

The Build-Ready Program Five-Year Review

October 2020–September 2025

Final Report | September 2025



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New York State Energy Research
and Development Authority

50 YEARS 1975-2025

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The Build-Ready Program Five-Year Review October 2020–September 2025

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Abstract

The Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act (Benefit Act) directed NYSERDA to establish the Build-Ready Program and authorized the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to seek funding for such program from the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC).¹ The PSC approved funding of the Build-Ready Program in its Order Approving Build-Ready Program issued in October 2020 (Order).² The Order requires NYSERDA to conduct a five-year review of the Build-Ready Program, which will provide an assessment of the program’s progress in meeting New York State’s clean energy goals. The Order requires the review to be made available for public comment and notes that the PSC will use the review to inform a decision on the continuation and/or modification of the PSC-funded Build-Ready Program. This document serves as NYSERDA’s Five-Year Review of the Build-Ready Program. The review introduces the Build-Ready Program, discusses the program’s progress in meeting the State’s clean energy goals, provides an update on the program’s financial status, provides context on NYSERDA’s plans to modify the Build-Ready Program going forward, and proposes termination of the PSC-funded Build-Ready Program.

Keywords

Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act (Benefit Act), assessment, auction, battery energy storage system (BESS), Build-Ready Budget Amendment, Build-Ready (BR) Program’s Implementation Plan, Build-Ready Program, Build-Ready Project, challenging, clean energy, clean energy development, Clean Energy Fund (CEF), Clean Energy Standard (CES) cost modeling study, development, distributed generation (DG), distributed energy resources (DER), Empire State Development (ESD), Host Community Agreement, host community benefits, Large Scale Resources, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), nonviable, origination, payment –in –lieu –of taxes (PILOT), pipeline, portfolio, project development, Public Service Commission (PSC), renewable energy, renewable energy project, Request for Information (RFI), screening, site, photovoltaic (PV), statewide transfer study, underutilized, viable.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

~	approximately
<	less than
>	greater than
CEF	Clean Energy Fund
CES	Clean Energy Standard
CEZ	clean energy zones
CGPP	Coordinated Grid Planning Process
CGPP	Coordinated Grid Planning Process
Climate Act	Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act
DEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
DER	Distributed Energy Resources
DG	distributed generation
DPS	New York State Department of Public Service
EDOs	economic development organizations
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESD	Empire State Development
FAST NY	FAST NY Shovel-Ready Grant Program
FY	fiscal year
GHG	greenhouse gas ³
GIS	Geographic Information System
ITC	Investment Tax Credit
kWh	kilowatt hours
m/s	meters per second
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MWac	megawatts of alternating current
NYISO	New York Independent Systems Operator
NYPA	New York Power Authority
PILOTs	payment in lieu of taxes
POWER UP	POWER UP Fund
RGGI	Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
SEQR	State Environmental Quality Review
SLCIDA	St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency

Summary

This Five-Year Review discusses the progress the Build-Ready Program has made and the challenges it has faced since its establishment in 2020. For the reasons further discussed below, this Five-Year Review proposes that the PSC issue an order confirming that the PSC-funded Build-Ready Program will be terminated at this time and that NYSERDA will reimburse the approximately \$16.5 million of expended Clean Energy Fund (CEF) funds drawn through the end of 2025. NYSERDA will continue to run the Build-Ready Program in accordance with statutory requirements through December 31, 2030, using separate sources of funding.

The Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act (Benefit Act)³ directed NYSERDA to establish the Build-Ready (BR) Program.⁴ In particular, the Benefit Act empowered NYSERDA to encourage the siting and development of renewable energy and energy storage facilities focusing on the re-use of previously developed and otherwise underutilized sites in furtherance of the Climate Act.⁵

The Benefit Act provides NYSERDA broad authority to achieve its statutory requirements in various ways.⁶ With multiple potential pathways to fund the program, the Benefit Act authorized NYSERDA to petition the PSC to seek funding to develop large-scale renewable energy projects and competitively auction them to private developers to construct and operate.⁷

In response to the petition submitted by NYSERDA on June 5, 2020, the PSC issued the Build-Ready Order in October 2020⁸ which approved funding for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to do the following:

- **Activities:** Identify, assess, and develop previously utilized sites including landfills, brownfields, abandoned commercial and industrial sites, and dormant electric generators, for LSR energy projects and competitively auction them for final development, construction, and operation to private developers. Simultaneously, do not compete with, nor create conflict with private sector renewable energy developers while advancing the Build-Ready Program's activities.
- **Incentives:** Offer and award Tier 1 Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) contracts, similar to those offered through NYSERDA's annual Clean Energy Standard (CES) Tier 1 solicitations, to successful bidder(s) of Build-Ready Program auctions.
- **Funding:** Use up to \$50 million of Clean Energy Fund (CEF) cash balances to serve as an initial funding source, but eventually become financially self-sustaining, or "evergreen," using the proceeds from auctioned sites to repay the CEF funds.

- **Reporting:** File an annual report with the PSC no later than April 1, 2021, and annually thereafter on April 1 of each subsequent year for five years. Submit a Five-Year Review to assess the Build-Ready Program’s progress in contributing to the state’s clean energy goals and to inform the PSC’s decision on the continuation or modification of the PSC-funded Build-Ready Program.

The review serves as NYSERDA’s Five-Year Review of the Build-Ready Program. An independent third-party Process Evaluation has been completed and is also appended to this review.

Since 2020, the Build-Ready Program has implemented the requirements of the Benefit Act and the Order with several notable achievements:

- Successfully developed, auctioned, and transferred BR Benson Mines, a 12-megawatt (MWac) Solar photovoltaic (PV) project that will be constructed and operated on an underutilized portion of an iron ore tailings pile in St. Lawrence County. This project will be one of the largest solar PV projects in the Adirondacks. This project included two host community benefit packages: (1) a Payment in Lieu of Taxes to benefit the County, Town and School District; and (2) a Community Benefit Fund to provide grants for local projects, job training, and community improvements with an emphasis on supporting sustainability.
- Developed robust processes to identify and screen previously utilized sites across the State. This effort resulted in the examination of 16,400 parcels of land, which represent 3,400 potential locations for renewable energy development. These parcels and locations have been documented in a standardized database and an interactive Geographic Information System (GIS) site mapping tool. This work also includes other relevant data points that can support multiple New York State (NYS) clean energy initiatives.
- Built the resources, capabilities, and institutional knowledge to effectively develop large scale resources and battery energy storage system (BESS) projects on previously utilized sites across the State. This includes expertise in multiple focus areas critical to project de-risking across multiple parallel development pathways.
- Established relationships with other NYSERDA programs and NYS partner agencies that set the stage for additional future benefit to the State and its clean energy goals.
- Completed multiple Requests for Information (RFI) and a Market Advisory Group (MAG) with renewable energy and BESS developers to calibrate the Build-Ready Program’s development strategies and solicitation processes. This allowed the program to better align with industry standards, follow best practices, and avoid competition with the market.
- Executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) to support its POWER-UP Fund (Power Up) and Fast-NY Shovel Ready Grant Program (FAST NY). This partnership aims to assess numerous sites for grid interconnection viability, evaluate the related costs and explore the integration of clean energy technologies.

Despite these notable achievements, Build-Ready has faced significant challenges in achieving its goals as set forth in the Order.⁹ The primary obstacle was the scarcity of economically viable sites for LSR energy projects on previously utilized properties. Through the Program's extensive review of previously utilized properties most were found to be too small to support large-scale projects. Most adjacent parcels were characterized as agricultural lands and therefore unavailable for use.^{10 11} Build-Ready has determined that very few sites in New York State both meet the program's numerous requirements (e.g. previously developed site, no agricultural land, no competition with the private sector) and also support economically viable LSR energy projects.

A more recent and detrimental impact on the Build-Ready Program is the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, as well as subsequent presidential executive orders and guidance issued by the Department of the Interior and the Department of the Treasury. The early phase-out of the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) carried out by those federal actions would cause Build-Ready projects to become significantly more expensive.

As a result of these federal challenges and other challenges presented in detail in Section 3.1, NYSERDA proposes to advance the Build-Ready Program in a manner that is informed by these experiences and the market dynamics that exist today. Therefore, rather than continuing the Build-Ready program under the current approach as stipulated in the Order, NYSERDA proposes the termination of the PSC-funded Build-Ready Program. Instead, NYSERDA will pivot to an economic development approach continuing to fulfill its statutory requirements through December 31, 2030, by means of alternate sources of funding. NYSERDA will reimburse the CEF funds drawn to date, is not requesting any further PSC funding for the continuation of the program, and will secure future program funding from other sources, thereby reducing direct ratepayer burdens.

NYSERDA is re-aligning the Build-Ready program to support the State's prioritized economic development initiatives within the statutory framework set forth in the Benefit Act. In addition to continuing its work to encourage the siting and development of renewable energy and energy storage facilities on previously developed and underutilized sites, Build-Ready will also partner with ESD, NYSERDA's Economic Development Program, and other economic development organizations (EDOs). The program will support economic development initiatives by helping to optimize the siting and

development of new loads, expansion of existing loads and helping to investigate the incorporation of clean energy technologies with economic development projects. This collaborative effort between Build-Ready and State economic development initiatives will strive to provide a zero-emission electricity supply and reduce facilities' electric demand and energy costs. It will also help increase state and private sector clean energy deployment, support economic development, and address climate change imperatives.

1 Purpose

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority’s (NYSERDA) Build-Ready Program, housed in the agency’s Large Scale Resources group, aims to take previously developed sites partway through the renewable energy project development process, making them “build-ready” for renewable energy developers to complete development and then operate.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) issued the Build-Ready Order in October 2020 approving CEF funding of the Build-Read Program.¹² The Order requires NYSERDA to conduct a five-year review of the Build-Ready Program, which will provide an assessment of Build-Ready’s progress in meeting the State’s clean energy goals. The Order requires the review to be made available for public comment and notes that the PSC will use the review to inform a decision on the continuation and/or modification of the PSC-funded Build-Ready Program.

This document serves as NYSERDA’s Five-Year Review of the Build-Ready Program, and Appendix A includes the third-party Process Evaluation, which NYSERDA’s Market Characterization and Evaluation team commissioned.

