

DIRECTION

THE FUTURE OF WIND



The Department of the Interior announced the next steps for offshore wind lease sales in two regions on the Outer Continental Shelf offshore California. (Courtesy: energy.ca.gov)

First offshore wind sale proposal set for California Outer Continental Shelf

The Department of the Interior announced the next steps for and welcomed public comment on offshore wind lease sales in two regions on the Outer Continental Shelf offshore California. This is the first-ever offshore wind lease sale proposed on America's West Coast.

"The demand and momentum around our work to build a clean energy future is undeniable. The Biden-Harris administration is moving forward at the pace and scale required to help achieve the President's goals to make offshore wind energy a reality for the United States," said Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. "Today, we are taking another step toward unlocking the immense potential of offshore wind energy offshore our nation's West Coast to help combat the effects of climate change while creating good-paying jobs."

In May 2021, Haaland, White House National Climate Adviser Gina McCarthy, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Dr. Colin Kahl, and California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced an agreement to advance areas for wind-energy development offshore the northern and central coasts of California. The proposed sale is part of the leasing path announced last year by Haaland to meet the Biden-Harris administration's goal to deploy 30 GW of offshore wind energy by 2030.

The Proposed Sale Notice (PSN) includes three proposed lease areas in the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area off central California and two proposed lease areas in the Humboldt Wind Energy Area off northern California, totaling about 373,268 acres that have the potential to unlock more than 4.5 GW of offshore wind energy, power more than 1.5 million homes, and support thousands of new jobs.

"Today's action represents tangible progress toward achieving the administration's vision for a clean-energy future offshore California, while creating a domestic supply chain and

good-paying union jobs," said Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Director Amanda Lefton. "BOEM is committed to robust stakeholder engagement and ensuring any offshore wind leasing is done in a manner that avoids or minimizes potential impacts to the ocean and ocean users. The Proposed Sale Notice provides another opportunity for local communities, Tribes, ocean users, developers and others to weigh in on potential wind energy activities offshore California."

The PSN, which published in the Federal Register May 31, 2022, opens a 60-day public comment period and provides detailed information about the proposed lease areas, proposed lease provisions and conditions, and auction details.

BOEM is seeking feedback on several lease stipulations that will reaffirm its commitment to create good-paying union jobs and engage with Tribal governments, underserved communities, ocean users, and other stakeholders.

Comments received by the end of the public comment period will be made available on the BOEM California website and considered before deciding whether to publish a final sale notice, which would then announce the time and date of the lease sale, as well as list the companies qualified to participate in it.

Prospective bidders, not previously qualified for a California lease sale, are required to submit mandatory qualification materials to BOEM. Qualification materials must be postmarked no later than August 1, 2022.

MORE INFO www.doi.gov/news

Oregon assigns first floating wind sites

Oregon is assigning its first floating wind sites following progress in Cal-

ifornia, but power authorities must work with fishing groups and upgrade transmission to minimize costs.

In April, U.S. federal authorities launched a call for interest for two offshore wind areas off the coast of Oregon. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) set out areas in the deep waters of Coos Bay and Brookings in southern Oregon, more than 12 nautical miles from the coast.

The calls form part of the Interior Department's plan to hold up to seven offshore wind lease auctions by 2025 and follow similar calls in California that have led the state to announce the sale later this year of five offshore wind leases.

The Brookings area lies next to the California border while Coos Bay is situated 100 miles farther north. Coos Bay offers some of the strongest offshore wind resources in Oregon and could supply power at \$53/MWh, the U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) said. The Oregon state government is studying installing 3 GW of offshore wind by 2030 and this could reduce annual power generation costs by \$86 million, NREL said. Offshore wind developers in Oregon will be boosted by recent progress in California but local opposition and a lack of grid and port infrastructure remain a risk.

"BOEM plans to lease the areas in late 2023. There will be calls to delay development, but the imperatives of addressing climate change and the obvious benefits of [shifting to] renewables will likely help keep us on track," said Pacific Ocean Energy Trust executive director Jason Busch.

Earlier this year, developers bid a record \$4.4 billion to secure six offshore wind leases in the New York Bight in the largest U.S. lease tender to date. The allocated leases require engagement with Tribes, fishermen, and other local stakeholders.

BOEM is at the early stages of offshore wind leasing in Oregon but is

“committed to working with all ocean users, including the fishing community,” a BOEM spokesperson said.

Designated sites would undergo environmental review before leases are allocated under commercial tender.

Busch expects the environment assessments in Oregon to “read somewhat similarly.” Additional concerns in Oregon include migratory routes for whales and ocean birds and the preservation of the coast’s natural beauty, he noted.

The state of Oregon will support “responsible” offshore wind energy development that factors in the natural resources of the area and its existing uses, said Andy Lanier, Marine Affairs Coordinator at the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development.

“Offshore wind deployment in Coos Bay and Brookings will require significant investment in grid transmission, including subsea cabling and shore-side structures. Now, the southern Oregon grid could “absorb approximately 1 GW of new generation,” Busch said.

