

The Midlands: powering the UK's clean energy revolution



Humber Offshore Wind Cluster

CASE STUDY

The Humber aims to provide 35% of the UK's total offshore wind capacity – at least 13.8GW – by 2030. Hornsea Three (2.9GW) and Hornsea Four (2.6GW) are among the projects in development off the Yorkshire coast.

There are also key parts of the offshore wind supply chain, as well as ports, in Teesside and the Humber, and the world's biggest offshore wind "living lab" is being developed in Grimsby.

Midlands offshore wind businesses have already received over 42% of Innovate UK funding since 2005 and it would be no surprise to see this increase as the Humber Offshore Wind Cluster continues to grow in the years to come.

The Humber already has eight operational wind farms, including the 1.3GW Hornsea Two – currently among the world's largest, covering an area of 178 square miles – with another seven in development, including Hornsea Three and Four.

The region has welcomed organisations such as Ørsted and RWE, which have brought in more than £9.5 billion of investment to the Humber region – of which more than £45 million has been directly invested in the local community, education and skills – and Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy, which has invested in blade manufacturing, training and load-out.

As a result, the offshore wind industry in the Humber has grown rapidly over the last decade, with the supply chain, education and training provision, infrastructure and innovation all flourishing. North East Lincolnshire is home to nearly 300 employees in the cluster.

The Offshore Wind Cluster aims to continue this trajectory by further strengthening collaboration across the region. The Cluster partners want to ensure it supports regional decarbonisation and contributes to the UK's wider net zero goals, whilst maximising economic and social benefit for local communities.

The Cluster has set out a joint prospectus and is now working to actions and goals over the short-, medium- and longer-term. These include working with other UK offshore wind clusters on national cluster initiatives, as well as recruiting new Cluster members and coordinating partner activities to make business support as accessible as possible. Other activities include producing an export offer that builds on the Humber's offshore wind supply chain workstream and showcases their capabilities to international visitors.

The Cluster's work also includes supporting companies to commercialise ideas and connect with areas of the supply chain that can best use them, providing planning support for new development on and around harbour facilities, and developing skills and work placements.

Offshore wind is already a success story in this country, and its continued development will play a crucial role in reaching net zero – meaning clusters like the one in Humber will be vitally important.

Credit: <https://midlandsendengine.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/ME-Cluster-Snapshot-OFFSHORE-WIND.pdf>

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