

# Sierra Club Celebrates Offshore Wind Successes on Global Wind Day

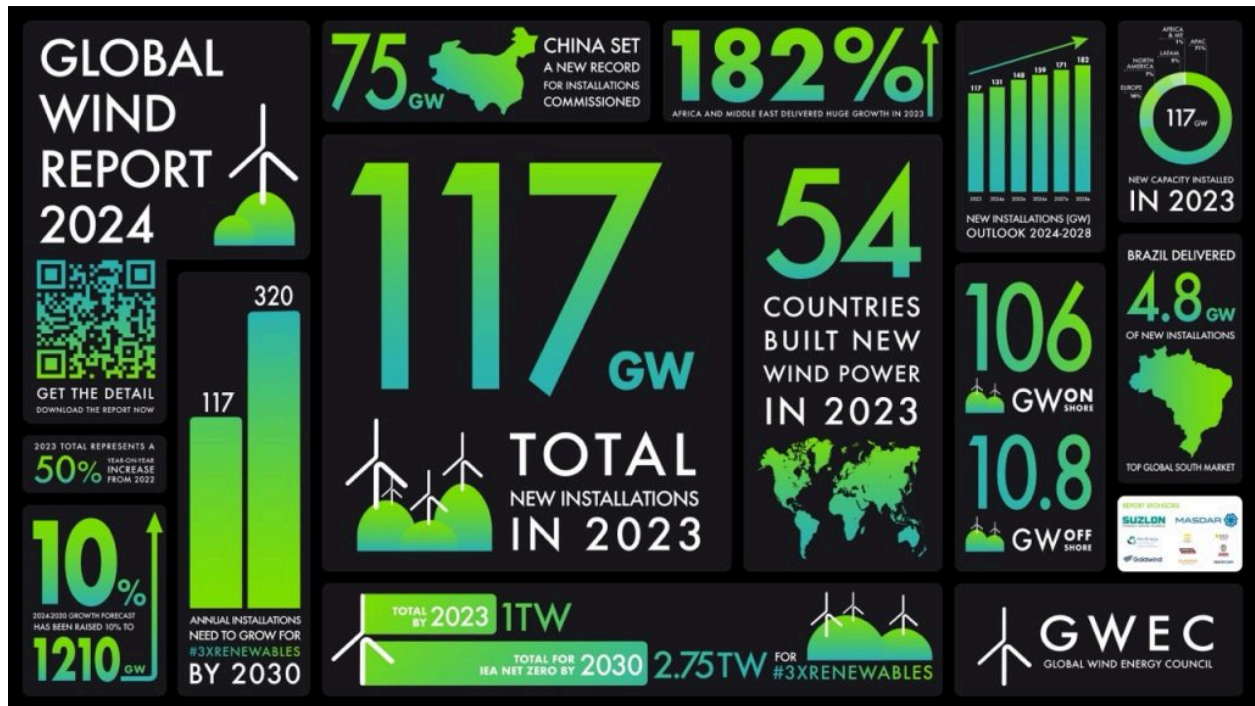
Every year on June 15th, people around the world share their passion for wind energy. It is a day to discover wind and the possibilities it holds to save our ocean and land ecosystems, reshape our energy systems, decarbonize our economies, and boost jobs and growth. Five east coast state chapters of the Sierra Club (SC) with offshore wind (OSW) projects sponsored Global Wind Day celebrations. SC members, residents, and elected officials attended the celebrations to show their support for the development of offshore wind.

Here is the [video broadcast of the events](#) hosted by SC national Offshore Wind staff. Remarks by speakers stressed the pressing climate crisis and the critically positive role offshore wind can play in mitigating its impacts. As the climate crisis accelerates, we know it is more important now than ever to invest in a renewable energy future. Offshore wind is a crucial step to meeting our clean energy goals.

New England stands to benefit greatly from offshore wind development. Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island have set out to develop 9 GW of offshore wind by 2030. Should the three states achieve their goal, according to a [recent study by Synapse Energy and Sierra Club](#), New Englanders can expect to save an average of \$630 million to \$1.3 billion on annual electricity costs. The added clean energy would also result in a 42% cut in annual CO2 emissions from the New England power sector and provide \$362 million in annual public health benefits.



From [Globalwindday.org](http://Globalwindday.org)



From the Global Wind Energy Council

Here is a summary of the wind power successes and goals and forecasts for future development on the east coast:

### Successes:

- US: 46 million homes are powered by wind energy
- New York: 70,000 homes on Long Island powered by South Fork wind farm
- Massachusetts: 30,000 homes powered by OSW
- New Jersey: 5.2 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind capacity contracted, which includes 3,742 MW of capacity awarded to Invenergy (a Morro Bay wind energy developer)
- Virginia: Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) project is under construction and will have 176 turbines, powering 600,000 homes - 30% of the electricity supply for VA.

### Goals and Forecasts:

- US: 30 GW of OSW by 2030; 100% carbon pollution-free electricity by 2035.
- New York: 9 GW of OSW by 2035;
- Massachusetts: 9 GW of OSW by 2030, 400,000 homes powered by OSW, 3600 job years of employment, and \$362M in public health benefits.
- New Jersey: 11 GW of OSW by 2040 contributing to the state's 100% clean energy goal.
- Delaware: goal is net zero by 2050; [US Wind has proposed a project](#) for 121 OSW turbines.
- Virginia: 8 GW by 2026 and thousands of union jobs.

At the rally on Saturday, State Senator Julian Cyr, Barnstable Town Council Member Gordon Star, and representatives from Sierra Club Massachusetts and [Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative](#) delivered remarks in support of increased development of offshore wind along the coastline. Following the rally, Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter Director Vick Mohanka released the following statement:

“By achieving the tri-state 9 GW offshore wind goal, we could provide Massachusetts and our neighbors with clean and renewable energy that bolsters our grid reliability, energy savings, and emission-reduction efforts. Added offshore wind would also help to protect our families and businesses from the dangers of gas price volatility and negative health and climate impacts. Power is blowing in the wind. It is time we harness wind energy and reap the multitude of its community and climate benefits.”

“Offshore wind is New England’s greatest shot at curbing the impacts of the climate crisis and getting our communities off the gas rollercoaster for good,” said Sierra Club Northeast Deputy Regional Field Director Andrea Callan. “For healthier communities and lower energy bills, decision makers must dedicate themselves to the increased development of offshore wind in the region and make 9GWs by 2030 a reality. This summer, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island together must seize the opportunity before them to greenlight projects that will put us well on our way to achieving that goal.”

“In the 1930s, we saw the rapid electrification of the United States, a time of large-scale infrastructure investment that led to prosperity for working people,” said Patrick Crowley, Secretary-Treasurer, Rhode Island AFL-CIO. “Once again, we’re experiencing a boom of large-scale infrastructure investment, this time for offshore wind energy, that could again usher in great opportunities for workers. The Sierra Club’s report shows us that we can create thousands of good union jobs right here in New England and supply affordable, abundant, and clean energy to our communities for generations to come.”

The Santa Lucia Chapter’s Climate and Clean Energy Committee is working with SC national OSW staff and east coast SC chapter OSW leaders to benefit from the lessons they have learned on OSW permitting. Despite the squeaky wheels that spout misinformation on just about every issue in our country’s polarized political environment, the silent majority clearly supports offshore wind energy. For example, in California:

***“When asked about wind power and wave energy projects off the coast, overwhelming majorities of adults (83%) and likely voters (83%) are in favor. Overwhelming majorities are in favor across parties, regions, and demographic groups.”*** [Public Policy Institute of CA survey.](#)