

# Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 Delivering a low carbon future

The UK is home to the largest operating offshore wind capacity in the world – a national success story to be proud of. Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 is taking this another step forward, supporting the UK's ambitious decarbonisation agenda.

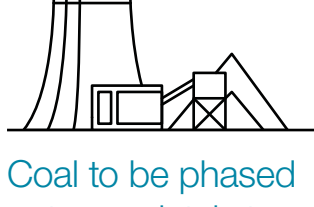
## A net zero future

With the cost of offshore wind continuing to fall, there is a growing recognition of the role that offshore wind will play in delivering the UK's decarbonisation ambitions.

Government has set an ambition to deliver up to 40 GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030. Alongside the existing portfolio, and rights in

the waters off Scotland, Round 4 provides the potential for the UK project pipeline to exceed 45 GW in 2021.

The Committee on Climate Change says the UK will need a target of 75 GW of offshore wind to meet its legally binding target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.



Coal to be phased out completely to **zero** by 2025<sup>1</sup>



Gas to be reduced by **21%** by 2025<sup>2</sup>

## The role of The Crown Estate

The Crown Estate is a unique business with a distinct heritage and a portfolio unlike any other, which includes the seabed, natural marine resources and half the foreshore around England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

In this capacity we are responsible for awarding seabed rights for offshore renewable energy projects as well as marine minerals, CCUS (Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage), cables and pipelines. We play a unique role in developing and helping sustain UK energy supply and infrastructure, working in collaboration with a wide range of organisations.

In 1961, the Crown Estate Act established us as an independent commercial business and tasked us with returning all our profit to the Treasury for the benefit of the nation's finances.

## Round 4 seabed leasing

Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 opens up the potential for between 7 and 8.5 GW of new seabed rights for offshore wind development in the waters around England and Wales – enough to meet the electricity needs of over six million homes.

Prospective developers have the opportunity to identify and propose project sites within four broad seabed Bidding Areas, supported and informed by characterisation data and analysis we have made available.

Rights could be awarded in 2021, with projects becoming operational toward the end of the decade, helping to meet UK energy needs for 60 years ahead.



The UK has **14 GW of total capacity** either fully operational (9.7 GW) or under construction (4.4 GW)<sup>3</sup>



Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 has potential to deliver 7 - 8.5 GW of additional capacity – enough for **6 million homes**

## Round 4 objectives

Round 4 represents our commitment to providing new seabed rights for an expanding offshore wind generation market in the UK, in a way that:

**Delivers a robust pipeline for low-cost offshore wind deployment**

Supporting the UK's clean energy transition.

**Offers an attractive, accessible and fair proposition to developers**

Making the UK a brilliant place to invest.

**Balances the range of interests in the marine environment**

Supported by extensive engagement and promoting responsible evidence-based site selection.

**Makes efficient use of the seabed**

Recognising its value as a national asset, now and for the long term.

