



## FAQs

### Project Overview

**Q: What is the 'sea2shore' project?**

- A. **sea2shore: The Renewable Link**, originally known as the Block Island Transmission Project, is an electric infrastructure project that will ultimately feed electricity generated by the to-be-built Block Island Wind Farm into the statewide electric grid. The project will also include a connection to the Block Island Power Company, which will provide enough electricity to cover the island's approximate 4 megawatt (MW) demand. With an anticipated 30 MW of generation from the wind farm, the excess electricity will be re-directed to mainland Rhode Island via a bi-directional submarine cable between Block Island Town Beach and Scarborough State Beach in Narragansett, which will ultimately be tied into the mainland electric grid.

**Q: Is National Grid building the wind turbines, too?**

- A. No, National Grid has no involvement with the construction, operation or maintenance of the turbines or the submarine cable that brings the renewable power from the turbines to Block Island's shore. National Grid is responsible for building, operating and maintaining:

**Narragansett and South Kingstown:**

- New 34.5kV substation, called Dillon's Corner Substation, at existing RIDOT maintenance facility (at the intersection of Rt. 108 and Rt. 1)
- Approximately 3.5 miles of underground cable from Scarborough State Beach to new Dillon's Corner Substation via Burnside Road and Rt. 108
- Additional 0.75 miles of underground cable from new Dillon's Corner Substation to existing Wakefield Substation (intersection of Rt. 108 and Old Tower Hill Rd in South Kingstown)
- Upgrades to existing Wakefield Substation and West Kingston Substation (Great Neck Rd., South Kingstown) inside the fence line
- Improvements to public facilities at Scarborough State Beach

**Block Island:**

- New 34.5kV substation on existing Block Island Power Company (BIPCo) property
- Approximately 0.8 miles of underground cable from Block Island Town Beach to the BIPCo property via Corn Neck Road and Beach Avenue and 0.2 miles of overhead line on BIPCo property (Note: this cabling is the direct connect with the sea cable that brings power from the wind farm, and the sea cable that brings excess power to the mainland)

**Ocean:**

- Approximately 20 miles of 34.5kV submarine cable from Block Island Town Beach to Scarborough State Beach (Narragansett), including cable connectivity work at each beach

**Q: Why is this project necessary?**

A. There is a growing need to diversify the energy portfolio (sources) in the United States. National Grid supports and continually looks for new ways to advance its energy infrastructure to support current and future customer needs. This is reflective of National Grid's Connect21 vision. With the Block Island Wind Farm expected to come online in late 2016, the energy generated by the wind farm requires the infrastructure link through which it can be delivered to customers – that's what National Grid is providing.

**Q: What is the expected timeline for completion?**

A. National Grid anticipates its portion of the project to be completed by the end of 2016.

**Q: What is the exact route the construction will follow?**

A. [Maps](http://ngrid.com/sea2shore) are available on the project website ([ngrid.com/sea2shore](http://ngrid.com/sea2shore)).

**Q: How is this project being funded?**

A. The cost of this project will be covered by RI customer rates as approved by the RI Public Utilities Commission.

## Customer Benefits/Impacts

**Q: Will the 'sea2shore' project only benefit customers on Block Island and in Narragansett?**

A. Because the energy generated by the Block Island Wind Farm will ultimately be fed into the statewide electric grid, the benefits, primarily in the form of renewable energy, are much farther reaching than just those communities. Block Island is anticipated to benefit from lower rates because this new source of energy will replace the more expensive (and less environmentally-friendly) diesel generators that are currently in use. Mainland RI will benefit from system upgrades that will not only facilitate the transmission of renewable energy, but also bolster the reliability of the electrical system.

**Q: How will this project impact rates?**

A. The new rates for mainland RI customers cannot be calculated until the wind farm actually comes online. However, if we were to use recent rates, the average National Grid customer (using 500 kwh/month) could anticipate an increase of less than \$2 per month. The rate increases are regulated and subject to approval by the RI Public Utilities Commission.

