Offshore Wind

Tourism and Property Value Benefits

Offshore wind development has cascading benefits on local economies – including encouraging tourism and sustaining property values.

Offshore wind turbines can produce abundant energy in a safe and cost-efficient manner while reducing pollution. Evidence suggests that offshore wind turbines also have minimal to no impacts on property values and encourages tourism. Concerns about these issues are understandable for an industry that is relatively new to the U.S., but studies strongly indicate their effect on property values and tourism will be neutral to positive.

Here are the facts:

- **Studies[1,2] show that there are very few negative effects on tourism and property values from offshore wind farms.** Instead, tourists are drawn to coastal areas to see these innovative clean energy facilities firsthand.
- **With new farms come new experiences—and new tourists:** sightseeing flights or boat tours, informational centers, and viewing platforms are built, attracting a host of new tourists.
- **Most beachgoers say they would be unaffected or positively affected by the presence of offshore wind farms.** A survey from the University of Delaware[3] that focused on offshore wind's impact on 1,725 beachgoers' experience found that the impact was minuscule. Because most offshore wind projects are located 12.5 to 20 miles offshore, this is where the study focused its energy.

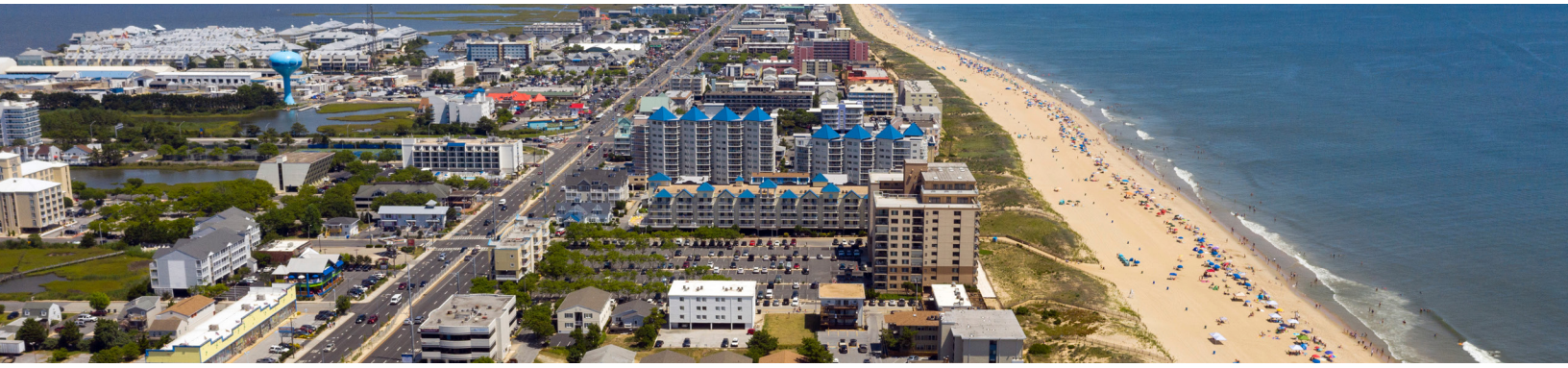
For offshore wind turbines

12.5 Miles Offshore

67% of beachgoers would be unaffected, while **13%** said they would be positively affected.

20 Miles Offshore

73% of beachgoers would be unaffected, while **17%** said they would be positively affected. Only **5%** would cancel their trip and this would be mostly offset by **3.6%** of beachgoers who would take a trip specifically to see offshore wind turbines.



1 Caledonian University (2008). *The economic impacts of wind farms on Scottish tourism: A Report for the Scottish Government.* https://savestraiton.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/tourism-report1.pdf
2 German Offshore Wind Energy Foundation. (2013) *The impact of offshore wind energy on tourism.* https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/43862581/the-impact-of-offshore-wind-energy-on-tourism-stiftung-
3 Parsons and Firestone. 2018. Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Development: Values and Implications for Recreation and Tourism. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. https://espis.boem.gov/final%20reports/5662.pdf

Rigorous Planning Safeguards Property Values, Increases Positive Public Perceptions

The presence of wind farms does not adversely affect coastal property values. A large-scale 2018 study[4] in Denmark examined the effects of offshore wind farms on property values of single-family residential and vacation homes in coastal communities near wind farms and found no significant impact on property values for homes with an ocean view that included wind turbines compared to a view without turbines.

