

The Offshore Energy Cluster for the North Wales North West Region



About the OEA

The Offshore Energy Alliance (OEA) is a newly created offshore energy supply chain cluster for the North Wales, North West region of the UK. The Alliance is a collective of public and private partners who work together under one umbrella, to promote wider involvement in offshore wind and other renewable sectors.

The cluster is made up of three main 'sub-regions': North Wales, Merseyside and Cumbria, however its free and inclusive approach means that engagement across a range of technologies and locations is welcomed. The cluster is directly linked to commitments made between UK Government and Industry in 2019 and was established as part of the UK's Offshore Wind Sector Deal commitments. As a collective, the OEA wishes to support the further expansion of offshore energy and ensure that opportunities and benefits are open to a greater number of people, businesses and communities across the region. The cluster supports the development of: a future skilled workforce, cutting edge innovation, future infrastructure needs and of course, a globally leading supply chain.



Our ambition is to support the growth of sustainable, low carbon energy around our shores to maximise benefits for local communities as part of the national journey to Net Zero.

Why Offshore Wind?

Both UK and Welsh Government targets support the growth of offshore wind, with commitments towards transforming our energy system as part of the drive to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. As an island, the UK has the potential to produce more offshore energy resource including wind, tidal and marine, which in turn facilitates opportunities such as green hydrogen. Offshore wind was made top priority in the Government's 'Ten point plan' and has demonstrable plans to deliver at least 40GW of our future electricity. In addition to wind, other projects can be constructed offshore as part of the 'jigsaw' of solutions that will provide diversity, security and resilience. With net zero ambitions front and centre and with Levelling Up ambitions across the UK, the NWNW region can be supported to ensure its fair share of the benefits.

Why North Wales & North West?

North Wales, Merseyside and Cumbria, are leading regions for offshore energy and maritime, with renewables projects already supplying electricity to meet large urban, rural and industrial demands. The region is also a priority area for further offshore renewables as identified by The Crown Estate. Our transition towards low carbon electricity is an important part of our climate change response with conventional fossil fuel power stations, such as coal, closing down.

Ports in the OEA region

There is huge potential in the region for supporting renewable energy project construction, operations and maintenance activities, with examples including: the Ports of Holyhead and The Port of Mostyn in North Wales; the Port of Liverpool (with freeport status), and the Ports of Barrow and Workington in Cumbria. There is also a wealth of maritime experience via the likes of Mersey Maritime – a local cluster organisation with members such as Bibby Marine and Cammell Laird.

Coming up in the region

Complimented by a positive political backdrop, developers are driving forward the delivery of both fixed and floating offshore wind projects and a range of other marine and low carbon technologies within the Irish Sea region:

- RWE's **Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm** is the extension or 'sister project' to Gwynt y Môr. The project is currently in the development phase, with construction planned from approximately 2026/7 onwards. With an aim of becoming operational before 2030, the wind farm has the potential to contribute significantly towards both UK and Welsh Government renewable energy targets.
- As part of the Crown Estate's Leasing Round 4, bp & EnBW were jointly selected as preferred bidder to develop projects **Morgan & Mona Offshore Wind Farms**. When complete, Morgan and Mona will have a combined potential generating capacity of 3GW, sufficient to power the equivalent of approximately 3.4 million UK households. These leases will play an important role in delivering UK Government's aim of 40GW of offshore wind by 2030.
- Another Leasing Round 4 success is the **480MW Morecambe fixed foundation project** in the Irish Sea, secured by Flotation Energy plc with Spanish joint venture partner Cobra (part of the ACS Group).
- The OEA is also looking to increase links with fixed and floating offshore wind projects seeking development off the Irish coastline and into the south of Wales Celtic Sea region, via collaboration with other clusters. UK-wide extension and Round 4 leasing projects provide even further opportunities for businesses in the region to participate in. The OEA helps keep local parties up to date and aware.



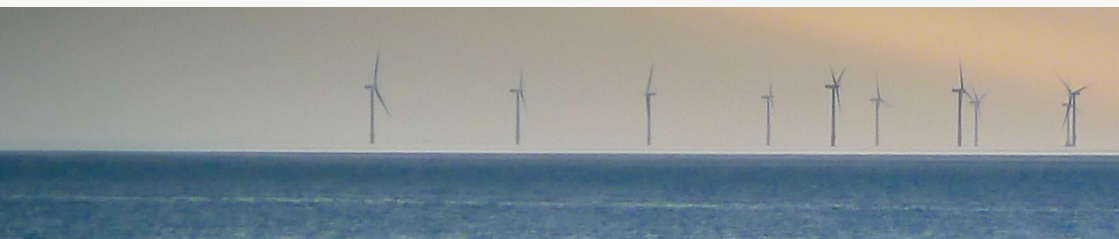


Existing Wind Farms

Did you know that in addition to the upcoming extension and Round 4 sites in development, there are already 12 operational offshore wind farms in the NWNW region, equating to just under one third of current UK offshore wind capacity. These include:

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|---|---|
| 1. Gwynt y Mor (RWE) – North Wales | 7. Walney 2 (Ørsted) - Cumbria |
| 2. North Hoyle (RWE) - North Wales | 8. Walney Extension (Ørsted) - Cumbria |
| 3. Rhyl Flats (RWE) - North Wales | 9. Barrow (Ørsted) - Cumbria |
| 4. Burbo Bank (Ørsted) - Merseyside | 10. West of Duddon Sands (Ørsted) – Cumbria |
| 5. Burbo Bank Extension (Ørsted) - Merseyside | 11. Robin Rigg (RWE) – Cumbria |
| 6. Walney 1 (Ørsted) - Cumbria | 12. Ormonde (Vattenfall) - Cumbria |

With an approximate annual Operations & Maintenance (O&M) spend of £200 million annually across these windfarms, a wealth of existing opportunity exists.



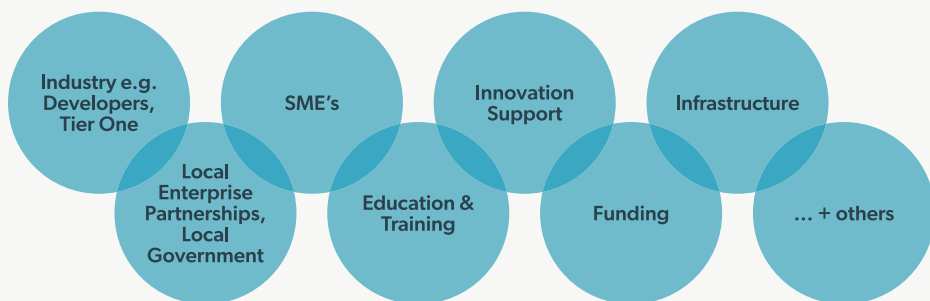
Looking Ahead

Looking beyond current opportunities, components and services, it is important to consider wider opportunities as well. In due course, decommissioning or recycling potential will rise and, separately, new challenges and innovative solutions are needed all the time. Many indirect supply chain services are required too - from catering and hotels to PPE and storage facilities, and more. Offshore wind is also an important facilitator for other technologies, including floating wind (with substantial GW amounts due to be developed in the Celtic Sea, and with potential off of Anglesey) and green hydrogen. There are also key synergies with the maritime and ports sector. The OEA aims to build on the region's past and existing capabilities, maximising these for offshore wind and other energy industries.

Collaborate to Compete

The industry and its local partners are learning that in many ways, collaboration is the key to success. The OEA's success relies on collaborative engagement across the relevant regions, with support from a wide range of parties including: industry (developers, OEMs/Tier 1s and SMEs); the public sector (Government Departments and LEPs); skills, training and academic institutions, champions of diversity, equality & inclusion, infrastructure owners and others.

Support for the OEA continues to grow from strength to strength with a wide range of parties and 'topic champions' coming on board.





Aims & Activities

The OEA is a cross-sectoral, cross-regional alliance that aims to bring together key parties from across North Wales and the North West of England for the benefit of local businesses and others. The cluster 'flies the flag' for the region in a collaborative way, raising awareness of opportunities across a range of technologies and themes, with an end goal of achieving more prosperous coastal communities.

OEA activities include:

- Pan-tier engagement & networking
- Themed forums, webinars & events
- Information Dissemination e.g. for business funding & support
- Attracting Inward investment
- Up to date capability mapping
- Working groups focused on: People, Ideas, Business Environment, Infrastructure & Place
- Improving skills, diversity, equality & inclusion
- Business Glossaries
- Regional promotion at conferences and events
- Website and cluster registration
- Involvement in Research and Development activities
- And much more...

OEA Governance Structure



CHAIR: North Wales
(Welsh Government)

CHAIR: Merseyside
(Liverpool City Region)

CHAIR: Cumbria
(Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership)

CHAIRS, REGIONAL PARTNERS

Monthly partner meetings (Includes industry & regional partner funding)



SECRETARIAT MEMBERS



TOPIC CHAMPIONS

Quarterly working group meetings and events as required

Roles filled by supply chain companies themselves and other local parties

OEA & topic champions supported as required by other organisations from across the NWNW region

END BENEFIT FOR NWNW COMPANIES

- ✓ No membership fees & largely free participation
- ✓ Official brand and champion for the NWNW region
- ✓ Events, Conferences & Networking
- ✓ Webinars & Timely Information
- ✓ Up to date Supply Chain Mapping - identifying & addressing gaps
- ✓ Cross-sectoral links to other offshore, energy and low carbon sectors
- ✓ Lobbying support on supply chain topics





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