

Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap

Draft Reviewer's Guide

The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) is seeking broad feedback on this public review draft of the Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap. The Draft was developed over a year of advice from a roundtable group representing a broad array of interests – both excited and concerned about the future of offshore wind energy in Oregon. The Draft is also a product of consultation with representatives of federally recognized tribes in Oregon, feedback provided during public meetings, and meetings with existing ocean users and wind energy businesses.

DLCD requests feedback by April 3rd, 2026. Feedback can come in the form of letters, emails, written comments, an online survey, or tracked changes to the draft Roadmap document. Verbal feedback during listening sessions is also welcome. DLCD will consider all feedback and review a revised draft at roundtable group meetings this spring, which are open to the public. DLCD will also review a revised draft with interested tribal representatives. DLCD plans to finalize a Roadmap document in Summer 2026 for submittal to the Legislature. This submittal will be consistent with the requirements of House Bill 4080 (2024) and House Bill 3963 (2025).

The Roadmap Purpose is to Define Standards to Be Considered

Oregon is one of six western states with a 100 percent clean energy mandate, with electric energy consumption projected to increase significantly in the coming decades.¹ Offshore wind energy represents a potential opportunity to help Oregon meet its energy and climate goals if it is realized responsibly and complements onshore renewable energy projects while protecting the coastal communities, cultures, economies, and natural environment that already bring so much value to the state.

House Bill 4080 in the 2024 Legislative session² defined the purpose of the Oregon Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap to, “define standards to be considered in the processes related to offshore wind development and approval” (See Roadmap sections 1 and 2). The Roadmap does not decide whether there will or will not be offshore wind energy in Oregon. Rather, it provides a framework for how to approach the decision and manage impacts if offshore wind energy development occurs. While it does not establish offshore wind energy policies, it does recommend new or amended policies to help Oregon secure its interests in future decisions about offshore wind energy development. The Roadmap presents a suite of recommendations for legislative, rulemaking, or other formal policy-making settings.

¹ House Bill 2021 (2021 Oregon Legislative Session) mandates that Oregon's investor-owned utilities (IOUs) reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with electricity sold to Oregon consumers to 80 percent below baseline emissions (average 2010-2012) levels by 2030, 90 percent below baseline emission levels by 2035, and 100 percent by 2040. <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2021/Enrolled>

² <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2024R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB4080/Enrolled>

The Roadmap Defines Standards for a Future Where A) Oregon Hosts Offshore Wind Energy Projects and B) Oregon Does Not Host Offshore Wind Energy Projects

Roadmap recommendations recognize that federal policy, the offshore wind industry, and experience in neighboring states are changing rapidly. Accordingly, Oregon needs an adaptive approach. Rather than focusing on a single future scenario with large-scale offshore wind energy development, this Roadmap considers four alternative futures for Oregon and its coast—two include offshore wind turbines, and two do not. The Roadmap presents “pathways” to each alternative future and the distinct benefits and considerations to each. The four pathways include:

- **No Offshore Wind Energy** — Oregon does not participate in offshore wind energy in any way and reserves the ocean and coast for other beneficial uses.
- **Economic Participation Only** — Oregon participates in economic activities related to offshore wind energy but does not host projects off its coast. Related economic activities may include supply chain and necessary port upgrades, research and development for engineering and testing, professional services, and ocean research.
- **Pilot Project** — Oregon pursues a pilot-scale offshore wind energy project.
- **1 GW to more than 3 GW** — Oregon develops a full-scale offshore wind energy industry, either with major port development or without.

Each pathway should be consistent with four (4) guiding principles and help Oregon progress toward seven (7) objectives. The Roadmap defines checkpoints for the pathways that lead to a future with wind turbines off Oregon’s coast. These checkpoints involve reviewing information and making decisions on whether to proceed, gather more data, or determine that an energy project conflicts with Oregon’s enforceable policies (refer to Roadmap Sections 3 and 4).

The four guiding principles include	The seven objectives include
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meaningful engagement• Credible information• Regional coordination• Clear checkpoints at each stage of development to ensure accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective engagement• Achieve energy and climate objectives• Protect the environment• Protect cultural resources• Support communities• Support and sustain economic opportunity• Position an offshore wind workforce

The Roadmap Recommends Actions for each Future Pathway

The future is uncertain, but Oregonians can take action now to be better prepared for a decision whether to host offshore wind energy projects, including building the information, businesses, and workforce for offshore wind energy or other important marine economic sectors (see Roadmap Section 6). Some example actions to pay attention to follow.