If the public is well-informed, they will have positive perceptions of the projects. According to studies[5], when a project developer considers and communicated all factors (i.e. location, duration) prior to construction, the tourism industry is largely unaffected.

All offshore wind projects are subject to a rigorous visual impacts analysis in both the National Environmental Policy Act review and under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) requires the submittal visual simulations for both the project and cumulative simulations that include adjacent projects. In addition, BOEM released extensive guidance on the Assessment of Seascape, Landscape, and Visual Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy Developments to ensure visual impacts assessments are as realistic as possible.

Case Studies

- **Rhode Island**

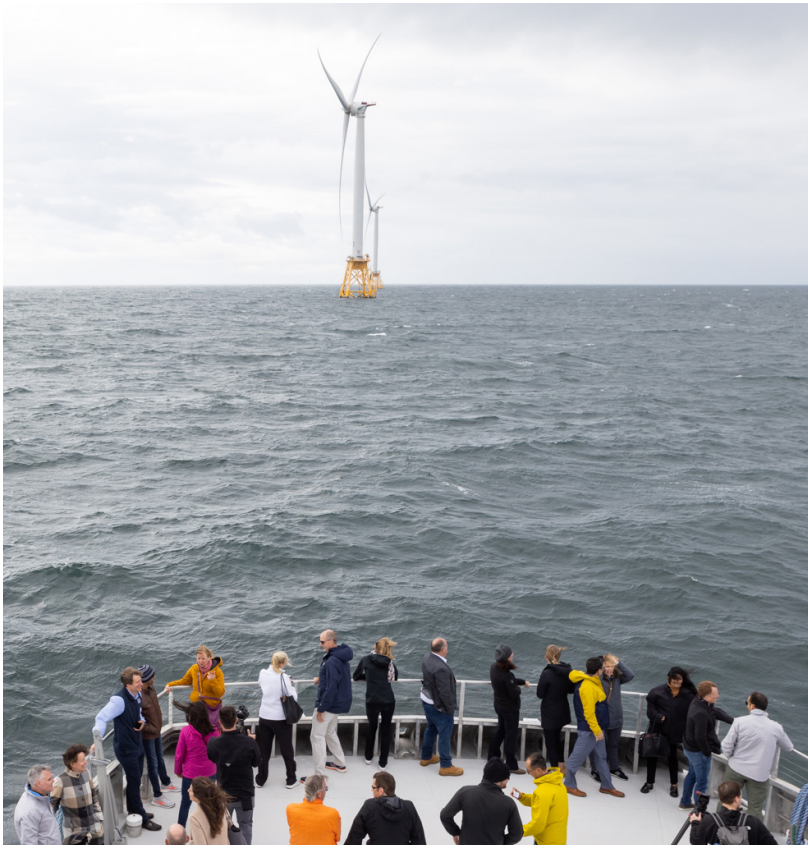
  Block Island in Rhode Island was the first community in America to host an offshore wind farm. By measuring AirBnB rental data,[6] it has been proven that this area has seen a marked increase in tourism since the turbines were built here.

- **Denmark**

  Similarly, a study of wind turbines[7] in Denmark found that they brought an increase in the tourism industry. It was found that turbines do not affect the property value of vacation or residential homes. Denmark's tourism office "believes the negative effects are minimal and outweighed by the positives."

- **South Baltic**

  A 2013 study[8] of turbines across the South Baltic Sea found that "offshore wind energy creates new job opportunities and thus leads to an increased purchasing power in the region. Additionally, the offshore wind energy and a higher employment rate raise the tax revenues. This all leads to greater prosperity for the region, thus attracting more and particularly younger tourists."



4. Jensen, C.U., Panduro, T.E., et al, (2018) *The impact of offshore wind turbine farms on property prices.* Energy Policy, 116, 60-59. http://macroecointern.dk/pdf-reprints/Jensen_EP_2018.pdf
5. Smythe, T. (2020). *Beyond the Beach: Tradeoffs in Tourism and Recreation at the first offshore wind farm in the United States.* State Department of Marine Affairs. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2214629620303017
6. University of Rhode Island. (2019) *Offshore wind farm increased tourism on Block Island.* Science Daily. https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/05/190506150138.htm
7. Caledonian University (2008). *The economic impacts of wind farms on Scottish tourism: A Report for the Scottish Government.* https://savestraiton.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/tourism-report1.pdf
8. German Offshore Wind Energy Foundation. (2013) *The impact of offshore wind energy on tourism.* https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/43862581/the-impact-of-offshore-wind-energy-on-tourism-stiftung-