



## **Blade collapse, New York launch and New Jersey research show uneven progress of offshore wind**

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### **Body**

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Three events Wednesday highlighted the uneven progress of the offshore wind industry in the Northeast, including the start of a major project in [New York](#), research aimed at preventing environmental damage in [New Jersey](#), and a temporary shutdown of a wind farm in [Massachusetts](#) after a broken turbine blade washed ashore on a famous beach.

The federal government ordered a wind farm operator off the coast of [Nantucket](#) in Massachusetts to suspend operations while cleanup continues after a wind turbine blade fell into the water, broke apart, and washed up on beaches at the popular vacation spot.

Vineyard Wind said Wednesday that it has removed 17 cubic yards of debris, enough to fill more than six truckloads, along with several larger pieces that washed ashore. The debris was mostly non-toxic fiberglass fragments ranging in size from small pieces to larger sections, typically green or white.

Vineyard Wind, a joint venture between Avangrid and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, bolstered its beach patrols to 35 people looking for and removing debris.

"We're making progress in the debris recovery efforts and mobilizing even more resources on the island to hasten the cleanup as quickly as possible," the company's CEO Klaus Moeller said in a statement. "The public can have confidence that we will be here as long as it takes to get the job done."

Also on Wednesday, a groundbreaking ceremony was held to start construction of New York's largest offshore wind project, Sunrise Wind, a 924-megawatt project by the Danish wind developer [Orsted](#). Once completed, the project will provide enough clean energy to power approximately 600,000 New York homes.

It will be located approximately 30 miles (50 kilometers) east of Montauk, New York.

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"We look forward to building New York's largest offshore wind project, helping the state meet its clean energy targets while strengthening the local offshore wind workforce and supply chain," said David Hardy, executive vice president and CEO Americas for **Orsted**.

**Orsted** was far along in the approval process to build two offshore wind farms in New Jersey when it scrapped both projects last October, saying they were no longer financially feasible.

And New Jersey officials on Wednesday said they would make nearly \$5 million available for scientific research projects to document current environmental conditions in areas where wind farms are planned, as well as to predict and prevent potential harm to the environment or wildlife.

Shawn LaTourette, New Jersey's environmental protection commissioner, said his state "is committed to advancing science that will ensure that offshore wind, a necessary component of our work to address the impact of climate change, is developed responsibly and in a manner that minimizes impacts to our precious coastal environment."

The state is seeking proposals for surveying wildlife and habitats before wind farm construction starts; making technical innovations in data collection and analysis; studying fishery sustainability and socio-economic impacts of offshore wind; identifying and reducing the impact of offshore wind noise on marine life, and studies of bird and bat abundance, among other things.

Concerns about potential damage to the environment, marine life and birds have been among the reasons cited by opponents of offshore wind for trying to halt the nascent industry in the U.S. On Wednesday, one of the most vocal groups, Protect Our Coast-NJ used the Nantucket accident to renew its call to end the offshore wind industry, calling the incident "simply unacceptable."

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