The review is structured as follows:

- Section 2 introduces the program
- Section 3 discusses the program’s progress in meeting the State’s clean energy goals
- Section 4 updates the program’s financial status
- Section 5 discusses the program’s future and outlines next steps
- Section 6 provides a summary
- Appendix A presents the Build-Ready Process Evaluation

2 Background on the Build-Ready Program

The Build-Ready Program was established in 2020 following the passage of the Benefit Act, which was designed to complement the 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) and fast-track the development of renewable energy projects while ensuring the process is environmentally responsible and communities hosting projects receive economic benefits. The statutory goal of the Build-Ready Program is to establish and undertake the fourfold: (1) foster siting and development of renewable energy facilities and energy storage systems, consistent with state climate goals, (2) incentivize the re-use of previously developed sites, (3) provide host community benefits to project host communities, and (4) protect environmental justice areas from adverse environmental impacts.¹³

The Benefit Act directs NYSERDA to identify suitable sites and make them “build-ready” for renewable energy facilities, with the eventual competitive auction to private developers to construct and operate. These sites include (among others) landfills, brownfields, abandoned commercial and industrial sites, dormant electric generators, and, later, parking lots (these site types are generally referred to as “previously utilized” sites or properties throughout the rest of this review). The Benefit Act also directed NYSERDA to petition the PSC describing planned activities to fulfill the Benefit Act’s goals including any “request for funding to allow such activities to proceed promptly and for a period of at least five years.”¹⁴

In June 2020, NYSERDA submitted a petition to the PSC requesting funding of the Build-Ready Program.¹⁵ The petition followed the guidance of the Benefit Act, outlining proposed activities and funding needs. The PSC largely accepted the petition and issued the Build-Ready Order on October 15, 2020. Subsequently, in January 2021, NYSERDA submitted the Build-Ready Program Implementation Plan, which further detailed the PSC-funded program’s operations and procedures.¹⁶

The Order permitted NYSERDA to identify, assess, and develop previously utilized sites for LSR energy facilities, including, but not limited to, site nomination and identification; site screening and assessment; site development, including permitting, design, and interconnection; and site auction and developer selection through a competitive request for proposals (RFP) (see Figure 1). The Order also advised NYSERDA not to compete with or create conflict with private sector renewable energy developers while advancing the Build-Ready Program’s goals.

The Order instructed NYSERDA to conduct solicitations, separate and apart from Tier 1 solicitations, to competitively auction build-ready sites through an RFP to private renewable energy developers. It authorized NYSERDA to offer and award Tier 1 Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) contracts, similar to those provided through NYSERDA’s annual CES Tier 1 solicitations, to successful bidder(s) of Build-Ready Program RFPs. The Order noted that REC contracts awarded through Build-Ready solicitations, “may provide a REC price that exceeds the current average price for Tier 1 RECs awarded in a competitive Clean Energy Standard (CES) Tier 1 solicitations” to account for the additional risk and costs associated with developing and constructing Build-Ready site types. The Order also incorporated the goal of advancing six LSR energy projects to solicitation per year, starting in 2022 or 2023.

Figure 1. Summary of Build-Ready Program Activities



In addition, the Order approved the Build-Ready Program's funding request of \$71.8 million through 2025 and authorized the use of \$50 million of CEF cash balances to serve as an initial funding source. The Order expected the program to eventually become financially self-sustaining, or "evergreen," using the proceeds from auctioned sites to repay the CEF funds. Thereafter, it was anticipated that any additional proceeds from auctioned sites would be reinvested into the Build-Ready Program to support the advancement of additional project sites.

Finally, the Order defined Build-Ready's PSC reporting requirements including a report to be filed with the PSC by April 1, 2021, and annually thereafter on April 1 of each subsequent year for a period of five years. The Order also requires a five-year review due to the PSC in 2025 that assesses the Build-Ready Program's progress in contributing to the state's clean energy goals, which will inform the PSC's decision regarding the continuation and/or modification of the PSC-funded Build-Ready Program.

Importantly, in 2024, the Build-Ready legislation was amended through the fiscal year (FY) 2025 budget and required the Build-Ready program to: a) prioritize dormant electricity generation sites and give preference to previously developed sites; b) restrict development on agricultural land¹⁷ except for interconnection equipment required to connect the project to the electrical grid; and c) permit development of bulk energy storage system projects on build-ready site types.¹⁸

3 The Build-Ready Program's Contributions to New York's Clean Energy Goals

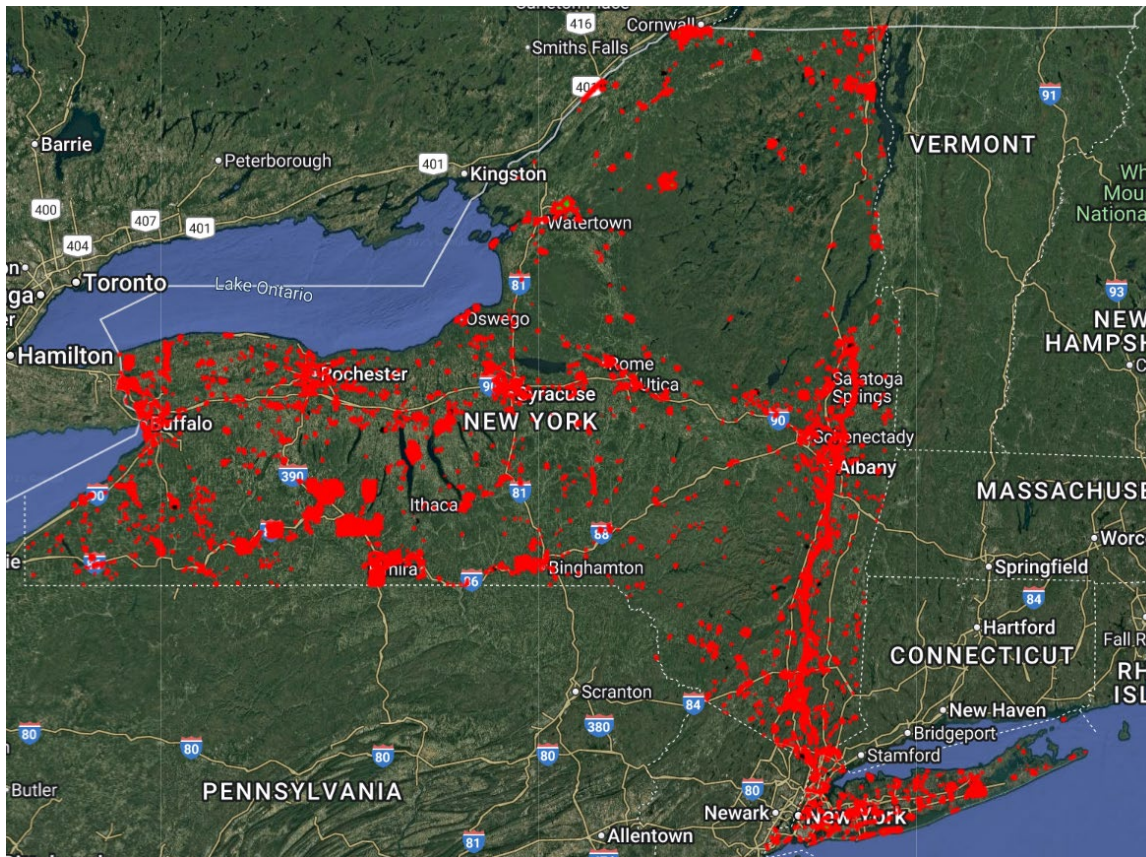
Since late 2020, the Build-Ready Program has been originating and developing renewable energy projects, specifically solar photovoltaic (PV), and more recently, battery energy storage system (BESS) projects on brownfields, landfills, abandoned commercial and industrial sites, dormant electric generators and parking lots. These efforts advance the goals of the Build-Ready Program, the Benefit Act, and the Climate Act.

The Build-Ready Program developed, auctioned, and transferred a 12-megawatt (MWac) solar PV project to CleanCapital that will be constructed and operated on an underutilized portion of an iron ore tailings pile at the Benson Mines Inc. property in St. Lawrence County. Once operational, the project is estimated to contribute 440 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of renewable electricity to the NYS electric grid over the 20-year contract delivery term and help reduce greenhouse (GHG) emissions from the state's electricity sector. The project also included two host community benefits the program developed, which CleanCapital will fund, including: (1) a payment-in-lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement with the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency (SLCIDA) that will provide St. Lawrence County, Town of Clifton, and the Clifton-Fine School District approximately \$1.5 million in payments over 20 years once the project is operational, and (2) a \$200,000 Clifton-Fine Solar Community Improvement Fund that will provide funding for local projects, job training, and community improvements which SLCIDA will manage.

The program achieved several other milestones that furthered the State's clean energy ambitions during its five-year span. The program developed a robust process for identifying and screening previously utilized sites. The team identified and screened 16,400 parcels of land resulting in a total of 3,400 distinct locations around the state for potential renewable energy development. While most of the sites were not viable for Build-Ready projects, the information was used to create an interactive GIS mapping platform. See Section 3.1 for more details on the non-viability of projects as well as Build-Ready's 2024 Annual Report¹⁹ filed in August 2025. The sites and their associated information can be viewed on the map (see Figure 2). The program has shared the GIS map with other NYSERDA programs and partner agencies who have used it to identify potential sites for other NYS priorities, including economic and renewable energy development. An opportunity remains to leverage the site mapping to support the advancement of other clean energy goals.

Figure 2. Build-Ready Program's Online GIS Map

The map includes 3,400 previously utilized locations identified across New York State.



The team's proven expertise in NYS solar PV project origination and development also directly benefits other NYSEERDA programs and partner agencies. The staff have developed expertise in identifying ideal locations for solar PV projects, including assessing and de-risking the electric grid interconnection and project site characteristics such as environmental, geological, and real property. Additionally, the program has managed and executed development work, including environmental studies, site surveys, real property contracts such as lease option agreements, understanding permitting projects through State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR), and interconnection processes of New York State's distribution utilities and NYISO. The team also conducted outreach and coordination with local governments and host communities on topics such as the negotiation of PILOTs and host community agreements. Program staff's expertise in the technical and economic requirements for interconnecting solar PV and BESS projects into the electric system is proving to be very useful to other NYSEERDA programs and partner agencies.

