




Department
of Public Service

Large Scale Renewable Energy Siting in New York State

Sarah Crowell, Chief of Renewable Energy Siting
Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission
March 4, 2025

2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act



Establishes
ambitious clean
energy targets.

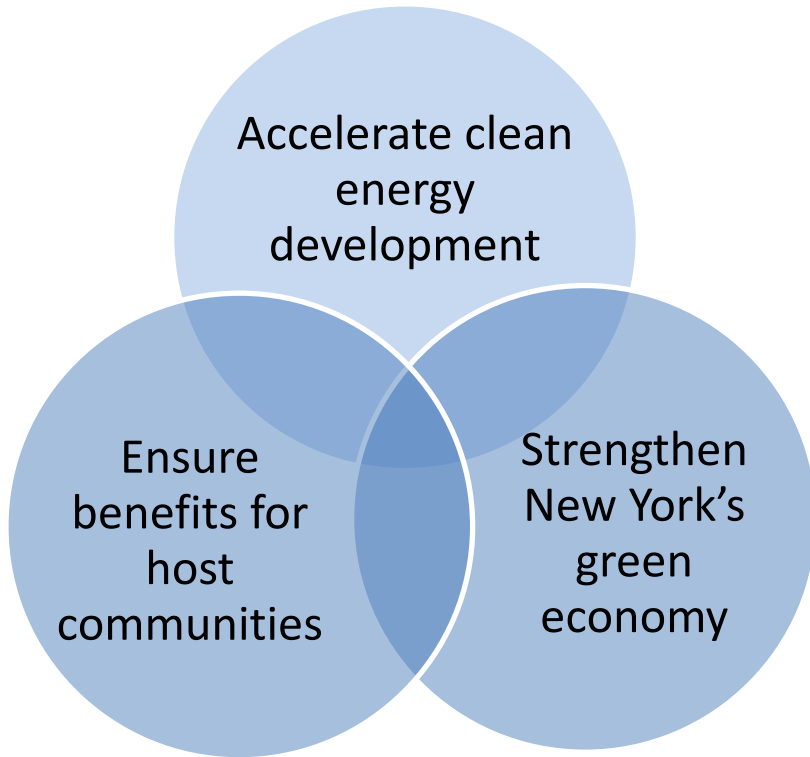


Reduce GHG emissions
economy wide: 40%
from 1990 levels by
2030 and achieve 85%
by 2050



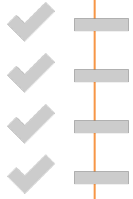
Attain 70% renewable
energy by 2030 and
emissions free electric
demand system by 2040

2020 Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act

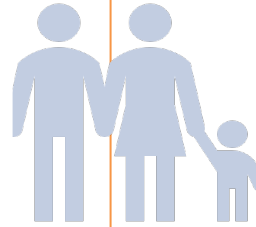


- Consolidated large-scale renewable energy siting into the Office of Renewable Energy Siting
- Mandated host community utility bill credits and community benefit agreements
- Created an applicant-funded local agency account fund
- Established the Build-Ready program
- Required a power grid study

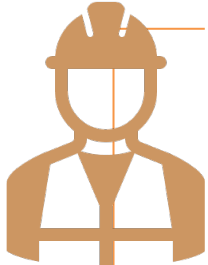
Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES)



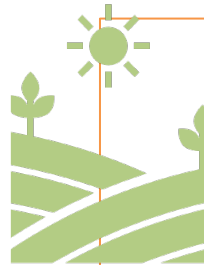
Established pursuant to the Accelerated Renewable Energy Act of 2020 to permit renewable energy facilities 25MW or greater.



Mandates community engagement and host community benefits for all large-scale renewable energy facilities



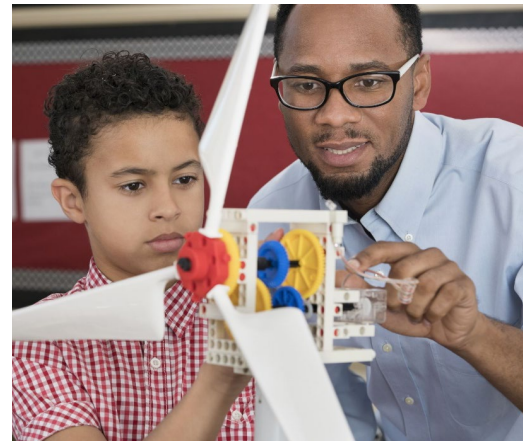
ORES, through an Executive Director, can issue a single permit for the construction of large-scale renewable energy facilities and preempts other state and local procedural laws and permitting requirements



Streamlines the environmental review and siting of large-scale renewables through application of uniform standards & conditions (“USCs”) to timely achieve the CLCPA goals

