

## How to integrate nature into offshore wind and grid infrastructure: a spotlight on auctioning

Side event at WindEurope Annual Conference - Copenhagen

26 April 12:30-15:30

**Location: Bella Center: Meeting room 18+19, Level 1 (Exhibition area)**

We are at a crossroads where different crises need to be tackled simultaneously: climate change, biodiversity loss, energy security, and economic recovery. On the one hand, Europe has made ambitious commitments for the expansion of wind energy infrastructure, with offshore wind representing a significant share of the new capacity to be deployed. On the other hand, the European Commission has proposed an EU Nature Restoration Law, which aims to restore 20% of EU's land and sea ecosystems by 2030.

These twin ambitions can come into conflict, as all infrastructure has an environmental impact. However, there are opportunities for the offshore wind and grid sectors to go beyond emissions reduction and apply measures that can not only minimise environmental risks but contribute to the enhancement of ecosystems. This is particularly important for the offshore environment, where wind infrastructure, and consequently the connecting grid, is expected to increase from 30 GW to more than 150 GW by 2030.

This event focuses on how to integrate nature into offshore wind and grid infrastructure by bringing together the perspectives of EU Members States, wind developers, transmission system operators, and NGOs. We will zoom into the design of offshore auctions and the relevance of including sustainability and biodiversity measures as part of the selection criteria to award offshore wind projects.

### AGENDA

**12:30 – 13:15:** Welcome lunch

**13:15 – 14:15:** Keynotes: How to integrate nature into offshore wind and grid infrastructure?

- **Ørsted**, *Ingrid Reumert, Senior Vice President of Group Stakeholder Relations*
- **Réseau de Transport d'Électricité**, *Gro Waeraas de Saint Martin, Director – Strategy and Development*
- **Vattenfall**, *Eva Julius-Philipp, Head of Environment and Sustainability Unit, Business Area Wind.*
- **WWF Denmark**, *Bo Øksnebjerg, Secretary General*
- Q&A session

**Moderator:** Cristina Simioli, Renewables Grid Initiative

**14:15 – 15:30:** Panel discussion – Sustainability and biodiversity as non-price criteria in offshore wind auctioning: Challenges and Opportunities.

- **North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC)**, *Maïke Brinksma, Policy Advisor Offshore Wind, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy*
- **North Sea Foundation**, *Ewout van Galen, Head of Programmes*
- **WWF European Policy Office**, *Helena Rodrigues, Ocean Policy Officer*
- **SSE Renewables**, *Martha Lovatt, Consents Team Manager, International Offshore Wind*
- Q&A session

**Moderator:** Mattia Cecchinato, WindEurope