

Energy Markets & Strategies Working Group

Offshore Wind Roadmap: Charting a Course for Maine

DETAILED DESCRIPTION AND APPROACH

Overall Scope

The Governor's Energy Office (GEO) believes that offshore wind will play a key role in meeting Maine's renewable energy targets and addressing climate change. Maine's position near New England's population centers with high energy demands, an enterprising citizenry with maritime experience, an innovative research environment with more than a decade of experience with floating offshore wind, and a high quality wind resource make our state an ideal place to responsibly develop an offshore wind industry. Maine needs to identify how to support an offshore wind economy in a way that embraces the opportunity, while ensuring the sustainability of our Maine coastal heritage, existing ocean users, and environment. With this, the state is developing the *Offshore Wind Roadmap: Charting a Course for Maine*, funded by a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

This working group will advise and help develop key components of the roadmap, including renewable energy requirements, energy markets and trends, analyses of costs and benefits of OSW, cost effective development of OSW, procurement, interconnection and transmission, storage, and R&D.

Goals of the Working Group

- Produce actionable, prioritized energy market strategies to attract the offshore wind industry to Maine; maximize economic benefit to Mainers; bring clean-cost-effective energy into Maine to meet our clean energy and climate goals; and support innovation in the offshore wind industry; and
- Provide recommendations towards implementation of those strategies, including potential policy changes, research, funding options, and partnerships, in the immediate, near term (through 2025), and longer-term (from 2026 – 2040).

Deliverables to Advisory Committee

1. Guidance on the structure, composition, and identification of work tasks relating to offshore wind procurement, transmission, and socioeconomic impact assessments.
2. Consideration of and feedback on consultant-produced analyses and recommendations for market strategies relating to identify optimal pathways for various offshore wind scenarios.
1. Synthesized draft report and presentation of recommendations to Advisory Committee.



Work Plan

This section outlines the activities of the working group:

1. Mutual Learning: Initial working group meetings will focus on building a shared understanding of priority topics selected by working group members. These can make use of short webinars in addition to discussions among members.
2. Engage: Throughout the process, we seek to engage stakeholders and experts to elicit ideas, hear their feedback, and share final recommendations. Meetings will be noticed on the GEO website and are open to the public. A list of suggested outreach opportunities will be developed by the working group. It is anticipated that most outreach will take place at already scheduled meetings of organizations and groups.
3. Partner: While recognizing that each state may want to create space for state-specific issues, the OSW economy encompass shared public resources and will transcend state and national borders. The work will be informed by ongoing engagement with NH, MA, the Canadian Maritime Provinces, and federal agencies, as appropriate.
4. Review and catalog references: At the request and guidance of the working group, staff and/or contractor will collect, review, and catalog existing reports, studies, and plans to assist the working group with its work. We will draw on existing data, strategies, and lessons learned from OSW energy activities and markets from other states, region, U.S., and countries (e.g., UK) to determine how to improve Maine's ability to capitalize on the renewable energy market with OSW.
5. Catalog Maine OSW Energy Market Resources: With guidance from the working group, a contractor and/or staff will review existing Maine energy laws, policies, regulations, OSW resource potential in federal waters of the Gulf of Maine, programs, reports, needs and strategies related to OSW.
6. Assess existing Maine resources vs. opportunities: With guidance from the working group, a contractor and/or staff will assess the above existing Maine OSW resources/capabilities vs. renewable energy market opportunities (Gulf of Maine, regional, national, global) in the near term and the long term. This assessment should include renewable energy requirements, energy markets and trends, analyses of costs and benefits of OSW with special consideration of equity and just transition, cost-effective development of OSW, interconnection and transmission, storage, and R&D. The assessment should highlight Maine's opportunities for renewable energy from Gulf of Maine OSW in federal waters. This step may include identifying and directing a consultant to conduct additional analyses. Specific outcomes should seek to capitalize on:
 - i. Global Market and Technology Trends for Floating OSW: Assess market trends for floating OSW and recommend opportunities for Maine to support a global floating offshore wind technology innovation hub. Identify industry-wide R&D needs, especially as it relates to floating technology, and determine and how Maine and the region may help meet those needs.



This may include fostering opportunities to engage with global R&D efforts, provide fast track permitting for experimental deployments within certain areas in the Gulf of Maine, etc.

- ii. Offshore Wind Targets – with the support of technical consultant, develop high, medium, and low offshore wind scenarios out to 2050, which will be the basis of other analyses for the roadmap.
 - iii. Cost-Effective Development Strategies – Assess opportunities and policies needed to best drive cost-effective commercial offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine, including financial and investment strategies, permitting procedures, and energy procurement options to ensure cost effective prices for ratepayers.
 - iv. Socio Economic Analysis – with the support of technical consultants, and in coordination with other working groups, oversee the development of an economic analyses for offshore wind in Maine, including both the potential economic opportunities and costs of offshore wind in Maine, together with an assessment of the social benefits and costs (including social equity).
 - v. Transmission – with the support of technical consultants, and in coordination with other working groups, oversee the development of a transmission study to support offshore wind development while minimizing impacts.
 - vi. Beneficial Multi-State Collaboration – Identify areas where regional or multi-state collaboration could further Maine’s offshore wind goals, potentially including investment in regional offshore transmission assets, regional asset assessment, and other areas.
7. Develop Plan to Improve – With guidance and approval from the working group, a contractor and/or staff will identify and prioritize recommendations for the immediate, near term (through 2025) and long term (2025-2040) to improve the market opportunities for Maine OSW.
- i. Leadership, Programs, and Partnership (including multi-state) Opportunities
 - ii. Policies, Laws, Regulations (e.g., renewable energy mandates; energy demand projections; PPAs)
 - iii. Funding Opportunities – state and other
 - iv. Data, Information, Research, and R&D/Innovation Needs