The Build-Ready Program developed relationships and networks with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2, utilities, NYISO, New York Power Authority (NYPA), regional and local governments, and economic development organizations (EDOs). These are resources that other NYSERDA programs are leveraging in furthering various priorities across the Authority. The Build-Ready Program's clean energy development expertise and networks are also adding value outside the organization.

3.1 Program Challenges

Despite the Program's achievements and significant efforts, its direct contributions toward New York State's clean energy goals have been limited. Build-Ready faced substantial challenges in meeting the program's objectives as set forth by the Order. The biggest challenge is the lack of economically viable sites for LSR energy projects on previously utilized properties.

The program was established on the hypothesis that New York State had readily available landfills, brownfields, and other previously utilized sites capable of supporting LSR energy projects throughout the State. During five years of program development work, however, the team found that very few sites in New York State both meet all of Build-Ready's requirements (e.g. brownfield, landfill, no agricultural land, no competition with the private sector) and also can support economically viable LSR energy projects.

Sites that met Build-Ready's criteria also required significantly higher REC strike prices. Forecasts showed that future Build-Ready project REC prices could be roughly double those for Tier 1 greenfield²⁰ projects. These high REC costs would place a significant financial burden on NYS ratepayers.

In general, Build-Ready sites are too small to support economically viable large-scale solar PV development. Often a previously used site is small in terms of acreage, and once non-buildable areas such as wetlands are removed, the sites are frequently less than 20 acres in size. To make a project larger, a renewable energy developer needs to identify and secure surrounding property. Most of the available property surrounding Build-Ready sites (excluding land already in use for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes) is classified as active agricultural land. Consequently, most identified Build-Ready projects have been relatively small (<10 MWac) compared to typical large-scale projects of at least 20 MWac. Without the ability to expand a project's area, developers face significant challenges in generating sufficient revenue and achieving the economies of scale needed to offset the higher development, construction, and operation costs associated with large-scale solar PV projects.

Furthermore, developing projects on previously used lands (e.g. landfills, brownfields) is more costly than greenfield sites due to complex environmental, real property, permitting, and community issues. For instance, Build-Ready must navigate and resolve environmental problems and challenging site control hurdles, including absent landowners and property liens. Additionally, community engagement and permitting are typically more intense and lengthier. Design, construction, and monitoring costs for projects are higher due to the specialized equipment and techniques required to minimize site damage and prevent ground penetration. These factors, combined with high interconnection costs, and smaller project sizes, significantly increased Build-Ready's project costs despite the Program's efforts to de-risk projects.

Following the passing of the 2023-2024 Enacted State Budget, the New York Power Authority (NYPA) was authorized and directed to advance renewable energy. The program known as "NYPA Renewables" and its subsequent strategic buildout of renewable energy and BESS projects presented some instances of market overlap.²¹ However, both programs communicated effectively, and some very early stage, un-developed proposed sites were moved to NYPA's purview. While this resulted in fewer projects in Build-Ready's development portfolio, it ultimately supported market growth by another State authority in service of New York State's clean energy goals.

A more recent and detrimental impact on the Build-Ready program is the One Big Beautiful Bill Act which passed on July 4, 2025, subsequent presidential executive orders, and guidance issued by the Departments of Interior and Treasury. The Act accelerates the termination of the federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for solar PV projects, making it unavailable to projects that do not either begin construction before July 5, 2026, or are placed in service by December 31, 2027. Future Build-Ready sites will not meet these required timelines, which will make them more expensive. Given this new policy paradigm in which Build-Ready must operate, developing economically viable Build-Ready solar PV projects going forward will be even more difficult.

4 Build-Ready Program Financial Status

The PSC’s Order approving funding for the Build-Ready Program established a \$71.8 million budget through 2025 and authorized the use of \$50 million of CEF cash balances to serve as an initial funding source. The Order and Implementation Plan required the program to become financially self-sustaining and anticipated that proceeds from auctioned sites would be sufficient to both repay the CEF funds and, thereafter, be reinvested into the program to support additional project site development. The approved budget included \$13.5 million for salaries and overhead for six-full time equivalent staff; \$56.5 million for technical, consultant, and legal support; \$1.0 million for system development; and \$0.8 million for the NYS cost recovery fee.

Due to the limited availability of currently viable sites, the program has been unable to bring additional projects through development to auction, resulting in insufficient revenue generation to cover program costs and to achieve financial self-sustainability. Table 1 summarizes Build-Ready’s actual and forecasted expenditures and revenues through December 31, 2025.

Table 1. Build-Ready Program Actual and Forecasted Expenditures and Revenues through December 31, 2025

Expense and Revenue Category	As of August 31, 2025	Forecast September-December 2025	Estimated Total
Expenditures			
Salaries and Overhead	\$7,580,970	\$536,931	\$8,117,901
Technical, Consultant, Legal, and System Development Support	\$8,130,147	\$187,000	\$8,317,147
NYS Cost Recovery Fee	\$120,300	\$12,500	\$132,800
Total	\$15,831,417	\$736,431	\$16,567,848
Revenues			
Auction Proceeds	\$3,420,000	-	\$3,420,000
Reimbursements	-	\$1,270,927	\$1,270,927
Investment Income	\$326,720	\$37,000	\$363,720
Total	\$3,746,720	\$1,307,927	\$5,054,647

Table 2 summarizes the actual and forecasted CEF funds Build-Ready has drawn or expects to draw to fund the program through December 31, 2025, at which time NYSERDA will true-up and establish the final total for reimbursement.

Table 2. Build-Ready Program CEF Draws

Funding Category	As of August 31, 2025	Forecast September-December 2025	Estimated Total
CEF Funding Draws to be Repaid	\$15,626,600	\$941,248	\$16,567,848
NYSERDA Revenues to Repay CEF	\$3,746,720	\$1,307,927	\$5,054,647
Remaining CEF Funding for NYSERDA to Repay			\$11,513,201

As described in more detail below, NYSERDA plans to reimburse the expended CEF funds through (1) the Build-Ready Program’s revenues estimated to be about \$5 million received from the sale of a project, reimbursement of interconnection fees, and interest earned; and (2) the remainder of approximately \$11.5 million from other non-ratepayer funding sources including but not limited to project development consulting payments, Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), or other third-party payments subject to all required approvals and authorizations.

5 Future of Build-Ready Program

As discussed in this report, the Build-Ready Program has made valuable contributions increasing the State's understanding and expertise in siting and developing clean energy projects in New York State. Moving forward, NYSERDA proposes the termination of the PSC-funded Build-Ready Program and intends to proceed with several enhancements and modifications to the Build-Ready Program (which would be funded from other sources) to better meet program goals, the Benefit Act, and the Climate Act, while adhering to the statute governing the Build-Ready Program, which remains until December 31, 2030²².

5.1 The Need for Electricity Sector and Clean Energy Expertise in Economic Development

Since the launch of the Build-Ready Program in 2020, despite an increase in installed clean energy capacity, the clean energy sector in the US, including in New York State, has faced numerous headwinds including significant supply chain constraints, inflationary pressures, sustained high interest rates, federal policy change and uncertainty, and increasing interconnection costs. These challenges have led to rising project costs, impacting the clean energy sector's growth trajectory.^{23,24} At the same time, electricity demand is projected to grow due to the electrification of transportation and buildings. Simultaneously, large new loads, such as manufacturing facilities and data centers, are interconnecting to the electric system further driving growth in electricity demand across New York State.^{25, 26}

To address these intertwined energy and economic challenges, New York State is proactively planning to ensure continued opportunities for economic growth and progress toward a zero-emission electric grid while maintaining electric system reliability. For example, several planning processes and programs across the state are directed towards addressing these challenges, including the following:

1. Empire State Development Corporation (ESD)

- **Promote Opportunity with Electric Readiness for Underdeveloped Properties (POWER UP):** \$300 million fund to support proactive development of electric capacity to create power-ready sites for new businesses across the state.²⁷
- **Focused Attraction of Shovel-Ready Tracts New York (FAST NY):** Grants for pre-development activities and infrastructure investments to develop sites for high-tech manufacturing, clean-tech renewable energy, life sciences, agribusiness, optics, transportation equipment, materials processing, industrial machinery manufacturing, and other advanced manufacturing, among others.²⁸

2. NYSERDA

- **Economic Development Program:** Complementing ESD’s efforts by providing siting tools to economic developers to attract clean energy manufacturers and supply chain companies to advance New York State’s clean energy economy.²⁹
- **Numerous Clean Energy Incentive Programs,** including LSR,³⁰ NY-Sun,³¹ Energy Storage,³² and others.

3. Department of Public Service (DPS)

- **Coordinated Grid Planning Process (CGPP):** Multi-year stakeholder process to identify and plan for the required transmission and distribution upgrades needed to meet New York State’s clean energy goals.
- **Clean Energy Zones (CEZ):** An effort to identify and plan for CEZ that will align generation and transmission development in key areas of the state to maximize benefits for ratepayers and host communities.

The Build-Ready Program has identified several areas where the program can provide significant expertise. Most notably, by developing clean energy projects, including engineering, design, permitting, and power assessments, and securing the necessary approvals for these projects. This knowledge could be quickly deployed to support economic development in New York State, specifically in the optimal siting of new loads, integration of clean energy resources, and realization of the State’s goals for a 100% zero-emission electricity system.

5.2 Future Build-Ready Economic Development Activities

The Build-Ready Program anticipates expanding its activities to collaborate with NYSERDA’s Economic Development Program, ESD, and regional EDOs to assess and optimally site new loads in support of various State economic development initiatives. Build-Ready will coordinate with these entities and DPS to complement their own activities and advance the State’s clean energy objectives. As the NYISO indicated in the 2023-2042 System & Resource Outlook, “Siting large loads in electrical proximity to renewable resources, or siting renewable energy resources near large loads, can benefit both the loads and the resources, particularly if located upstream of known electric grid constraints.”³³ The Build-Ready Program is well positioned to leverage its strengths and expertise to support economic development organizations in achieving this goal.

