

AGRICOLA WIND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



PROJECT DETAILS

How large is the proposed Agricola Wind project?

Agricola Wind will have a nameplate capacity of up to 99 MW and will utilize up to 24 turbines across the Towns of Venice and Scipio in Cayuga County, New York.

Why is a wind energy project being planned in this area?

The area wind resource is consistently very strong, and the local Miliken-Wright Ave 115-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line has capacity for new power generation. These factors, along with local landowner participation, make the area highly suitable for a new wind energy project.

How much land will the project area use?

Each wind turbine takes up less than 1 acre of land at the surface once construction is complete. On average, access roads and buried power lines encompass an additional 1 acre per tower. Existing roads and cleared areas are used whenever possible to minimize disturbance. Other land will be needed for a substation and on-site operations and maintenance office. Agricola Wind will require less than 50 acres of land in total.

Where will the turbines be located?

As depicted in the preliminary layout, Agricola Wind consists of 12 turbines in Venice and 12 turbines in Scipio. Liberty continues to solicit feedback from participating landowners and the broader community to inform the final layout.

What is the timeline to operation for this project?

Agricola Wind could be fully permitted through the Office of Renewables Energy Siting (ORES) by Spring 2026. Construction could begin as early as Winter 2026 and continue for roughly 12 to 18 months. The project could become fully operational as early as Winter 2027. The project has an operational lifespan of up to 35 years.

Who is responsible for project decommissioning?

A decommissioning bond paid by Liberty will be established prior to construction, posted in escrow, and shared by the towns within the facility site. Towns are not responsible for decommissioning costs, all of which is outlined in the Article VIII (formerly Section 94-c) requirements for site restoration and decommissioning.

PROJECT BENEFITS

What benefits will the project offer to the area?

The project will invest in the community in several ways: lease and easement agreements with local landowners, a Host Community Benefit Agreement (HCA), a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement, and a Shared Community Payment for neighbors to the project. Liberty works closely with local agencies to structure agreements that financially empower the community. These financial benefits begin once the project is operational and continue on an annual basis for the project's lifespan. Further capital investments in local and state industries are made during construction and operation, as well as contribute to job creation and workforce development. Details about all benefits will be included as part of the socioeconomic impact assessment within the project's Article VIII application.

What is a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement?

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement is one form of host community benefit required for clean energy projects under the ORES permit process in New York State. A PILOT Agreement is meant to provide clear and consistent benefit payments in lieu of taxes, shared among the county, towns, and school districts during project operation.

WIND TURBINES

Will turbines be located far enough away from homes, roads, and public spaces to avoid safety risks?

Article VIII regulations and turbine manufacturers outline strict setback distances based on the tallest wind turbine model under consideration for the respective project. Setback distances are measured as a straight line from the midpoint of the wind turbine tower to the nearest point on a building foundation, property line, or other feature. Compliance with setbacks is reflected in the proposed facility site's design.

Will guidance be provided to local safety officials?

Yes, Liberty has robust site security and safety response plans and is consulting with local safety and fire officials to ensure that they, as well as landowners, feel confident should an issue at the proposed facility ever arise. Training will be offered to these officials ahead of construction and throughout project operations.

How do turbines impact water wells, if at all?

Liberty takes the necessary precautions to ensure there are no changes pre and post construction to water wells as described in Article VIII regulations. This includes following specific regulations such as setback requirements, using a third-party to conduct testing throughout the project, etc.

Wind turbines & agriculture...

Wind energy provides a new source of income to farms, and can even compliment existing farming operations. Since each turbine typically uses less than one acre of land, the landowner has the potential to earn more per acre. The annual lease payments also create guaranteed, long-term income for these families.

Crops can continue to be planted, and livestock can still graze around the turbines. During construction fields may be impacted, but Liberty works with individual landowners to minimize acreage utilized by features such as access roads. Liberty must attain eighty (80) percent vegetative cover across all disturbed soil areas by the end of the first full growing season following construction. Precautions are taken to minimize soil compaction as well.