



## Press release

# Community Offshore Wind Funding First-Ever Foundation 2 Blade Training at Farmingdale State College for Minority and Women-Owned Businesses

- In partnership with Farmingdale State College, Community Offshore Wind is creating pathways for minority and women-owned businesses to enter the offshore wind supply chain through the Foundation 2 Blade training program from the Business Network for Offshore Wind.
- Funding supports the build out of the region's domestic offshore wind supply chain by providing industry education to ignite local economies and invest in the clean energy future.

Farmingdale, NY, November 1, 2022

[Community Offshore Wind](#) is funding the first-ever [Foundation 2 Blade](#) offshore wind industry training at [Farmingdale State College](#) in Farmingdale, NY, for Minority and Women-Owned Businesses Enterprises (MWBE), Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses (SDVOB) and Small Business Enterprises (SBE). Through the company's investment, qualifying businesses can enroll in the program for only \$100 to learn the tools they need to capitalize on the expanding, Northeast U.S. offshore wind market. This provides a 96 percent savings on the training that would typically cost \$2,500.

Community Offshore Wind is a joint venture between RWE Renewables and National Grid that is developing a lease area in the New York Bight, between Long Island and New Jersey, with a potential capacity of 3 gigawatts (GW) to power more than one million homes. Building a robust, domestic supply chain is just one of the many ways the organization is working to benefit communities in the Northeast.

"We recognize the significant benefits that come from working with local suppliers. Our partnership with the Business Network to offer the Foundation 2 Blade offshore wind training is an example of how we're helping remove financial barriers to entry," said **Doug Perkins, President and Project Director of Community Offshore Wind**. "At Community Offshore Wind we're committed to levelling the playing field. We have a responsibility to provide MWBE, SDVOB and SBE businesses equitable opportunities across design, manufacturing, installation, operation and maintenance to help advance the American offshore wind supply chain."

# RWE

Graduates of Foundation 2 Blade will learn the phases of offshore wind project development, including the necessary component parts and operations of projects, to determine where their company best fits into the supply chain. Since launching in 2020, Foundation 2 Blade has graduated nearly 350 professionals from federal regulatory agencies, state government, offshore wind developers, Tier 1 suppliers, and other businesses critical to the offshore wind supply chain.

“The Business Network is thrilled to partner with Community Offshore Wind and Farmingdale State College to ensure New York benefits from offshore wind energy,” noted **Ben Brown, Senior Director of Industry Training at the Business Network for Offshore Wind**. “Foundation 2 Blade offers training resources, industry connections, and networking opportunities with industry experts to help businesses navigate where they fit in the supply chain. Participants will join a well-connected alumni network of graduates, that will further assist them in finding their place in the rapidly growing U.S. offshore wind industry.”

“We are delighted to partner with Community Offshore Wind to bring the Foundation 2 Blade program to New York State and Long Island,” added **Professor Marj Issapour, Associate Dean of Innovation and Economic Development in Sustainable Energy, Farmingdale State University**. “Through the generous support of Community Offshore Wind, minority and women-owned businesses can access the offshore wind network. Building that supply chain, locally, will help serve the workforce needs of Long Island today and into the future.”

According to a [Jaggaer-Tealbook survey](#), two-thirds of North American businesses polled said the biggest benefit to increasing supplier diversity has been positive reputational impacts, with more than 40 percent also saying there’s been increased supplier innovation and greater supply base competition. Companies have stepped up their efforts to work with more minority and women-owned businesses, with 53 percent of businesses saying supplier diversity is a high priority.

The Business Network for Offshore Wind Foundation 2 Blade industry training will be held from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., November 2-4, at the Long Island campus of Farmingdale State College.

To learn more about how you can enter the offshore wind supply chain, MWBEs, SDVOBs and SBEs are encouraged to [join](#) the Business Network for Offshore Wind Foundation 2 Blade industry training. Space is limited. For more information and how to register, please contact the [Renewable Energy & Sustainability Center](#) at Farmingdale State College at [RESCgreen@farmingdale.edu](mailto:RESCgreen@farmingdale.edu).

