

THE US OFFSHORE WIND COLLABORATIVE: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

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The mission of the US Offshore Wind Collaborative (USOWC) is to address the technical, environmental, economic, and regulatory issues necessary to catalyze the sustainable development of offshore wind energy in the waters of the United States. The current nine-member committee USOWC Steering Committee, with representatives from industry, environmental organizations, state programs, and academia is building on a foundation established through prior collaboration between Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC), the US Department of Energy (DOE), and GE Wind Energy. This initial effort produced *A Framework for Offshore Wind Energy Development in the United States (2005)*.

The session will be based on a white paper, soon to be released by the USOWC, summarizing the status of offshore wind development in the US in the areas of policy, environmental/user group interactions, technology and economics.

The paper looks at best practices in offshore wind development worldwide, as well as private and public sector efforts to plan for and promote the industry's emergence in this country. This panel will look at offshore wind development from each of these dimensions, highlighting the inter-relationships among them and suggesting collaborative strategies for moving this new industry forward in the context of integrated ocean management, energy security and climate change mitigation.

Panelists will represent each of the four topic areas, and will be drawn from USOWC partners in industry, academia, government and the conservation community. More than 20 coastal and Great Lakes have launched significant initiatives to attract, incentivize, and plan for wind development offshore. The regulatory context is becoming clearer with the authority granted to Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) to develop a program for leasing Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lands for renewable energy. The private sector has increased R&D into deep-water technologies and investment in proposed projects. And the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA)-based Offshore Wind Working Group has attracted over 100 members. Energy development—renewable energy in particular—is emerging as one of the central issues in federal and state ocean planning agendas.