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GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

**GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES FORMAL REQUEST FOR NEW YORK
EXCLUSION FROM FEDERAL OFFSHORE DRILLING PROGRAM**

***Announces \$1.4 Billion in Awards for 26 Large-Scale Renewable Energy Projects,
the Largest Single Commitment to Renewable Energy by a State in U.S. History***

***Projects Will Create 3,000 Quality Jobs and Spur Over \$3 Billion in Direct
Investment***

***New York State Forging Ahead Despite Federal Assault on Clean Energy Jobs
and Climate Action***

***Actions Advance Governor's Nation-Leading [Offshore Wind Master
Plan](#) - Committed to Protecting New York's Waters, Reducing Greenhouse Gases
and Fighting Climate Change***

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, joined by Vice President Al Gore, today announced that New York has formally requested an exclusion from the new five-year National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. At New York University, the Governor also announced the single largest commitment to renewable energy by a state in U.S. history at \$1.4 billion, which will advance 26 large-scale renewable energy projects across New York. The competitive awards, driven by the Governor's Clean Energy Standard mandate, are expected to generate enough clean, renewable energy to power more than 430,000 homes and create over 3,000 short- and long-term well-paying jobs. In the face of a concerted federal assault from Washington, New York is taking aggressive action to protect our environment for future generations.

"Instead of protecting our waters from another oil spill, like the one that devastated the Gulf, this new federal plan only increases the chances of another disaster taking place," **Governor Cuomo said.** "This is a total disregard for science, reality, and history, and their actions defy everything we know. We believe the future is a clean energy economy and New York is going to lead a counter-movement to what this administration is doing to the environment and illuminate the path forward."

"Governor Cuomo is demonstrating outstanding leadership in helping to solve the climate crisis and building a sustainable future," **said Vice President Al Gore.** "His vision and leadership stand in stark contrast to the Trump administration's malignant mission to make us even more dependent on the dirty and destructive fossil fuels. Now more than ever, it's up to all of us to step up and act on this urgent cause of our time. Governor Cuomo is showing how it can be done."

In January 2018, the federal government unveiled the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas program, which proposes to make over 90 percent of the total offshore acreage in the United States available to oil and gas drilling. This plan would open two areas of the North Atlantic coast adjacent to New York State for fossil fuel exploration. An exclusion from offshore drilling program was granted to Florida shortly after its launch on the grounds that the state relies heavily on tourism as one of the nation's top ocean economies.

As the number three ocean economy in the nation, New York stands to lose nearly 320,000 jobs and billions of dollars generated through tourism and fishing industries should the exclusion not be granted. Overall, New York's ocean economy generates \$11 billion in wages and contributes \$23 billion in gross domestic product.

Long Island and the New York Harbor are home to 11.4 million people, with 60 percent of our state's population living along nearly 2,000 miles of tidal coastline. The Port of NYNJ is the largest on the Atlantic seaboard and a major spill that disrupted operations would be devastating to the national economy. The Port supports 400,000 indirect jobs and 229,000 direct jobs while generating \$90 billion in combined personal and business income and \$8.5 billion in federal, state, and local taxes. New York State strongly opposes the Department of the Interior's National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program as it poses an unacceptable threat to New York's ocean resources, to our economy and to the future of our children.

In addition, offshore drilling endangers New York's progressive efforts to move toward cleaner, smarter energy solutions, including the nation-leading \$1.4 billion investment dedicated to renewable energy projects. The awarded projects include 22 solar farms, demonstrating that large-scale solar power is now economically viable across New York State for the first time. The projects are expected to generate enough clean, renewable energy to power more than 430,000 homes and reduce carbon emissions by more than 1.6 million metric tons, the equivalent to taking nearly 340,000 cars off the road.

These projects advance the Clean Climate Careers initiative announced by Governor Cuomo in June 2017. The Clean Climate Careers 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. With today's historic investment, New York State will support over 3,000 short- and long-term, good quality jobs in construction, operation and maintenance that are anticipated to pay the prevailing wage for the region.

