



1. What is an offshore wind farm?

An offshore wind farm is an installation of wind turbines near a coastline or on the continental shelf of the ocean. These turbines gather power from the strong and consistent wind currents that are found off of most the major coasts, generating electricity for nearby communities. Offshore wind alone has the potential to generate enough energy to double the nation's current generation capacity.



2. What's the difference between an onshore and offshore wind farm?

Both onshore and offshore wind farms generate energy the same way. Other than their placement, the turbines for onshore and offshore wind have differing sizes and generation capacity due to the unique wind environments they occupy. Generally, offshore winds are stronger, producing on average more energy and requiring more resilient turbines.



3. Does offshore wind impact the environment negatively?

In general, the risks of environmental damage due to offshore wind are minimal, especially when compared to offshore oil and gas drilling. The primary impacts to surrounding ecosystems from offshore wind are when turbines are placed and anchored to the ocean floor. Some studies have shown that offshore wind sites can become de facto marine preserves due to restrictions on boat and fishing traffic in the vicinity of the turbines, offering sanctuary to local aquatic species.

4. Will an offshore wind farm affect views or property values?

With planning and a robust stakeholder engagement process, offshore wind installations can be placed further out to sea so the turbines are less of an obtrusive view from land. Such planning will also ensure that potential impacts to the aesthetic value of property values or commercial activities are negligible.



5. Is offshore wind an effective energy source?

Offshore wind, like onshore wind, has the capability of generating a significant amount of power. It has been found that full scale deployment of offshore wind, the installation of turbines everywhere technically feasible in U.S. waters, could generate around 6.5 million homes in the US. This is around 7,200 TWh per year, nearly double the nation's current electricity use.

6. Why has offshore wind not been fully-deployed in the US?

Although the US is taking longer than other countries to implement offshore wind, it is starting to take off. The lower cost of creating a turbine, as well as the increased efficiency creates higher incentives for offshore wind farms. In addition to this, the added technology of floating turbines has made it possible to have offshore wind further out to sea, thus eliminating the concern of seeing turbines from the shore.