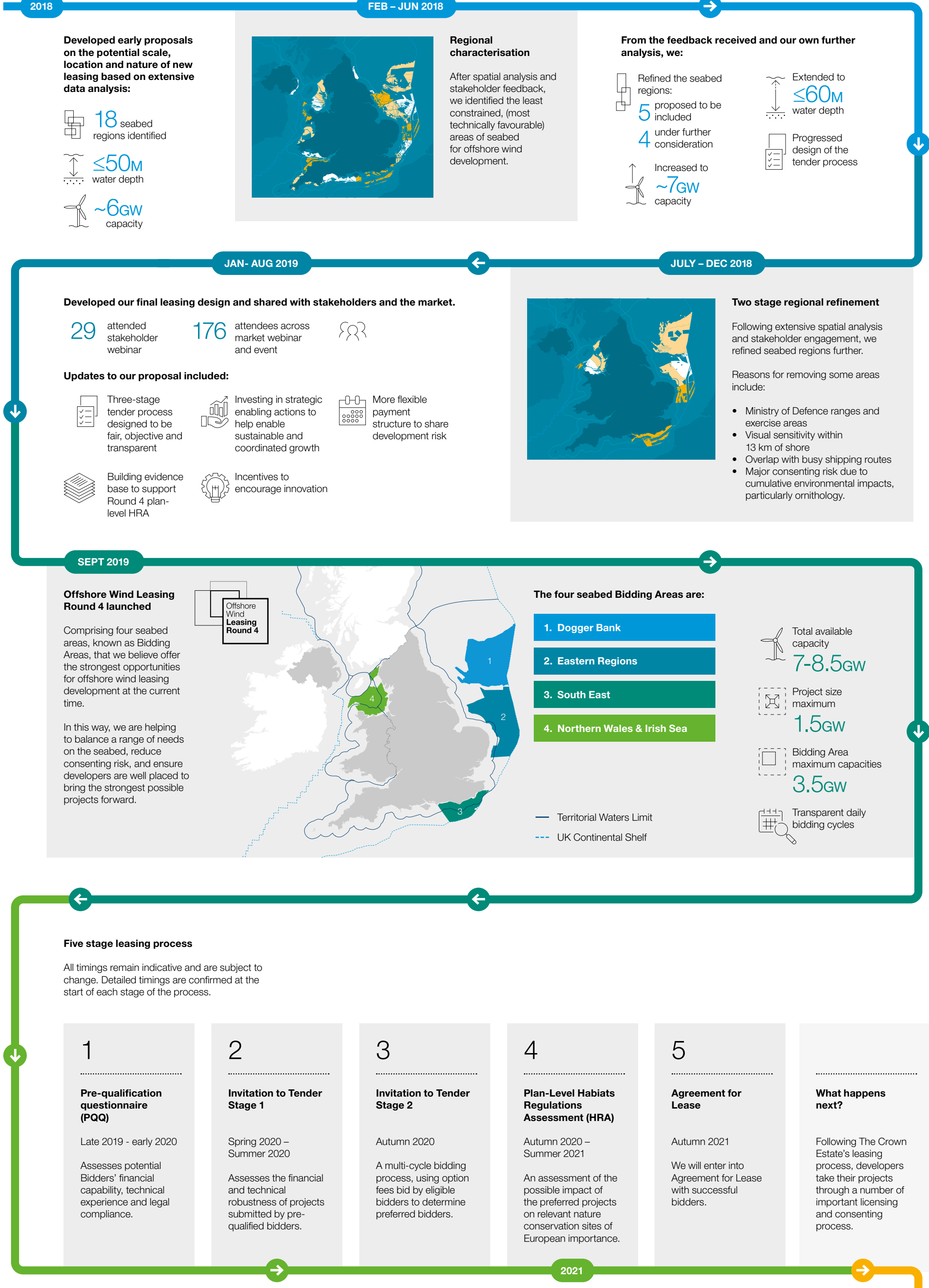
**Unlocks the value of the seabed in line with our statutory obligations**

Securing best consideration over the long-term, for the benefit of the public finances.

## Round 4 leasing process

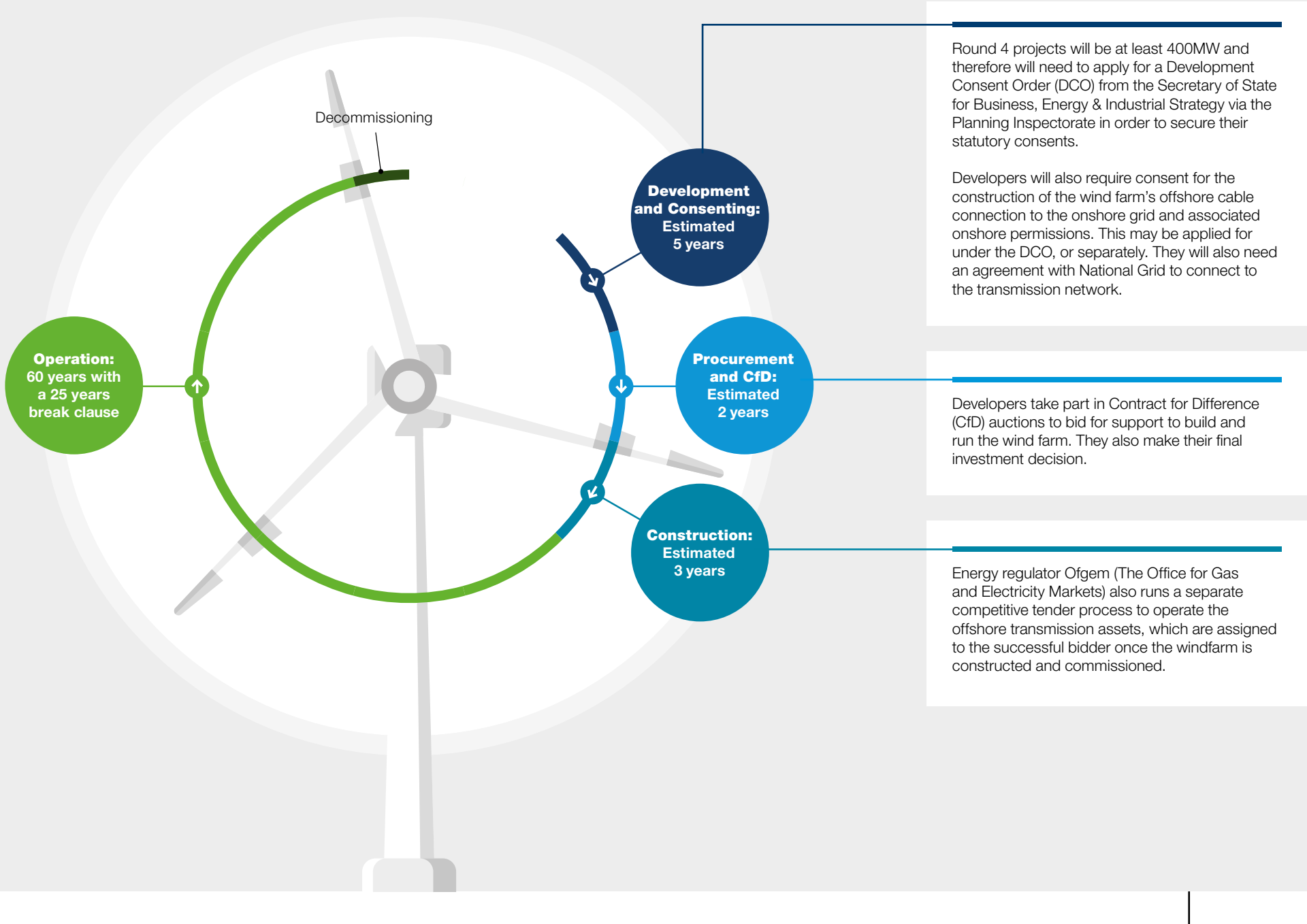
Round 4 was developed and refined through 18 months of active engagement with stakeholders and industry, keeping them informed of our thinking and seeking their feedback to help shape our design.