Specifically, the Build-Ready Program has executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ESD to support its Power Up and Fast NY Programs. This effort would assess numerous sites for grid interconnection viability, evaluate the related costs, and explore the integration of clean energy technologies. The program will also work closely with NYSERDA’s Economic Development Program

in a similar fashion. On an as-needed basis, Build-Ready may conduct broader site evaluations to assess environmental conditions, community sentiment, permitting and approval pathways, host community benefit opportunities, and identify potential factors that could render a site nonviable. While the initial effort will focus on already identified sites, ESD, NYSERDA's Economic Development Program, and EDOs are expected to generate additional sites during the ongoing assessment and implementation phases. Therefore, Build-Ready will support the evaluation of new sites on a rolling basis.

This collaborative approach between Build-Ready, ESD, and NYSERDA's Economic Development Program will ensure a thorough technical, economic, and community-based assessment of each site, paving the way for successful energy and economic development projects across New York State. At the same time, Build-Ready will continue its activities to identify, screen, and advance sites for select solar PV and BESS projects.

6 Summary

Despite the Build-Ready Program's achievements and significant efforts, its direct contributions towards New York's clean energy goals have been limited due to program constraints and the more recent Federal policy changes. Build-Ready has nonetheless made tangible contributions to deepening the state's understanding of siting and developing clean energy projects. As discussed in Section 4, the Build-Ready Program's financially self-sustaining model has proven infeasible. Therefore, rather than continuing the Build-Ready program under the current approach as stipulated in the Order, NYSERDA proposes the discontinuation of the PSC-funded Build-Ready Program. Instead, NYSERDA will look to leverage economic development opportunities to develop clean energy generation, take load off the grid and repurpose previously used or underutilized sites. NYSERDA will reimburse the approximately \$16.5 million of expended CEF funds drawn to date, is not requesting any further PSC funding for the continuation of the program, and will secure future program funding from other sources, thereby reducing direct ratepayer burdens.

NYSERDA, therefore, proposes that the PSC issue an order confirming that the PSC-funded Build-Ready Program will be terminated at this time and that NYSERDA will reimburse the approximately \$16.5 million of expended Clean Energy Fund (CEF) funds drawn through the end of 2025. NYSERDA will continue to run the Build-Ready Program in accordance with statutory requirements through December 31, 2030, using separate sources of funding.

Over the course of the next five years, it is NYSERDA's intent to evaluate opportunities to continue to repurpose distressed and/or underutilized properties by leveraging economic development opportunities. NYSERDA will continue to operate with an adaptive management approach and adjust its program design based on new market insights. This model will reduce burdens on rate payers while still allowing NYSERDA to fulfill its statutory requirements and advance new ways to meet the purpose of the Benefit Act.

Appendix A. Build-Ready Process Evaluation

Build-Ready Program Process Evaluation

Final Report | Report Number 25-33 | September 2025



NYSERDA's Mission:

NYSERDA catalyzes New York's clean energy transition.

Our Vision:

Clean energy that supports a healthier and thriving future for all New Yorkers.

Our Promise to New Yorkers:

NYSERDA serves New York State as a trusted and credible resource for energy information, policies, and programs, through objective analysis and planning, innovative solutions, and impactful investments that are valued by New York residents and businesses.

Build-Ready Program Process Evaluation

Final Report

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Abstract

NYSERDA’s Build-Ready (BR) program aims to take landfills, brownfields, and other BR-prioritized sites in New York State (NYS) partway through the renewable energy development process and make them “build-ready” for renewable energy developers to complete development and operate the projects. The BR program was established in 2020 following the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act, passed by the NYS Legislature, and signed into law by then Governor Andrew Cuomo. The NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) issued the Order Approving Build-Ready Program (Order) in October 2020. The Order requires NYSERDA to conduct a Five-Year Review of the program and summarize the results for use by the PSC in their decision on the continuation and/or modification of the program.

NYSERDA initiated this process evaluation in anticipation of, and to inform, the Five-Year Review. This report describes the market and policy context in which the BR program was initiated and has operated; the program’s processes, successes, and challenges; and adaptive management strategies the program has used to mitigate operational challenges. To conduct this process evaluation, the evaluator reviewed existing information to understand the PSC’s Order and program requirements, the program’s progress toward stated goals, and the program barriers, activities, and results. The secondary information review included approximately 50 documents, including developer feedback, which IEC reviewed for key themes, program development ideas, and context. In addition to desk research, IEC collected primary data through a series of interviews with BR program and other NYSERDA staff.

Keywords

abandoned commercial site, Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act (Benefit Act), battery energy storage system (BESS), Benson Mines, brownfield, Build-Ready, distributed energy resources (DER), dormant electric generating site, five-year review, landfill, Large-Scale Renewable (LSR), mine, Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES), Order Approving Build-Ready Program, process evaluation, renewable energy, Renewable Energy Certificate (REC), renewable energy developer, siting, solar

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

<	less than
>	greater than
Benefit Act	Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act
BESS	battery energy storage system
CAPEX	capital expenditure
CEF	Clean Energy Fund
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
DEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
DG	distributed generation
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
IEc	Industrial Economics, Inc.
IRA	Inflation Reduction Act
LOA	lease option agreement
LSR	large-scale renewable
MAG	Market Advisory Group
MC&E	Market Characterization & Evaluation
MW	megawatts
MWh	megawatt-hour
NHD	National Hydrography Dataset
NYS	New York State
NYSERDA	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
PSC	New York State Public Service Commission

PV	photovoltaic
REC	Renewable Energy Certificates
RFI	request for information
RFP	request for proposals
RFQL	request for qualification
TRC	TRC Companies, Inc.

Definitions

Developer	An entity engaged in the development, design, construction, and/or operation of renewable energy resources.
Large-scale	Renewable energy generation projects with a nameplate capacity above 5 megawatts (MW).
Renewables	Eligible renewable energy resources for Tier 1 Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) under New York State’s Renewable Energy Standard including solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, tidal, wave, ocean, and fuel cells.
BESS	Battery energy storage systems used for grid-scale electricity storage.
Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) Strike Price	The REC strike price is the contract price for renewable energy credits from a project. It is used to calculate the monthly REC price, which equals the REC index price minus the strike price. The strike price is fixed throughout the term of the indexed REC contract, providing revenue certainty for renewable energy developers.
Prioritized Sites	Sites designated for priority development under the Order Approving Build-Ready Program, including existing or abandoned commercial or industrial locations, brownfields, landfills, and dormant electric generating sites.

Executive Summary

ES.1 Evaluation Purpose and Methods

NYSERDA's Build-Ready (BR) program aims to take BR-prioritized sites in New York State (NYS) (e.g., landfills, brownfields) partway through the renewable energy development process and make them "build-ready" for renewable energy developers to complete development and operate the projects. The BR program was established in 2020 with the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act, passed by the NYS Legislature and signed into law by then Governor Andrew Cuomo. The NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) issued the Order Approving Build-Ready Program (Order) in October 2020.¹ The Order requires NYSERDA to conduct a Five-Year Review of the program and summarize the results for use by the PSC in their decision on the continuation or modification of the program.

NYSERDA initiated this process evaluation in anticipation of, and to inform, the Five-Year Review. This report describes the market and policy context in which the BR program was initiated and has operated; the program's processes, successes, and challenges; and adaptive management strategies the program has used to mitigate operational challenges.

To conduct this process evaluation, IEc (the evaluator) reviewed existing information to understand the PSC's Order and program requirements, the program's progress toward stated goals, and the program barriers, activities, and results. The secondary information review included approximately 50 documents, including developer feedback, which IEc reviewed for key themes, program development ideas, and context. In addition to desk research, IEc collected primary data through a series of interviews with BR program and other NYSERDA staff.

ES.2 Results

The BR program was charged with taking prioritized sites through the site development process, from potential project site identification through desktop screening, assessment, and design, permitting and approvals, and site auction. Over the past five years, the program has identified more than 16,400 parcels of land and developed robust screening criteria and protocols; screened 3,400 sites and curated a harmonized dataset which fed into a decision

support tool (searchable map); built a solid team of NYSERDA staff, systems, and processes, and established relationships with other NYSERDA programs and State agencies for collaboration on renewable energy development on prioritized sites. The program succeeded in securing permits, approvals, and agreements and auctioning off one site—Benson Mines—to a private developer.

Benson Mines, auctioned in December 2023, is the first build-ready site auction to advance large scale renewable (LSR) energy in NYS. The 12-megawatt solar project will be sited on an iron-ore mine tailings pile on the Benson Mines Property in St. Lawrence County in New York’s Adirondack Park. Once operational, it is expected to generate enough renewable energy to power up to 3,000 homes annually. The developer, Clean Capital, entered a 20-year Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) agreement to sell Tier 1 RECs generated by the project to NYSERDA. In collaboration with NYSERDA, the Town of Clifton, the Clifton-Fine Central School District, and the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Authority negotiated a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement. The collaboration also established the Clifton-Fine Solar Community Improvement Fund, which includes \$200,000 in host community benefits.²

Despite the success of the Benson Mines project the BR program has faced challenges in bringing additional build-ready sites to auction. Per the Order, the program prioritizes landfills, brownfields, and other site types that have historically been challenging and costly to develop and therefore ignored by private sector developers in favor of more viable sites. Although renewable energy development at these sites could provide significant environmental, economic, and community benefits, the program faced challenges ensuring that projects are economically viable so that REC prices were kept affordable for ratepayers.

ES.3 Key Findings

Finding 1. Institutional knowledge and network building: NYSERDA BR program staff have developed robust institutional knowledge, resources (e.g., an interactive map), and processes for identifying and assessing prioritized sites. Additionally, the BR program has developed relationships with partner agencies and renewable energy developers.

Finding 2. Adaptive management: The BR program exemplifies NYSERDA’s test-measure-adjust approach; the program has curated a culture of adaptive management and has continuously pivoted in response to roadblocks.

Finding 3. Validation of market barriers: Only one build-ready site—Benson Mines—has been auctioned to a developer, despite the hard work of NYSERDA and BR program staff. BR’s development challenges for brownfields, landfills, and other prioritized sites are ultimately similar to the challenges that private sector developers face when considering the same sites and have been documented by other states and federal agencies. Many of the sites evaluated by the BR program had been rejected by the private sector due to the same technical and economic constraints that ultimately made them unviable for the BR program.

