

# What We Heard: Community Offshore Wind Information Sessions

*Summary of community feedback received across  
Unama'ki – Cape Breton*

August 2024

*Version 1.1 – Minor punctuation  
updates as of August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

# Table of Contents

- Table of Contents..... 2
- Introduction ..... 3
- Organizational and Program Backgrounds..... 4
  - Project Partner* ..... 5
- Industry Context..... 6
  - Timeline of the Development of Nova Scotia’s Regulatory Framework for Offshore Wind* ..... 8
- Offshore Wind Community Information Sessions ..... 9
  - Preliminary Engagement Survey* ..... 9
  - Planning and Advertising*..... 10
  - Communities Visited*..... 10
- Community Feedback ..... 11
  - Seven Themes Identified from Collected Community Feedback*..... 12
- Insights and Next Steps ..... 20
- Conclusion ..... 21
- Acknowledgements..... 22
- References ..... 23

## Introduction

Offshore wind could be to Atlantic Canada what oil was to Texas or hydro power to Quebec. We are talking here not of something incremental, but monumental.  
Dr. Peter Nicholson<sup>i</sup>

The potential for offshore wind (OSW) and green fuels production presents a generational economic development opportunity for Unama'ki - Cape Breton. There has been an unprecedented interest in Unama'ki – Cape Breton for the development of commercial OSW and green fuels production due to our natural resources. Areas in Nova Scotia's offshore have wind speeds between 10-11 metres per second, which is a world-class wind speed for OSW development<sup>ii</sup>. With an urgency to decarbonize our electrical grid and Europe facing an energy crisis, there is demand for secure, clean energy both domestically and for export. The development of OSW and other forms of renewable energy could contribute towards Nova Scotia's goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050.

It is anticipated that the creation of this new green energy sector could also provide meaningful employment, improve energy security and reliability, and bolster economic development in Unama'ki - Cape Breton. Clean Energy Canada estimates that 99,000 clean energy jobs will be added in Atlantic Canada between 2025 and 2050<sup>iii</sup>. With a workforce historically centered around large-scale industry and marine sectors, Unama'ki – Cape Breton has a skilled workforce ready to be deployed, with educational institutions preparing their curricula to accommodate a future OSW industry. This could provide a significant economic opportunity for the region, with work focused on infrastructure upgrades, predevelopment studies, shipping and logistics, assembly and construction, as well as the operation and maintenance of turbines.

Our region is at the forefront of developing a transformational green energy sector; however, this cannot be done without the support of Indigenous Communities, ocean users, and the public. In 2022, the Government of Nova Scotia set a target to lease five gigawatts (GW) of OSW energy by 2030 to support the emerging hydrogen energy market<sup>iv</sup>. The Government of Nova Scotia has released their Offshore Wind Roadmap<sup>v</sup> and Green Hydrogen Action Plan<sup>vi</sup> which outline the role green hydrogen and OSW can play in Nova Scotia's green energy transition.

As OSW is a new industry that requires the development of a regulatory framework before any seabed leases, environmental assessments, or construction could occur, there is an opportunity to engage early with communities across Unama'ki – Cape Breton. As provincial and federal governments lead regulatory framework development for future OSW development, organizations like the Cape Breton Partnership have been conducting community engagement to ensure that communities have access to information and can make informed decisions about future green energy development. The Green Energy Engagement Program (GEEP) was developed to begin meaningful community engagement, to create ongoing dialogue, and equitable knowledge exchange, as we endeavor to create a more sustainable future.

The first major milestone for the GEEP was the delivery of the OSW Community Information Sessions, in collaboration with Net Zero Atlantic. This report provides an overview of both organizations and the GEEP, as well as a contextual summary for the OSW industry, followed by a summary of the feedback obtained from communities across Unama'ki – Cape Breton during these Sessions.

## Organizational and Program Backgrounds



The Cape Breton Partnership is a private sector-led economic development organization that works collaboratively to promote Unama'ki – Cape Breton as a great place to live, work, and invest<sup>vii</sup>. The Cape Breton Partnership is an independent, non-partisan organization, providing economic development support to four First Nations' Communities and all five municipalities in Unama'ki – Cape Breton, through the Regional

Enterprise Network (REN) model in partnership with the Government of Nova Scotia. The Cape Breton Regional Enterprise Network (CBREN) includes the First Nation Communities of Eskasoni First Nation, Membertou, Wagmatcook First Nation, and We'koqma'q L'nue'kati; the Municipalities of the Counties of Inverness, Richmond, and Victoria; and the Town of Port Hawkesbury. The Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM) is represented by the CBRM REN. Both RENs are part of a wider network of seven RENs across Nova Scotia.

The Cape Breton Partnership wants the economic, cultural, social, and environmental values of Unama'ki - Cape Breton to be reflected in any future proposed green energy development. To work towards this goal, the Green Energy Engagement Program (GEEP) was developed in 2023 to focus on meaningful community engagement, creating ongoing dialogue and equitable knowledge exchange that helps communities build capacity and make informed decisions about future green energy projects, including wind energy and green fuels.

