

FACTSHEET: RESPONSIBLE & REASONABLE OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY IS A CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION

BUT...THE OCEAN IS AT RISK FROM TOO MUCH, TOO FAST!

OVER 670,000 ACRES ALREADY LEASED OFF NY & NJ!



Offshore wind is renewable but will impact the ocean and marine life. The scope, scale, magnitude, and speed of the industrialization of over **670,000** acres for wind energy are unprecedented for the marine ecosystem off the New York/New Jersey Coast. The current development is nearly the size of Yosemite National Park, with more to come. There will also be cumulative impacts – currently unknown by science – from offshore wind facilities proposed from Maine to North Carolina. There are very few laws protecting marine life. The large-scale development of the NY & NJ lease areas is **too much, too fast**. The risks are high. There are cheaper, faster, and safer energy solutions that can be implemented **now** on land, while a pilot study determines how to conduct offshore wind in an environmentally responsible manner.

CLIMATE ACTION NOW: NO TIME TO WASTE!

- Human use of fossil fuels is causing accelerated climate change, which is threatening all life on Earth.
- The ocean has buffered climate impacts – absorbing 90% of the heat generated and up to 30% of the carbon dioxide emissions caused by human activities – but to her own demise with sea-level rise and ocean acidification.
- There is no evidence that reductions in fossil fuel usage will begin when offshore wind facilities come online.
- Projected carbon dioxide emissions are still expected to rise despite the growth of renewable energy.
- A healthy ocean is key to helping reduce impacts from climate change.
- It will take more than a decade to install and build offshore wind projects, depending on conditions.
- According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration states, America already wastes nearly 60% of its energy. Onshore energy conservation and efficiency should be prioritized before further energy generation.
- Renewable energy is crucial, but it must be generated in a reasonable and responsible manner.

THE OCEAN OFF THE NY/NJ COAST IS ECOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT & DIVERSE WITH:

- 33 species of whales, dolphins, porpoises, 5 species of sea turtles, and 4 species of seals.
- hundreds of species of fish and birds that depend on the region for habitat, food, or migration.
- endangered animals, including the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale, of which less than 340 remain.
- sustainable seafood for millions of people each year, both locally and globally.

OCEAN INDUSTRIALIZATION EXPERIMENT UNDERWAY WITH IMPACTS:

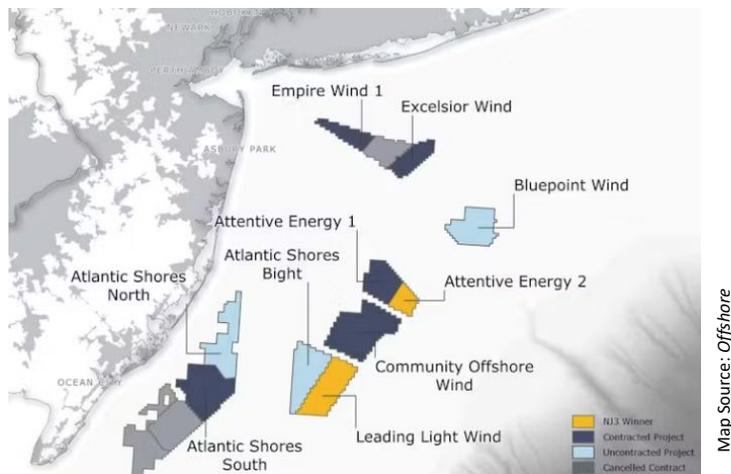
- Over 670,000 acres are privatized by energy companies (including “Big Oil”) off the NY/NJ coast.
- Hundreds of offshore wind turbines are proposed, with more on the way.
- Turbines are huge – rivaling skyscrapers such as the Chrysler Building in New York City.
- Limited information is known about potential impacts like noise, electromagnetic fields, navigational safety, changes to benthic and pelagic habitats, behavioral changes in wildlife, alterations to food webs, invasive species concerns, and pollution from increased vessel traffic, heat, and onshore and offshore infrastructure.
- Endangered species, including the North Atlantic right whale and sea turtles, are at grave risk.
- Wind turbines will alter the exchange of heat, moisture, and momentum between the surface and atmosphere.
- Large *onshore* construction sites have yet to be developed.
- The NY/NJ region is VERY busy and hosts enormous ports such as the NY/NJ Harbor and Port of Philadelphia. Proposed offshore wind farms could interfere with radars and navigation in this region.
- Full development is over 10 years away (without delays)—far slower than the options on hand today to meet the climate challenges.

OVER 670,000 ACRES ALREADY LEASED OFF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

TOO MUCH! Combined, the areas off the NY/NJ coast already leased for offshore wind total over 670,000 acres. For perspective, this is roughly:

- **25 times the size of Disney World in FL**
- **894 times the size of MetLife Stadium in NJ**
- **46 times the size of Manhattan, NY**

TOO FAST! Federal and state agencies and officials are rushing the process to develop the ocean for offshore wind energy. Uninformed development puts marine life at risk and is rife with possible unintended consequences. Right now, only the court of public opinion can protect these lands and ocean resources.



Impacts of Offshore Wind:

- Noise disturbance
- Electromagnetic fields
- Navigation safety
- Habitat changes
- Wildlife behavioral changes
- Alterations to food webs
- Invasive species
- Increased ship traffic
- Heat
- Turbidity from sediments
- Onshore infrastructure

CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION IS NEEDED NOW!

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report released in August 2021 indicates climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying worldwide. Robust action must be taken within this decade.
- However, proposed offshore wind projects and on-land construction sites will take years to get approved, installed, and put into operation. No onshore construction facilities are on-line.
- The Research and Monitoring Initiative (RMI) will evaluate the potential impacts of offshore wind on marine resources, but it will not be completed before construction begins. This means the results cannot be incorporated into the construction process, potentially resulting in irreversible damage to the ocean's crucial ecosystems.
- While better than impacts from fossil fuel energy sources, impacts from offshore wind are not negligible.
- Solutions to address climate change must not adversely impact the resources that need to be protected.
- **It is imperative to expedite and implement onshore CHEAPER, SAFER, EASIER and ENERGY-WISE options NOW, prioritizing energy waste reduction and efficiency measures.**

OFFSHORE WIND MUST BE REASONABLE & RESPONSIBLE TO PROTECT OCEAN RESOURCES

A healthy ocean is the most valuable ecosystem as it combats climate change, sustains life, and supports clean ocean economies. Clean Ocean Action (COA) supports responsible and reasonable renewable energy, including offshore wind (OSW), that is based on the "precautionary principle" and would not endanger a healthy vibrant ocean ecosystem during the phases of pre-construction, construction, operation, management, and decommissioning, as well as from the associated onshore infrastructure. However, many marine scientists agree that little is known about the harm from this industrialization of the ocean, especially at the scale, scope, magnitude, and speed of development currently proposed. This fast-tracked scope and scale of offshore wind energy development off the NY/NJ coast is not reasonable or responsible because of all the unknowns. COA is calling for an independent pilot scale project to fully understand the costs, benefits, and ecosystem impacts and to establish laws to eliminate or reduce the harm to ensure a healthy ocean ecosystem. Again, a healthy ocean is the world's best buffer against climate change.

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