Finding 4: Identified future pathways: In the spirit of adaptive management, BR program staff have worked to find viable pathways for the program, and the BR team is continuing to explore options for pathways the program can take to mitigate the current obstacles faced when developing prioritized sites for renewable energy generation. BR staff have explored everything from floating solar to parking lot solar, adjacent landfill siting, and ways to support other related technologies such as battery energy storage systems (BESS). The team’s numerous brainstorming sessions and onsite retreats have informed their efforts to find new pathways, and the team is continuing to explore options as part of its visioning for the program.

1 Introduction

1.1 Program Description

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority’s (NYSERDA) Build-Ready Program, housed in NYSEDA’s Large Scale Resources group, aims to take build-ready-prioritized sites (e.g., landfills, brownfields) partway through the renewable energy development process and make them “build-ready” for renewable energy developers to complete development and then operate the projects.

The program was initiated in 2020 with the New York State Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act (Benefit Act). The Benefit Act directed NYSEDA to petition the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) with planned activities to fulfill the Benefit Act’s goals, including “expediting the regulatory review for the siting of major renewable energy facilities and transmission infrastructure” and “making available to developers of clean generation resources build-ready sites for the construction and operation of such renewable energy facilities.”³ The Benefit Act tasked NYSEDA with advancing and making available Build-Ready-prioritized sites, including (among others) landfills, brownfields, abandoned commercial sites, and, later, parking lots (these site types are referred to as “prioritized sites” throughout this report).

In June 2020, NYSEDA submitted a petition to the PSC for the Build-Ready Program. The PSC accepted the petition and issued the Order Approving Build-Ready Program in October 2020. In January 2021, NYSEDA submitted the Build-Ready Implementation Plan. The program has now been operating for nearly five years.

New York State (NYS)—and other states across the country that are actively working to support renewable energy development on brownfields, landfills, and other prioritized sites—recognize that these sites are important yet challenging. These sites are typically underutilized; alternative uses, such as renewable energy development, offer many benefits, including economic revitalization, environmental justice benefits, given these sites are often close to lower-income communities.⁴ Within this context, NYSEDA launched the BR program to catalyze renewable energy development on prioritized sites within New York State.

The Build-Ready Program was initiated under the hypothesis that many underutilized or prioritized sites across New York State are viable candidates for renewable energy projects, but private developers are not currently targeting these sites due to concerns about cost and risk. The primary goal of the program is to identify and derisk prioritized sites and prepare them for competitive auction to renewable energy developers. The BR program staff are responsible for a wide range of activities, including:

- Nominating and identifying potential sites
- Screening and assessing those sites
- Managing permitting, design, and grid interconnection
- Conducting auctions and selecting developers through a request for proposal (RFP) process
- Facilitating the transfer of projects

Additionally, the program is tasked with achieving a key goal set by the Order: becoming financially self-sustaining (or “evergreen”) by generating revenue from project sales.

Importantly, in 2024, the Build-Ready legislation was amended through the 2025–2026 budget process and requiring the program to:

- Prioritize dormant electricity generation sites and give preference to previously developed sites
- Restrict development on agricultural land,⁵ except for interconnection equipment required to connect the project to the electrical grid
- Develop bulk energy storage system projects on build-ready site types

Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act

Enacted in 2020, the Benefit Act aimed to accelerate clean energy development across New York State while ensuring benefits for host communities and strengthening the State’s clean energy sector. It established the Office of Renewable Energy Siting, which created regulations, permit terms, and conditions for large-scale renewable (LSR) energy projects. The Benefit Act also tasked NYSERDA with advancing clean energy sites to a “build ready” state for auction to potential LSR energy developers

1.2 Summary of Evaluation Objectives and Methodology

1.2.1 Evaluation Objectives

The Order requires NYSERDA to conduct a five-year review of the Build-Ready Program, providing an analytical assessment that will help the PSC determine whether to continue, modify, or conclude the program. In anticipation of this five-year review, and in alignment with Clean

Energy Fund (CEF) reporting requirements, NYSERDA contracted Industrial Economics, Inc. (IEc), a third-party independent contractor procured under NYSERDA request for qualification (RFQL) 4162 and managed by NYSERDA’s Market Characterization & Evaluation (MC&E) team, to carry out the evaluation.

The objective of this process evaluation is to document the program’s operations, successes, and challenges; the adaptive management strategies implemented to improve processes; and emerging insights to inform the program’s future direction. This evaluation covers 2021–2025 and identifies challenges, along with strategies program staff employed to mitigate them.

At this five-year mark, the Build-Ready team is actively revisioning the program’s future direction including deeper collaboration with other NYSERDA teams and New York State partner agencies. Through documenting the program’s processes, changes, challenges, and successes, this process evaluation aims to inform these future visioning efforts and the five-year review.

1.2.2 Evaluation Methodology

To conduct this process evaluation, IEc reviewed secondary (program-generated) data to understand the program’s progress to date and collected primary data through a series of interviews with Build-Ready Program staff and other NYSERDA staff. The secondary data review included approximately 50 documents, which IEc reviewed for key themes, program development ideas, and context. The documents reviewed include:

- Annual reports
- Program presentations
- Program documentation and outputs
- Site screening process documents

IEc conducted interviews in January 2025. Table 1 categorizes the seven interviews by interviewee group and target population. Interview groups include NYSERDA staff, both within and outside the Build-Ready Program, as well as TRC Companies, Inc. (TRC) contractors supporting the program implementation.⁶ IEc systematically categorized text from interview notes into several categorical “codes” and used these codes to carry out a frequency (pattern)

analysis to identify themes. IEC employs this method of qualitative coding as it is more robust than a verbatim text search. In addition to the interview notes from the primary data collection exercise, IEC also coded, summarized, and included notes from previous interviews with developers interested in the Benson Mines project.⁷

Table 1. Interview Group Summary

Interview Group	Population	Number of Interviews
Build-Ready Program + Large Scale Resources Staff	6	4
Additional NYSERDA Departments	3	2
TRC Build-Ready Support Staff	3	1

2 Process Evaluation Results

2.1 Market and Policy Context

The market and policy environment in which the Build-Ready Program operates is important for understanding the full context of the process evaluation results. Developing renewable energy projects on prioritized sites, such as landfills, mines, and brownfields, provides many benefits, including reducing environmental liabilities and creating jobs and opportunities for local communities.⁸ The development of retired fossil fuel infrastructure, such as former coal mines, is also important for a just transition to clean energy because it supports communities that have historically depended on the fossil fuel industry.⁹ However, the challenges of development on the prioritized site types are well-documented and evidenced by the small proportion of prioritized site types that have been developed across the U.S.¹⁰

Challenges associated with renewable energy development on prioritized site types include:¹¹

- Higher construction and permitting costs; for example, solar development on brownfield sites can cost 10%–15% more than on greenfield sites
- Site characteristics, such as the slope of many closed landfills, which in some cases prevent renewable energy development
- Environmental site assessments that require significant upfront time and investment
- Permitting processes that can be complex and time-consuming, sometimes taking up to four years

The program aims to assist the private sector in overcoming site development challenges and increasing renewable energy development on prioritized sites in New York State. A major challenge for the program has been finding sites that meet the site criteria (e.g., brownfields; not on agricultural land),¹² result in Renewable Energy Certificates (REC) prices that protect ratepayers and provide a sufficient economic return. This finding is not unexpected, given the well-documented challenges faced by similar efforts at both the state and federal levels.¹³

The federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), enacted in 2022 during the program's tenure, offered credits specifically targeting prioritized site types such as brownfields. This federal policy clearly demonstrated a recognition, at the highest levels of government, of the importance of developing these sites and the need for extra support to help overcome development challenges. However, the

IRA incentives are now being scaled back under Public Law No. 119-21 (July 2025), which will likely make the financing of all renewable energy development, and in particular on prioritized sites, more challenging.¹⁴

The program's five years also spanned the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, including the tumultuous job market, which affected the program in terms of high employee turnover, challenging the program's efforts to build effective processes and an internal knowledge base. Meanwhile, rising interconnection costs restricted the pool of viable build-ready sites.

The Order also required the program to be financially self-sustaining (or evergreen) through the auction and sale of viable projects. Achieving this goal has been particularly challenging. To date, only one site—Benson Mines—has progressed through both the auction and the transfer stages, representing the program's sole source of revenue.

2.2 Process Hurdles and Barriers

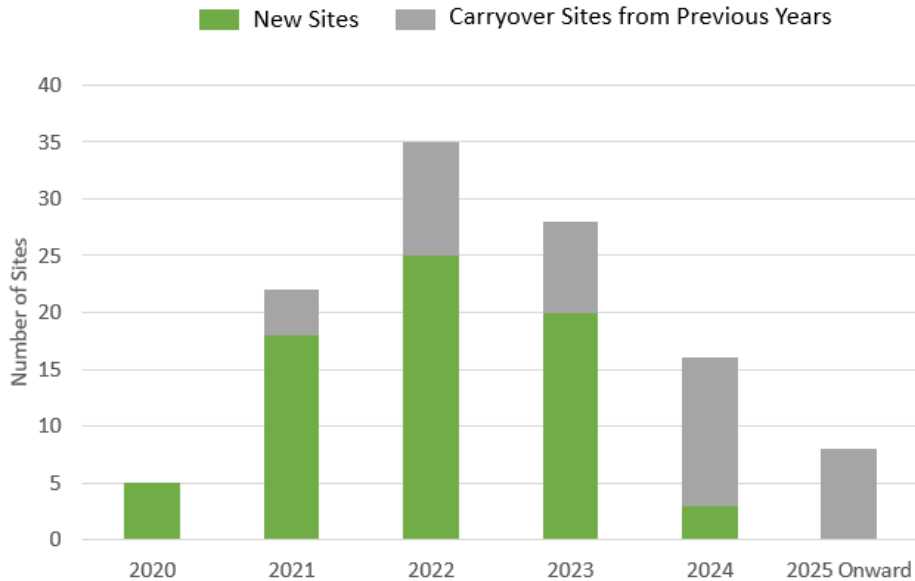
Beyond the challenging market and policy context, the program has faced additional challenges over the last five years. These challenges created barriers to achieving its goals and ultimately disproved the underlying hypothesis that led to the program's formation: that many underutilized/prioritized sites across New York State are viable candidates for renewable energy projects, but private developers are not currently targeting these sites due to concerns about cost and risk.

