

BOEM's renewable energy development process

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 authorized BOEM to issue leases, easements and rights of way to allow for renewable energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf. BOEM's renewable energy program occurs in four distinct phases: planning, leasing, site assessment, and construction and operations. Information on the regulatory framework for wind development on the outer continental shelf can be found here <https://www.boem.gov/Regulatory-Framework/>, including links to the Energy Policy Act and its implementing regulations.

Stakeholder engagement and the taskforces

BOEM engages key stakeholders throughout this process, anticipating that early communication with interested and potentially affected parties will help mitigate potential conflicts. BOEM is working closely with several states regarding offshore energy development and is in the process of coordinating federal-state task forces in certain coastal states. A list of wind energy leases, as well as a map book, are at <https://www.boem.gov/Lease-and-Grant-Information/>.

NEFMC states with current or past activity include Maine (<https://www.boem.gov/Maine/>), Massachusetts (<https://www.boem.gov/Massachusetts/>), and Rhode Island (<https://www.boem.gov/Rhode-Island/>). New York (<https://www.boem.gov/New-York/>) and New Jersey (<https://www.boem.gov/New-Jersey/>), as well as Mid-Atlantic states further south (DE, MD, VA, NC) also have state task forces.

The state renewable energy taskforces include federal, state, local, and tribal government partners. They receive briefings from BOEM and from developers on leasing activity, as well as other phases in the development process (site assessment/surveys, plans for construction and operations, etc.). One role of the taskforces is to inform siting of lease areas. There is also a public comment period and the task force discusses comments received during the same meeting.

- Maine's taskforce is currently inactive.
- Massachusetts and Rhode Island have a joint taskforce that meets roughly once per year ([see agenda for most recent meeting](#)).
- New York has a taskforce as well; in the past they have met one every year or two, but this frequency could increase given where they are in the leasing and development process at present ([see agenda for most recent meeting](#)).

Massachusetts/Rhode Island and New York are the most relevant to NEFMC.