**Q: What can I expect for road closures?**

A. We anticipate some traffic impact along the route in Narragansett and Block Island. However, construction work is being done outside of the summer months to mitigate any major impacts and inconveniences while construction takes place. Traffic management plans will be instituted to ensure minimal disruptions. We will communicate any traffic disruptions via our project website ([ngrid.com/sea2shore](http://ngrid.com/sea2shore)), which also contains links to traffic updates in the area. Or follow us on Twitter ([@sea2shoreNG](https://twitter.com/sea2shoreNG)) for updates when feasible.

**Q: Will this project take place in the summertime?**

- A. While this project is on an aggressive timetable, which will require some engineering components to be completed during the summer months, none will be construction or have significant impact on the local communities.

**Q: What is the environmental impact of this project?**

- A. The primary long-term environmental impact is one of great benefit: clean, renewable energy. Any disruptions will be temporary and happen during the construction phase. In all our projects, we take great care in planning for and avoiding environmental impact.

**Q: Will this project cause any power outages or disruptions?**

- A. No customer power outages or disruptions are anticipated.

**Q: What kind of impact will this project have on the fishing/marine industry?**

- A. We will work closely with many key marine-related organizations and individuals prior to and during construction. Our goal is to facilitate open dialogue, ensuring our actions are coordinated with key stakeholders in all project components. We understand that many peoples' livelihoods depend on the waters through which this project will travel and we want to work together through this process. We are also working with an independent fisheries liaison to ensure direct and regular communication to industry contacts – Elizabeth Marchetti, 401.954.2902 or [rifisheryliaison@gmail.com](mailto:rifisheryliaison@gmail.com).

## Sea Cable Installation

**Q: What is National Grid installing in the sea?**

- A. We will install approximately 20 miles of 34.5kV submarine cable from Scarborough State Beach in Narragansett to Block Island Town Beach, which includes underground cable connectivity work at each beach area.

**Q: When will submarine cable work begin?**

- A. Submarine cable installation is scheduled to begin in Narragansett in April 2016 and in Block Island at the end of April 2016. The land prep work for sea cable installation will begin in the fall/winter 2015; this must be completed before the sea cable installation can begin.

**Q: What is the process for submarine cable installation?**

- A. This is probably best answered with a [process visual](#) available on our website. The first phase is directional drilling, which will occur in identified off-beach locations – in Narragansett at the State-owned parking lot and in Block Island in one of the Town Beach parking lots. We will place manholes at those locations and directionally drill under the surface, a minimum of ten feet deep, to a determined and approved location at each beach; this is where the submarine cable will be fed through and connected to the land interconnections. Based on permit allowances, directional drilling will occur in Block Island as early as December 1 and January 1 in Narragansett.

**Q: Has National Grid completed any submarine cable installations?**

- A. We are experienced in submarine cable installation and maintenance in both the US and abroad. Most recently in the US, we installed the two Cape Cod to Nantucket submarine cables.

**Q: How will the submarine cable be installed in the ocean?**

A. A jet plow will be used to install the submarine cable in the ocean bottom. A jet plow travels along the seabed and liquefies the soil ahead of the plow using water jets on the plow blade. The cable passes through the hollow plow blade and is buried approximately six feet below the seabed. The soil almost immediately fills back in as the jet plow moves along, naturally refilling the area.

**Q: Will the beaches be open to the public during this work?**

A. A portion of the work, while along the shoreline, will require a temporary construction perimeter to be roped off. Metal sheeting will be placed over any temporary construction equipment to allow for full, safe use of the beach. Once the job is complete, the beach areas will be restored to their original condition and use.

**Q: How big is the submarine cable?**

A. This submarine cable, which includes inside electric conduits and a fiber optic cable, will measure approximately 20 miles and weigh nearly five million pounds.