### GREEN ENERGY ENGAGEMENT Program

In the context of the GEEP, a community is not just a geographic location; instead, a community is a group of people with shared values, interests, and goals. With this in mind, the GEEP has set out to follow the spirit of Netukulimk through meaningful engagement and relationship development with communities across Unama'ki – Cape Breton. Netukulimk is a Mi'kmaq concept defining the relationships between the aspects of humanness, interconnectedness, and principles of responsibility, respect, and reciprocity. Resource management that aligns with Netukulimk honours the integrity, diversity, and productivity of our environment for present and future generations – a goal that is central to the objectives of the program.

The GEEP is not a means of advocating on behalf of any one industry. The purpose of the GEEP is to provide communities in Unama'ki – Cape Breton with information about green energy. This means focusing on relationship development with First Nations' Communities, fishers and ocean users, local businesses, academic leaders, environmental groups, non-profits, tourism operators, and individual community members to account for all voices in Unama'ki – Cape Breton when considering the potential benefits and impacts of future green energy development. Through the GEEP, communities of practice have been established with organizations conducting engagement throughout Mi'kmaq'ki, to ensure coordinated efforts when visiting communities. The Cape Breton Partnership will encourage sustainable and

equitable development, that allows all communities and ocean users to work together towards a common understanding and sharing of resources.

## Project Partner

The Cape Breton Partnership’s partner for the Offshore Wind Community Information Session was Net Zero Atlantic. Below is a short summary from Net Zero Atlantic about their organization and projects.

Net Zero Atlantic (NZA) is a leading energy research organization advancing Atlantic Canada’s transition to a low-carbon future<sup>viii</sup>.



We are encouraging growth of a sustainable energy sector by identifying knowledge gaps, connecting experts to projects, and leading applied research. Our work covers critical areas in need of development, such as clean technology, pro-climate behaviour, hydrogen, offshore wind, geothermal energy, and energy system modelling.

Our team is dedicated to an inclusive and successful transition in Atlantic Canada and our focus is on credible and unbiased research, including data collected through community engagement. We work to prepare policy makers, industry leaders and workers, and sector investors to work together on pathways to decarbonize our region’s economy, mitigate climate change impacts, and move Atlantic Canada toward net-zero emissions by 2050.

In 2022, NZA began *Capacity Building for the Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Nova Scotia’s Offshore Wind Resource* – a project developed to build local capacity in Nova Scotian communities so they can meaningfully participate in discussions regarding development in Nova Scotia’s offshore environments. The project focuses on building capacity in rural and Mi’kmaq communities to enable an inclusive approach to OSW development in Nova Scotia. Funding for this project is provided by Natural Resources Canada’s *Smart Renewables and Electrification Pathways* program.

Our project partners and supporting organizations include the Confederacy of Mainland Mi’kmaq, Unama’ki Institute of Natural Resources, and the Cape Breton Partnership. With the Cape Breton Partnership, NZA collaboratively facilitated information sessions in Unama’ki – Cape Breton to socialize the OSW topic, build relationships, and hear initial community feedback, questions, and concerns about the industry.



## Industry Context

Offshore wind (OSW) has been a proven renewable energy technology in other jurisdictions for several decades. Ørsted, a Danish energy company, developed the first OSW farms in Denmark between 1991 and 2001<sup>ix</sup>. The industry has grown significantly in the decades that followed, reaching a global capacity exceeding 75.2 gigawatts (GW) today, with 10.8 GW added to electrical grids across the world in 2023<sup>x</sup>.

The Paris Agreement signed by the United Nations (UN) provided a legally binding commitment to limit global temperature increase to two degrees above the pre-industrial level. This has created an urgency to decarbonize, electrify, and target net-zero GHG emissions globally. At the UN Conference of the Parties (COP28) in 2023, global leaders signed a formal agreement to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030, meaning at least 11,000 GW of energy must be deployed over the next six years<sup>xi</sup>. The Global Wind Energy Council estimates that wind energy would also have to triple its deployment to achieve this target<sup>xii</sup>. As a member of the UN, Canada signed this agreement with 200 other countries at COP28.

Canada has a comprehensive emissions reduction plan to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, while strengthening the economy with sustainable jobs and clean industrial growth<sup>xiii</sup>. Large-scale deployment of renewable energy technologies nationally is part of this plan. Nova Scotia also has emissions reductions targets, including 80% renewables by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. The Government of Nova Scotia has put their Clean Power Plan into action to work towards these goals through a green energy transition<sup>xiv</sup>, including deployment of OSW.