MORE INFO www.reutersevents.com/renewables

Clean power report shows slow growth

The American Clean Power Association’s Clean Power Market Report Q1 showed that wind, utility-scale solar, and battery storage sectors installed 6,619 MW of utility-scale clean power capacity – enough to power 1.4 million American homes. The record capacity is largely due to gains in battery storage installation, with storage installations up 173 percent, solar installations up 11 percent, and wind installations down 3 percent, as compared to the first quarter of 2021.

While these gains contributed to a record first quarter for clean power installations, the rate of growth slowed to 11 percent in the first quarter of 2022, compared to the 50 percent

year-over-year growth rate reported between 2019 and 2021.

“The record-breaking quarter for clean power is encouraging, but the industry still faces many hurdles that are stalling growth,” said ACP CEO Heather Zichal. “Ongoing uncertainty from the Department of Commerce’s unwarranted solar tariff case, the unsettled fate of clean energy tax credits, supply chain issues and inflation are all making investment and planning decisions a difficult challenge.

The industry needs resolution and policy clarity if we are to meet the Biden administration’s clean power goals of reaching a net zero grid by 2035.”

Cumulatively, operating clean-power capacity in the country is now nearly 208 GW – enough to power 57 million homes in America. The 90 new projects added to the grid represent \$9.3 billion in capital investments.

Growth in battery storage helped to propel the first quarter to record territory. Storage capacity additions grew 173 percent compared to the first quarter of 2021.

The Q1 report shows 56 new utility-scale solar projects came online in 2021, for a total of 2,997 MW; 10 new wind projects came online, totaling 2,865 MW.

Finally, the industry installed 24 new battery storage projects with a

total capacity of 758 MW/2,537 MWh.

While the industry sits on a record volume of clean-power capacity in the pipeline, the rate of growth of that pipeline is also slowing. The pipeline grew by just 4 percent during the first quarter – much lower than the 12 percent quarterly expansion experienced throughout 2021. The largest projects to come online in the first quarter include:

▶ Traverse Wind Energy Center in Oklahoma owned by AEP and developed by Invenery (998 MW).

▶ Slate Solar + Storage in Kings County, California was the largest hybrid project (300 MW of solar capacity and 140 MW/561 MWh of battery storage capacity).

▶ Valley Center Battery Storage Project, owned and developed by Terra-Gen, in California (140 MW battery system with 560 MWh of energy storage capacity).

MORE INFO cleanpower.org

ACP announces diversity award winners

The American Clean Power Association (ACP) announced the winners of ACP’s new awards that recognize achievements in diversity, equity and



Traverse Wind Energy Center in Oklahoma is one of the largest projects to come online in the first quarter. (Courtesy: American Electric Power)



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From left: Kathy Presperin (Blattner Company), Kim Hughes (American Electric Power), Rebecca Glazer (AES), and Heather Zichal (ACP CEO). (Courtesy: American Cleanpower)

inclusion during CLEANPOWER 2022.

The awards were announced as part of ACP's Energy Transition for All initiative, an industry-wide program to ensure that workers, communities, and those historically left behind stand to benefit from the rapid growth of the clean-power sector in the United States.

The awards recognize companies and individuals who have committed to and have seen success in creating programs and cultures that support diversity and inclusion for all genders, ethnicities, sexual orientations, disability status, and veteran status.

The Breakout Woman+ of the Year award winners were Rebecca Glazer, AES Clean Energy Senior Director of Growth Initiatives, who brought renewable energy projects online for Google, a leading AES customer. Those projects deliver greener, smarter energy, supplied by a fleet of renewables, including solar, wind, hydropower, and energy storage assets.

Based on the success of this project, Glazer now leads the evaluation of AES Clean Energy investments, supporting AES' industry-changing clean energy solutions.

Kathy Presperin, Blattner Company's Chief Supply Chain Officer, is recognized for her leadership in supply chain planning, procurement, and strategy where it benefits not only the organization but also its customers, community, and suppliers. Presperin and her team have created a foundation that allowed Blattner to continue

to build projects, even while the world experienced a supply chain crisis.

American Electric Power (AEP) received the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion award for its commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive environment that supports development and advancement for all.

"Coming together to celebrate these industry leaders who are the face of the energy transition was one of the highlights of CLEANPOWER 2022," said Heather Zichal, ACP CEO. "Our Energy Transition for All initiative is more than just words in a report. These award winners demonstrate the commitment of the current leadership and of our industry toward the mission of creating an equitable transition for all."

Today, utility-scale solar, wind, and battery storage represent roughly 13 percent of electricity generation in the U.S. By 2030, the clean-energy industry could account for as much as 50 percent of the electricity produced in the U.S. — creating 500,000 jobs, attracting \$700 billion in new investment, and reimagining how power is generated and delivered across the United States.

American Clean Power's Energy Transition for All initiative is a multi-year program designed to expand opportunities for workers and to help spur local economic development by promoting diversity, equity and inclusion across the clean power sector. ↗

MORE INFO cleanpower.org