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## Accelerating Offshore Wind for a Clean, Green, and Equitable Energy Future

## **Challenges and Solutions**

**The Nature Conservancy** is working for a clean, green, and equitable energy future—one that supports goals for climate, conservation, and communities. Rapid deployment of offshore wind energy is a critical part of the clean energy transition and can be done in ways that are nature friendly. Our work includes:

→ Improving policies and best practices for offshore wind energy. The Nature Conservancy collaborates with government, industry, and community partners to advance policies and best practices for offshore wind energy that support climate, conservation, and community goals. In 2024, TNC worked with the United Nations Global Compact Ocean Stewardship Coalition to develop <u>criteria</u> and recommendations for achieving net-positive biodiversity outcomes in offshore wind deployment.

→ Supporting science-informed siting and mitigation decisions. TNC is applying the best available science and data to develop decision-support tools to help establish consistent standards for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating potential effects of offshore wind. This includes siting tools, like TNC's Marine Mapping Tool, which provides meaningful context to existing data to inform site selection and design for offshore wind projects. We are expanding this tool to support environmental mitigation and improved biodiversity.

→ Demonstrating nature-friendly offshore wind projects. TNC is advancing science to support nature-inclusive design through demonstration projects. For example, we are conducting innovative research on integrating reef restoration into offshore wind project designs to create marine habitat out of offshore wind infrastructure. These projects can be "win-wins" for climate and conservation that provide important models for future project development.

## **Please Join Us!**

If done right, the transition to clean energy can be good for both people and the planet. Please join us as we work to help power a future that sUpports a livable climate, healthy communities, and thriving nature.