



What is the Hoffman Falls Wind Project?

The Hoffman Falls Wind Project is a proposed up to 100-megawatt wind energy generation facility with up to 24 wind turbines located on private land in the Towns of Fenner, Nelson, Smithfield, and Eaton in Madison County, New York.

What is the timeline for the Hoffman Falls Wind Project?

The Project is currently in the development phase, which includes local and state permitting, land leasing, and several types of environmental studies. After development is complete, construction will begin and last approximately 12-18 months. The Project's operational lifespan will be at least 25 years.

What benefits will the Hoffman Falls Wind Project bring to the local community?

The Project is expected to provide a total of \$63 million in local investments to the community. The Project will also create approximately 66 full-time construction jobs, three local long-term jobs, and will contract local labor for ongoing services such as road repair, snow removal, and vegetation management.

What are the primary factors that Liberty Renewables considers when siting a wind project?

Primary factors for new wind project siting include a strong wind resource, proximity of existing transmission infrastructure with interconnection capacity, availability of compatible lands with low expected impacts to environmental and agricultural resources, and local interest from private landowners and municipalities.

Who oversees the permitting process for wind projects in New York State?

Renewable energy projects of 25 megawatts or larger are required to obtain a siting permit from the New York State Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (ORES) under Article VIII of the NYS Public Service Law.



How can the local community be involved in a wind project's development process?

Liberty Renewables regularly provides project updates to town government officials, project participants, and project neighbors, and reflects these updates on the project website pages. Liberty Renewables also offers a toll-free phone number and a contact form on the website.

How much of a project's power is available to the host community?

When energy enters the electric grid, it is distributed based on real-time demand. Towns, businesses, or industrial facilities in the project's area will be the first place the energy will flow. Any excess energy will then flow to regional demand centers and through the broader interconnected electric grid to meet nearest demand until it has been fully utilized.

What environmental studies must be completed before constructing a wind project?

NYS Article VIII siting regulations require developers to conduct wetland and stream delineations, cultural resource surveys, visual impact studies, and numerous avian surveys. These surveys require hundreds to thousands of hours spent on the ground and are always performed by a third-party expert consultant.

How does Liberty Renewables' siting process support existing farming operations?

Wind turbines are highly compatible with agricultural lands. Turbines themselves do not use much land, with an average of less than one acre of land required per turbine, allowing continued crop farming and livestock grazing up to the turbines' foundations.

How long does project construction typically last and how are its impacts on local roads mitigated?

Project construction typically spans 12–18 months. Liberty Renewables will work with host communities to develop a Road Use Agreement, which outlines a commitment to necessary repair of local roads that may be damaged by heavy equipment, construction, or maintenance activities.



How do wind projects affect local property values?

Several large-scale studies have demonstrated that the planning, construction, and operation of utility-scale wind projects have no long-term negative impacts on property values.

How far from homes, roads, and public spaces will wind turbines be located?

State regulations and turbine manufacturers outline strict setback requirements based on the tallest wind turbine model under consideration for a given project. Setback distances are determined by measuring a straight line from the midpoint of a wind turbine tower to the nearest point on a building foundation, property line, or other landmark.

What is shadow flicker?

Wind turbine blades can cast shadows that move across the ground and nearby structures, creating a "flicker" effect. Shadow flicker is limited by several factors, including the season and time of day, wind direction and speed, and cloud cover, among others, meaning it does not occur on cloudy days, becomes weaker with distance, and is most common during sunrise and sunset.

How much sound do wind turbines emit?

On average, land-based, utility-scale wind turbines produce sound levels that fall in the range of 35-45 decibels when heard from 1,000 feet away. At this distance, turbines are typically no louder than a residential refrigerator (~50 decibels).

How do wind turbines impact water wells?

Liberty Renewables takes the necessary precautions to ensure that there are no changes to local water wells due to construction and uses a third party to conduct well water testing throughout project facilities to mitigate impacts to nearby water wells following construction.



What impacts do wind turbines have on local birds, bats, and other wildlife populations?

Researchers have identified that wind energy has one of the lowest impacts on wildlife and their habitats of any utility-scale method for generating electricity. To date, there have been no significant population impacts documented for any one species due to wind energy development. Liberty Renewables conducts environmental impact studies for every project to ensure that projects are sited in areas where impacts to wildlife species are minimized.

What is wind turbine ice throw and how is it mitigated?

Ice throw is the term used to describe the shedding of ice from wind turbine blades when a turbine is exposed to freezing rain, fog, or other conditions that produce ice build-up. To mitigate ice throw, turbine suppliers offer cold climate solutions that lower the risk of ice buildup on turbine components.

Do wind turbine blades erode and produce microplastic pollution?

Over time, natural forces can cause slight erosion of the leading edge of wind turbine blades. The largest modern turbines may produce up to 150 grams (a little over half a cup) of annual erosion which is chemically inert and does not release harmful substances into the environment.

How are local emergency responders trained in the event of a facility emergency?

Liberty Renewables creates detailed Site Security and Safety Response Plans for each project in collaboration with local emergency services and fire department officials. Training is also given to local emergency responders ahead of construction, as well as annually throughout project operations.



What types of decommissioning plans are established for wind projects?

Before a wind project is approved, a Decommissioning and Site Restoration Plan must be established and undergo rigorous NYS and local review. A decommissioning bond paid for by Liberty Renewables will be established prior to project construction, posted in escrow, and shared by the towns within the project site. Towns are not responsible for decommissioning costs.

What happens to wind turbines after decommissioning?

Up to approximately 94 percent of wind turbine components are recyclable since they are largely comprised of steel. Recycling innovations continue to reduce landfill use and conserve resources, ensuring that wind energy remains an environmentally responsible solution from operation through decommissioning.