- Oregon should undertake state or local rulemaking in the near-term to address policy gaps identified in the Roadmap related to potential future offshore wind energy development. Appendix A of the Roadmap contains an Enforceable Policy Assessment that evaluates current state policies against the potential impacts and benefits of offshore wind energy to identify gaps.
- Oregon can proactively lead its own siting effort to find what areas offshore might be suitable for energy development and compatible with state policies and interests.
- Oregon could develop and fund an offshore wind energy research agenda to secure reliable and trustworthy data to inform future energy development. Oregon could also establish and fund an offshore wind energy science collaborative that involves a broad spectrum of interests and potentially affected communities, and participate in the West Coast Science Collaborative, currently being established by California, to share lessons learned and look for opportunities to coordinate research regionally.
- Oregon could explore policies and investments that support regional electrical power markets and improve the coastal grid to increase resilience and reliability and be ready for the potential of offshore wind.
- Oregon will need to increase capacity and expertise in its state agencies, local governments, and Tribal governments to be ready for offshore wind energy.
- Exploring and supporting the creation of an Oregon offshore wind supply chain could reap benefits, whether or not Oregon hosts offshore wind turbines in the future.
- Oregon should collaborate with its west coast neighbors on offshore wind supply chain opportunities and research cooperation.

Guiding Questions for Roadmap Feedback

DLCD is interested in receiving any comments or feedback on the draft Roadmap, to inform the preparation of a final Roadmap to the Oregon Legislature. However, as you review the draft, your answers to these questions could be helpful in shaping the final version.

1. How well do the guiding principles in Section 3 reflect what you believe should guide future actions and decisions around offshore wind energy in Oregon?
2. Are the descriptions of the alternative futures in Section 4 appropriate, and are there other markers of success or considerations that should be considered?
3. Are there additional important steps along the pathways to the alternative futures that you don't see reflected in Section 4 or in the actions described in Section 6?
4. Are there additional policy gaps or recommendations not considered in Section 5 or in the Enforceable Policy Assessment in Appendix A?
5. Do you have any information or preferences that could affect the prioritization of actions in the summary table included in Section 6.8?
6. What other general thoughts do you have about the paths, opportunities, and priorities for Oregon related to offshore wind energy going forward?

How to Provide Comment

There are many ways you can provide your comments and feedback on this draft Roadmap:

By United States Postal Service:

Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), care of Jeff Burright, Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap Coordinator
635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150,
Salem, Oregon 97301-2540

Written comments must be postmarked by the end of the comment period to be considered.

By email:

dlcd.oswroadmap@dlcd.oregon.gov

Email correspondence must be received by the end of the comment period.

Take the survey by using this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OffshoreWindEnergy>

As an alternative to direct feedback on the Roadmap document, DLCD has created a survey to gather feedback on offshore wind energy topics and policy recommendations to be considered in the Roadmap. *Surveys must be completed by the end of the comment period.*

In person:

A series of community meetings in February and March 2026 will occur in coastal communities. Participants may provide verbal comments at these meetings, which will be recorded and considered. The schedule for meetings is below:

DLCD Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap Community Meetings		
Date	Time	Location
February 25	12:30 to 2:00 p.m.	Virtual Public Meeting (Registration Link)
March 3	5:30 to 7:30 p.m.	Newport Yaquina View Elementary School Gym 351 SE Harney St, Newport, OR 97365
March 9	5:30 to 7:30 p.m.	North Bend North Bend Community Center 2222 Broadway Ave, North Bend, OR 97459
March 10	5:30 to 7:30 p.m.	Reedsport Reedsport Community Center Gym 451 Winchester Ave, Reedsport, OR 97467
March 11	5:30 to 7:30 p.m.	Brookings Brookings Harbor High School Gym 625 Pioneer Rd, Brookings, OR 97415
March 18	5:30 to 7:30 p.m.	Astoria Judge Boyington Building 857 Commercial Street, Astoria, OR 97103
March 19	5:30 to 7:00 p.m.	Virtual Public Meeting (Registration Link)