

Offshore Wind Industry Offers Potential for New Jobs and Billions of Investment in North Carolina

New report projects a \$100+ billion U.S. market opportunity, recommends next steps to attract manufacturing supply chain to the state

North Carolina stands well positioned to attract a significant portion of a more than \$100 billion market opportunity from the growing offshore wind energy industry, according to a comprehensive new report released today by the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The publication of the report from BVG Associates marks the latest step in Governor Cooper's far-reaching commitment to build a clean energy economy to fight climate change and grow clean-energy jobs in North Carolina.

BVG Associates (BVG), a consulting company with extensive wind energy experience, forecasts the U.S. east coast will see a total offshore installed capacity exceeding 40 gigawatts (GW) by 2035. Reaching this level of capacity will require a manufacturing ecosystem to supply component parts for at least two dozen utility-scale wind farms. To reach the capacity targets for wind projects already publicly announced by states and site developers, BVGA expects the industry will invest \$140 billion by 2035 to establish and build out its supply chain, install equipment, and operate the wind facilities. BVGA forecasts North Carolina manufacturers can address and supply equipment for the entire east coast market, not just for projects directly off the state's coast.

"Wind energy means new jobs for North Carolinians," said Machel Sanders, North Carolina's Commerce Secretary. "Just like biotechnology was for us many years ago, today clean energy represents an industry of the future and North Carolina always embraces the future."

The North Carolina Office of Science, Technology, & Innovation, an operating unit of the Commerce Department, led the study project for the state and commissioned the report. The BVGA lead team included experts from Lloyds Register Energy Americas, Timmons Group, and North Carolina State University and its NC Clean Energy Technology Center.

BVG Associates, headquartered near London with offices in Glasgow, Scotland and Richmond, Virginia, conducted an extensive assessment of the state's strategic position for the offshore wind industry. In addition to the market analysis, BVG researched and is developing an inventory of businesses, organizations, and physical infrastructure best positioned to promote offshore wind (OSW) development in North Carolina. The report finds that North Carolina has multiple port and water-front properties well-suited to support the OSW industry currently developing off the U.S. East Coast. The state also has a fully integrated, up-to-date high-capacity intermodal transport system consisting of rail, road, inland waterways, and coastal waterways that connects well to North Carolina's coastline and adjoining states.

The company's report includes recommendations for actions the state might take to leverage the emerging OSW opportunity. The company developed a similar study for the State of Virginia.

North Carolina already features one approved Wind Energy Area (WEA) under lease for development. The Kitty Hawk WEA, located 24 nautical miles from Corolla, is projected to be able to support 2,500 megawatts of electricity generation, which would be enough to power approximately 700,000 homes.

The publication of the report sends an important signal to OSW developers and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) that North Carolina is committed to the industry, both as a location for wind energy projects as well as an ideal manufacturing location for projects along the entire eastern seaboard.

The new assessment is part of the ongoing work to implement Governor Cooper's Clean Energy Plan for the state.

In October 2018, Governor Cooper signed Executive Order 80 to reaffirm North Carolina's commitment to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions and support the expansion of clean energy businesses. Among other actions, the executive order directed the Department of Commerce to support the expansion of clean energy businesses and service providers, encourage clean technology investment, and support companies seeking to procure renewable energy. On October 1, 2019, the Department of Commerce published an extensive workforce assessment for the clean energy and clean transportation industry sectors. On October 29, 2020 the governors of Maryland and Virginia joined Governor Cooper to announce a three-state framework to advance offshore wind projects, known as the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Transformative Partnership for Offshore Wind Energy Resources (SMART-POWER).

The full report, Building North Carolina's Offshore Wind Supply Chain, is available online at nccommerce.com.

North Carolina's January Employment Figures Released

The state's seasonally adjusted January unemployment rate was 5.9 percent, declining 0.2 points from December's revised rate. The national rate declined 0.4 points to 6.3 percent.

North Carolina's January 2021 unemployment rate increased 2.4 percentage points from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 9,882 over the month to 4,741,046 and decreased 187,402 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 11,284 over the month to 297,599 and increased 117,994 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm industry employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, decreased 3,200 to 4,432,600 in January. Major industries experiencing increases were Construction, 1,200; Information, 1,200; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 700; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 400; Other Services, 200; and Professional & Business Services, 100. Major industries experiencing decreases were Education & Health Services, 2,900; Government, 1,600; Financial Activities, 1,400; and Manufacturing, 1,100. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates since January 2020

	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	Jun 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021
N.C.	3.5	3.6	3.9	13.5	13.5	8.8	8.8	6.8	7.3	6.8	6.4	6.1	5.9
U.S.	3.5	3.5	4.4	14.8	13.3	11.1	10.2	8.4	7.8	6.9	6.7	6.7	6.3

Since January 2020, Total Nonfarm jobs decreased 190,900 with the Total Private sector decreasing by 153,400 and Government decreasing by 37,500. Major industries experiencing increases were Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 3,400; Professional & Business Services, 2,400; and Financial Activities, 1,000. Major industries experiencing decreases were Leisure & Hospitality Services, 87,200; Education & Health Services, 38,400; Government, 37,500; Manufacturing, 18,900; Other Services, 12,100; Construction, 2,800; Information, 700; and Mining & Logging, 100.

School Board Meeting for March 29 to be Live Streamed on YouTube

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on Monday, March 29. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel for the public to view. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

Governors' orders on indoor gatherings will be enforced. Social distancing requirements will be enforced and masks will be required.

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can go to the public comment link on the Anson Schools website at www.ansonschools.org to sign up. Public comment sign up will be from 4:45 to 5:15 p.m. on March 29.

AnsonEDP Announces REV Uptown Reopening Timeline

This is a release from the Anson Economic Development Partnership: As the percentage of Anson County residents who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 rises, and the daily number of new cases decreases, AnsonEDP is preparing for the reopening of its offices and the full opening of the REV Uptown business incubator and coworking space.

Although AnsonEDP never shut down as a result of the pandemic, the staff has been primarily working remotely since a major COVID surge in the county over the holidays, and the REV Uptown facility has been open for limited hours. Beginning March 30th, AnsonEDP will be returning to its regular office hours schedule of Tuesday thru Thursday from 8-5, and Monday, Friday, and Saturday by appointment. REV Uptown will be open Monday thru Friday from 7:00 until 5:00, with certain levels of users having 24/7 access.

The business incubator, conference room, and coworking space, which have been closed or operating under reduced hours, will return to normal hours - with mask and social distance rules remaining in place - on May 3rd.

"We are to the point where the vast majority of high-risk individuals have been fully vaccinated, and by early May, more than half the population of the county will have received at least one dose," said AnsonEDP director John Marek. "We are confident that we can reopen our offices and the REV Uptown facility, with reasonable precautions, with minimal risk to our business community."



On behalf of Mrs. Pauline W. Kirby, we would like to say Thank You from the bottom of our hearts to the Wadesboro Health & Rehab staff, doctors and nurses for taking good care of her.

Thank you to the Hospice of Richmond County, all the churches that took part in her spiritual values, Mr. Harold Smith and staff, and the Sheriff's Office. We can't name all of those who were a part of her life.

From Annie Robinson, Charles Kirby, Isaac Kirby and the entire Wall/Kirby family of Mrs. Pauline W. Kirby. God Bless and we love you.

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