

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

June 9, 2021

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 218

ADVANCING NORTH CAROLINA'S ECONOMIC AND CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE WITH OFFSHORE WIND

WHEREAS, clean energy resources create North Carolina jobs, grow our economy, and help reduce climate change pollution; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is a national leader in clean energy through its robust clean energy workforce, third-in-the-nation ranking in installed solar capacity, and position having the highest technical potential for offshore wind power on the east coast of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Exec. Order No. 80, 33 N.C. Reg. 1103-1106 (December 3, 2018), which was issued on October 29, 2018, (“North Carolina’s Commitment to Address Climate Change and Transition to a Clean Energy Economy”) calls for North Carolina to transition to a clean energy economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the North Carolina Clean Energy Plan identifies offshore wind as a strategic resource in the state’s clean energy future; and

WHEREAS, offshore wind development along the U.S. Atlantic Coast and its accompanying supply chain present a significant economic opportunity for North Carolina, with an estimated 85,000 new jobs and \$140 billion in capital expenditure along the Atlantic Coast by 2035; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has a highly favorable business environment for offshore wind manufacturers and supply chain companies through its large skilled labor force, strong community college system, innovative technology clusters, major research and development facilities and universities, top-ranked business climate, and targeted industry support; and

WHEREAS, responsible offshore wind energy development can coexist with North Carolina’s military installations, which are critical for national defense, provide approximately 600,000 jobs, and contribute approximately \$70 billion annually to North Carolina’s economy and the leadership of this state, including the undersigned, would not jeopardize these important military installations; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is committed to advancing the development of offshore wind and the accompanying supply chain through regional partnerships such as the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Transformative Partnerships for Offshore Wind Energy Resources (“SMART-POWER”).

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED**:

Section 1. Offshore Wind Procurement Targets.

The State of North Carolina will strive for development of 2.8 gigawatts (“GW”) of offshore wind energy resources off the North Carolina coast by 2030 and 8.0 GW by 2040.

Section 2. Clean Energy Economic Development Coordinator.

The Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce (“the Secretary”) shall designate a clean energy economic development coordinator (“the Coordinator”) to secure the economic and workforce opportunities clean energy, including offshore wind, can provide North Carolina. The Coordinator shall:

- A. Identify and analyze North Carolina’s economic and workforce opportunities and challenges presented by the transition to a clean energy economy.
- B. Develop and implement policies and programs that capture strategic opportunities for North Carolina’s workforce and businesses to thrive in a clean energy economy.
- C. Coordinate with divisions of the North Carolina Department of Commerce (“Commerce”), state agencies, local governments, businesses, community colleges, military leaders, SMART-POWER states and other partners to maximize North Carolina’s economic opportunities as the state transitions to a clean energy economy.
- D. Lead Commerce’s efforts to develop the state’s offshore wind supply chain, workforce and infrastructure.

Section 3. North Carolina Taskforce for Offshore Wind Economic Resource Strategies.

- A. The Secretary shall establish the N.C. Taskforce for Offshore Wind Economic Resource Strategies (“NC TOWERS” or “the Taskforce”) to provide expert advice for advancing North Carolina offshore wind energy projects, economic development and job creation. The Secretary or the Secretary’s designee shall serve as chair of the Taskforce and convene the Taskforce at least quarterly.
- B. The Taskforce may (1) advise on programs and policies for developing offshore wind energy projects, enhancing North Carolina’s supply chain and economic benefits, creating workforce solutions and establishing strategic partnerships; (2) foster industry relationships throughout the offshore wind supply chain; (3) advance opportunities for equitable access, particularly in underserved communities, to the economic benefits created by the offshore wind industry; (4) connect offshore wind-related economic and technology research capacity at North Carolina institutions of higher learning with the needs of the offshore wind industry and policy makers, and (5) undertake other offshore wind-related activities at the Secretary’s discretion.
- C. Taskforce membership shall include a mix of individuals who represent a variety of perspectives, including state and local government, offshore wind industry, economic development, workforce, military, higher education, environmental protection, equity and justice, marine industry, and tourism. The Taskforce shall submit a report annually to the Governor and General Assembly that summarizes the status of North Carolina’s offshore wind energy development activities and recommends policies, programs and other activities to advance offshore wind-related projects, supply chain development and other economic opportunities.

Section 4. Additional Offshore Wind Energy Development off the North Carolina Coast.

The Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (“NCDEQ”) shall take the following actions to support responsible development of offshore wind energy projects in the Outer Continental Shelf off the North Carolina coast consistent with the targets established in Section 1 of this Executive Order:

- A. Designate an offshore wind coordinator to lead NCDEQ’s offshore wind-related activities, interface with state cabinet agencies, and support implementation of SMART-POWER.
- B. Coordinate efforts with Commerce to ensure alignment and synergy between offshore wind development and economic development efforts within the state.

- C. Collaborate with the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (“BOEM”) and other federal partners to advance the leasing and development of North Carolina’s existing Wind Energy Areas.
- D. Work with the federal government and other partners to identify and lease new areas for offshore wind energy development through BOEM’s established deconfliction process, the U.S. Department of Defense Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse, and other mechanisms that address potential competing ocean uses, such as military operations and readiness, shipping lanes, habitat and migratory patterns, fishing and visibility.
- E. Review, clarify and streamline regulatory and permitting requirements, as appropriate, that are applicable to offshore wind energy development, related onshore infrastructure and attendant offshore wind energy–related activities.

Section 5. Offshore Wind Coordinator for Military Affairs.

The Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs shall designate an offshore wind coordinator to serve as the State’s offshore wind liaison to North Carolina’s military installations, help ensure offshore wind energy projects do not interfere with the ability of North Carolina’s military installations to provide for the national defense, and coordinate with Commerce, NCDEQ, and others on issues related to military and veteran affairs. The North Carolina Military Affairs Commission is encouraged to support the development of offshore wind energy projects off the North Carolina coast in a manner consistent with the state’s strong economic health and the long-term vitality of North Carolina’s military installations and communities.

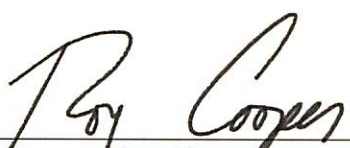
Section 6. North Carolina Offshore Wind Interagency Workgroup.

The North Carolina Governor’s Office shall continue to convene the Offshore Wind Interagency Workgroup (“the Workgroup”) at least quarterly to coordinate state cabinet agencies on cross-cutting issues. The Workgroup shall include senior officials from Commerce, NCDEQ, North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, North Carolina Department of Transportation and any other relevant cabinet agency or state-affiliated entity identified by the Governor’s Office.

Section 7. Effective Date.

This Executive Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2024. This Executive Order supersedes and replaces all other Executive Orders and directives on this subject.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this 9th day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one.



Roy Cooper
Governor

ATTEST:



Elaine F. Marshall
Secretary of State

