

New offshore wind farms planned

One project set for the Oregon Coast

By **MATTHEW DALY**
Associated Press

The Biden administration announced Wednesday that it will help develop up to seven offshore wind farms on the East and West coasts and in the Gulf of Mexico as it moves to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2030 — generating enough electricity to power more than 10 million homes.

U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said at a wind power conference in Boston that her department hopes to hold lease sales by 2025 for projects off the coasts of Maine, New York and the mid-Atlantic, as well as the Carolinas, California, Oregon and the Gulf of Mexico.

If approved and built, the projects could avoid about 78 million metric tons of planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions, officials said.

“The Interior Department is laying out an ambitious road map as we advance the administration’s plans to confront climate change, create good-paying jobs and accelerate the nation’s transition to a cleaner energy



Three of Deepwater Wind’s five turbines stand in the water off Rhode Island at the nation’s first offshore wind farm.

Michael Dwyer/AP Photo

future,” Haaland said. “We have big goals to achieve a clean energy economy and Interior is meeting the moment.”

In addition to offshore wind, the Interior Department is working with other

federal agencies to increase renewable energy production on public lands, Haaland said, with a goal of at least 25 gigawatts of onshore renewable energy from wind and solar power by 2025.

Haaland and Amanda

Lefton, the director of department’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, said officials hope to reduce potential conflicts with fishing groups and other ocean users as much as possible. “This means we will engage

early and often with all stakeholders prior to identifying any new wind energy areas,” Lefton said in a statement.

President Joe Biden has set a goal to deploy 30 gigawatts, or 30,000 mega-

watts, of offshore wind power in the United States by 2030. Meeting the target could mean jobs for more than 44,000 workers and for 33,000 others in related employment, the White House said.

The bureau completed its review of a construction and operations plan for the Vineyard Wind project off the Massachusetts coast this year. The agency is reviewing nine additional projects, including the South Fork wind farm near New York’s Long Island and the Ocean Wind project off New Jersey.

Vineyard Wind is expected to produce about 800 megawatts of power and South Fork about 132 megawatts. Ocean Wind, the largest project, has a total capacity of 1,100 megawatts, enough energy to power 500,000 homes across New Jersey.

The administration has committed to processing the 13 other projects currently under federal review by 2025.

The ocean energy agency has said it is targeting offshore wind projects in shallow waters near Long Island and New Jersey. A recent study shows the area can support up to 25,000 development and construction jobs by 2030, the Interior Department said.

School bond: ‘A public school is really, especially in a small town, more than just a school’

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“It addresses critical maintenance and infrastructure needs, and it’s going to improve the educational experience for the kids for years to come,” Montgomery said. “Also, I think that a strong public school helps build a strong community. So even if you don’t have kids in the district, if you live in the community, I think it’s in everyone’s interest to keep it viable.”

“And a public school is really, especially in a small town, more than just a school, it serves as almost a community center at times.”

Over the past several years, voters have approved bond measures for schools in Astoria, Warrenton and Seaside.

In Seaside, a \$99.7 million bond approved in 2016 helped move schools out of the tsunami inundation zone. A \$70 million bond in Astoria and a \$38.5 million bond in Warrenton approved in 2018 financed several school improvement projects.

“This is just my personal viewpoint, but we do need to



Lydia Ely/The Astorian

Old portable buildings in Knappa would be replaced if a school bond passes.

keep up a little bit, because a lot of what we’re doing is maintaining infrastructure ... If we don’t do that type of stuff, then eventually it gets to a point where you become a pretty poor option out of all the schools in the area, and I would never want to see that happen,” Montgomery said.

While Fritz said he doesn’t know if the recent approvals of other school bond measures will have any influence on how Knappa will vote, he said, “I think that when people look down the street and see modern facilities, they are like, ‘Well, we should have modern facilities as well.’”

Kitty Hawk: Carrier was decommissioned in 2009

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Nix had promoted the idea of the vessel being installed as a floating museum in Astoria. North Coast officials, while sympathetic to his attempt to preserve an important part of U.S. military history, generally did not support the idea — fearing tourist crowds would swamp the community.

The USS Kitty Hawk, nicknamed “Battle Cat,” was launched in 1961 and served in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq.

The carrier was decommissioned in 2009 at a ceremony Nix attended. It has been docked since then at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton amid other older military vessels.

Nix was a U.S. Navy photographer who served two tours in Vietnam and retired as a master-at-arms and chief petty officer. Although the USS Midway, which came into service days after the end of World War II, has been preserved as a museum in San Diego, many historic vessels have been scrapped.



The USS Kitty Hawk was sold for scrap.

“It is unfortunate that they will not preserve any of the supercarriers,” Nix said.

U.S. Kitty Hawk Veterans Association had earlier given up its campaign to save the ship and focused efforts on creating a shore-based museum.

International Shipbreaking Ltd./EMR Brownsville has scrapped three other carriers. The Brownsville Herald reported that executives said the Kitty Hawk was in good shape for towing. The trip from Bremerton through the Strait of Magellan, near the tip of South America, could take 10 to 18 weeks.

The JFK, which was launched in 1968 and later took part in the Gulf War, was also sold for 1 cent to the same company. The vessel, which was decommissioned in 2007, will be towed from its mooring at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

The newspaper reported that the company’s contract with the Naval Sea Systems Command prohibits allowing visitors to tread the decks one last time. But some arrival event or later ceremony is being contemplated, company officials said.

Treatment: ‘It’s going to keep people out of the hospital’

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The county Public Health Department is partnering with local hospitals, which will provide the screening and physician’s approval required for the treatment.

Columbia Memorial Hospital and Providence Seaside Hospital will staff the treatment center at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center in Warrenton. The treatment will likely be offered a few days a week.

Jason Plamondon, the chief nursing officer at Providence Seaside, said they are in the final steps of planning.

“I’m excited about this. I think this is a great opportunity for our community, and it’s going to keep people out of the hospital,” he

said. “That’s our big goal, right?”

The health authority is providing the treatment to counties across Oregon following federal funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

“It’s what’s available, and so we’re just working together to create an implementation plan so that the community can receive it to keep them out of the hospital,” Lalich said.

The Oregon Health Authority, meanwhile, reported three new virus cases for the county on Wednesday, four new virus cases on Tuesday and 15 new virus cases over the weekend. Since the pandemic began, the county had recorded 2,382 virus cases as of Wednesday.

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The Astorian will publish a National First Responders Day Salute section on October 28, 2021 that includes your submitted photos and nominations for local first responders. Submit your photo and information online today! Deadline for submissions Friday, October 22 at noon.

<https://eo-media-group.secondstreetapp.com/First-Responders-Day-Salute>

One first responder in each category will be randomly drawn to win a free dinner.

- Firefighters
- Law Enforcement
- Nurses & Medical Personnel
- EMTs/Paramedics
- Emergency dispatchers
- Volunteers

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