

Business	A29
Editorials/Opinion	A24
Flash!	A17
Long Island	A18
Lottery	A71
Nation	A22
Obituaries	A36
Reaching Newsday	A19
TV listings	C30
Weather	A38
World	A22

newsday.com
GET THE APP


Need the latest news? Get our Newsday app for Android, iPhone or iPad.
Scan this tag to get started.



For more information, go to newsday.com/apps

ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER


www.facebook.com/newsday
www.twitter.com/newsday

NEWSDAY CUSTOMER SERVICE
1-800-NEWSDAY (800-639-7329)
TO REACH THE NEWSROOM:
631-843-2700
TO PLACE AN AD: 631-843-SOLD

SUBSCRIPTIONS
1-800-NEWSDAY

All subscriptions include digital access.
Weekly Rates:

Daily & Sunday (7 days): \$24.99
Friday, Saturday, Sunday: \$14.09
Sunday Only: \$9.99
Digital Only Access: \$8.99

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Daily & Sunday: \$1361.88 annually
Daily: \$878.80 annually
Sunday: \$559.00 annually

Premium Day Editions

All subscriptions will include Premium Day editions. Each Premium Day edition will be charged at a rate of up to \$6.49, in addition to the cost of that day's edition in the billing period when that Premium Day edition publishes. Charges to your account balance for Premium Day editions will result in shortening the length of service covered by your existing payment on account. Premium Day editions scheduled to date: February 18, 2019; May 19, 2019; October 5, 2019; November 28, 2019; December 29, 2019.

Newsday will deliver a December 24/25 edition on December 24, 2018 containing additional content for December 25. Subscribers will be charged for December 24 and 25, 2018 at the current subscription rate for each day. Please see Newsday.com/service for subscription terms and conditions.

The following pertains to mailed subscriptions as required by the USPS:

Newsday (USPS# 701-470) (ISSN# 0278-5587) is published weekly by Newsday LLC, 235 Pinelawn Rd., Melville, N.Y. 11747. Periodicals postage paid at Huntington Station, N.Y. Postmaster: Send address changes to 235 Pinelawn Rd., Melville, N.Y. 11747.

NewsdayJobs

Employment ads
now inside Fanfare

TOP STORIES



A bicyclist rides past a solar farm in Calverton. A coalition is pushing for a bill that would promote renewable energy sources.

NEWSDAY / STEVE FOST

Seeking green light for NY climate-change bill

BY DAVID M. SCHWARTZ
david.schwartz@newsday.com

Combating climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions is at the top of the agenda for environmental advocates and the legislative heads of the Assembly and Senate environment committees this session, but how far proposed new laws will go — and the costs they'll bring — is expected to be the subject of an intense fight.

Buoyed by Democrats' newly won control in the State Senate and Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's promise to make New York a check on federal deregulation, a coalition of environmental advocates, social justice groups and unions is pushing for a bill that would set the most aggressive goals in the nation to cut greenhouse gases and push renewable energy sources.

The Climate and Community Protection Act would require emissions to be cut across the economy by 50 percent by 2030 and 100 percent by 2050. That would mean a massive shift in the economy, advocates and opponents said — not only unplugging power plants that use fossil fuels, like natural gas, but changing how homes are heated and eventually ending gasoline-powered cars, buses and trains. The legislation, which would leave much of the implementation up to state regulatory agencies di-

rected by an advisory committee, also would direct money toward low-income areas typically hurt by climate change and mandate public jobs pay union-scale wages.

The legislation rests in the hands of a pair of Long Island lawmakers, Assemb. Steve Englebright (D-Setauket) and Sen. Todd Kaminsky (D-Long Beach), who chair the Assembly and Senate's environmental committees in Albany.

Sponsored by Englebright, the bill passed the Democratic-controlled Assembly the past three sessions, but failed in the Senate, which Republicans had controlled until this year.

Englebright said last week he'd reintroduce the bill this month with the same emission-cutting targets. He said more frequent hurricanes and damaging storms, like superstorm Sandy, worsening wildfires and droughts out West, and rising sea levels made this the most pressing issue of the session.

"This is really the most important issue, I would argue, that we're going to take up," said Englebright, a geologist. "I think that if we do not aspire and make our best effort, then we're certainly going to suffer the worst effects of an overheated ocean and atmosphere, and those impacts are a threat to our civilization."

Kaminsky, the new chairman

of the Senate's Environmental Conservation Committee, promised to hold hearings on the bill, but said he wants to hear testimony on the bill before taking a position on it.

"We want to set aggressive goals that can be reached and we want to be seen as a national leader. We think it's necessary," he said. "The question is how aggressive can we be? That's a tightrope we still have to walk."

Cuomo hasn't taken a position on the bill, and some environmental organizations haven't endorsed it yet, either.

The bill is opposed by business groups, who say the goals are unattainable and too costly.

Darren Suarez, director of government affairs for the Business Council of New York State, an Albany-based pro-business lobbying group, said a zero emission goal "is really not technologically feasible." It could force some industries to go out of state, he said.

Suarez also noted there was no official cost estimate associated with the bill.

