



Netherlands Enterprise Agency

Press release: **Government gives offshore wind energy an extra boost**

Commissioned by the ministry of Climate Policy and Green Growth

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Government gives offshore wind energy an extra boost

Wind energy from the North Sea remains the driving force behind the Dutch energy transition. In recent years, production from offshore wind farms has increased significantly, and the Netherlands has ambitious plans to expand this further. This is important to reduce dependence on other countries and transition to more locally sourced sustainable energy. Due to rising costs and uncertainty, construction of new offshore wind farms is stalling in many countries. With the 'Offshore Wind Energy Action Plan', the Government is taking measures to prevent this in the Netherlands. For example, the Government is allocating almost €1 billion from the Climate Fund to support the construction of 2 gigawatts (GW) of new wind farms next year (currently, 4.7 GW of offshore wind farms are in operation).

Minister Hermans, Climate Policy and Green Growth: "In various places in the world and in Europe, the sector is struggling with rising costs, rising interest rates, and uncertainty about sufficient demand. This means that the pace of the roll-out of offshore wind farms is slower than in recent years. Without intervention, the roll-out of wind farms threatens to come to a standstill. The Action Plan for Offshore Wind Energy provides additional support for the sector in the coming period and several other measures. This will enable the next Government to make decisions quickly."

The Action Plan contains two solutions to continue the roll-out of offshore wind energy: 1. stimulating the construction of offshore wind farms (supply stimulation) and 2. Stimulating the development of electricity demand (demand stimulation). In the short term, in addition to the subsidy for next year, work has also been done on the demand side, and the Government is extending the Indirect Cost Compensation (IKC-ETS) scheme for industry by a year, until 2028, to make electricity costs competitive. €150 million has been made available for this purpose. This improves the future business case for offshore wind farms.

For the longer term, the Government is preparing a bill to enable Contracts for Difference (CfDs): wind farm owners will receive a subsidy when revenues are low and pay contributions to the State when electricity prices are high. The Action Plan also outlines the development of a guarantee fund to support the conclusion of long-term power contracts, and explores whether wind farm developers can be given more time for completion. The Government is also investigating whether the planned Ten Noorden van de Waddeneilanden wind farm site can be incorporated into the Doordewind wind farm zone – this would lead to higher yields per turbine and better utilisation of the infrastructure. Finally, the Action Plan outlines options for consideration by the next Government.



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