



**ASPEN TECH
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PROJECT



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this project, please visit
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Just Wind: Designing a More Equitable Offshore Wind Industry

Sharing benefits from offshore wind development with disadvantaged communities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States is **aiming** to deploy 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind by 2030, paving the way for more than \$12 billion per year in capital investments. Directed appropriately, such investments can bring numerous benefits to disadvantaged communities that have long been marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. Offshore wind development can transform communities located near ports and industrial zones, provide education and workforce training opportunities, and bring good-paying jobs to communities that need them most. This proposal recommends that the Federal Government update its offshore wind leasing process to better engage with disadvantaged communities, and create incentives for developers to ensure that benefits from offshore wind project flow equitably to these communities.

PROBLEM

The US Government has progressively improved its offshore leasing process to meet ambitious offshore wind goals. However, the current approach insufficiently addresses equity and justice. Disadvantaged communities have not been meaningfully engaged during the leasing process or involved in deciding how benefits are distributed



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fairly to those that need them the most. Without action, offshore wind development risks maintaining the status quo that has left disadvantaged communities underserved by the current energy system.

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SOLUTION

To advance equity and justice in the offshore wind leasing process, this project recommends policies for the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to enhance engagement with disadvantaged communities, and to create incentives to ensure that more benefits from offshore wind production go toward these communities.

First, this proposal calls for additional forums for consultation with disadvantaged community stakeholders, advocates for greater transparency in the stakeholder feedback process, and provides a framework for better monitoring of engagement and benefits going toward disadvantaged communities. Second, it recommends ways that the BOEM should modify its competitive offshore wind leasing process to more directly incentivize developers to invest in disadvantaged communities. We provide several recommendations and options for the leasing agency to incorporate into future wind lease sales.

For more information about this proposal, see: a **(1) a policy brief to BOEM** describing how it can enhance engagement with disadvantaged communities; **(2) a policy brief to BOEM** describing how it can modify its competitive lease process; and **(3) a set of recommendations** to government agencies for improving engagement with disadvantaged communities.

ABOUT THE HUB

The Aspen Tech Policy Hub is a Bay Area policy incubator, training a new generation of science and tech policy entrepreneurs. We take science and tech experts, teach them the policy process, and support them in creating outside-the-box solutions to society's problems.

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