



Washington Maritime Blue Launches ‘Blue Wind’ Collaborative Initiative to Activate the Region’s Offshore Wind Energy Supply Chain

Blue Wind aims to harness and grow the state’s manufacturing, maritime, and technology expertise to accelerate and expand the floating wind supply chain for economic and workforce development

SEATTLE (October 10, 2023) -- [Washington Maritime Blue](#), a non-profit with a mission to accelerate innovation and sustainability for an inclusive Blue Economy, announces the launch of the Maritime Blue Wind collaborative to expand Washington State’s leadership in one of the largest maritime market opportunities in history, the offshore wind energy supply chain. The collaborative will activate and mobilize the state’s technical and advanced manufacturing expertise, geographic proximity, naturally deep water ports, skilled workforce and industry leadership to power the supply chain ecosystem for floating offshore wind development anticipated off the coasts of California and Oregon.

Today, Maritime Blue Founder and CEO Joshua Berger announced the new initiative. Washington State Governor Jay Inslee; the Ports of Seattle and Everett; Herald Ugles, President, ILWU Local 19; and Sloane Perras, Vice President, Foss Offshore Wind were at the event to voice their support.

Blue Wind aims to protect existing maritime jobs and greatly expand sustainable and equitable employment opportunities for people living in Washington State, including shipbuilding, maritime operations, technology research and development, wind turbine and components manufacturing and materials transportation to offshore sites in Oregon and California.

“More states and countries are looking to offshore wind to generate massive amounts of clean energy – and they need the kind of skilled workforce, advanced manufacturing capabilities and deepwater ports Washington has to build needed materials and components,” said Washington State Governor Jay Inslee. “Washington is a leader in building a clean energy economy, and Maritime Blue’s Blue Wind collaborative will help Washington seize this opportunity to be a leader in the clean energy supply chain as well.”

The Biden-Harris administration has set ambitious goals for offshore wind generation, and both California and Oregon currently plan to generate offshore wind energy by 2030. Washington State has yet to define a process for considering offshore wind generation off its coast.

Offshore Wind (OSW) is projected to grow into a \$70 billion industry in the US in the next decade, fueled by an expected \$109 billion in private supply chain investments by 2030 according to a [Special Initiative on Wind Power](#) report. More than 65% of projected US wind energy is anticipated to be generated from floating offshore wind.

“Our leading-edge maritime, aerospace, technology, and innovation industries position Washington State with the talent, critical infrastructure, industry partnerships, and workforce to be a leading and collaborative supply chain provider for floating offshore wind development,” said Washington Maritime Blue Founder and CEO, Joshua Berger. “This is truly one of the largest maritime opportunities since the advent of the shipping container. The Blue Wind collaborative will define the roadmap and innovation path to ensuring Washington State’s role as we coordinate these efforts throughout the West Coast.”



Blue Wind will formally convene its leadership committee in the coming weeks to guide the collaborative's priorities and working groups. Blue Wind will be led by the region's port, industry, and labor leaders, and in coordination with tribal, fishing, and coastal communities, to develop the state's offshore wind supply chain strategy and begin building a detailed plan to drive the process forward in an equitable way.

"September was the hottest September ever. As was August and July and June. Each served as a reminder of the urgent need for more renewable energy to replace the fossil fuels contributing to wildfires, floods, and harm to our fisheries and coastal communities," said Commissioner Ryan Calkins, Port of Seattle. "Washington State's industry and skilled workforce are unparalleled in maritime and manufacturing expertise, which gives us a unique opportunity to grow green careers to support California and Oregon's ambitious plans for offshore wind—one of the most promising and least environmentally impactful sources of renewable energy."

"The ILWU is excited to work with all the other Maritime Trades on the West Coast to provide skilled and trained American labor to support the West Coast offshore wind energy industry," said Herald Ugles, President, ILWU Local 19. "These are long-term jobs that provide family-wage jobs and help America become energy independent."

Other supporters include the City of Seattle, the Port of Everett and Foss Offshore Wind.

"The City of Seattle is a leader in climate action and has a long and rich history as one of the world's hubs in maritime and aerospace innovation," said City of Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell. "We now have an opportunity to use our historic strengths to create jobs and opportunities for communities of all backgrounds, develop a brand new industry, and shape the future of Seattle's economy."

"The Port of Everett views the level of investment that will be required to support offshore wind akin to the economic value and job impact of the aerospace region on our state. The Port of Everett has invested more than \$150 million in seaport improvements, including additional land, cranes, rail and dock strength to be uniquely suited to help support this emerging cargo," said Everett Port Commission President Glen Bachman.

"Offshore wind is another generational shift bringing a truly all-encompassing new industry to this country like the automobile, aerospace and software industries. Offshore wind generates high-paying blue collar and white collar jobs throughout the United States. It is time the Pacific Northwest showcase our vast talent pool, spirit of innovation, entrepreneurship and our unique collaboration across communities to ensure that we play a critical role in the offshore wind supply chain," said Sloane Perras, Vice President, Foss Offshore Wind.

A non-profit, Maritime Blue receives operational and project funding through public, private, and philanthropic grant dollars. The Blue Wind media event was hosted at The Northwest Seaport Alliance on Pier 46 in Seattle.

"The Northwest Seaport Alliance is excited about the cargo opportunities the offshore wind supply chain can offer our region. We appreciate the work of Maritime Blue to lead these efforts and look forward to learning more about our Blue Wind Supply Chain and the potential to expand cargo and job opportunities



as well as contribute to a clean economy in our state,” said Deanna Keller, the Managing Member of The Northwest Seaport Alliance.

Maritime Blue, in partnership with the Pacific Ocean Energy Trust (POET), will be hosting a [Northwest Offshore Wind Supply Chain Summit](#) on November 16, 2023 in Vancouver, Washington as an introduction to the opportunities for supply chain engagement.

To learn more, stay up to date, and follow Blue Wind’s initiative, follow Washington Maritime Blue on our [website](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#). Email bluewind@maritimeblue.org for further information.

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About Washington Maritime Blue: Washington Maritime Blue is a non-profit, strategic alliance formed to accelerate innovation and sustainability in support of an inclusive blue economy. With a mission to implement Washington State’s Strategy for the Blue Economy, Maritime Blue is a partnership between industry, public sector, research & training institutions, and community organizations. Maritime Blue works to create a world-class, thriving, equitable and sustainable maritime and ocean industry through knowledge sharing, joint innovation, entrepreneurship, commercialization, business and workforce development. Learn more at <https://maritimeblue.org/>