

A Survey of Offshore Wind Energy in Europe

Europe has become the leader in the world for wind energy. This is, in part, due to policies put in place by the European Union. With an ambitious goal of getting 20% of Europe's energy from renewables by 2020, all 27 members of the EU have set individual goals of their own. One major area that continues to grow in order to meet this quota is offshore wind energy.

Since the introduction of the first offshore wind turbine in Denmark in 1991, Europe has become the forerunner for the offshore wind industry. Currently, 10 countries have offshore wind in Europe, totaling almost 2,000 turbines. By July of 2013, over 6 GW of power were produced from offshore wind, and with the ever expanding industry, this number is expected to grow. The United Kingdom has seen the fastest growth in Europe, currently producing over 3 GW of offshore wind power. The United Kingdom has been able to develop such a strong offshore industry due to planning and policies that the Crown Estate has in place.

This presentation will survey offshore wind energy in Europe and will focus on the offshore wind industry in the United Kingdom, as well as the policies that make it so successful. Furthermore, the offshore wind energy industry in the United States will be examined. Further research will include a more extensive policy analysis of the United States policy and its comparisons to European countries offshore wind policies.

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