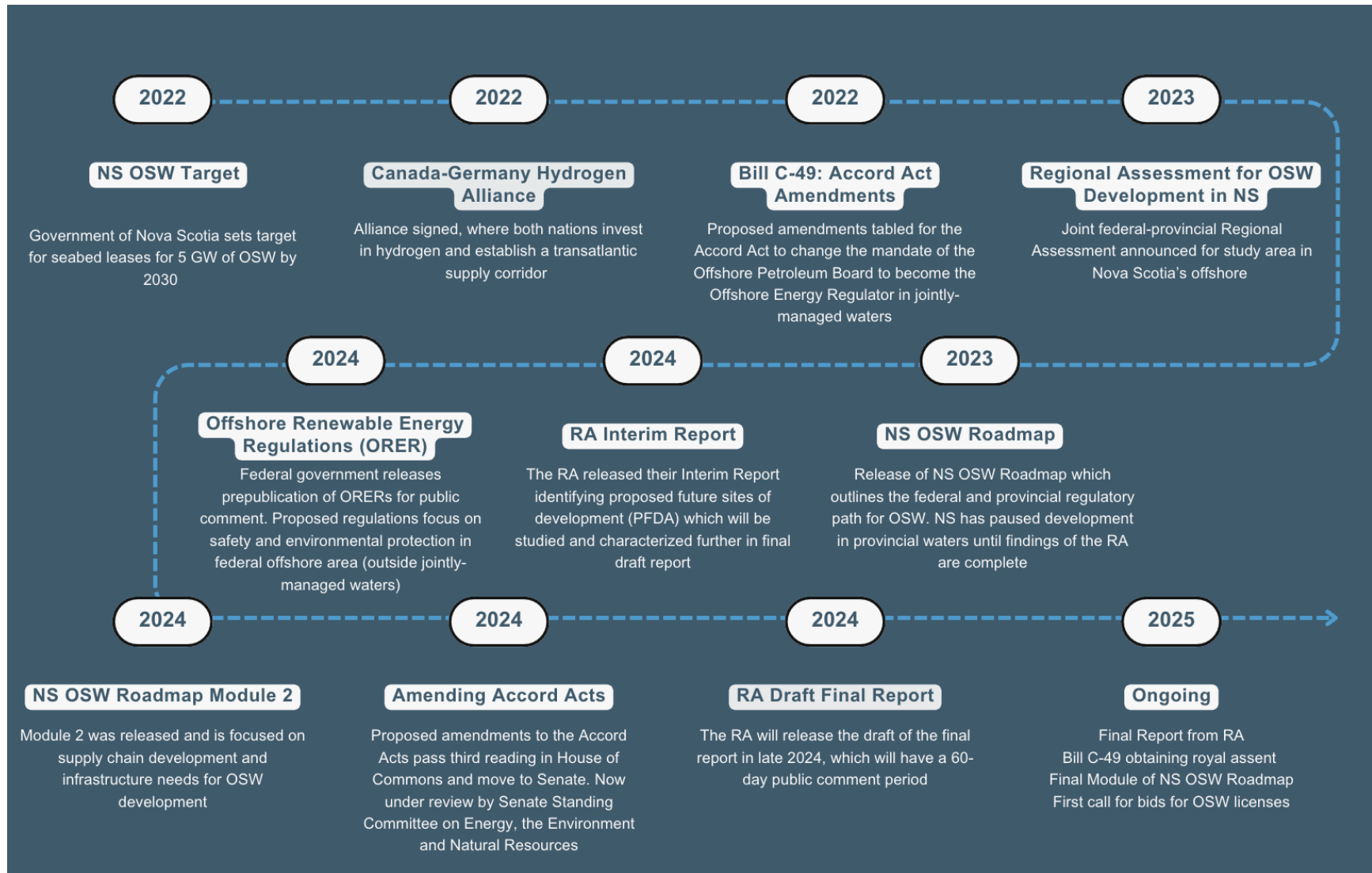
The Government of Nova Scotia has set a target to lease five GW of OSW energy by 2030 to support the emerging hydrogen energy market. Leases for OSW development will be granted through a competitive bid process jointly managed by the provincial and federal governments. It is anticipated that the first call for bids will be in 2025<sup>xv</sup>. The *Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Resources Accord Implementation Act* would be amended to expand the mandate of the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board (CNSOPB) to become the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator (CNSOER)<sup>xvi</sup>. The CNSOER would draw on existing regulatory experience, technical expertise, and administrative capacity from the oil and gas industry to allow a streamlined regulatory environment<sup>xvii</sup>. The Government of Nova Scotia released a draft document for Nova Scotia's Offshore Wind Roadmap in mid-2023 to outline their plan to gather input from industry, explore supply chain development, and engage with First Nations, fishers, and the public<sup>xviii</sup>. A timeline of regulatory activities follows on page 8.

The Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia, initiated the Regional Assessment for OSW Development in NS (RA) in 2023. An independent committee was appointed to undertake the RA. The goal of the RA is to provide information, knowledge and analysis regarding future OSW development activities and their potential effects, to inform and improve future planning, licensing and impact assessment processes for these activities in a way that helps protect the environment and health, social and economic conditions while also creating opportunities for sustainable economic development<sup>xix</sup>. The RA Committee has undergone multiple phases of public engagement, along with targeted engagement with Indigenous Peoples, fishers/ocean users, and the scientific/academic community. The feedback has been compiled into an Interim Report that identifies several proposed areas for development (PFDA) in Nova Scotia's offshore based on preliminary data and feedback<sup>xx</sup>. A final draft report will provide recommendations for federal and provincial ministers on OSW siting, along with mechanisms to mitigate and monitor any potential impacts.

