

FAQs

AGRICOLA WIND PROJECT
www.liberty-renewables.com



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What is the Agricola Wind Project?

The Agricola Wind Project is a proposed up to 99-megawatt wind energy generation facility with up to 24 wind turbines located on private land in the Towns of Scipio and Venice in Cayuga County, New York. The Project is undergoing review with the Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (ORES) in accordance with New York State's Article VIII permitting process and received its draft permit on June 2, 2025. After all development activities are complete, construction is anticipated to begin in 2026-2027 and last 12-18 months. The Project's operational lifespan will be at least 25 years. The Project is expected to generate enough renewable electricity to power more than 17,000 homes annually.

What benefits will the Agricola Wind Project bring to the local community?

The Project is expected to provide a total of approximately \$63 million in local investments to the Towns of Scipio and Venice, Cayuga County, the Southern Cayuga County School District, local fire districts, and participating landowners. Revenue from the Project will also be allocated annually to community members through a Shared Community Payment Program and through residential utility rebates on electricity bills. The Project will also create an estimated 89 full-time construction jobs, up to three local long-term operations and maintenance 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, low expected impacts to environmental and agricultural resources, and local leasing interest from private landowners.

How do wind projects affect local utility bills?

Utility rates are determined by the local utility company and are not directly impacted by Liberty Renewables' wind projects. To further benefit the Agricola Wind Project's community, Liberty Renewables will implement a utility rebate program designed to help offset household energy expenses. For the first ten years of operations, the rebate program will distribute \$100,000 annually among residential customers in the Towns of Venice and Scipio, putting money back in the pockets of local families.

Land-based, utility-scale wind projects produce electricity at some of the lowest costs currently available, making wind power a highly cost-effective and reliable energy source. Since other non-renewable energy sources can be 3-4 times more expensive than onshore wind over time, the addition of more low-cost renewable energy to the grid can help stabilize or reduce energy prices.

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.

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

Wind energy is 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. For this reason, there is potential for landowners and agribusinesses hosting wind turbines on their land to increase their annual revenue per acre when combined with their existing agricultural practices. Infrastructure associated with the Agricola Wind Project is expected to utilize less than 50 acres of land throughout the life of the Project.

How can the local community be involved in the Agricola 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. Liberty Renewables also offers a toll-free phone number and contact form on their website. Community engagement opportunities will continue to be offered through the Project's planned construction and operations phases. A recording of the Agricola Wind Project's September 2024 virtual community meeting can be accessed on the Project's website page.

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

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 they are developed in a way that minimizes impacts to wildlife.

How does Liberty Renewables evaluate health and safety measures for wind projects?

The New York State Article VIII permitting process requires thorough health and safety evaluations. Liberty Renewables creates Site Security and Safety Response Plans for each project with input from local first responders and provides annual emergency response training.

Liberty Renewables' projects comply with strict setback requirements set by state regulations and turbine manufacturers, as well as local setbacks to the maximum extent practicable. Understanding and complying with these setbacks allows the project teams to mitigate:

- **Sound:** Sound levels produced by wind turbines fall in the range of 35-45 decibels when heard from 1,000 feet away, which is typically no louder than an average residential refrigerator.
- **Shadow:** In addition to setbacks, factors like season, time of day, wind conditions, topography, and cloud cover naturally limit shadows, which are most concentrated at sunrise and sunset.
- **Ice:** To reduce the risk of ice shedding from turbine blades in the winter months, Liberty Renewables implements cold climate technology solutions recommended by turbine manufacturers.