



# Unleashing U.S. Offshore Wind Deployments



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Offshore wind energy represents a strategic opportunity for the U.S. to advance its clean energy goals while simultaneously boosting economic development and creating good paying jobs.

## OFFSHORE WIND HAS THE POTENTIAL TO UNLOCK AN ABUNDANCE OF CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS.

According to a report commissioned by CRES Forum, Louisiana State University's Center for Energy Studies determined the economic and job benefits of a built out offshore wind industry to be substantial, supporting an estimated 33,000 to 73,000 new, permanent jobs.

## Federal Policy Proposals to Unlock OSW

### PERMITTING REFORMS TO ACCELERATE ENERGY DEPLOYMENTS

The current federal permitting system is antiquated and broken - it takes on average 4.5 years for an energy project to be approved for the permits required to build a project. Delays and uncertainty interfere with project timelines and domestic supply chain expectations, jeopardizing job creation.

### BUSINESS CERTAINTY IN FEDERAL POLICY

Businesses need consistency and certainty in federal policy in order to thrive. To ensure that certainty, Congress should maintain the existing tax incentives for renewable energy development, including offshore wind, and BOEM should commit to a transparent offshore leasing schedule, regularly providing acreage for auction in a manner consistent with the oil and gas sector. These federal efforts, in parallel with ensuring continued and timely permitting reviews will encourage investment and accelerate deployments necessary to meet growing U.S. electricity demands.

### REVENUE SHARING PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Nearly 40 percent of Americans live in coastal counties, which face growing challenges related to increasingly frequent and severe floods and storms paired with erosion and sea level rise. Revenue sharing legislation can support U.S. coastal community resilience and ensure coastal states receive a fair share for development and production of their coasts. In turn, revenue sharing will provide for coastal restoration, hurricane protection, infrastructure improvements and more.

### New Jobs Supported by Offshore Wind:

- Development & Permitting
- Manufacturing
- Assembly, Construction & Installation
- Operations & Maintenance

### Existing Industries with Applicable Skills

- Offshore Oil and Gas
- Maritime
- Ports
- Shipbuilding

“While offshore wind energy is early in its U.S. development, consideration of the carbon intensity of power generation is increasing, and there are a number of federal tax and funding incentives available to facilitate a build-out of capacity over the future.”

# Offshore Wind Generates New Job Opportunities

Offshore wind energy projects are complex and require a well-trained workforce across a range of sectors. As highlighted in the LSU report, jobs in offshore wind yield much higher earnings than U.S. median annual wages, too.

## JOBS SUPPORTED BY OFFSHORE WIND

### Development & Permitting

- Engineers, attorneys, financial analysts, permitting specialists, scientists

### Manufacturing

- Assemblers, engineers, technicians, welders

### Assembly, Construction & Installation

- Crane operators, dock workers, electricians, iron workers, line workers, painters, pile drivers, plumbers, welders, assemblers, engineers

### Operations & Maintenance

- Engineers, plant managers, support vessel crews, wind turbine technicians

## OFFSHORE WIND & DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES

There is a unique nexus between the jobs, expertise, skills and capabilities in existing domestic industries required for offshore wind development.

- **Offshore Oil & Gas:** Workers in the offshore oil and gas sector play an important role in offshore wind construction as they have unique expertise with offshore operations.
- **Maritime:** Crews from traditional maritime jobs can find opportunities in operating and maintaining service operation vessels that are essential for transporting technicians to and from wind projects.
- **Ports:** Port infrastructure is crucial for the staging and assembly of wind turbine components. Offshore wind deployments increase demand for port workers skilled in logistics, heavy machinery operation and material handling.
- **Shipbuilding:** The need for specialized domestic vessels is already catalyzing growth in shipbuilding. This not only creates direct employment in constructing new vessels, but also in their design, maintenance and eventual retrofitting or decommissioning.

## CRES Forum Policy Recommendations:

- **Federal Permitting Reform Overhaul**
  - Streamline the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process
  - Improve interagency coordination
  - Reduce process redundancy
  - Decrease opportunities for frivolous litigation
- **Offer Predictable Federal Permitting and Leasing to Encourage Investment**
  - Establish a transparent permitting process and leasing schedule for offshore wind projects to increase predictability and encourage investment
- **Revenue Sharing Programs to Support Coastal Communities**
  - Amend federal policy for revenue sharing to send a percentage of offshore wind revenue to adjacent states where offshore wind farms are developed

**Offshore wind offers a tremendous opportunity to unleash American-made energy while providing an economic boost. To unleash its full potential, federal policy actions are necessary to accelerate energy deployments, encourage continued investment and support coastal communities.**

**Read the full white paper and learn more at [CRESForum.org](https://www.CRESForum.org)**