

GOV. CUOMO, LIPA LIMIT JOB GROWTH BY FAILING TO KEEP RENEWABLE ENERGY PROMISE

LIPA Board fails to fulfill Governor's renewable energy promise

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The LIPA Board of Trustees voted today to approve just a fraction of the renewable energy contracts promised by Governor Cuomo in his LIPA reform legislation.

While the decision will bring 122 megawatts (MW) of new solar projects online, the decision fell significantly short of meeting the Governor's commitment of 280 MW of new renewable power this year.

The Governor's pledge could have been met if the Board chose a proposed offshore wind project 30 miles off the coast of Long Island. Committing to offshore wind now would have put the project on track for development in the next few years bringing hundreds of new jobs, stable electricity rates and cleaner air to Long Island families.

Instead, the board approved yet another solicitation for the remaining 160MW that likely won't be complete for another 18 months while PSEG-Long Island completes an Integrated Resource Plan. The delay means New York will miss out on the immediate economic, environmental and job benefits of building wind now.

In response, Alliance for Clean Energy New York, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Environment New York, Environmental Advocates of New York, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Wildlife Federation, New York League of Conservation Voters, North Fork Environmental Council, NYPIRG, Oceana, Renewable Energy Long Island, Sierra Club, and Working Families Party released the following joint statement:

"We're disappointed that Governor Cuomo failed to keep his promise to bring 280 MW of new renewable energy to Long Island this year. Failing to fulfill this promise means we will continue to fall behind as other states embrace the economic and public health benefits of investing in offshore wind. In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, Long Island knows first-hand that we need a serious commitment—not a half effort—to combatting climate change.

"While we are happy to see more solar energy business opportunities for Long Island, it's not enough to meet even half of the promised goal, and at the same time, the Governor missed a critical opportunity to build a thriving new offshore wind industry in New York.

“Governor Cuomo promised our families a modern utility with more renewable energy. He’s failed to follow through on that promise, costing us jobs and economic opportunities in the process. Now, we’re counting on PSEG-LI to work quickly toward building the modern utility we were promised and taking action to bring offshore wind power to our homes and businesses.”

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