families."

**The Nature Conservancy in New York Chief Conservation and External Affairs Officer Stuart F. Gruskin said,** "The Nature Conservancy applauds Governor Cuomo for continuing progress on New York's ambitious renewable energy goals and is thrilled to see a new approach in this solicitation to begin to consider land use. We look forward to continuing to work with the Administration to proactively address siting concerns to ensure clean energy for all New Yorkers while reducing impacts to our critical natural resources."

**Independent Power Producers of New York President & CEO Gavin Donohue said,** "We applaud Governor Cuomo's leadership in moving the Clean Energy Standard forward using competitive auctions. It is important to recognize the benefits of in-state energy resource development to local economies, and a diversity of resources is essential to electric system reliability."

### **Reforming the Energy Vision**

Reforming the Energy Vision is Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's strategy to lead on climate change and grow New York's economy. REV is building a cleaner, more resilient and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers by stimulating investment in clean technologies like solar, wind, and energy efficiency and requiring 50 percent of the state's electricity needs from renewable energy by 2030. Already, REV has driven growth of more than 1,000 percent in the statewide solar market, improved energy affordability for 1.65 million low-income customers, and created thousands of jobs in manufacturing, engineering, and other clean tech sectors. REV is ensuring New York reduces statewide greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030 and achieves the internationally recognized target of reducing emissions 80 percent by 2050. To learn more about REV, including the Governor's \$5 billion investment in clean energy technology and innovation, visit [rev.ny.gov](http://rev.ny.gov) and follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

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