



NYSG's public participation guide helps reduce barriers to public participation in the offshore wind energy development process

NYSG Public Participation Guide Helps Communities Engage in the Offshore Wind Development Process

The United States has a target of installing 30 GW of offshore wind energy (OWE) by 2030. New York State is a leader in this effort; the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act mandates that the state procures 9 GW of OWE by 2035. The federal OWE development process includes several opportunities for public participation, but a common barrier is the public lack of understanding regarding when and how to engage in the process.

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) responded to community concerns about the complexity of the federal OWE development process by creating an accessible guide, *Federal Opportunities to Participate in Offshore Wind*. The guide:

- is designed to demystify the OWE development process
- helps audiences learn OWE technical language
- provides past development examples, and
- reduces barriers to submitting public comment on federal agency actions.

This participation guide is for interested or impacted New Yorkers, including people living and working on the waterfront or near powerplants, and current ocean users such as commercial and recreational fisheries, aquaculture farmers, and other marine environmental stakeholders.

Other Sea Grant programs in the OWE community of practice have expressed interest in using NYSG's guide to reduce barriers to public participation with communities in areas in their states interested in and/or impacted by OWE development.

A participatory approach to OWE development provides the opportunity for a more just, balanced, and sustainable renewable energy program.

Partners/Reviewers:

- National Sea Grant Law Center
- Rhode Island Sea Grant
- New Hampshire Sea Grant



The construction vessel "Jill" marks the beginning of the construction and operations phase for South Fork Wind Farm offshore of Long Island. Photo: Gwen Gallagher/NYSG

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Resilient New York Communities and Economies.

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.
Contact: New York Sea Grant Extension, 112 Rice Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853; www.nyseagrant.org.

Project summary was written by NYSG Coastal Climate Specialist Specialist Gwen Gallagher, Ph.D., 631-632-8730, geg59@cornell.edu.