This ensured we can enable the delivery of clean, affordable energy the country will need for the future, whilst balancing a range of needs in an increasingly busy seaspace.



## The planning and development process

Once seabed rights have been awarded, project developers will apply for the required statutory development consents.



## Supporting our net zero future

As manager of the seabed around England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we know that finding a balance between future energy needs and the wide range of interests in the marine environment is central to achieving long-term sustainable growth of the offshore wind sector.

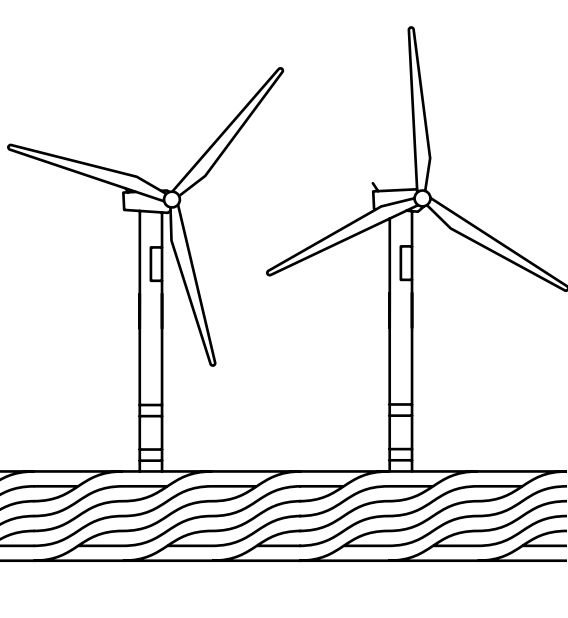
With this in mind, we are funding and delivering an ambitious programme of strategic enabling actions to facilitate the sustainable and coordinated expansion of offshore wind, helping the sector to meet the UK's commitments to the low carbon energy transition whilst supporting action to secure clean, healthy, productive and biologically diverse seas.

The programme will help to increase the available knowledge and evidence within the sector, with a specific focus on cumulative environmental impacts both in the marine and onshore areas, and impacts on other users of the sea space such as navigation, fishing and dredging.

The programme will be led by The Crown Estate together with its strategic partner, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and with support from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

It will be delivered in collaboration with organisations with an interest in the future of offshore wind, including regulators and their statutory advisors as well as representatives of the offshore wind developer community and non-governmental organisations.

Find out more about the programme [here](#).



## Find out more

You can read more about Offshore Wind Leasing Round 4 [here](#) on our website.

You can also contact us at [Round4@thecrownestate.co.uk](mailto:Round4@thecrownestate.co.uk)

1. UK Government target  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/672137/Government\\_Response\\_to\\_unabated\\_coal\\_consultation\\_and\\_statement\\_of\\_policy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/672137/Government_Response_to_unabated_coal_consultation_and_statement_of_policy.pdf)

2. UK Government target  
BEIS 2018 Updated Energy & Emissions Projections & KPMG analysis <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/updated-energy-and-emissions-projections-2018>

3. [www.thecrownestate.co.uk/media/3515/offshore-wind-operational-report-2019.pdf](https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/media/3515/offshore-wind-operational-report-2019.pdf)