



Buffalo Can Benefit From More Clean Energy

Across New York State, clean energy is booming – reducing pollution, cleaning our air, creating jobs and saving money. Contributing to the boom is the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative – America’s best regional clean air and climate program – which is limiting pollution and generating funding for clean energy programs.

But we can do much more. We have the tools to power our society entirely with clean energy sources like the wind and the sun, while also using energy more efficiently. Clean energy can help protect Buffalo from the worst impacts of global warming, such as bigger lake-effect snow storms, and build a healthier and more prosperous future.

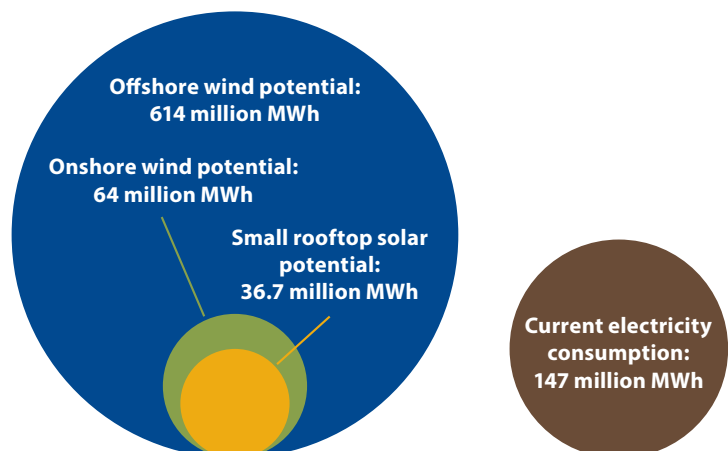
To accelerate our progress, New York and other Northeastern states should double the strength of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to help create an even stronger market for clean energy.

Here’s how more clean energy can benefit Buffalo – and New York State:

New York State Has Immense Renewable Energy Potential

New York State could generate nearly **five times more electricity with solar and wind power than it uses** in the course of a year. Tapping even a fraction of that potential could enable New York to power itself entirely with clean energy.

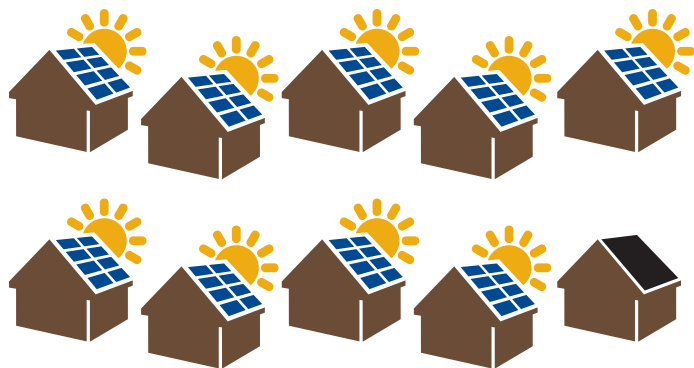
Comparison of Renewable Energy Technical Potential and Current Consumption in New York State



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Clean Energy Can Replace Dirty Fuels

New York State has the potential to generate nearly **12 times more electricity from wind and solar than is currently produced by polluting fuels**, like gas, in the state.



Buffalo's Rooftops Can Generate Clean Electricity Locally

Nearly **9 out of 10 small buildings in Buffalo** have the potential to host rooftop solar panels – providing reliable electricity for residents and reducing dependence on fossil fuels, according to data from the U.S. Department of Energy.

New York State Has Tremendous, Untapped Wind Energy Potential

New York State has the potential to produce enough power with onshore and offshore wind turbines to **power all of the homes in New York State 11 times over**.



Offshore wind, pictured here in Denmark, is currently undeveloped in New York State.

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Energy Efficiency Is Saving Money and Cutting Pollution

New York State ranks 5th (tied with Connecticut) among states for energy efficiency, according to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. Energy efficiency programs implemented in 2015 in New York State **saved enough energy to power all the homes in Buffalo twice over.**



Clean Energy Creates Jobs

Clean energy employs more than 4,000 people in the Buffalo area. Across New York State, more than 12,000 people work in renewable energy while another 69,000 people have energy efficiency jobs.

Renewable Energy is Good Business

Businesses and organizations in Buffalo and across New York benefit from a growing clean energy economy. For example, **Buffalo will be home to the largest solar panel factory in the Western Hemisphere** when SolarCity's "GigaFactory" opens in 2017. The factory will create 3,000 new jobs in Buffalo.



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Stronger Action Will Make Us Healthier

Clean air means better health. In its first six years, the **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative** saved **130 lives in New York State** and prevented 11,000 missed work days due to respiratory illness, according to Abt Associates. Cutting pollution faster would save even more lives and improve public health in New York.



Stronger Action Will Boost Our Economy

Between 2009 and 2014, the **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative** boosted New York State's economy by **\$730 million**, according to reports by Analysis Group. Doubling the strength of the program as part of a larger climate change program could reduce energy bills in the nine participating states by \$25 billion and create nearly 60,000 new jobs, according to a report by the Sierra Club.

New York State Should Take the Lead

New York State has set strong goals on clean energy and fighting climate change – now it's time to achieve them. **Governor Cuomo should double the pace at which New York is cutting pollution and investing in clean energy.** In 2017, the state should strengthen the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to cut carbon pollution by 5 percent per year – and persuade neighboring states to do the same.



For more information and citations, please visit www.EnvironmentNewYork.org/RGGBuffalo

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