



CONFRONTING GLOBAL WARMING

## Critical Wind Power Incentives

A Wise Investment for Jobs, Clean Air and Water, Wildlife Protection, and Diversifying our Energy Portfolio

Climate change poses an increasingly dire threat to wildlife, communities, and public health. Changes to our climate are destroying critical wildlife habitat, causing habitat ranges to shift, increasing incidence of pests and invasive species, decreasing available food and water, and even increasing the rate of species' extinction. To avoid the outright extinction of an increasing number of wildlife species, we must take action to reduce our carbon pollution by transitioning to lower and zero carbon sources of energy. Wind power presents a substantial clean energy opportunity we cannot afford to ignore.

Wind power in the U.S. is already powering more than 15.5 million homes and accounts for more than 50,000 jobs. But we have far greater potential, both on land and offshore that can provide a win-win for our climate and our economy.

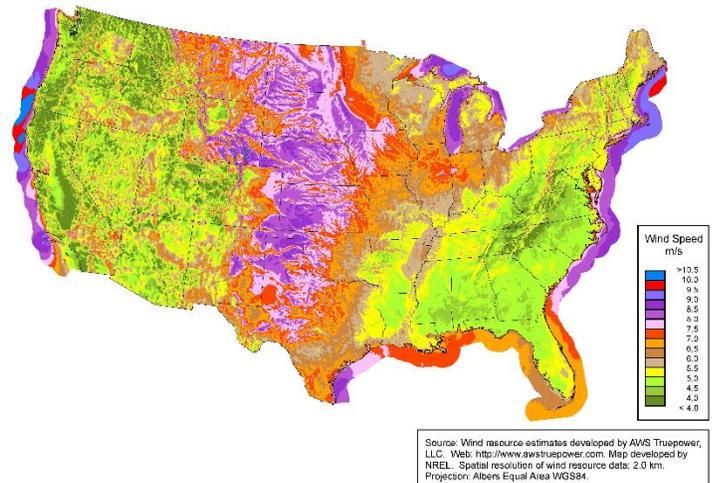
### Offshore Wind Power: America's Golden Opportunity

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has identified substantial wind resources off our Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts, as well as in the Great Lakes. NREL has estimated as much as 4,223 gigawatts of offshore wind power available in the U.S. Areas already designated for wind development off the Atlantic Coast alone have the potential to power more than 5 million American homes. **Harnessing a fraction of America's offshore wind potential could power our homes, businesses, and vehicles with job-creating, clean energy.**

While there is much positive momentum occurring to identify and permit appropriate sites for offshore wind development, this new industry faces tough challenges in competing with heavily-subsidized fossil fuels. Federal financial incentives are greatly needed to bring this massive, clean, domestic energy resource to market.

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The National Wildlife Federation, in coordination with a diverse group of industry, labor, environmental, and conservation organizations, **call on Congress to provide tax certainty for the industry by extending the Production Tax Credit and Investment Tax Credit. These incentives are critical to securing a thriving on- and offshore wind industry for America.**

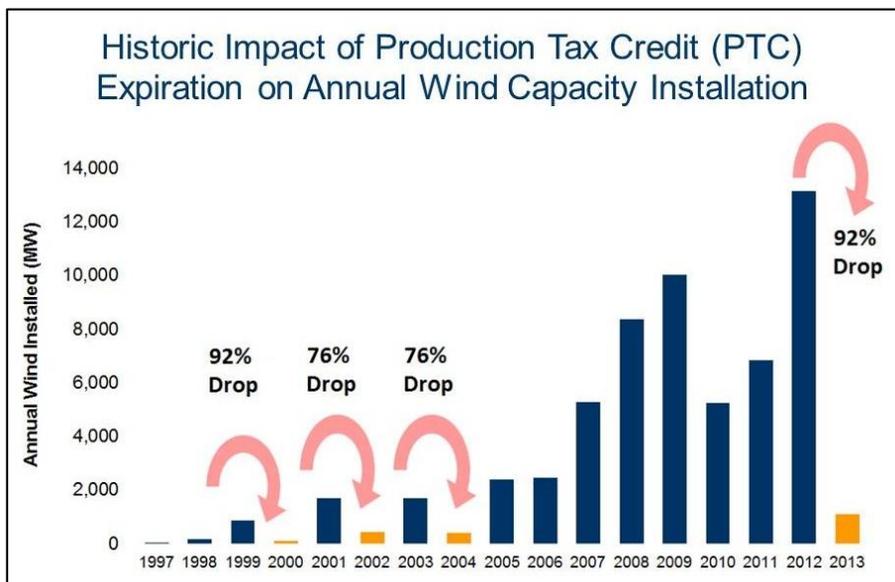




## Production Tax Credit & Investment Tax Credit: Critical Incentives for Wind Power

One of the primary obstacles facing American wind development is inadequate and inconsistent federal incentives for renewable energy. The unique challenges of offshore wind energy in particular – long investment time, infancy of the industry, and higher initial project costs – require longer term certainty of financial incentives.

The **Production Tax Credit (PTC)** and **Investment Tax Credit (ITC)** are two vital tax incentives that can strengthen the financial foundation of the American wind industry, both onshore and offshore. Past years demonstrate significant growth during years when the tax credit was enacted, and a dramatic decrease in installed wind capacity in years where the tax credits have lapsed.



The 112<sup>th</sup> Congress extended the PTC and ITC for projects that began construction before January 1, 2014. **However, the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress has since allowed both tax credits to expire without renewal.** Action is needed to extend these critical tax incentives in order to leverage the significant private investments needed to continue expanding onshore wind development and launch a job-creating offshore wind industry in America.

Source: American Wind Energy Association

Recognizing this challenge, Senators Carper (D-DE) and Collins (R-ME), and Congressmen Pascrell (D-NJ) and LoBiondo (R-NJ), introduced the **“Incentivizing Offshore Wind Power Act” (S. 401 & H.R. 924)** to provide an investment tax credit to the first movers in the offshore wind industry. **This important legislation, paired with an extension of the PTC – both presently stalled in Congress – is exactly the kind of policy we need to move forward and ensure a solid market for wind power in the United States.**

Extending critical tax incentives will attract the financial support vital for harnessing America’s abundant and untapped offshore wind capacity. **With great potential to reduce harmful pollution, create hundreds of thousands of high-quality jobs, and help achieve energy independence, offshore wind energy is a wise investment in America’s future.**

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**For more on the golden opportunity of offshore wind power for America visit:**  
**[www.nwf.org/OffshoreWind](http://www.nwf.org/OffshoreWind)**