2.2.1 Lack of Viable Sites

A major process hurdle has been finding viable sites for renewable energy development within the constraints set out in the Benefit Act and subsequent legislative amendments. Program staff implemented a rigorous site screening and due diligence process, which they tested and refined several times to ensure nonviable sites were efficiently screened out, avoiding unnecessary use of staff resources, while still allowing potentially viable sites to advance. Through multiple rounds of screening with various combinations of site constraints,¹⁵ program staff found that only a small portion of the 16,400 parcels of land identified passed the site screening process and were deemed viable for further investigation.¹⁶ Moreover, for the sites that passed initial

screening and progressed to the program pipeline, the rate of site attrition was high due to other issues, including challenges in coming to terms with site owners, difficulties in obtaining site easements, and significant interconnection costs. Figure 1 depicts the number of sites that passed the initial site screening and proceeded to a more detailed site assessment.

Figure 1. Build-Ready Pipeline, 2020 through Q1 2025



Most of the sites screened were identified using site lists from partner agencies and other NYSERDA departments. The program also solicits potential sites through its Site Nomination Request For Information (RFI); however, the majority of sites submitted through the RFI have not met the BR site requirements, and few have progressed into the pipeline.¹⁷ The sites evaluated through the end of Q1 2025 often had insufficient buildable land to support large-scale renewable (LSR) project development or were too far away from a point of interconnection.

Program staff robustly justified the viability (or nonviability) of sites through extensive desktop screening research for factors such as protected areas, distance to infrastructure to connect to the electric grid, site owners' engagement to gauge interest in renewable energy development on their land, detailed cost modeling to assess financial viability, and feasibility assessment. Feasibility assessments involved evaluating land ownership and control, confirming the presence of infrastructure for grid connection, exploring feasible design options, assessing

permit availability and conducting outreach to host communities to gather feedback on renewable energy development at proposed sites. In recent interviews, developers praised the thoroughness of these site evaluations. This detailed research enhances NYSERDA's institutional knowledge and deepens understanding of the factors influencing sites' viability.

2.2.2 Site Criteria

These barriers, alongside the challenging operating parameters outlined in the Benefit Act, Order, and subsequent legislative modifications, have made finding technically and economically viable sites difficult and advancing them through the pipeline challenging. To date, only one site has been put up for auction. The lesson learned through the program team's research is that, ultimately, the technical and economic constraints preventing the private sector from developing prioritized site types in New York State also limit NYSERDA's ability to move the sites through the development pipeline. Additionally, the program must operate within the constraints outlined in the Benefit Act, Order, and subsequent legislative modifications, which reflect a different emphasis than the private sector, further limiting the number of candidate sites.

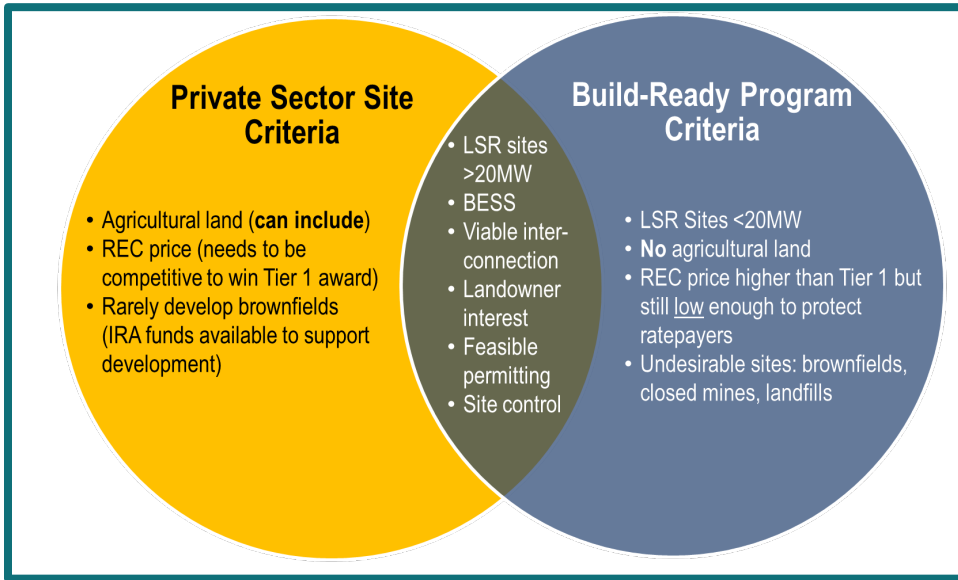
Figure 2 illustrates how the private sector and the program select LSR sites, highlighting the criteria they both use. Shared criteria include:

1. Landowner interest
2. Proximity to viable interconnection points
3. Feasible permitting
4. Competitive REC pricing

Only a small proportion of brownfield sites meet these criteria, as demonstrated by the relatively small number of brownfields across the U.S., 459 out of approximately 450,000, which have been developed into new solar projects.¹⁸ The program, like the private sector, needs to satisfy these four high-level conditions; however, it also needs to pursue prioritized sites, obtain a REC price low enough to be affordable to ratepayers, and avoid agricultural land. Despite screening 16,400 parcels of land (3,400 sites), only a small number ultimately met the program's criteria. This finding is significant because it highlights the challenges these sites pose, the ongoing need for public support to make projects viable, and the importance of exploring new approaches to increase the development of these sites in New York State and access their numerous potential community benefits.

Figure 2: Site Criteria Comparison

Site Control: In renewable energy development, the term “site control” refers to having a legal right to lease or acquire a property for development. This can take several forms, including leasing agreements, purchasing agreements, or other contractual arrangements. The most commonly used form of site control in the early phase of renewable energy development is a lease option agreement (LOA). Primarily, the Build-Ready Program uses LOAs to secure site control.



2.3 Adaptive Management and Process Improvement

Program staff have made considerable efforts to adaptively manage the program and strengthen their processes. These efforts align with NYSERDA’s “test-measure-adjust” framework in the Order Authorizing the Clean Energy Fund and the Order Approving Clean Energy Fund Modifications.^{19, 20} The test-measure-adjust framework was especially relevant to the Build-Ready Program as a new undertaking for the State and NYSERDA.

2.3.1 Creating a Culture of Continuous Improvement

Program staff set aside dedicated time for discussing process improvements, including multiple brainstorming events and seven retreats over the last four years that took place at NYSERDA’s offices in Albany. The program also had semiannual meetings with its prospecting, engineering, environmental, and interconnection consultants, respectively, to review and adjust the program’s strategy and processes. These discussions aimed to conceive new pathways and site origination

strategies, such as expansion beyond solar to battery energy storage. The team also held a Kaizen event in 2022, which was a concerted effort to improve processes early in the program. The event outlined processes and developed recommendations, some of which the program adopted.

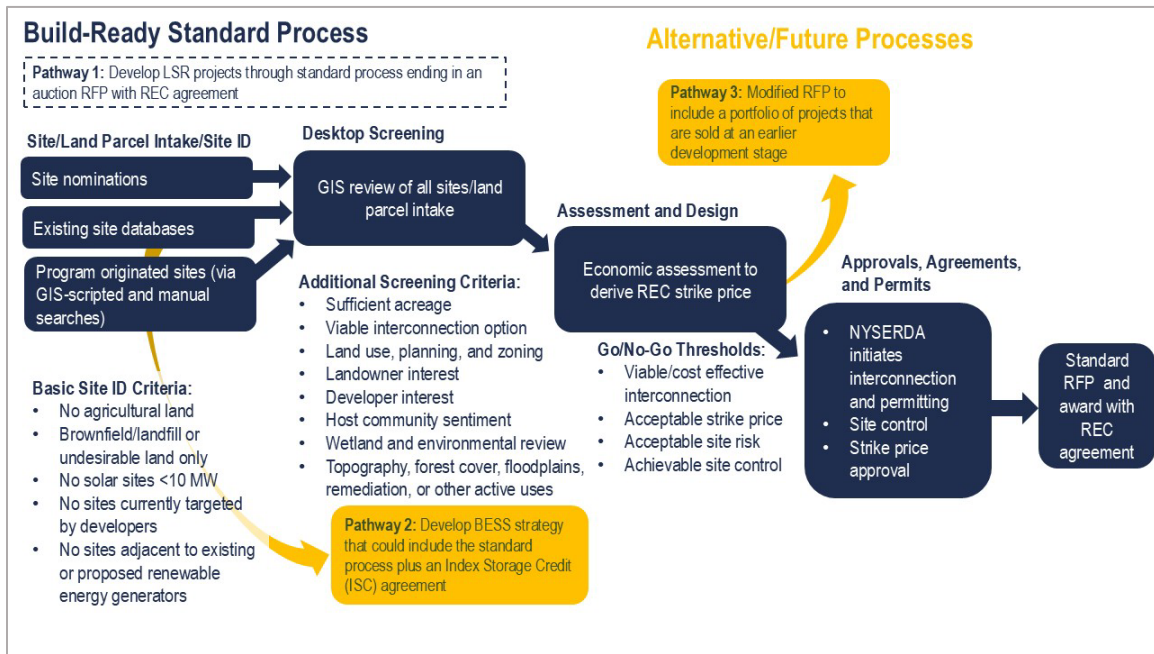
2.3.2 External Advisory Support

In service of developing processes that better align with the timelines and expectations of private sector developers, the program also sought external feedback and created a voluntary Market Advisory Group (MAG)²¹ to solicit input from developers. The MAG solicited feedback on customer needs, pain points, concerns, and their decision-making processes. This group provided important insights into the development of LSR projects and the design of the auction process for the Benson Mines site. In addition, the program has issued RFIs to private renewable energy developers to gather feedback and further refine its strategy and project development efforts. Furthermore, program staff have interviewed developers who participated in the first RFP to solicit input and are incorporating this learning into the next RFP.