The conversations around OSW have also been linked with green hydrogen production. Nova Scotia's demand for energy is lower than what would be supplied by five GW of OSW energy, meaning that there would be a surplus of energy that cannot be used domestically. This has led Nova Scotia to pursue the development of a green hydrogen sector for both export and [eventual] domestic use. Canada has also signaled its intent to become a leading producer and exporter of green hydrogen, with the Hydrogen Strategy for Canada and the signing of the Canada-Germany Hydrogen Alliance, which will enable investment in hydrogen projects, support secure supply chains, establish a transatlantic supply corridor, and export clean Canadian hydrogen by 2025<sup>xxi</sup>. Nova Scotia's Green Hydrogen Action Plan outlines the steps that would be taken to become a leader in clean economic growth, committed to local benefits, investment in skills training, combatting climate change, and protecting the environment<sup>xxii</sup>.

As Unama'ki – Cape Breton sits on the precipice of a green energy transformation, the work conducted by the Cape Breton Partnership, in collaboration with NZA, is amplifying the voices of communities, helping to build capacity, and bridging knowledge gaps to prepare for potential changes that could occur during this transition.

## Timeline of the Development of Nova Scotia's Regulatory Framework for Offshore Wind



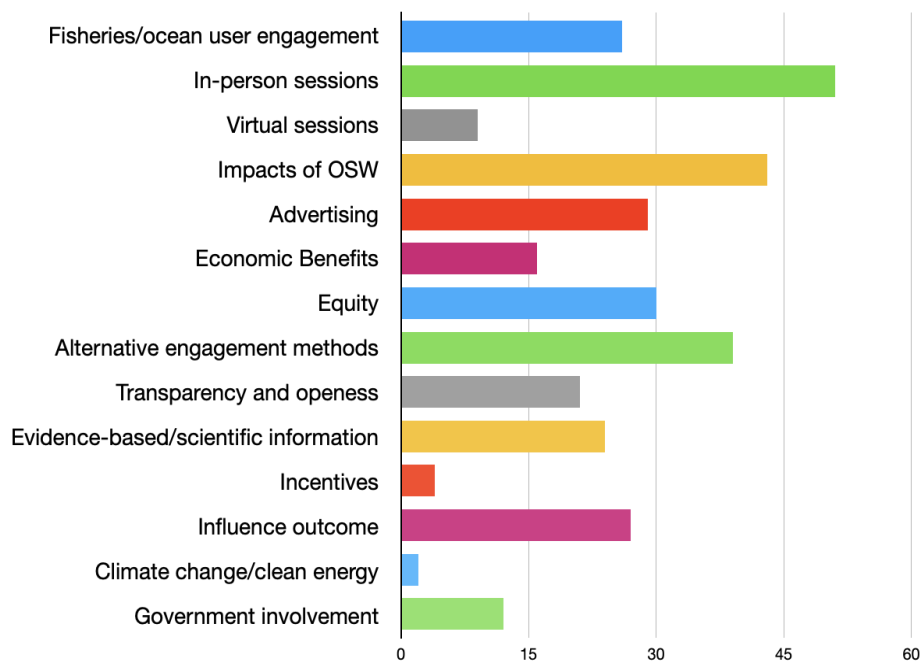


# Offshore Wind Community Information Sessions

## Preliminary Engagement Survey

The Cape Breton Partnership and NZA ran a community engagement survey in the summer of 2023. The purpose of the survey was to identify the ways in which communities would want to be engaged with. Engagement is most effective when it is done in a way that people would want to participate and have equal access to those opportunities. When participants were asked about their previous experience participating in engagement activities, 73% had not participated in any sort of engagement activities. The full survey report can be viewed [here](#).

There were 261 surveys completed across Unama'ki – Cape Breton. Participants came from a range of employment sectors. Only 14% of participants were dependent on ocean use for their livelihood, with 27% of participants dependent on ocean use for their hobbies. Survey participants were asked the question: What would influence your likelihood of participating in public engagement for OSW development and what types of engagement would you like to see?. The answers were compiled and coded to identify themes in the responses. The frequency of each theme is shown in the graph below.



The most frequent theme was that respondents wanted in-person sessions that provided reputable information, preferably from evidence-based and scientific sources. The survey respondents wanted to learn more about the impacts of OSW, including the economic benefits and environmental concerns. Respondents advocated for equitable and accessible information that was transparent and open. Traditional and non-traditional forms of advertising ahead of in-person sessions was also a common theme throughout the feedback.

## Planning and Advertising

Pre-planning for the community information sessions included curating introductory information about renewable energy, provincial and federal climate targets and regulatory processes, how OSW works, and the types of technology used.

Incorporating findings from the preliminary engagement survey, the sessions were advertised through social media platforms, digital billboards, as well as more traditional forms of advertising like local newspapers, radio stations, community television stations, along with printed posters placed in communities.



