

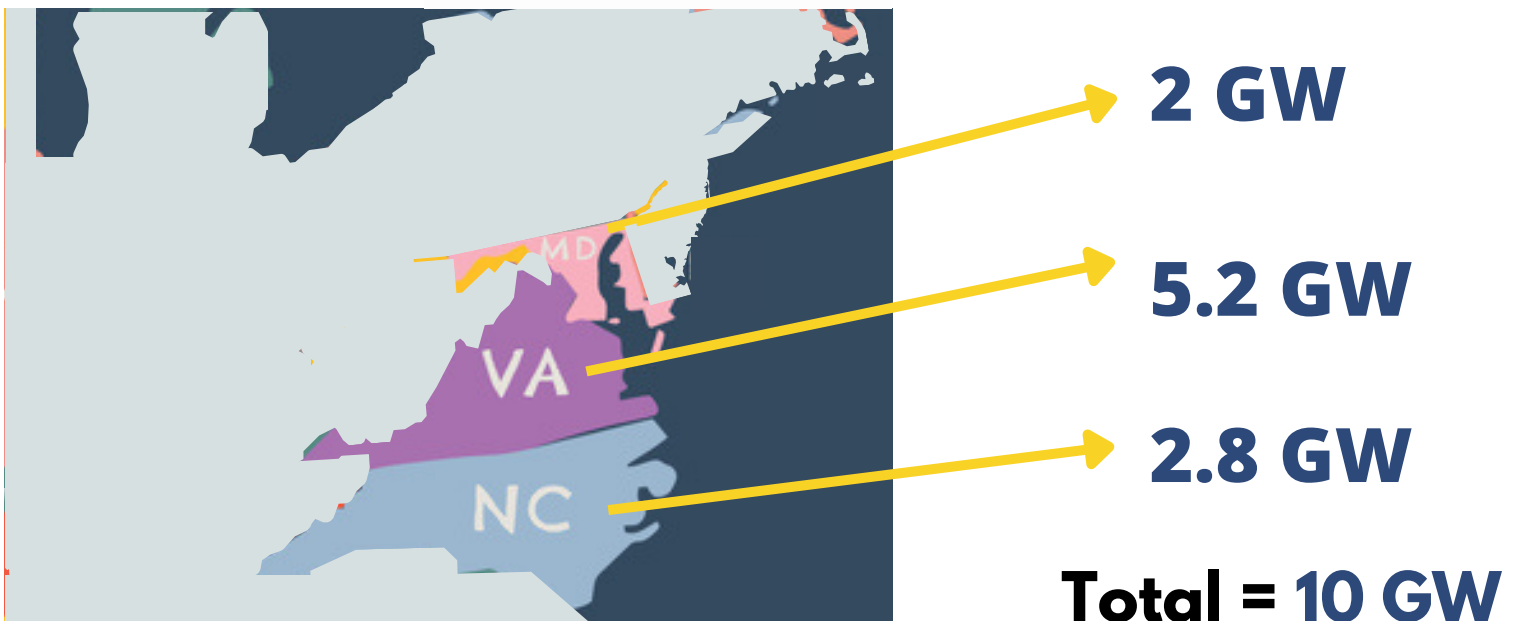


Maryland Virginia and North Carolina Regional SMART-POWER Partnership

The governors of Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia created the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Transformative Partnership for Offshore Wind Energy Resources (SMART-POWER) in 2020 to provide a framework for the three states to cooperatively promote, develop, and expand offshore wind energy and the accompanying industry supply chain and workforce. This three-state collaboration to advance offshore wind projects in the region promotes the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic United States as a hub for offshore wind energy and industry. Specifically, the three states have formed a SMART-POWER Leadership Team with representatives from each signatory jurisdiction to implement the SMART-POWER partnership.

The coastal Mid-Atlantic states have pledged 10GW of offshore wind by 2034, with Maryland committed to 2 GW by 2030, Virginia committed to 5.2 GW by 2034, and North Carolina committed to 2.8 GW by 2030. According to the United State Department of Energy, the Atlantic Coast offshore wind project pipeline is estimated to support up to 86,000 jobs, \$57 billion in investments, and provide up to \$25 billion in economic output by 2030.

Offshore Wind Commitments by 2030



The sizable offshore wind goals of each state and close proximity to each other presents the opportunity to work collaboratively across states to achieve these goals.

Coordination with neighboring states is helping to build a stronger offshore wind industry by stimulating:

- Cooperation for rapid deployment of OSW energy projects along the coast of Signatory States.
- Clarifying, streamlining, and aligning state regulatory requirements related to construction and installation of OSW projects to reduce administrative burdens.
- Identifying and evaluating Signatory States' assets and resources for OSW deployment.
- Promoting the region as an OSW energy and industry hub.
- Sharing and executing best practices.
- Coordinating communications with the federal government.
- Fostering partnerships with OSW stakeholders.

Actions

The SMART-POWER Leadership Team consists of officials representing governors' offices and state commerce, energy, and environmental cabinet agencies. The Leadership Team coordinates through quarterly meetings to discuss updates related to each state's OSW activities and identify ways states can work together to achieve their OSW goals, such as through regional promotion, workforce and supply chain development, research efforts, and federal coordination.

Regional Promotion

SMART-POWER states coordinate through events, such as the annual International Partnership Forum, to represent the joint interests of the states and promote the ongoing OSW-related activities of each member state. By promoting a regional approach to OSW, SMART-POWER states are able to constructively engage with more stakeholders and strengthen and streamline the participating states' workforce training programs and manufacturing supply chains pr.

Workforce Development

Promoting offshore wind efforts on a regional scale allows for increased stakeholder involvement in workforce growth and development, which establishes greater workforce fluidity for specialized skills and jobs. Cross-state workforce training can help to integrate identified industry needs with programs from state departments of labor, trade schools, community colleges, and unions. It can also help to establish greater equity in the jobs created by expanding workforce training capacity across states and engaging more stakeholders from underserved communities.

Supply Chain Development

Supporting a regional supply chain among OEMs, Tier 1 and Tier 2 suppliers leads to lower costs and better overall products. It creates the opportunity for growth and diversification in a growing industry that leverages each state's strengths.

Research Efforts

The SMART-POWER Leadership Team coordinates research efforts to identify and promote regional assets for the OSW industry, fill regional gaps in the OSW supply chain and workforce, and mitigate potential environmental impacts of OSW development. The purpose of these research efforts is to understand the needs of the industry and maximize the benefits of offshore wind for each state and its stakeholders.

Federal Coordination

The SMART-POWER Leadership team facilitates federal relations and coordination efforts with the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM), especially as it pertains to the Central Atlantic Renewable Energy Task Force and OSW leasing areas off the coasts of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland.

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