2.3.3 Site Screening and Development Changes

The program has adaptively managed the site screening and development steps throughout its five-year lifespan in response to a lack of viable sites and to encompass new technologies. The screening criteria initially expanded from considering only sites that could host a 20-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) facility to also including LSR sites as small as 10–15 MW. In addition, the program was allowed to develop three distributed generation (DG) projects, initially identified as LSR solar sites; however, they were later determined to be nonviable as LSR and instead viable as DG. NYSERDA issued the Build-Ready Program DG RFP (BRRFP25-1) for the three DG projects in July 2025, and proposals were due by August 27, 2025. Additionally, the program has worked on site screening criteria for bulk battery energy storage systems (BESS). Sites will be rescreened for viability for BESS. Figure 3 presents the standard process for developing sites alongside the two new pathways: DG-scale solar and BESS.

Figure 3. Build-Ready Standard Process and Alternative and Future Directions



The program also adaptively managed the process that consultants used to conduct desktop site screening, site assessment, and development. The program amended and built out a comprehensive site screening methodology and consultants’ scope of work to improve the output of the site screening exercise to better serve the program. This process was also repeated for the Build-Ready environmental, engineering, and interconnection consultants.

Program staff used robust site screening methods and comprehensive data collection to develop an interactive map, which was constructed from the large site dataset compiled and harmonized during the screening process. The map has attracted interest from multiple NYSERDA teams, and it shows strong potential as a resource for future renewable energy planning, both within the agency and across New York State more broadly.

Another beneficial product developed by program staff as part of their process improvement efforts is a new, more detailed financial model that significantly improves strike price and capital expenditure (CAPEX) prediction compared to the financial model used initially. The improved financial forecasting enabled financially nonviable sites to be excluded earlier in the pipeline, thereby reducing time spent on developing nonviable sites.

2.4 Successes to Date

Despite the challenges, the program has achieved some tangible successes, which are described below.

2.4.1 Benson Mines Site Auction

A notable success is the Benson Mines site, which reached the auction stage, becoming the first project to do so. This is a success on two fronts: the site has reached this milestone, including securing all relevant permits, approvals, and agreements, and it demonstrates that the program has successfully developed an auction process, including establishing limited liability companies to sell projects within the NYSERDA system—a novel achievement.

2.4.2 Robust Site Identification System and Streamlined Site Screening

More than 16,400 parcels of land were identified and screened through the program’s robust screening criteria and protocols. The team then curated the resulting data from 3,400 sites into a harmonized dataset.

2.4.3 Interactive Site Map and Data Harmonization

Another success is the program team’s harmonization of the large amounts of site data to produce the interactive site map. The data collation process leveraged the robust set of screening criteria and the team’s site research. The harmonized dataset can support future efforts to rescreen sites in response to emerging opportunities. For example, in response to the recent BESS legislative amendment allowing the program to develop standalone energy storage sites, the program can easily rescreen sites for their viability for BESS, using the harmonized dataset.

2.4.4 Expertise in Large-Scale Renewable Development on Brownfields and Other Prioritized Sites

Program staff gained significant experience evaluating sites, working to make them build-ready, and taking the Benson Mines site all the way to successful auction and handoff to a private developer. In the process, staff developed deep knowledge and expertise that are broadly applicable to NYSERDA’s LSR work, such as how to use financial modeling to better predict REC prices and how to determine the viability of sites for renewable energy development.

2.4.5 Networking and Institutional Knowledge-Building

The program has built relationships with NYS partner agencies and private companies. The program’s institutional knowledge and network are robust resources that the program can leverage in its future work, and a resource that other NYSERDA programs and, potentially, other public agencies and the market at large can tap into, thereby supporting the development of renewable energy across New York State.

2.4.6 Adaptive Management and Continuous Process Improvement

A notable success of the program is the numerous and considerable efforts undertaken to adaptively manage the program, as detailed earlier in Section 2.

Figure 4 aligns the discussion of successes to date and process hurdles and barriers with the different BR pipeline steps. For example, the harmonized dataset and interactive (searchable) map were successful at the desktop screening Step 2, which enabled the program to work within the various barriers and site constraints such as incompatible land use, nonviable interconnection, and minimum acreage requirements.

Figure 4. Program Successes and Barriers

Successes	Pipeline Step	Barriers
Identified over 16,400 parcels of land and developed robust screening criteria and protocols.	1 Potential Project Site Identification	Agricultural land exclusion
Screened 3,400 sites and curated a harmonized dataset which fed into a decision support tool (searchable map).	2 Desktop Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acreage • Landowner interest • Land use • Wetland and environmental review • Site control • Viable interconnection • Host community sentiment • REC Strike Price • Developer interest to purchase
Build up a solid team of NYSERDA Program Staff and contractors, built new NYSERDA systems and processes, and developed relationships with other state agencies.	3 Preliminary Assessment and Design	
Build-Ready succeeded in securing permits, approvals and agreements for Benson Mines project.	4 Detailed Assessment and Design	
Benson Mines – the first site to make it through the Build Ready Process to the auction and transfer stage.	5 Secure Permits, Approvals, and Agreements	Recover BR program costs by selling RECs, while also protecting ratepayers with affordable REC prices
	6 Site Auction	Auction process newly developed – feedback on the process and lessons learned yet to be implemented

3 Key Findings Summary

Based on the process evaluation results, the following summarizes the key findings:

- **Finding 1: Institutional knowledge and network building**
NYSERDA's Build-Ready Program staff have developed robust institutional knowledge, tools and resources (e.g., an interactive map), and processes for identifying and assessing prioritized sites. Additionally, the program has developed relationships with partner agencies and renewable energy developers.
- **Finding 2: Adaptive management**
The Build-Ready Program exemplifies NYSERDA's test-measure-adjust approach, fostering a culture of adaptive management. Program staff have continuously pivoted in response to roadblocks.
- **Finding 3: Validation of market barriers**
Despite significant effort, only one build-ready site, Benson Mines, has been auctioned and transferred to a developer. The development challenges for brownfields, landfills, and other prioritized sites are ultimately similar to those that private sector developers face when considering the same sites and have been documented by other states and federal agencies. Many of the sites the program team evaluated had been rejected by the private sector due to the same technical and economic constraints that ultimately made them unviable for the Build-Ready Program.
- **Finding 4: Identified future pathways**
In the spirit of adaptive management, program staff continue to find viable pathways for the program. The team continues to explore options for pathways the program can take to mitigate the current obstacles faced when developing prioritized sites for renewable energy generation, including floating solar, parking lot solar, adjacent landfill siting, and support for related technologies, such as BESS. Numerous brainstorming sessions and retreats have informed their efforts to identify new pathways, and the team continues to explore options as part of its visioning for the program.

Appendix A: Interview Analysis

IEc interviewed Build-Ready program staff and other NYSERDA staff involved in the Build-Ready program including Contracts and Legal. Table A-1 presents a tabular summary of the frequency of codes applied to the interview notes (lighter green is less frequent; darker green is more frequent). The majority of interviewees (n = 7)²² discussed institutional knowledge building and other successes; challenges including the constraints set out in the Build-Ready Order; and thoughts on possible future directions for the Build-Ready program.

Table A-1. Summary of Interview Response Frequency

Parent Code/Category	Child Code/Category	Description	Count of interview
Successes	Screening process	Descriptions/references to the robust screening process that NYSERDA BR program developed to set in place stage gates for site analysis/research and consideration.	3
	Site going to auction	Descriptions/references to the bespoke site auction process that NYSERDA BR staff researched and implemented.	4
	Approval for standalone ES	Descriptions/references to the approval for the program to pursue standalone energy storage sites.	3
	Site Research/Justification	Descriptions/references to the robust research on sites, justification of site progression or not through the pipeline, and data collation related to sites.	3
	Network-building	Descriptions/references to relationship building with partner agencies, private companies and other NYSERDA teams.	3
	Institutional knowledge built	Descriptions/references to bespoke process creation within NYSERDA, improved understanding of NYSERDA processes, skills and knowledge building within the NYSERDA team.	5
	Other successes	Descriptions/references to any successes not captured in the other codes.	6

Table A-1 Continued

Parent Code/Category	Child Code/Category	Description	Count of interview
Challenges	Statute/BR Order	Descriptions/references to the limitations imposed by the BR statute and order that created challenges for the program.	6
	Site screening constraints	Descriptions/references to the sites available screening by the BR program and the main reasons why sites fall out of the pipeline.	4
	Site screening process management	Descriptions/references to management of the site screening consultants.	2
	Public org operating as developer	Descriptions/references to the impact of NYSERDA's processes and position as a public body on the program.	5
	Staffing turnover	Descriptions/references to high staff turnover and the challenges that created for the program.	2
	Other challenges	Descriptions/references to any challenges not captured in the other codes.	6
Adaptive management	Kaizen	Descriptions/references to the Kaizen event and any changes that were implemented afterwards.	1
	Products developed	Descriptions/references to new products that were developed after the program start.	2
	Site Screening	Descriptions/references to changes to the site screening process as the program progressed.	3
	Consultants	Descriptions/references to changes in the management of external consultants.	2
	Other process improvements	Descriptions/references to any adaptive management approaches not captured in the other codes.	3
Future shape of program	Next Steps/ Planning Ahead for Future	Descriptions/references to ideas for the future of the program and how the project should adapt moving forward.	7

Appendix B: Evaluation Question Crosswalk

Table B-1 summarizes the evaluation strategy by highlighting the data sources used to address the research questions and the data collection/analysis activities.

