

THE OUTLOOK FOR WIND ENERGY IN THE SOUTHEAST

A PATH FORWARD UNDER A NEW ADMINISTRATION

The Southeast is a powerhouse in America's clean energy transition, leading the nation in job growth and innovation. Wind energy is quickly becoming a key piece of the region's energy economy with bipartisan support, economic opportunities, and a commitment to energy resiliency. With strong momentum in offshore wind energy development, the Southeast is poised to deliver reliable electricity while boosting local economies.

THE SOUTHEAST CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY OFFERS STABILITY AND OPPORTUNITY

The Southeast leads the nation in clean energy job creation and infrastructure development, creating significant opportunities for workers and businesses:

- **DRIVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Work on a single offshore wind project — The Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind project is set to [support](#) over \$140 million in economic output annually, on top of hundreds of local jobs and millions in local and state revenues.
- **1 MILLION JOBS AND GROWING:** The Southeast now boasts over 1 million jobs in sectors such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, battery storage, and grid modernization — more than any other U.S. region.
- **SKILLED LABOR FOR OFFSHORE WIND:** More than [4,100 companies in all 50 states](#) are looking to support the U.S. offshore wind industry. The sector could create [tens of thousands of high-skill jobs by 2030](#), prioritizing workers from adjacent sectors like maritime and oil & gas industries.
- **RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY:** Clean energy technologies like offshore wind can help keep energy [costs stable](#) and [shore up](#) strained [power grids](#), especially in the face of [extreme weather events like cold snaps](#).

KEY BENEFITS OF WIND ENERGY IN THE SOUTHEAST

- **ECONOMIC GROWTH:** Billions of dollars in investments are transforming the Southeast into a clean energy hub.
- **JOB CREATION:** Wind energy is driving stable, good-paying jobs for communities across the Southeast.
- **HEALTH:** Reduced air pollution from wind energy improves environmental and public health.
- **ENERGY RESILIENCY:** Offshore wind energy strengthens power grids and ensures reliability during extreme weather events.



SOUTHEAST'S EMERGING WIND ENERGY HUB

The Southeast is a driving force of the American wind energy supply chain, supported by bipartisan investment in manufacturing, infrastructure, and research.

- **LS GREENLINK (VIRGINIA)**: \$681 million investment in a subsea cable facility, creating 300 permanent, good-paying jobs.
- **NUCOR STEEL (KENTUCKY)**: \$1.7 billion investment in a steel plant producing offshore monopile foundations, spurring over 400 high-quality jobs.
- **NEXANS (SOUTH CAROLINA)**: Home to the first U.S. facility producing high-voltage subsea cables for offshore wind, employing 150 workers.
- **GULF WIND TECHNOLOGY (LOUISIANA)**: \$10 million investment from Shell to advance turbine innovation and create high-quality research and engineering jobs.
- **OFFSHORE WIND SUPPORT VESSELS**: The region builds cutting-edge offshore wind support vessels, like the Eco Edison (Louisiana) and Charybdis (Texas), advancing growth in American shipbuilding.

A RESILIENT FUTURE FOR WIND ENERGY IN THE SOUTHEAST

Wind energy is just getting started in the Southeast. This important sector is already driving billions of dollars of investments while creating jobs and paving a way to cleaner air and energy independence. States like North Carolina, Virginia, and Louisiana are building on this momentum with their own wind energy procurements and project proposals, and state-level actions and local support will remain crucial for continued progress. Policymakers and stakeholders can unlock the full potential of wind energy for the Southeast's economy, workforce, and future by championing state-led initiatives, building community support, and investing in the wind energy supply chain.

