



# **New York State:** Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act

**The Accelerated Renewable Energy  
Growth and Community Benefit Act  
will help the state reach its**

# 70%

**renewable energy target by  
2030 more rapidly**

**On 3 April 2020, New York State passed  
the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth  
and Community Benefit Act as a direct  
response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

This Act has been designed to improve and streamline the process for introducing economical and environmentally friendly renewable energy projects across the state: making it easier to enact change at a local level. It will also deliver direct benefits to communities by creating new jobs in this sector and providing all New Yorkers with access to clean energy. As the state emerges from the pandemic, job creation and the transition to clean energy will be crucial for supporting long-term economic, social, and environmental benefits.

As well as simplifying the introduction of new projects, the Act creates an Office of Renewable Energy Siting, to streamline the siting of large-scale renewable energy projects in an environmentally responsible and cost-effective way. This siting process is the first of its kind in the nation, ensuring that renewable energy projects are approved and established in a quicker time frame to spur



**New York State**  
Population: 19,542,209  
GDP: \$1,487 billion



No state was hit as hard by COVID-19 as New York State and no state had to work harder to defeat the virus and get it under control. We learned some important lessons in the context of addressing the pandemic that I believe will only bolster our resolve on climate action

**Basil Seggos,**  
Commissioner, New York State  
Department of Environmental  
Conservation

private investment and create green energy jobs. In addition, the Act also sets out plans for expanding and accelerating investment in New York's renewable grid in order to make clean energy more cost-effective and accessible.

Further, the Act establishes several programs to protect communities and help them rebound from COVID-19 disruptions. The Host Community Benefits Program will provide benefits and incentives to communities that decide to host renewable energy sites and offer them utility bill discounts. The Clean Energy Resources Development and Incentives Program will focus on making the siting process more efficient and prioritise the development of renewable projects on existing brownfields, landfills, and commercial and industrial sites.

**Ultimately, New York's Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act will help the state reach its 70% renewable energy target by 2030 more rapidly.**

By creating a new siting process specific to renewables and incorporating communities in the planning process, the Act will bring clean energy to all New Yorkers and facilitate economic recovery from COVID-19.

