



US Offshore Wind Collaborative

Frequently Asked Questions September 2008

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.

- 1) ***What is USOWC?*** The US Offshore Wind Collaborative is a voluntary association of government, industry, research, and non-governmental organizations who have joined together 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.
- 2) ***How is the USOWC organized?*** USOWC is currently unincorporated and exists as an interim volunteer Steering Committee made up of representatives of government, industry, research, and non-governmental organizations. The Steering Committee is evaluating options for adoption of a more formal organizational structure
- 3) ***When will the USOWC be opened to general membership?*** We expect to open the USOWC to general membership by the end of 2008 after the Steering Committee completes a set of “pre-launch” activities including: (a) engaging with interested states and federal agencies to identify shared concerns and opportunities for partnering, drafting a “white paper” update on the status of offshore wind in the United States, developing a proposed organizational structure for USOWC, and launching a web site with capacity to handle on-line registrations.
- 4) ***Who can join USOWC?*** Membership will be open to any entity that supports the USOWC mission.
- 5) ***What will it cost to join?*** The Steering Committee is developing a proposed USOWC dues structure in conjunction with its evaluation of options for adoption of a more formal organizational structure. We are exploring ways to include entities that may not be able to pay dues.
- 6) ***Will there be an opportunity for general members to have a say in the current Steering Committee activities, such as the white paper and organizational structure/dues?*** Yes. The Steering Committee will develop preliminary products and proposals (e.g. the white paper and proposed organizational structure) before USOWC membership is opened. The membership will have a chance to provide input, either directly or through a committee structure, before these products become final or proposals are implemented.
- 7) ***How will USOWC promote specific policies or activities that support sustainable offshore wind development?*** The Steering Committee and future membership will identify areas of agreed upon action and will collaborate as needed to jointly support sustainable offshore wind development.
- 8) ***Is the USOWC concerned only with ocean-based wind projects?*** No. The USOWC mission covers the sustainable development of offshore wind energy in any U.S. waters.
- 9) ***Does USOWC have a web site?*** Yes, it's www.usowc.org.