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### **About Community Offshore Wind**

RWE and National Grid Ventures, will bring clean energy to the Northeastern US in a joint venture called Community Offshore Wind. They will develop offshore wind on the largest parcel in the New York Bight with the potential to host 3 gigawatts (GW) of capacity, which is enough to power more than one million US homes and businesses. The project is expected to be in operation by the end of 2030. Community Offshore Wind is dedicated to investing in communities by bringing clean energy jobs to the region and growing the local economy. They will deliver sustainable energy safely, reliably, and efficiently to the communities they serve.

### **The Business Network**

The Business Network for Offshore Wind is the largest non-profit organization dedicated solely to building a robust offshore wind supply chain and expanding adoption of offshore wind energy. It advances the industry through collaboration, education, and innovation, including the International Offshore Wind Partnering Forum (IPF), the leading offshore wind conference in North America, and the OSW Market Dashboard. Learn more at [offshorewindus.org](http://offshorewindus.org).

### **Farmingdale State College**

As the largest of SUNY's colleges of technology (10,000+ students), Farmingdale State College equips students with the resources and knowledge sought by today's emerging industries. Offering both bachelor and associate degrees, FSC introduced its first Master's degree - Technology Management - in 2017. At FSC, students learn in small, personalized classes and have abundant opportunities for applied learning—internships, clinical training, and guided research—that provide practical instruction and personal growth.

The mission of Farmingdale State College is to deliver exceptional academic and applied learning outcomes through scholarship, research, and student engagement for Long Island and beyond. The College's commitment to student-centered learning and inclusiveness prepares graduates to be exemplary citizens equipped to excel in a competitive, diverse, and technologically dynamic society. For more information, go to [farmingdale.edu](http://farmingdale.edu).

### **RWE**

RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With an extensive investment and growth strategy, the company will expand its powerful, green generation capacity to more than 50 gigawatts internationally by 2030. RWE is investing more than €50 billion gross for this purpose in this decade. The portfolio is based on offshore and onshore wind, solar, hydro plants, hydrogen, batteries, biomass, and gas. RWE Supply & Trading provides tailored energy solutions for large customers. RWE has locations in the attractive markets of Europe, North America, and the Asia-Pacific region. The company wants to phase out coal by 2030. RWE employs around 19,000 people worldwide and has a clear target: to get to net zero by 2040. On its way there, the company has set itself ambitious targets for all activities that cause greenhouse gas emissions. The Science Based Targets initiative has confirmed that these emission reduction targets are in line with the Paris Agreement. Very much in the spirit of the company's purpose: Our energy for a sustainable life.

### **About National Grid Ventures**

National Grid is an electricity, natural gas, and clean energy delivery company serving more than 20 million people throughout our networks in New York and Massachusetts. National Grid is focused on building a path to a more affordable, reliable clean energy future through our fossil-free vision. National Grid Ventures (NGV) is the non-regulated division of National Grid plc, one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world. NGV operates outside of National Grid's core regulated businesses in the US and UK where it develops, operates and invests in energy projects, technologies and partnerships to accelerate the development of a clean energy future. NGV's diverse portfolio of low carbon and renewable energy businesses across the UK, Europe and US includes subsea electricity interconnectors, wind and solar power, and battery storage. For more information, visit <https://www.nationalgrid.com/national-grid-ventures>.

### **Forward-looking statements**

*This press release contains forward-looking statements. These statements reflect the current views, expectations and assumptions of management, and are based on information currently available to management. Forward-looking statements do not guarantee the occurrence of future results and developments and are subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Actual future results and developments may deviate materially from the expectations and assumptions expressed in this document due to various factors. These factors primarily include changes in the general economic and competitive environment. Furthermore, developments on financial markets and changes in currency exchange rates as well as changes in national and international laws, in particular in respect of fiscal regulation, and other factors influence the company's future results and developments. Neither the company nor any of its affiliates undertakes to update the statements contained in this press release.*