**OFFSHORE WIND**  
Community Information Sessions

<b>February 5</b> Monday	<b>New Waterford</b> New Waterford Fire Hall 3336 Walsh Ave. 6 - 8 p.m.	
<b>February 6</b> Tuesday	<b>Sydney</b> Holiday Inn Sydney - Waterfront 300 Esplanade 1 - 3 p.m.	<b>Glace Bay</b> Glace Bay Fire Hall 87 Reserve St. 6 - 8 p.m.
<b>February 7</b> Wednesday	<b>Chéticamp</b> Club des Retraités 15108 Main St. 1 - 3 p.m.	<b>Port Hood</b> Port Hood Fire Hall 304 Main St. 6 - 8 p.m.
<b>February 8</b> Thursday	<b>Ingonish</b> Ingonish Volunteer Fire Department 35938 Cabot Trail 12 - 2 p.m.	

Come join us to learn the basics about offshore wind energy and how it could help Nova Scotia achieve a net zero future.

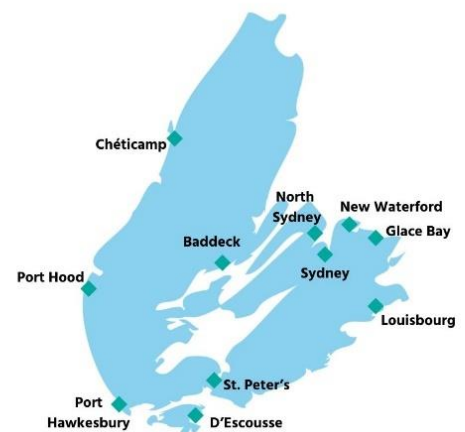
For questions or inquiries please email:  
[info@capebretonpartnership.com](mailto:info@capebretonpartnership.com)

## Communities Visited

Eleven communities across Unama'ki – Cape Breton were visited, with approximately 160 participants attending the OSW Community Information Sessions. The communities visited are noted on the map below and included Baddeck, North Sydney, New Waterford, Glace Bay, Sydney, Louisbourg, St. Peter's, D'Escousse, Port Hawkesbury, Port Hood, and Chéticamp. The communities visited were selected based on factors, including being a central location that would make sessions accessible to more people and in communities where engagement with fishers and other ocean users would be more likely to occur.

As partners in NZA's *Capacity Building for the Sustainable and Inclusive Development of Nova Scotia's Offshore Wind Resource* project, the focus of these sessions was to engage with rural communities. NZA has partnered with the Unama'ki Institute for Natural Resources (UINR) to conduct engagement in Mi'kmaw communities across Unama'ki. We did not bring these co-delivered sessions to Mi'kmaw communities to avoid overlap and respect that process. A summary of feedback from NZA's discussions with Mi'kmaw communities across Mi'kma'ki can be found [here](#). The Cape Breton Partnership is working with NZA and UINR to identify how we can add capacity to the work they are doing, and we will be engaging with local First Nations communities and leaders on how best to facilitate community-led engagement about renewable energy.



# Community Feedback

The OSW Community Information Sessions were co-delivered by the Cape Breton Partnership and NZA. Paper feedback forms were available to fill out and an online form was created to submit additional feedback. The presentation (sample slides below) was delivered in a conversational setting, where participants were able to ask questions and provide comments throughout.



## Regulatory Frameworks

Regulations	Implementation	Roadmap
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offshore Renewable Energy Regulations (ORER) being developed by Natural Resources Canada.</li> <li>ORER will apply to offshore renewable energy projects outside joint-managed areas. It will cover:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety and environmental protection related to site assessment, construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment activities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board will become Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Energy Regulator.</li> <li>Amendments to the Accord Act to include new offshore renewable energy projects.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bill C-49</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government of Nova Scotia Offshore Wind Roadmap.</li> <li>Evergreen document; focus on establishing lines of sight for industry, infrastructure and supply chain, and lessons from engagement.</li> </ul>



Each session had a note taker who wrote general comments and questions. The comments and questions were aggregated to provide anonymity to those who attended the sessions. The photos below were from our sessions in Baddeck and D'Escousse.



Several themes emerged when the feedback was collected and reviewed. There were seven overarching themes, including climate change mitigation, energy end-use and grid challenges; offshore wind technology, environmental impacts, local economic and social impacts, co-existence of ocean use, and governance and regulatory frameworks.

## Seven Themes Identified from Collected Community Feedback



A summary of community feedback is presented in a graphic for each theme in the pages that follow. The seven themes highlight the diversity and complexity of these topics in communities across Unama'ki – Cape Breton.

Concerns about increased frequency and intensity of weather events due to climate change. Using OSW to help mitigate these changes was viewed positively.



Awareness of land-based impacts connected to industry development. Infrastructure, transport and transmission corridors will have impacts on land that must be evaluated.



Concerns related to the phase-out of coal by 2030 and the short timeline. Nova Scotia was able to bring the grid to 33% renewables over the last 15 years. Getting to 80% in six will be challenging.



## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEME 1: CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

OSW to reduce emissions from energy production was important to many community members, but this was conditional on clear regulatory oversight to protect the environment.



A societal shift to curb consumption is needed not just adding more energy. There needs to be widespread education and resources to do this.



