



Oregon has one of the harshest ocean environments in the world off its shores. Offshore wind energy development in this space has the potential to impact Oregon's energy future, coastal communities, and coastal wildlife populations.

Harnessing Coastal Resources for Clean Energy

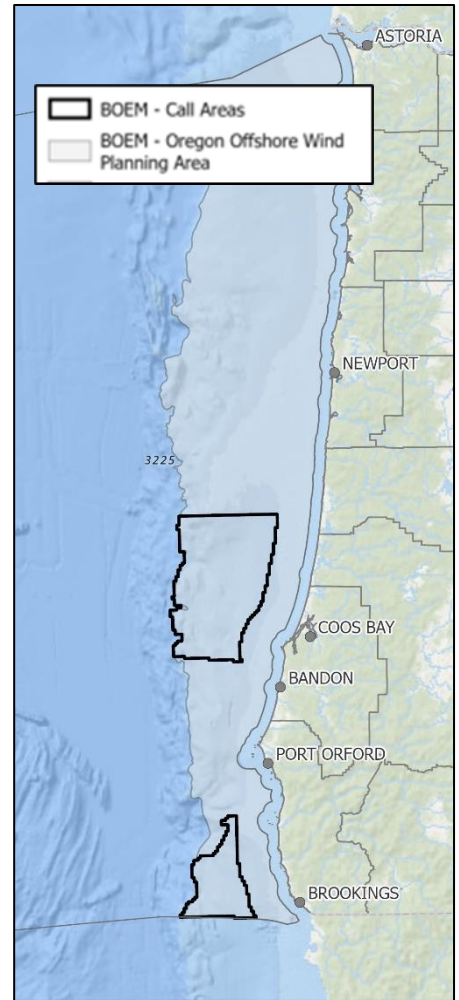
Offshore wind resources are abundant, strong, and consistent. The federal government has an ambitious goal of deploying 30 gigawatts of new offshore wind energy by 2030, which would support 77,000 jobs, power 10 million homes, and cut 78 million metric tons in carbon emissions.

In April 2022 the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) officially began the federal process for the leasing of the outer continental shelf lands for offshore wind energy development. To inform and engage the public, DLCD's Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP) created an [online wind mapping tool](#) that allowed members of the public to use the system in a way that informed public comments. Lease sale is anticipated in late 2023.

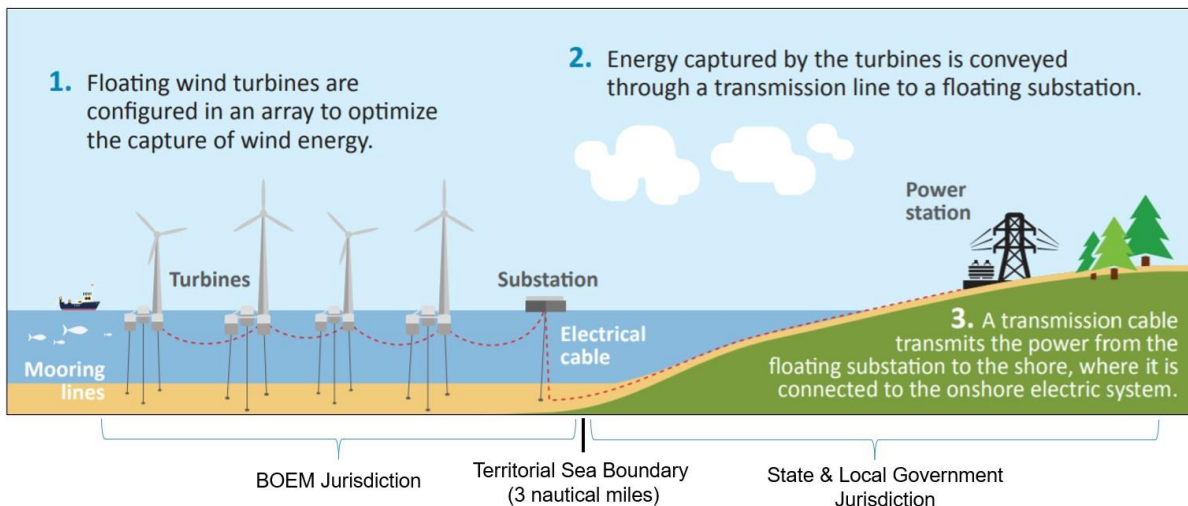
OCMP will conduct a coordinated [federal consistency](#) review with partners in the coastal management network, this includes state agencies, and coastal counties and cities. A federal consistency review allows for holistic state review of federal activities to assure consistency with state and local laws and rules. BOEM cannot issue a permit for wind energy development if their application is not consistent with Oregon policies.

The OCMP is the lead agency supporting an Intergovernmental Task Force, participating in a tri-lateral consultative process with the federal government and federally recognized tribes.

Key review considerations for offshore wind development include fish and wildfire concerns and policies, viewshed impacts, cable landings and receiving facilities, and tribal concerns. OCMP's [Territorial Sea Plan](#) includes guidance for the placement of undersea cables and addresses marine renewable energy.



Oregon call areas: Coos Bay and Brookings, Federal Notice, April 2022





Oregon has ambitious renewable energy goals: A 2021 law requires Oregon utilities to reduce carbon emissions by 100% by 2040, one of the most ambitious climate goals in the nation. Oregonians rely on dependable, affordable energy to meet basic needs. Siting solar development to meet these needs can be challenging.

Maximizing Clean Energy, Minimizing Impacts

Even with some of the nation's most competitive energy rates, the average Oregon household spends more than \$100 a month for electricity. In 2019, DLCD developed [rules](#) for solar energy siting on agricultural land using input from energy providers and conservation groups. Utility scale solar projects can negatively impact farms, forests, and wildlife habitat. DLCD's rules intend to direct energy development to lands with limited wildfire and farming value. Cost is also a development issue; the further an energy project is from transmission lines, the more expensive it is to build. Limited transmission infrastructure may be the biggest limiting factor to meeting consumer demand.

In areas of Oregon with the best soil for farming, solar panels are allowed up to 12 acres in areas. Current rules prohibit development of commercial solar facilities in 86% of the Willamette Valley, specifically on areas that contain some of the world's most productive soil. The rules are written for commercial solar facilities only, and do not address community solar development. Up to 320 acres of land may be used for solar in areas with poor soils and no water rights.

Existing DLCD policy provides guidance and direction on local land use decisions for solar facilities. However, the [Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council](#) or the [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#) make the siting decisions for large energy facilities and transmission infrastructure. Coordinated planning helps ensure power plants and transmission infrastructure across the state are constructed and managed to minimize negative impacts while providing affordable energy to consumers.

Understanding Oregon's Energy Future

Oregon has a lot of renewable energy. Renewable energy projects that have been developed, are currently under construction, are approved but not yet developed, are currently seeking approval, or are otherwise positioned in the PGE queue could account for up to 10 GW of electricity generation, which could meet Oregon's needs for a decade or more.

To meet our renewable energy goals, electric utilities may need to procure an additional 1 gigawatt of renewable energy per year between 2020 and 2050. This includes all renewable energy sources and is not exclusive to solar.



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