Expected Meeting Schedule

(TBD based on initial Working Group discussion and identified needs; meetings may be in-person and/or virtual. The schedule below shows Advisory Committee meetings as well as Working Group meetings)

**Advisory Committee meetings are starred*



*July 14, 2021 – Initial Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting #1

- Foundational meeting and orientation to Maine’s Offshore Wind Roadmap

Mid-late July/August 2021 – Working Group Meeting #1

- Overview of Maine’s Offshore Wind Roadmap
- Outline role and deliverables of Working Group
- Refine and prioritize Working Group deliverables and work plan
- Establish list of topics, speakers, key questions for mutual learning
- Review and provide feedback on information the Working Group needs to do its work

August 2021 – Brief 1-hour monthly update meeting

- Opportunities for mutual learning (webinars)
- Smaller group discussions about floating OSW and Maine’s efforts (as requested)

September 2021 – Working Group Meeting #2 & Working Group Meeting #3

- Begin addressing priority deliverables and approach to developing recommendations (speakers, information, key questions, etc.)
- Refine and guide specific targeted outreach and engagement to key constituencies.

*October 6, 2021 – Advisory Committee Meeting #2

- Review and feedback on Working Group progress to date – guidance to co-chairs

October 2021 - Working Group Meeting #4

- Explore ideas for immediate and near-term strategies
- Updates and discussion on research and/or technical assistance

November 2021 – Working Group Meeting #5 and Working Group #6

- Prepare draft strategies
- Initial feedback from targeted outreach efforts

December 2021 – Working Group meeting #7

- Initial recommendations on immediate actions state should take on OSW (legislation, policy items, or other immediate needs)

*December 14, 2021 – Advisory Committee Meeting #3

- Presentations by Working Groups of draft strategies with outline of overall direction and the types of recommendations being considered
- Review proactive public and stakeholder engagement plan

January and February 2022 – Brief 1-hour monthly update meetings

- Updates on public and stakeholder engagement efforts

March 2022 – Working Group Meeting #8

- Review feedback from targeted and broad public outreach
- Develop final draft recommendations



***March 30, 2022 – Advisory Committee Meeting #4**

- Review public and stakeholder engagement

April and May 2022 – Working Group Meeting #9 and #10

- Continue development of final draft recommendations

***June 7, 2022 – Advisory Committee Meeting #5**

- Final Working Group recommendations for Roadmap presented to Advisory Committee

***September 21, 2022 – Advisory Committee Meeting #6**

- Refining draft Roadmap based on public and stakeholder feedback

***November 16, 2022 – Advisory Committee Meeting #7**

- Final refinements of Roadmap document

How the Advisory Committee and Working Groups Will Work Together

The Advisory Committee is a high-level strategic body that will provide guidance on the Roadmap development, including orientation to the four Working Groups.

The Working Groups will use the substantive expertise of its members, together with technical consultant support, to develop the core content of the Roadmap.

Advisory Committee	Working Groups
Initial Months	
<p>Review and refine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall Roadmap development process• Initial outline of Roadmap content and Working Group deliverables to create that content• Overview of planned consultant and technical support• Overall public and stakeholder engagement strategy• Equity framework for the Working Groups to use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm specific deliverables and work plan• Request additional background information needed• Provide input as needed on consultant work• Begin workplan steps to develop draft strategies• Refine and guide specific targeted stakeholder engagement and outreach
Middle Months	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive updates from Working Groups• Provide guidance and problem-solve as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-chairs brief the Advisory Committee and bring questions• Prepare draft strategies• Integrate stakeholder feedback
Final Months	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist GEO to review and consolidate Working	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer a revised package of final draft strategies to



<p>Group strategies into a draft Roadmap document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review public input and assist GEO to finalize Roadmap 	<p>the Advisory Committee</p>
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Role of the Co-Chairs – Advisory Committee and Working Groups

Advisory Committee co-chairs

- Provide a leadership voice for the Roadmap effort
- Promote clear objectives and principles
- Work with staff and facilitators to prepare meetings and key documents
- Oversee follow up with AC members if they miss meetings
- Work with members and other stakeholders to address challenges that might arise

Working Group Co-Chairs

- Provide a leadership voice for the Working Group, promoting clear objectives and principles
- Work with staff and facilitators to prepare meetings and key documents, as well as approve all meeting summaries
- Oversee follow up with WG members if they miss meetings
- Brief the Advisory Committee (of which they are members) periodically on Working Group progress and challenges. Attend Advisory Committee meetings.
- Work with WG members and other stakeholders to address challenges that might arise

Governance and Decision-Making by the Advisory Committee and Working Groups

The Advisory Committee and Working Groups are advisory bodies set up to assist GEO in the development of a robust Offshore Wind Roadmap for Maine. As such, they are not decision-making entities for the Roadmap itself.

The committee and groups will strive to reach consensus in their recommendations to GEO. Consensus is defined by broad agreement among members: all or nearly all members can live with the proposed recommendation. Consensus is also defined by the process as well as the outcome of group deliberation. Thus, the groups will seek to articulate and explore members’ interests and concerns, creatively develop ideas and options, seek to meet the needs and concerns of members to the greatest extent possible, and problem-solve in the face of disagreement. Consensus on the final slate of recommendations does not suggest all members will be equally satisfied with the outcomes nor prefer each and every recommendation. Rather, a consensus indicates that the slate of recommendations in total advances the public interest and well-being of the citizens of Maine to the greatest extent it can.

If the groups cannot reach consensus on specific issues, despite their best efforts, they will note the different viewpoints on these issues in their package of recommendations to GEO.