Table B-1. Crosswalk of Data Sources to Evaluation Questions

Question Number	Evaluation Question	Interviews	Document Review
1	What processes/steps enabled the program to successfully screen sites and originate projects for the BR pipeline?	✓	✓
2	What processes/steps are (or should be) emphasized in each of the five pathways? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does successful movement through the pipeline look like for each pathway? • What processes/steps can NYSERDA streamline to move projects through the pipeline quickly (including handoffs to other partners)? 	✓	✓
3	How do external factors (drivers and barriers) affect the BR program's operations and effectiveness? (e.g., site difficulty, cost to develop)	✓	✓
4	Phase 2: What value do NYSERDA's partners see in the pipeline information that the BR program has compiled?	✓	✓
5	Phase 2: What opportunities might exist to pair manufacturing and economic development with renewable energy development?	✓	✓
6	What motivates developers to respond to BR RFPs? What barriers or disincentives cause some developers not to participate? <i>IEc's work on this RQ is anticipated to be a lighter touch than the others.</i>	✓	✓
7	How satisfied is the developer who has responded to the BR program RFP? <i>IEc's work on this RQ is anticipated to be a lighter touch than the others.</i>	✓	✓
8	In what ways do the current design of the BR program and BR operations/activities reflect adaptive management and learning from experience? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What process improvements have the BR program implemented, and why? • To what extent have the process improvements been effective? 	✓	✓
9	What lessons can be learned to improve future BR program implementation?	✓	✓
10	What process innovations can be applied to other NYSERDA programs, particularly other LSR programs?	✓	✓
11	How can NYSERDA improve the effectiveness of the BR program moving forward?	✓	✓

Appendix C: Document Review

IEc reviewed the program documentation provided by the Build-Ready staff and mapped it to the evaluation questions. Table C-1 lists all documents that were mapped to an evaluation question(s) and the questions they were mapped to. Documentation covered all evaluation questions with most documents relating to evaluation questions 2, 3, and 4. Evaluation questions are listed in Appendix B.

Table C-1. Evaluation Question Crosswalk for Document Review

Title	RQ1	RQ2	RQ2a	RQ2b	RQ3	RQ4	RQ5	RQ8	RQ8a
Agricultural Land Policy	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
CASE 15-E-0302								✓	✓
Annual Build Ready Report Update - LSR Staff Meeting	✓					✓			
Build Ready Program Current Process Workflow	✓								
CASE 15-E-0302 Proceeding on Large-Scale Renewable Program and a Clean Energy Standard	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Build Ready Strategy	✓			✓					
NYSERDA Build-Ready Buildable Area Criteria	✓				✓	✓		✓	
Build-Ready Priorities July 2024-Jan 2025	✓			✓					
Draft Program Manual	✓			✓					
Build-Ready Internal Procedures	✓			✓					
Clean Energy Resources Development and Incentives Program	✓			✓					
NYSERDA Build-Ready Program Buildable Area Process Steps	✓								
LaBella TWO 2.0	✓								
Site Screening Process	✓								
Mind mapping exercise results						✓	✓		
Build-Ready Program Implementation Plan	✓			✓	✓			✓	
The Build-Ready Program Annual Progress Report, 2020	✓			✓				✓	
The Build-Ready Program Annual Progress Report 2021	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓
The Build-Ready Program Annual Progress Report 2022	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
The Build-Ready Program Annual Progress Report 2023	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
NYSERDA Build-Ready Interviews to Solicit Feedback on Benson Mines project RFP						✓			

Endnotes

- ¹ NYSERDA Build-Ready web page: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/-/media/Project/Nyserda/Files/Programs/Clean-Energy-Standard/2020/October-15-Order-Approving-Build-Ready-Program.pdf>
- ² “Awardee Announced to Build One of the Largest Solar Projects in New York’s Adirondack Park,” March 13, 2025. NYSERDA Newsroom. <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/About/Newsroom/2025-Announcements/2025-03-13-NYSERDA-Announces-Awardee-To-Build-One-Of-The-Largest-Solar-Projects-In-NY>
- ³ Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act” “expediting the regulatory review for the siting of major renewable energy facilities and transmission infrastructure” https://nyassembly.gov/leg/?default_fld=&&leg_video=&&bn=A09508&&term=2019&...
- ⁴ New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) “Order Approving Build-Ready Program.” Last modified October 15, 2020. www.nyserda.ny.gov/-/media/Project/Nyserda/Files/Programs/Clean-Energy-Standard/2020/October-15-Order-Approving-Build-Ready-Program.pdf , <https://rmi.org/insight/the-future-of-landfills-is-bright/>
- ⁵ The budget describes agricultural land requirements in the context of Build-Ready site development as follows: “land used in agricultural production as defined by the Department of Agriculture and Markets, with additional consideration for land within an agricultural district or land that contains mineral soil groups 1-4, shall not be deemed suitable for the development of a build-ready site except when necessary for generator lead lines and other equipment needed for interconnection of projects to the electrical system.” New York State Senate. “Public Authorities Law §1902.” <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/PBA/1902>
- ⁶ TRC Companies. “Welcome to TRC Companies.” N.d. <https://www.trccompanies.com/>
- ⁷ A different contractor interviewed the developers for another purpose, but they are contextually relevant for this process evaluation.
- ⁸ Brownfields fact sheet available on the Clean Power website: https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/Mining_the_Sun_Report_Final_5.23.24.pdf, https://cleanpower.org/wp-content/uploads/gateway/2022/08/ACP_FactSheet_Brownfields_220830.pdf
- ⁹ United Nations Development Program website: <https://climatepromise.undp.org/news-and-stories/what-just-transition-and-why-it-important>
- ¹⁰ U.S.EPA website about brownfields: <https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/about>, https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/Mining_the_Sun_Report_Final_5.23.24.pdf, https://cleanpower.org/wp-content/uploads/gateway/2022/08/ACP_FactSheet_Brownfields_220830.pdf
- ¹¹ The Nature Conservancy webpage “Mining the Sun: Clean Energy on Mines and Brownfields” <https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/tackle-climate-change/climate-change-stories/mining-the-sun-solar-energy-former-mine-sites/>, https://cleanpower.org/wp-content/uploads/gateway/2022/08/ACP_FactSheet_Brownfields_220830.pdf
- ¹² The limitation for development on agricultural land was formally made in the 2024 Build-Ready legislative amendment.
- ¹³ Clean Power factsheet about Brownfields: https://cleanpower.org/wp-content/uploads/gateway/2022/08/ACP_FactSheet_Brownfields_220830.pdf
- ¹⁴ Congressional Bill H.R. 1, One Big Beautiful Act: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1/text>
- ¹⁵ Site constraints include:
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regulatory Floodways
 - New York State Protected Area Database
 - 100-foot buffer from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory
 - 100-foot buffer from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) wetlands
 - 100-foot buffer from Adirondack Park wetlands

- Lakes, ponds, and rivers as identified in the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) waterbodies and NHD areas
- 50-foot buffer from roads
- 50-foot buffer from railroads
- 25-foot buffer from transmission lines and substations
- Slopes >20%
- Building footprints
- Forest areas

¹⁶ The 16,400 parcels of land correspond to 3,400 sites.

¹⁷ NYSERDA website: <https://www.nysERDA.ny.gov/All-Programs/Build-Ready-Program/Site-Nomination>

¹⁸ RMI website “The Time is Ripe for Communities to Embrace Clean Energy on Brownfields”
<https://rmi.org/time-for-communities-to-embrace-clean-energy-on-brownfields/>

¹⁹ Order Authorizing the Clean Energy Fund Framework notes, “NYSERDA states the Investment Plan will also include information on how stakeholder engagement, market research, data, as well as progress assessments based on evaluation and timely test-measure-adjust practices will provide direction to portfolio allocation decisions.” <https://www.nysERDA.ny.gov/-/media/Project/NysERDA/Files/About/Clean-Energy-Fund/2016-CEF-Order.pdf>

²⁰ The Order Approving Clean Energy Fund Modifications states, “...the Commission adopted a Test-Measure-Adjust approach within the CEF Framework Order for NYSERDA to follow.”
<https://www.nysERDA.ny.gov/-/media/Project/NysERDA/Files/About/Clean-Energy-Fund/2021-09-21-Order-Approving-CEF-Modifications.pdf>

²¹ NYSERDA Market Advisory Group website: <https://www.nysERDA.ny.gov/All-Programs/Build-Ready-Program/Market-Advisory-Group>

²² Six interviews were conducted by IEC as part of this evaluation. IEC also coded and summarized notes from previous interviews with developers interested in the Benson Mines project, the coding of these notes was counting as one additional interview for this evaluation.

NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and support to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. NYSERDA professionals work to protect the environment and create clean-energy jobs. NYSERDA has been developing partnerships to advance innovative energy solutions in New York State since 1975.

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- ² New York Public Service Commission. CASE 15-E-0302 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Implement a Large-Scale Renewable Program and a Clean Energy Standard. “Order Approving Build-Ready Program” Issued and Effective October 15, 2020. <http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Common/ViewDoc.aspx?DocRefId={B0F6CC45-490C-48A7-B0FB-6D3C7924993C}>
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- ⁵ The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), (S6599/A8429), 2019.
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- ¹⁰ New York State Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Enacted Budget, Article VII Bills, Transportation, Economic Development and Environmental Conservation (TED) (S8308-C/A8808-C), Part M, P.50. January 17, 2024. <https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy25/en/index.html>
- ¹¹ In the budget agricultural land in the context of Build-Ready site development was characterized as: “land used in agricultural production as defined by the department of agriculture and markets, with additional consideration for land within an agricultural district or land that contains mineral soil groups 1-4, shall not be deemed suitable for the development of a build-ready site except when necessary for generator lead lines and other equipment needed for interconnection or projects to the electrical system.” New York State Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Enacted Budget, VII Bills, Transportation, Economic Development and Environmental Conservation (TED) (S8308-C/A8808-C), Part M, P.50. January 17, 2024. <https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy25/en/index.html>
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- ¹⁶ New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). “Build-Ready Implementation Plan.” 12 January 2021. <http://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/Common/ViewDoc.aspx?DocRefId={277A546B-8DD7-4D19-8532-E4049B1141E1}>
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- ²⁹ New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Economic Development. September 2025. <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Economic-Development>
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- ³¹ New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). NY-Sun. September 25, 2025. <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/NY-Sun>
- ³² New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Energy Storage Program. September 2025. <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Energy-Storage-Program>
- ³³ New York Independent System Operator (NYISO). 2023-2042 System & Resource Outlook. July 23, 2024. <https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/46037414/2023-2042-System-Resource-Outlook.pdf>

NYSERDA, a public benefit corporation, offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and support to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. NYSERDA professionals work to protect the environment and create clean-energy jobs. NYSERDA has been developing partnerships to advance innovative energy solutions in New York State since 1975.

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