

# Large-scale Renewable Projects Reported by NYSERDA: Beginning 2004 Overview

## General Description

New York State, through regulations adopted by the Commission, first enacted its Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) in 2004 with the goal of increasing the amount of renewable electricity used by consumers to 25 percent by 2013. In January 2010, the Commission expanded the RPS target to 30 percent and extended the terminal year of the program to 2015. The Commission established two tiers of resource types under the RPS. The Main Tier (MT) consisted primarily of medium- to large-scale electric generation facilities that delivered their electrical output into the wholesale power market administered by the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO). The Customer-Sited Tier (CST) consisted of smaller, “behind-the meter” resources, such as photovoltaic systems, fuels cells, customer-sited wind facilities, anaerobic digester gas, and similar technologies that for the most part produce electricity for use onsite. The RPS also included a Maintenance Resource program which was similar in nature to the current Tier 2 program, with different eligibility criteria. Under the Main Tier, NYSERDA also served the role of central procurement administrator, to award long-term contracts to eligible generators through periodic competitive solicitations.

On August 1, 2016, the Public Service Commission (Commission) issued its Order Adopting a Clean Energy Standard.<sup>1</sup> The Clean Energy Standard (CES) is in support of the State Energy Plan goal that 50% of the electricity consumed by New Yorkers is to be generated by renewable energy sources by 2030 as part of a strategy to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030. New York’s CES is the most comprehensive and ambitious clean energy mandate in the State’s history. The CES is designed to fight climate change, reduce harmful air pollution, and ensure a diverse and reliable low carbon energy supply. To help achieve these goals, the CES requires that 50 percent of New York’s electricity come from renewable energy sources such as solar and wind by 2030, with a progressive phase-in schedule starting in 2017. The CES Order authorized NYSERDA, as central procurement administrator, to award long-term contracts to Tier 1-eligible generators through annual competitive solicitations for the purchase of Renewable Energy Standard (RES) Tier 1-eligible RECs, in the form of Tier 1 NYGATS certificates.

It is important to note that to be RES Tier 1 eligible the project must have commenced operation on or after January 1, 2015, unless the project qualifies as a Vintage Generation Facility (VGF). VGFs are facilities that are upgraded, returned to service, or relocated, and must meet the specified requirements described in the New York State Clean Energy Standard RES Tier 1 Eligibility and Certification Guidelines located here: <https://www.nyseda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Standard/Renewable-Generators-and-Developers/RES-Tier-One-Eligibility/Eligibility>

In addition, the Tier 2 “Maintenance Program” provides financial support sufficient to maintain commercial operations at qualifying, renewable energy generation facilities that were operational prior to the Tier 1 eligibility date. The CES Order referenced the importance of maintaining the generation associated with existing facilities as a baseline toward the State’s progress and established the Tier 2 program to support renewable energy generation facilities. The Commission through its March 16,

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<sup>1</sup> Case 15-E-0302, Proceeding to Implement a Large-Scale Renewable Program and a Clean Energy Standard, Order Adopting a Clean Energy Standard (issued August 1, 2016). (CES Order). See Appendix A for eligible technologies.

2018 “Order Adopting Measures for the Retention of Existing Renewable Baseline Resources”<sup>2</sup> established procedures and standards to govern the consideration of requests by existing renewable energy projects for maintenance support to allow eligible facilities that were in commercial operation prior to January 1, 2015 to be eligible for Tier 2 support.

The dataset includes information from several distinct NYSERDA-funded programs, including the Main Tier and Maintenance Resource Program under RPS, and the Tier 1 and Tier 2 Maintenance under the CES.

### **Data Collection Methodology**

The Large-scale Renewable Programs Reported by NYSERDA: Beginning 2004 dataset includes the following data points for projects completed, operational, cancelled, and under development: Data Through Date, Eligibility, Project Name, Solicitation Name, Second Article 10 Case Number, Renewable Technology, Generation Type, Counterparty, Developer Name, Article 10 Case Number, ZIP Code, County / Province, State / Province, Project Status, Delivery Start Date, Contract Duration, New Renewable Capacity, Bid Capacity, Bid Quantity, Max Annual Contract Quantity, and Weighted Average Solicitation Award Price.

Information provided on projects under development are intended to be used for informational purposes only to assist in viewing upcoming activity in the market place. The delivery start date for these projects indicate the anticipated date the project will deliver energy under the NYSERDA contract. Projects under development are not completed and are in various stages, and therefore are subject to change or cancellation.

### **Statistical and Analytic Issues**

Blank cells represent data that were not required or are not currently available.

### **Limitations of Data Use**

Blank cells represent data that were not required or are not currently available. Under development projects are subject to change.

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<sup>2</sup> Id.