

[Ready for Commercial Lift-Off: U.S. Offshore Wind Joins Solar, Storage in Decarbonization Efforts](#)

Agenda

- 10:00 am:** **Welcome & Opening Remarks**
 Nancy Sopko, Executive Director, *Special Initiative on Offshore Wind*
- 10:05 am:** **QuickTalk with Jim Bennett**, Chief, Renewable Energy Program, *Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior*
- 10:30 am:** **Permitting Offshore Wind Projects from the Developers' Perspectives**

U.S. offshore wind development has been debated for the last two decades, and so far, only 30 MW have been installed off the coast of Block Island, RI. However, in recent years, states on the East Coast have advanced aggressive offshore wind energy procurement policies, with a current demand of over 26 GW. The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is the lead federal agency on offshore wind development and has two primary roles. First, as most commercial scale projects will be built several miles offshore, in federal waters, BOEM is in charge of the leasing process for offshore wind development sites. Second, BOEM is the lead agency on project permitting and coordinates the federal permitting process with the other federal agencies. However, many other federal, state and/or local agencies have important roles in the offshore wind permitting process that could either smooth the way for or delay the interconnection of these projects to the grid. This panel discussion will focus on the offshore wind permitting process through the eyes of the developers. The panel will discuss the various federal and local approvals that need to come together to complete a project. From the developers' perspective, what are some policies currently in place that are helping to hasten construction of these projects? What are some changes that could be made to streamline the project development process?

Moderator: **Bryan Stockton**, Counsel, *Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP*
Panelists: **Stephanie Wilson**, Head of Permitting, *Orsted*
 Michael Clayton, Permitting & Compliance Manager, *Vineyard Wind*
 Janelle Lavallee, GISP, Project Manager, *Tetra Tech*
 Beth Treseder, New England Market Lead, *Equinor*
 Seth Kaplan, Director, Permitting & Development, *Mayflower Wind*

- 11:30 am:** **QuickTalk with Jon Mitchell**, *Mayor of New Bedford, MA*

SPECIAL INITIATIVE ON OFFSHORE WIND

12:00 pm: Networking Lunch

1:00 pm: U.S. Floating Wind Development: East Coast Pursuits

Close to 80% of the world's best offshore wind resource potential is in waters that are too deep for traditional wind turbines. As a result, the strongest, most consistent winds in the world have largely been untapped. The emergence of floating wind technology opens up new areas of the ocean that were once off-limits to development. And since the world's first floating offshore wind farm – Equinor's Hywind project - came online in 2017, we are getting closer to development of commercial-scale floating wind projects. This is not only good news for the U.S. West Coast, but also the Eastern Seaboard, where states like Maine and New Hampshire must deploy floating wind structures to harness the winds off their coasts. This panel discussion will focus on the various floating wind technologies currently deployed, the benefits of implementing floating wind structures versus fixed-bottom turbines, a discussion of the experience developers of floating wind farms are having in California, costs and other challenges associated with developing floating wind projects, and the opportunities that exist for this technology on the East Coast.

Moderator: **Mike Olsen**, Senior Director, Business Development, *Equinor*

Panelists: **Kevin Banister**, VP & Head of Business Development, *Principle Power, Inc.*
Serene Hamsho, Offshore Wind Sr. Project Manager / Sr. Engineer, *DNVGL*
Habib Dagher, E.D., ASCC, Univ of Maine; Project Leader, *Aqua Ventus*
Alla Weinstein, CEO, *Trident Winds*

2:00 pm: Updates from the States

Eight East Coast states – from Maine to Virginia – are proceeding with firm plans for the development, and in most cases procurement, of offshore wind power. And most of those states have signed contracts with developers to provide electricity to their residents. Whereas just one year ago the pipeline of offshore wind farms was approximately 10 GW, today it stands at over 26 GW. The coming offshore wind farms will power more than 15 million homes, generate more than \$100 billion in private investment, and create tens of thousands of well-paying jobs. This panel discussion will focus on the progress many Northeast states have made toward procuring offshore wind power, efforts underway to ensure coexistence with other ocean users, public-private investments made to upgrade ports and infrastructure in those first-moving states, and what we can expect next.

Moderator: **Francis Pullaro**, Executive Director, *RENEW-NE*

Panelists: **Bruce Carlisle**, Managing Director of Offshore Wind, *MassCEC*
Hilary Fagan, Executive Vice President, Business Development, *RI Commerce Corporation*
Dan Burgess, Director, *Maine Gov. Mills' Energy Office*
Taylor Caswell, Commissioner, *NH Department of Business & Economic Affairs*

3:00 pm: Networking Break

3:30pm: **Forecasting New England's Energy Future**

Offshore wind is a new and rapidly growing segment of the U.S. energy sector. Increased demand in state procurements and evolving state and federal policies will add approximately 20,000 MW of renewable offshore wind power to East Coast energy markets by 2030. Solar energy is similarly abundant in New England states, and ISO-NE anticipates 6,700 MW of nameplate PV capacity by 2028. How do these two renewable energy sources complement each other? How do solar and offshore wind energy fit into the broader energy portfolio of the region? What does New England's energy landscape look like for the next 10, 20, or 30 years? This panel discussion dives deeper into forecasting New England's energy future. To help answer these questions, we will hear from the authorities on the subject, including utilities, regional transmission operators, and experts from the financial world.

Moderator: **Janice Schneider**, Partner, *Latham & Watkins LLP*

Panelists: **Abigail Ross Hopper**, CEO, *Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA)*

Steve Conant, Partner & Program Manager, *Anbaric*

Judith Judson, Vice President, Distributed Energy Systems, *Ameresco*

Stephanie McClellan, Founder/ Advisor, *Special Initiative on Offshore Wind*