## Land Cable Installation

**Q: When will land cable installation occur?**

A. We will begin underground land cable installation in the Fall 2015 in both Block Island and Narragansett. Access [maps](#) on our website that detail the areas of work.

**Q: What will I see with this work?**

A. We have available on our website a [photo description](#) of the work.

**Q: How long will this portion of the take?**

A. We anticipate land cable completion in the Spring 2016.

**Q: What can I expect for road closures?**

A. We anticipate some traffic impact along the route in Narragansett and Block Island. However, construction work is being done outside of the summer months to mitigate any major impacts and inconveniences while construction takes place. Traffic management plans will be instituted to ensure minimal disruptions. We will communicate any traffic disruptions via our project website ([ngrid.com/sea2shore](http://ngrid.com/sea2shore)), which also contains links to traffic updates in the area. Or follow us on Twitter ([@sea2shoreNG](https://twitter.com/sea2shoreNG)) for updates when feasible.

## Environment

**Q: What is the environmental impact of this project?**

A. The primary long-term environmental impact is one of great benefit: clean, renewable energy. Any disruptions will be temporary and during the construction phase. In all our projects, we take great care in planning for and avoiding environmental impact.

**Q: Will the dunes at the beaches be impacted by this work?**

A: No. We anticipate, based on our past experience in Nantucket and Cape Cod, no impact to the dunes.

**Q: What does National Grid do to minimize environmental concerns?**

A. Protecting the environment in the communities we serve is paramount. We are a recognized leader in the development and operation of safe, reliable and sustainable energy infrastructure to meet the needs of our customers and communities. One of the ways we achieve this is to protect and enhance the environment, always seeking new and innovative ways to lessen the environmental impact of our past, present and future projects.

**Q: Does National Grid participate in any programs to help the environment?**

A. National Grid works closely with federal and state agencies, environmental organizations, local communities, and other interested parties to maximize environmental protection in our operations. Please visit the [environmental section](#) on [NationalGridUS.com](#) for more information on how National Grid is committed to both protecting and enhancing the environment.

## Project Communications & Outreach

**Q: How can I stay updated on project progress?**

A. **sea2shore** updates will be provided regularly through a number of channels including a project website ([ngrid.com/sea2shore](#)) and Twitter ([@sea2shoreNG](#)), as well as periodic newspaper advertisements, community information sessions and other public outreach efforts.

**Q: Will there be any community meetings on the project?**

A. Yes. We are fully committed to providing the community with the opportunity to see the plans and comment on them. We held a community meeting on Block Island on June 23 and one in Narragansett on June 25. Additional community meetings/open houses are being planned for Narragansett and on Block Island (see [ngrid.com/sea2shore](#) for details on dates, times and locations of the scheduled meetings). Our dedicated project website, hotline (**401-515-4525** or **800-687-8906**), and Twitter feed ([@sea2shoreNG](#)) will also provide additional ways for customers and the public to quickly and easily connect with the project team with questions or concerns about the project.

**Q: Who should I contact with questions while construction is under way?**

A. You can contact us in a number of ways:

- Call us on our 24/7 hotline number at **401-515-4525** or **800-687-8906**
- Email us at [info@sea2shoreRI.com](mailto:info@sea2shoreRI.com)
- Or send us a tweet at [@sea2shoreNG](#)

## General National Grid Information

**Q: What is National Grid doing to conserve energy in addition to supporting renewable energy?**

A. National Grid has been a national leader in energy conservation and energy efficiency. To learn more about National Grid's energy efficiency services, please visit our [Energy Solutions](#) page on [NationalGridUS.com](#).

**Q: How can I report a power outage?**

A. You can report an outage by visiting the [Report An Outage](#) page on [NationalGridUS.com](#) or by downloading the smart phone app. You can also call 800-465-1212.

**Q: Where can I pay my bill?**

A. For information about bills and payment options please visit the [Bills and Payments](#) page on [NationalGridUS.com](#).