Community Benefits

- **PILOT:** Host community receives yearly payment and for reinvestment into the community;
- **Employment:** Construction jobs, some permanent;
- **Host Community Benefit Agreements:** Flexible, customized, locally retained benefits – can include additional payments beyond PILOTs, or other community priorities.
- **Utility Bill Credit:** All large-scale projects provide subsidies to reduce host community utility bills. \$500/mw solar, \$1000mw wind
- **Land Agreements**
- b



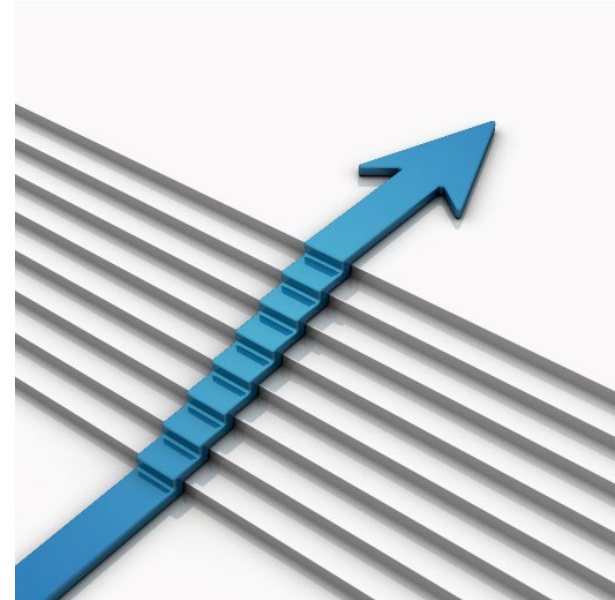
ORES Regulations

Regulations became effective on March 3, 2021, within one year as required by Executive Law

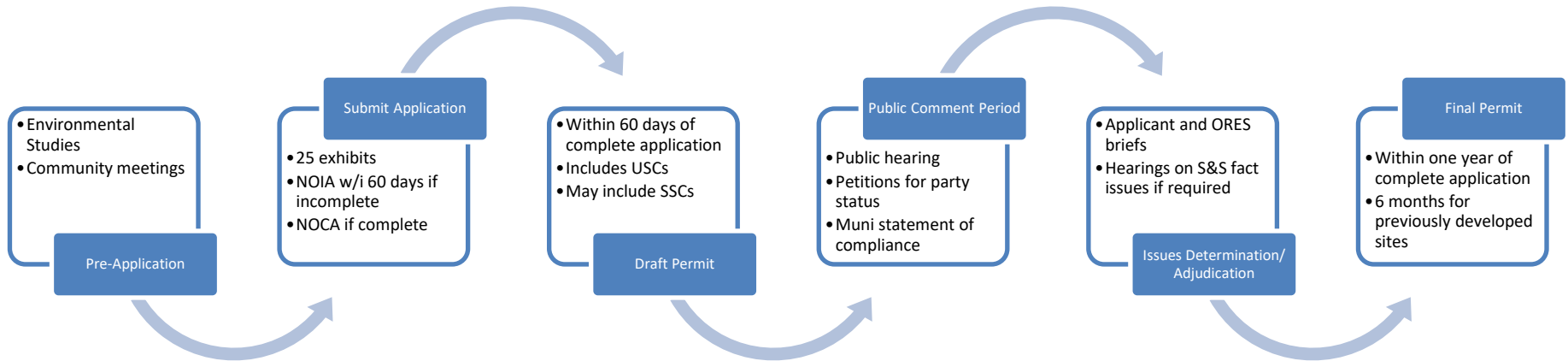
- Mandatory pre-application procedures
- Application requirements and review procedures, including for application completeness review and local agency and intervenor funding
- Uniform Standards and Conditions Adjudicatory hearing procedures for substantive and significant issues
- Pre-construction and post-construction compliance requirements
- Enforcement provisions

Pre-Application

- Pre-application is a **key component** of accelerating the permitting process because there is no formal settlement and no post-completeness discovery unless a hearing is required
- **Frontloads consultation** with the ORES and other **stakeholders**
- **Early identification** of resources is crucial to the permitting process and accelerates all subsequent steps.
- Can **accelerate** other processes (e.g., federal permitting)



ORES Permitting Process



2024 Renewable Action Through Project Interconnection and Deployment Act

- Transfer the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) and its existing authority to the Department of Public Service (DPS), and provide “it with additional responsibilities for the review and permitting of major electric transmission facilities”
- Ensure that significant upgrades in the bulk and local transmission system necessary to achieve the CLCPA targets can be permitted in an “expedited timeframe” consistent with ORES’s existing streamlined process
- Empower ORES to issue permits for major electric transmission facilities pursuant to new Public Service Law (PSL) Article VIII – absent involvement of the Public Service Commission



Questions?

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