Many community members were concerned about exporting OSW energy before NS reaches its own climate and emissions targets. This was emphasized in comments about hydrogen production.



Intended end-use of OSW energy significant concern for communities. Questions were raised about the benefit to Nova Scotians if the primary focus is hydrogen export.



Questions arose regarding if Nova Scotia could stop using coal by 2030 and wanted to see OSW energy used domestically for a greener grid.



Concern about the grid's current capacity to accommodate OSW, particularly with current infrastructure and transmission reliability. Cost to ratepayers for grid upgrades was a significant concern.



## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEME 2: ENERGY END USE & GRID CHALLENGES

When discussing grid variability, communities wanted to learn more about battery storage and if that technology was actively being integrated into the grid.



Communities want to know how an average Nova Scotian would benefit from an OSW industry.



When discussing end-use being hydrogen production, communities often asked how you could differentiate renewable from non-renewable energy for green hydrogen production in our current grid.



Interest in the differences between fixed and floating turbines; where has floating been deployed successfully and what impact has that had on fisheries. Floating structure stability and underwater matrices from mooring cables were also concerns.



Concerns about turbines ability to withstand varying conditions (icing, hurricanes, storm surge and swells). Eagerness to learn from other jurisdictions and use best practices in NS.



Reliability of OSW as an energy source. Five gigawatts is not a consistent output because wind is intermittent. Questions about grid variability and energy storage were raised.



## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEME 3: OSW TECHNOLOGY

Concerns about power being transmitted by subsea cables to land-based transmissions stations. Questions around energy loss, cost of cables, and if this would lead to development closer to land.



Some participants want to see more land-based energy. Questions about the cost, supply chain, and overall sustainability were also raised about turbine components.



Uncertainty around the scale of development led to questions about number of turbines in a farm and spacing of turbines for safety (rotor diameter). Safety was also brought up in terms of equipment failure, along with the associated cost of incidents and downtime for maintenance.

The offshore area of Nova Scotia is a unique ecosystem and some species are not located in other jurisdictions. The necessity of ecological study and monitoring was emphasized. Some proposed small-scale OSW demo projects that would allow for the study of ecological impacts.



Concerns about seabirds, including turbines being placed in migratory paths and the potential for birds to strike the turbine rotors.



The reef effect was noted as a potential benefit to OSW monopiles, while concerns were raised with the mooring cables for floating turbines causing navigation concerns for marine mammals.



## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEME 4: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

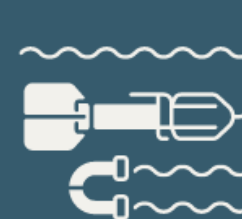
Questions about how vibrations and noise would impact sea life. Concerns about this being amplified during the construction phase (drilling). Suggestion of ongoing studies and best-practice mitigation measures encouraged.



Additional environment and safety concerns raised about the transportation of hydrogen if it were produced offshore.



Questions about electromagnetic fields and how subsea transmission cables would impact different species. Concern about what measures would be taken to mitigate any potential impacts and who would be responsible for this mitigation, including minimizing disruptions to seabed.





If OSW development occurs, communities want to see local opportunity for employment. Concern about experienced workers from other jurisdictions being brought in rather than a local labour force.



Concern for current energy workers whose roles are connected to coal-powered generation. What opportunities would be available for training and skills realignment for this transition?



Questions about models for community benefits, including equity opportunities for communities. The idea of a fund set aside for accidents or damages connected to OSW development and operation



## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEME 5: ECONOMIC & SOCIAL IMPACTS

Cost implication for ratepayers was a concern in most communities. High capital cost of OSW and the economic feasibility compared to other energy sources was a concern for increased electricity rates.



For those who wanted to see OSW development happen, sightlines were of concern especially for the tourism industry. Most community members do not want to see the turbines from land.



Local businesses asked how they could become part of the supply chain for OSW. Is this a new opportunity or can they diversify their current services and products. Communities were also interested in learning more about manufacturing of turbine components and its costs/energy requirement.



Fishers had concerns about the siting of turbines and the uncertainty of where they would be fishing in the future. Fishing sites change from year to year. The migration patterns of species are unpredictable which makes it difficult to provide input on potential locations for OSW development.



The fishing industry has been crucial to the economy of Unama'ki - Cape Breton and has cultural significance. Fishers want potential losses to ocean access and impact to yield to be mitigated and compensated should impacts occur.



Questions about shipping corridors and the impact to fisheries. Fishing grounds already shrinking for expanded shipping corridors, what impact will increased vessel traffic have for construction, operations, maintenance and how frequently will it happen?



## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEME 6: CO-EXISTENCE OF OCEAN USERS

Ocean users, including fishers, want to see more clarity and consistency from government. They want to be part of the decision-making process.



Concern that if marine mammals move away from development, this could adversely impact the tourism industry.



Concerns about ability to fish around OSW wind farms (proximity, exclusion zones within wind farm, radar interference, and ability to obtain insurance for vessels).



