



iea wind

Task 28

**Social Science
of Wind Energy
Acceptance**

Summary Points

- Offshore wind power can play an important role in helping decarbonise the energy sector. All stakeholders need to realise, if they want a green revolution, this will mean transition to a change period. National and local stakeholder consent and support are vital to enable energy transition to achieve close to or net zero emissions. Offshore wind power is an integral component of helping meet governmental climate change targets internationally. Citizen and community collaboration is instrumental to delivering these targets.
- Offshore wind power has many benefits for climate, the economy, job creation, training and education, coastal and port communities, local supply chain. Complementary to the delivery of supply chain benefits, developers are encouraged to consider a community benefit scheme.
- The range of stakeholders for offshore wind is different to onshore wind. These must be identified and engaged with from an early stage in the project.
- Perceptions of distributional and procedural fairness, and trust, are fundamental to sustained social support for the expansion of offshore wind power.
- If project promoters engage early, they must be prepared to incorporate feedback into project design. Incorporating feedback is better than not consulting and having to redesign at a later stage.
- In pursuit of social consensus, there is a role for government to ensure that positive offshore wind power engagement and narrative are coordinated and communicated at project, sectoral, municipal, regional, and national levels. Social and engagement innovation should be explored.
- Projects should ensure not to mismatch local benefits with local needs. Collaboration between host communities and project promoters is key to successful deployment of offshore wind power.
- Projects should ensure that community engagement is as constructive as possible. The quality of interactions with host communities in advance of and during the planning application process is important to building and sustaining meaningful local stakeholder relations and engendering acceptance.
- It is not unusual for the granting of survey licenses to be challenged in the courts. The general public and local communities need to be engaged to help them understand what is involved in developing offshore, for example why assessment work is required to identify seabed conditions, environmental restrictions, fishing and other marine activities to design a layout which is compliant and is cognisant of all local stakeholders.



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