During the competitive selection process, bonus points were awarded to renewable energy projects that demonstrated a commitment to the creation of good local jobs and the use of locally-manufactured components and content. The rigorous, two-step review process also included non-price criteria to evaluate the applications. The criteria included scoring for the developer's experience in constructing and financing renewable projects, the developer's previous project development experience in New York, and the projects development status related to grid interconnection, permitting and site control. Proposals were reviewed and scored by a technical committee of professional independent evaluators. The response by 30 developers proposing 88 projects provided NYSERDA with the opportunity to select the best and most cost-effective proposals.

In addition to the 22 utility-scale solar farms, other projects include 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. Several projects will break ground as early as April 2018 and all projects are expected to be operational by 2022, adding over 1,380 megawatts of capacity and generating over 3,200,000 MWh annually.

These projects represent a significant step in advancing the Governor's Clean Energy Standard to obtain 50 percent of New York's electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030. Award recipients were chosen from a pool of 88 applications from 30 clean energy developers. The state's \$1.4 billion investment is expected to spur over \$3 billion of direct investment over the life of the projects, with support for these new projects provided by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. The weighted average award price for this solicitation is \$21.71 per megawatt hour of production over the 20-year term of the awarded contracts, which is 11 percent less than the price awarded through the last two prior year's awards.

Richard Kauffman, Chairman of Energy and Finance said, "The number of responses and the quality of projects proves that REV is working to animate the clean energy market. All New Yorkers deserve to reap the environmental and economic benefits of an energy system powered by renewables. These projects help us get there."

New York Secretary of State Rossana Rosado said, "New York is leading the way by producing the nation's first-ever utility-scale offshore wind farm and we want to continue our partnership with federal agencies to move this forward. Governor Cuomo's forward-thinking leadership charts a course for a sustainable and responsible future, free from the real threats offshore gas and oil drilling poses to our coastal communities."

Alicia Barton, NYSERDA President and CEO said, "This is an historic moment for New York as we make the largest purchasing commitment to renewable energy by a state in the history of our country. Achieving 50 percent of New York's electricity from renewable sources by 2030 is a cornerstone of Governor Cuomo's nation-leading agenda to fight climate change, and I look forward to watching these projects create

jobs, expand our clean energy economy and provide New Yorkers with clean, reliable power for decades."

DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said, "While the Federal government's energy policies are moving in exactly the wrong direction, with potentially devastating impacts on New York, thankfully Governor Cuomo is leading the nation forward in the transition to a clean energy economy. Oil and gas exploration, drilling, and potential spills are incompatible with New York's multi-billion dollar coastal economy. Rather than endangering the environmental and economic health of our coasts, New York is carefully and responsibly expanding renewable energy to support the state's comprehensive efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle climate change."

Gary LaBarbera, President of the Greater New York Building Construction Trades Council said, "On behalf of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York, I commend Governor Cuomo for his leadership to address climate change while also supporting working men and women of New York. Today's announcement demonstrates that New York can tackle the challenges of climate change head on while creating good paying middle class careers in construction,"

Anne Reynolds, Executive Director of the Alliance for Clean Energy New York said, "It is exciting to see Governor Cuomo's nation-leading clean energy policies drive on-the-ground wind and solar projects and real job creation. These first contract awards under the new 50% Clean Energy Standard show that New York is serious about making progress towards the 50% by 2030 target."

The 26 large-scale renewable energy projects by region are:

Capital Region

- **Columbia Solar 1, Columbia County:** Hecate Energy will build a 60 MW solar facility in the town of Copake.
- **Darby Solar, Washington County:** Granada Solar will build a 19.99 MW solar facility in the town of Easton.
- **Flint Mine Solar, Greene County:** Hudson Energy Enterprises will build a 100 MW solar facility in the town of Coxsackie.
- **Greene County Energy Properties, Greene County:** Greene County Energy Properties will build a 19.9 MW solar facility in the town of Coxsackie.
- **Pattersonville, Schenectady County:** Teichos Energy will build a 19.99 MW solar facility in the town of Pattersonville.

Central New York

- **Janis Solar, Cortland County:** Granada Solar will build a 19.99 MW solar facility in the town of Willet.
- **Sky High Solar, Onondaga County:** Cypress Creek Renewables will build a 19.99 MW solar facility in the town of Tully.