Cuomo's office declined to comment, but when he unveiled his agenda for the first 100 days of the session in December, the governor promised a "green

New Deal" to "ultimately eliminate the state's entire carbon footprint."

In 2016, the state instituted a clean-energy standard that requires 50 percent of electricity in New York to come from renewable energy sources like wind and solar by 2030. In December, Cuomo said New York's electricity would be 100 percent "carbon neutral" by 2040.

Ryan Madden, sustainability organizer for Long Island Progressive Coalition, noted that "carbon neutral" can allow polluters to offset carbon emissions by investing in reductions — like planting forests and building renewable energy projects. He said Cuomo hasn't even acknowledged the bill exists.

"What I'm hearing is a little ambiguity," said Madden, whose Massapequa organization is advocating for the legislation, and does not support carbon offsets. He also said while the electric goal is good, it ignores transportation and buildings, which together make up more than half of carbon emissions.

Englebright said the costs of inaction are too high. "You pay now or you pay later... failure to respond now means the ultimate cost may be insurmountable or dramatically higher," he said. "There are terrible costs of not addressing it straight up."

MORE INSIDE

Offshore wind plans
A16

BY MARK HARRINGTON

mark.harrington@newsday.com

Only one of five developers who intend to vie for a New York State contract for offshore wind energy is proposing its project off Long Island waters. The rest would be off Massachusetts / Rhode Island or the New Jersey coast, according to recent state filings.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, or NYSERDA, which is overseeing the bids and will award contracts for upward of 800 megawatts of offshore wind energy this year, said the five notices of intent to participate in the state bid represented the strongest response to any state solicitation to date. One megawatt of offshore wind powers around 360 homes. Formal bids are due Feb. 14.

The project located in the New York wind-energy area is off Long Island's South Shore in waters previously identified by the federal agency responsible for leasing water rights. Another possible developer has offered a project off the New Jersey coast. A state official said all projects would get careful review, and downplayed the notion of their distance from New York.

"I think you have to look beyond the geography," said Doreen Harris, director of large-scale renewables for NYSERDA, noting that all projects will be reviewed based on their proposed price of energy but also their benefits to the New York economy. She also noted that studies have shown a greater wind-energy resource from the Massachusetts / Rhode Island offshore area and other factors which could offset the potential higher cost to transmit power from the distant turbines.

New York wants to become a major East Coast hub for the wind-energy industry, and even the bids for projects more than 50 miles from Long Island are expected to include ways to involve the state in wind-energy employment, development, manufacturing and maintenance.

The closest proposal for the waters off Long Island is by Norwegian energy giant Equinor called Empire Wind off the coast of Long Beach. Equinor, formerly known as Statoil, in 2016 won an auction for 80,000 acres of offshore wind water rights to erect a wind farm it expects to produce up to 2,000 megawatts, enough to power 1 million homes, at a cost of some \$6 billion.

The former Deepwater Wind, the Rhode Island-based com-

LI WATERS GET ONE PROPOSAL

Other wind projects would go to New England and New Jersey

Five developers are vying for a state contract for offshore wind energy. Here, a commercial fishing boat is dwarfed by a turbine off Block Island.

pany recently acquired by Danish energy company Orsted, already has a contract for 90 megawatts of wind energy it expects to deliver to Long Island Power Authority by the end of 2022, and is bidding in another project in the area in a joint venture with Eversources Energy called Bay State Wind. The company also won authorization by LIPA to increase the size of the project to 130 megawatts.

Two other potential bidders in the Massachusetts area are Vineyard Wind and Mayflower Wind Energy. Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind has proposed the project off New Jersey.

Harris explained that the major reason the projects are based in the Massachusetts / Rhode Island area is that the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Manage-

ment, or BOEM, has not completed a lease auction for the other areas in the waters off New York, and may not until this year's end or next year.

The current New York bid solicitation required that developers currently hold lease rights to their proposed projects.

And while it's not an ideal situation for those proposing New York projects to have operations more than 50 miles away, Harris said NYSERDA is keeping an open mind about the projects. She said the state views all the projects as "regional."

"I had to rethink my view of these large areas of being beholden to one particular state," she said. "They're really regional projects."

Some of the developers have filed applications to bring their

energy to the state using a variety of connections, from the LIPA grid to interconnections owned by Con Edison. Some may even connect to grids using the nearby New England grid system, Harris said, and transport energy over interstate transmission lines to New York. Others could enter through the mid-Atlantic grid known as PJM.

One other complication about using New York as a hub of operations is the limitations caused by bridges, particularly the Verrazano Bridge linking Brooklyn and Staten Island. Harris noted there are "air-draft constraints" for getting particularly tall wind-farm parts to and from Brooklyn ports because of the

bridge height limitation, but noted that New York isn't the only state dealing with such issues.

And she said companies are looking for ways to creatively deal with it, including shipping tall parts horizontally rather than vertically and considering certain ports that don't have air-draft constraints.

In the end, she said, the cost of energy from a project will be the major deciding factor in awarding a contract. Around 70 percent will be based on the price of energy in the company's offer. Twenty percent will be factored for economic benefits for the New York economy, and 10 percent project viability, Harris said, quoting a Public Service Commission order.



NEWSDAY / MARK HARRINGTON