



## WindWorks Long Island



## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **What is the Long Island Offshore Wind Park?**

The Long Island Offshore Wind Park is a proposal to construct 40 wind turbines that will be located 3.6 to 5.5 miles off the south shore of Long Island. Each turbine will be capable of generating 3.6 megawatts of electricity. The slow-spinning turbines would generate 140 megawatts of pollution-free power, enough to power 44,000 homes on Long Island!

### **Why do we need an offshore wind park?**

Unfortunately, we are seeing a yearly increase in energy usage throughout Long Island. This results in an increase in harmful air pollutants and climate-changing greenhouse gases. Nassau and Suffolk County do not meet federal air quality standards for ozone and fine particulate matter; both of these pollutants have been linked to respiratory problems and asthma. Long Island needs to invest in cleaner, renewable forms of energy to meet the increasing energy demand and decrease our reliance on foreign fossil fuels.

***The Long Island Wind Park will save 13.5 million barrels of oil over 20 years! With oil at \$75 a barrel that equals a fuel savings of \$1 Billion for Long Islanders!***



### **Why was this location chosen?**

This location was chosen because it met important criteria: it has average wind speeds of 18mph; it is not a known bird flyway zone; water depth is below 70 feet, and it is close to an existing substation which can connect the wind-generated power to the electricity grid without the need to build new costly high-voltage transmission lines.

### **Does building the wind park mean we won't get the Island's old, dirty power plants cleaned up?**

NO. The wind park will be built and owned by FPL Energy. KeySpan owns the old, dirty power plants on LI. These plants can be cleaned up (or 're-powered') making them burn less fossil fuel, while still producing the same amount or more electricity. *The combination of re-powering and using more renewable energy is a win-win for the public, not an either or situation.* This will also significantly reduce harmful air pollutants.

### **Will the wind park increase electric rates?**

The price of oil and gas has skyrocketed over the last few years, while the price of wind energy has been declining. Once a wind park is constructed, its power comes with a fixed and stable price, whereas other energy sources are dependent on foreign markets and have been surging upward. Some analysis have estimated when oil is \$75 per barrel, the wind park is approximately the same cost as oil.

### **Will the wind park harm birds and marine life?**

Studies have shown that properly sited wind turbines have no significant impact on birds and the environment. Extensive studies are now being done to determine whether there might be any potential problems at the proposed Long Island location, but other offshore wind parks have shown positive effects. These studies show that **birds AVOID turbines** by simply flying around them. Turbine foundations act as artificial reefs, attracting many species of fish.

### **Will fishermen and boaters be able to access the waters surrounding the wind park?**

The U.S Coast Guard will make the final decision. In Europe, offshore wind parks are typically not off-limits to boat traffic.

### **Will the wind park have any harmful effect on Long Island's aquifer system, therefore impacting our drinking water?**

No! This is a myth! The US Geological Survey has confirmed that there is no possibility for saltwater to infiltrate our fresh water aquifer system 3.6 miles out in the ocean where the turbine foundations would be located.

### **Does the public have a chance to comment?**

YES! We are at the very beginning of the process. WindWorks LI, a coalition of numerous environmental organizations supports a full environmental impact statement. This will be a comprehensive document which must address any and all concerns. Once there is a draft, the public will be able to review and comment on the document. Then the document will be revised and the public will be able to comment again. All of this must happen *before* the wind park is built!



*Wind Power is a clean, fuel-free, emission-free reliable source of energy. Wind power does not tie us to foreign nations that have dictated our energy policy for so long. It moves us towards energy independence. Wind is a valuable, necessary choice for Long Island, New York, and our Nation.*

[www.WindWorks4LI.org](http://www.WindWorks4LI.org)

America the Beautiful of Nassau County, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Earth Echo International, EarthSave LI, Environmental Advocates of NY, Friends of the Bay, Greenpeace, Healthy Planet, Huntington Breast Cancer Action Coalition, Long Island Citizens Action Network, Long Island Mid-Suffolk Business Association, Long Island Neighborhood Network, Natural Resources Defense Council, New York Public Interest Research Group, Pace Law School Energy Project, Prevention is the Cure, Renewable Energy Long Island, Riverkeeper, Sustainable Energy Alliance of LI, The Hydrogen Institute Center at SUNY Farmingdale, Union of Concerned Scientists