Finger Lakes

- **Java Solar Energy Center, Wyoming County:** Invenergy will build a 1.53 MW solar facility in the town of Java.

Mid-Hudson

- **Blue Stone Solar, Ulster County:** Geronimo Energy will build a 19.99 MW solar facility in the town of Saugerties.
- **Daybreak Solar, Ulster County:** Geronimo Energy will build a 25 MW solar facility in the town of Shawangunk.
- **Little Pond Solar, Orange County:** Cypress Creek Renewables will build a 19.99 MW solar facility in the town of Deerpark.
- **Magruder Solar, Ulster County:** Granada Solar will build a 19.99 MW solar facility in the town of Gardiner.

Mohawk Valley

- **Double Lock Solar, Montgomery County:** Cypress Creek Renewables will build a 19.99 MW solar facility in the town of Minden.
- **East Point Energy Center, Schoharie County:** NextEra Energy will build a 50 MW solar facility in the town of Sharon.
- **Grissom Solar, Fulton County:** Granada Solar will build a 19.99 MW solar facility in the town of Mayfield.
- **High River Energy Center, Montgomery County:** NextEra Energy will build a 90 MW solar facility in the town of Amsterdam.
- **Rock District Solar, Schoharie County:** Cypress Creek Renewables will build a 19.99 MW solar facility in the town of Carlisle.
- **Sunny Knoll Solar, Schoharie County:** Cypress Creek Renewables will build a 19.99 MW solar facility in the town of Schoharie.
- **Tayandenega Solar, Montgomery County:** Cypress Creek Renewables will build a 19.99 MW solar facility in the town of St. Johnsville.

North Country

- **Lyons Falls Mill Redevelopment, Lewis County:** Northbrook Lyons Falls will redevelop an existing hydroelectric facility, leading to an increase in new renewable capacity of 3.23 MW.

Southern Tier

- **Baron Winds, Steuben County:** EverPower Wind Holdings Inc. will build a 272 MW wind farm in the towns of Cohocton, Dansville, Fremont, and Wayland.
- **Bluestone Wind, Broome County:** Calpine Corporation will build a 121.8 MW wind farm, accompanied by 6.2 MW of energy storage, in the towns of Windsor and Sanford.
- **Branscomb Solar, Tioga County:** Granada Solar will build a 19.99 MW solar facility in the town of Candor.
- **Puckett Solar, Chenango County:** Granada Solar will build a 19.99 MW solar facility in the town of Greene.
- **Regan Solar, Chenango County:** Granada Solar will build a 19.99 MW solar facility in the town of Guilford.

Western New York

- **Alle-Catt Wind, Allegany and Cattaraugus County:** Invenergy will build a 339.78 MW wind farm in the towns of Arcade, Farmersville, Freedom, Rushford, and Centerville.

Building on the momentum of these project awards, NYSERDA will issue the next solicitation for large-scale renewable energy under the Clean Energy Standard on April 25, 2018. Maintaining a predictable pace of annual solicitations for renewable energy will support continued development and investment interest in New York State, and establish New York as a leading market for renewable energy development in the U.S.

In the April 25, 2018 solicitation NYSERDA will build upon the successful 2017 solicitation by including several new provisions to ensure that selected projects continue to deliver maximum value to New York State:

- To further cement New York State's commitment to creating high quality in-state clean energy jobs, NYSERDA will require that prevailing wage, a standard set by the Department of Labor, be paid for large-scale renewable energy jobs as a contract term in future solicitations. The State will also further explore labor standards, project labor agreements and other measures to ensure projects going forward continue to produce quality, well-paying jobs for New Yorkers;

- To help meet Governor Cuomo's nation-leading commitment to deploying 1500 MW of energy storage by 2025, NYSERDA will seek to encourage proposals that cost-effectively pair renewable energy with advanced energy storage technologies; and
- To preserve and protect valuable agricultural resources, the request for proposals will seek additional information to ensure that renewable energy projects selected for awards do not impose unacceptable impacts on New York State's farmlands.

NYSERDA anticipates making awards in September of 2018 and issuing a subsequent solicitation, if needed, in November 2018.

For more information, please visit the [NYSERDA website](#).

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