Clearly defined roles and responsibilities for different entities (governments, developers, regulators, power producers) would help to understand governance. This could help with concerns communities had with the current offshore regulator being the regulator for OSW.



For those supporting development, there were questions about the timeline for Accord Act amendments, the implications of delays, and what would happen with changes in government.



Communities asked project-specific questions that would be directed to proponents; however, concern regarding legislation around decommissioning projects and abandoned infrastructure was a frequent concern.



## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK THEME 7: GOVERNANCE & REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

Questions about the seabed leasing process. Community members want to know who is managing the leasing and what criteria would be considered before a lease is awarded.



Clarity around timeline for the 5 GW of OSW development - when would development occur versus the auction and leasing process?



Communities want to know if governments have identified investment incentives, subsidies, tax exemptions. Additional questions around if tax revenues and royalties would have an impact locally and what investments were already made locally were raised.



## Insights and Next Steps

The Cape Breton Partnership visited communities with our partner, NZA, with the intent of sharing introductory information about renewable energy, emissions reductions targets, and offshore wind. Our approach was to share our knowledge and to listen and learn from the unique perspectives of each community that we visited.

We did not visit communities with the intent of gauging support or opposition for the potential development of OSW. We did observe that in some instances, community members were supportive of OSW development to help achieve climate targets or to avoid seeing the deployment of onshore wind. Many community members attended sessions to learn more about OSW and provided the suggestion that there were still opportunities to deploy other renewable energy technologies like solar and onshore wind before exploring deployment of OSW. There were conflicting feelings between wanting to address the impacts of climate change that have occurred locally, like Hurricane Fiona, and concern for the associated economic, environmental, and social impacts of developing OSW. Ocean users were concerned about their livelihood and how their industries could co-exist with OSW development.

The Cape Breton Partnership, through the GEEP, has taken the feedback from communities and begun the process of reviewing literature and jurisdictional information to find answers to the questions that are of concern to communities in Unama'ki – Cape Breton. We are creating informational materials to provide answers to frequently asked questions, which will be available on the GEEP website, and brought back to communities in the second series of information sessions that will be delivered by the Cape Breton Partnership and NZA in the fall of 2024. The [GEEP webpage](#) will host information related to:

- Literature discussing the economic, social, and environmental impacts of OSW development.
- Types of OSW technology, their benefits and limitations.
- Updated information on the development of Nova Scotia's regulatory framework for OSW and opportunities for communities to be involved in decision-making processes.
- Climate goals, emissions targets, and clean/renewable energy deployment provincially and federally.
- Successes and missteps in OSW globally with lessons learned.
- The connection between OSW, renewable energy, and hydrogen production.
- Opportunities for local communities with the development of OSW including community benefits agreements, workforce development through training and skills realignment, youth engagement, and supply chain development.
- Examples of marine spatial planning and ocean co-existence, both when and where it has and has not worked.
- How renewable energy projects have been part of economic reconciliation with Indigenous Communities.
- Local initiatives and projects that are advancing sustainable development across Unama'ki – Cape Breton.

## Conclusion

The Cape Breton Partnership's Green Energy Engagement Program was established in 2023 to focus on meaningful engagement, creating ongoing dialogue and equitable knowledge exchange that helps communities build capacity and make informed decisions about future green energy projects. The Cape Breton Partnership wants the economic, cultural, social, and environmental values of Unama'ki - Cape Breton to be reflected in any future proposed green energy development. To work towards the goals of the GEEP, the Cape Breton Partnership collaborated with NZA on a series of Offshore Wind Community Information Sessions to bring introductory information about OSW to communities and begin the dialogue and knowledge sharing required to amplify the voices of communities across Unama'ki – Cape Breton with respect to future proposed green energy development.

The feedback from communities indicates that there is a need to continue ongoing two-way knowledge sharing. Communities provided feedback related to climate change mitigation, energy end-use and grid challenges, OSW technology, environmental impacts, local economic and social impacts, co-existence for ocean users, and finally, governance and regulatory frameworks. Communities have the desire to learn more about OSW as the regulatory framework continues to be developed, and they want to influence the outcome of decisions related to industry development in the future. It was often expressed that community members would like to see the Cape Breton Partnership and NZA return to the community to continue information sharing,

The Cape Breton Partnership and NZA will be back in communities in the Fall of 2024 to continue socializing the topic of OSW and gathering community knowledge and feedback. With ongoing growth in the green energy sector, the Cape Breton Partnership will also continue additional initiatives for communities across Unama'ki – Cape Breton through the Green Energy Engagement Program.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all of those who took time out of their busy schedules to learn more about OSW at these sessions and provide us with important knowledge and feedback. We would also like to thank each of the community centres, run primarily by volunteers, who provided us with a space to gather with communities.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall of 2024!



---

Jennifer MacNeil, MES  
Green Energy Engagement Coordinator  
Cape Breton Partnership

---

August 26, 2024  
Date



---

Tyler Mattheis  
President and CEO  
Cape Breton Partnership

---

August 26, 2024  
Date

## References

- <sup>i</sup> Peter Nicholson (The Public Policy Forum). October 2023. Catching the Wind: How Atlantic Canada can become an energy superpower. <https://ppforum.ca/publications/wind-energy-atlantic-canada/>
- <sup>ii</sup> Global Wind Atlas. <https://globalwindatlas.info/en>
- <sup>iii</sup> Clean Energy Canada. 2023. A pivotal moment. <https://cleanenergycanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/A-Pivotal-Moment-Report.pdf>
- <sup>iv</sup> Government of Nova Scotia, Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. 2022. Offshore wind. <https://novascotia.ca/offshore-wind/#:~:text=Nova%20Scotia%20plans%20to%20offer,the%20ocean%20around%20the%20province>
- <sup>v</sup> Government of Nova Scotia, Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. 2023. Nova Scotia's Offshore Wind Roadmap Draft. <https://novascotia.ca/offshore-wind/docs/offshore-wind-roadmap.pdf>
- <sup>vi</sup> Government of Nova Scotia, Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. 2023. Nova Scotia's Green Hydrogen Action Plan. <https://novascotia.ca/green-hydrogen/docs/green-hydrogen-action-plan.pdf>
- <sup>vii</sup> Cape Breton Partnership. 2024. About us. <https://capebretonpartnership.com/>
- <sup>viii</sup> Net Zero Atlantic. 2024. Who we are. <https://netzeroatlantic.ca/about/who-we-are>
- <sup>ix</sup> Ørsted A/S. 2024. Offshore wind energy. <https://orsted.com/en/what-we-do/renewable-energy-solutions/offshore-wind#:~:text=Since%20pioneering%20the%20world's%20first,the%20world%20several%20times%20over>
- <sup>x</sup> Global Wind Energy Council. 2024. Global Wind Report 2024. <https://gwec.net/global-wind-report-2024/>
- <sup>xi</sup> United Nations Climate Change, COP28. 2023. Global renewables and energy efficiency pledge. <https://www.cop28.com/en/global-renewables-and-energy-efficiency-pledge>
- <sup>xii</sup> Global Wind Energy Council. 2024. Global Wind Report 2024. <https://gwec.net/global-wind-report-2024/>
- <sup>xiii</sup> Government of Canada. 2023. 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan: Clean Air, Strong Economy. <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/climate-plan-overview/emissions-reduction-2030.html>
- <sup>xiv</sup> Government of Nova Scotia, Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. Date. <https://climatechange.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/ns-climate-change-plan.pdf>
- <sup>xv</sup> Government of Nova Scotia, Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. 2023. Nova Scotia's Offshore Wind Roadmap Draft. <https://novascotia.ca/offshore-wind/docs/offshore-wind-roadmap.pdf>
- <sup>xvi</sup> Government of Canada, Natural Resources Canada. 2023. The Accord Acts and the joint management regimes in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/05/the-accord-acts-and-the-joint-management-regimes-in-nova-scotia-and-newfoundland-and-labrador.html>
- <sup>xvii</sup> Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board. 2024. What we do. <https://www.cnsopb.ns.ca/what-we-do/industrial-benefits#:~:text=The%20Accord%20Acts%20legislation%20includes,45%20of%20the%20Accord%20Acts>.
- <sup>xviii</sup> Government of Nova Scotia, Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. 2023. Nova Scotia's Offshore Wind Roadmap Draft. <https://novascotia.ca/offshore-wind/docs/offshore-wind-roadmap.pdf>
- <sup>xix</sup> Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. 2024. Regional Assessment for Offshore Wind in Nova Scotia. <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83514>
- <sup>xx</sup> Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. 2024. Regional Assessment for Offshore Wind in Nova Scotia. <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/83514>
- <sup>xxi</sup> Government of Canada, Natural Resources Canada. 2020. The hydrogen strategy. <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/climate-change/canadas-green-future/the-hydrogen-strategy/23080>
- <sup>xxii</sup> Government of Nova Scotia, Department of Natural Resources and Renewables. 2023. Nova Scotia's Green Hydrogen Action Plan. <https://novascotia.ca/green-hydrogen/docs/green-hydrogen-action-plan.pdf>






# 202408126-FINAL-SIGNED-GEEP-What-We-H eard-Report-vs1pt1

Final Audit Report

2024-08-28

Created:	2024-08-28
By:	Tyler Mattheis (tyler@capebretonpartnership.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA9fwrkEafbGslbEDiA1qIG3SoUpLj3W8G

## "202408126-FINAL-SIGNED-GEEP-What-We-Heard-Report-vs1 pt1" History

-  Document created by Tyler Mattheis (tyler@capebretonpartnership.com)  
2024-08-28 - 11:46:33 AM GMT
-  Document emailed to Jennifer MacNeil (jennifer@capebretonpartnership.com) for signature  
2024-08-28 - 11:46:39 AM GMT
-  Email viewed by Jennifer MacNeil (jennifer@capebretonpartnership.com)  
2024-08-28 - 12:01:35 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Jennifer MacNeil (jennifer@capebretonpartnership.com)  
Signature Date: 2024-08-28 - 12:38:41 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.  
2024-08-28 - 12:38:41 PM GMT