

PRESS RELEASE

RGI and OCEaN Champion Nature-Friendly Offshore Wind and Grids at WindEurope 2025

By leading conversations at the largest annual event for European wind industry, the Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI) and the Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature (OCEaN) put environmental protection and biodiversity enhancement at the heart of the energy transition at sea.

COPENHAGEN, 10 APRIL 2025 – At the WindEurope 2025 Annual Event, the [Renewables Grid Initiative \(RGI\)](#) and the [Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature \(OCEaN\)](#) are making clear that nature protection, enhancement, and restoration must be included in any discussion on European offshore wind and grid expansion.

With a packed agenda full of presentations, events and panels, RGI and OCEaN are bringing crucial issues like strategic planning and environmental and social challenges to the forefront of the event, while also showcasing innovative practices in nature-friendly offshore wind and grids.

On Tuesday, day one of WindEurope 2025, RGI and OCEaN have already facilitated several presentations at OCEaN Member stands across the venue in Copenhagen. At the RWE, Vattenfall, and Elia Group stands, presenters from industry, civil society, and academia dove into topics such as environmental monitoring, reducing climate and environmental impacts, and cross-sector collaborations for nature-friendly offshore infrastructure. These well-attended presentations at central locations within the conference demonstrated to the European wind industry that a Nature- and People-Positive energy transition is an attainable reality.

On Wednesday, RGI and OCEaN held a policy-oriented, interactive side event for high-level participants of WindEurope 2025. At '[Beyond Turbines: Powering the Future and Boosting Marine Nature](#)', participants representing EU Member States, regional cooperations, wind developers, grid operators, and environmental and climate civil society came together to explore how European policies, strategic cross-border planning of space at sea, and the design of offshore wind auctions can support the expansion of offshore wind while safeguarding marine biodiversity.

The 'Beyond Turbines' side event kicked off with a panel featuring guest speakers from the European Commission, Greater North Sea Basin Initiative, Elia Group, and BirdLife Europe and Central Asia. These speakers discussed the added value of strategic planning that moves beyond a project-by-project scope, and the opportunities for implementing long-term, holistic planning processes. This discussion was followed by panel with representatives from the Belgian parliament, RGI, Vattenfall, and the International Finance Corporation which addressed environmental and social requirements for offshore wind and grid planning. Finally, OCEaN Members presented three projects (BioReef, eco-crossings, and fish hotels) which showcase how proper planning and integration of nature in infrastructure deployment can have a positive impact on the marine environment.

On Thursday, the final day of the conference, RGI and OCEaN joined an early morning bird watching tour organised by BirdLife Europe and Central Asia. European Commissioner for Energy Dan Jørgensen joined the tour and spoke with Antonella Battaglini, CEO of RGI, about the importance of aligning climate and biodiversity actions across Europe. The packed conference agenda also included multiple speaking and moderation engagements for Antonella and Cristina Simioli, Director – Offshore Energy and Nature at RGI, at several sessions diving into topics such as financing tools and the coexistence of offshore energy and nature.

Voices from OCEaN Activities at WindEurope 2025

Tinne Van der Straeten, Member of the Chamber of Representatives of Belgium

"I was very honoured to be invited to the 'Beyond Turbines' side event and be part of the panel because I absolutely believe that we don't put enough effort in putting nature and people at the centre of the energy transition, particularly in investments. In Belgium, we built our energy infrastructure in a nature-inclusive way and created a way for citizens to participate in offshore wind. This is a good example, but we can do better, in Belgium and across Europe. Brining different perspectives together at events like 'Beyond Turbines' will allow for interests to align so that we can create a better planet for everyone."

Antonella Battaglini, CEO of RGI

"Offshore wind, and a sufficient and interconnected grid delivering power to consumers and industries, is pivotal for European energy security and competitive economic development. Wind, solar, electricity grids and flexibility assets, are also essential for the decarbonisation and electrification of European economies. While we accelerate the deployment of renewable energy infrastructure we must also prioritise biodiversity enhancement and community-centred planning to achieve Nature- and People-People goals. We are all called to support this essential transition, and RGI is committed to driving this progress through its initiatives, OCEaN and GINGR."

Giles Dickson, CEO of WindEurope:

"It's great to have so many environment and biodiversity organisations at WindEurope 2025. Wind energy is good for nature. But the wind industry needs to work proactively with NGOs to make sure the benefits are felt and any adverse impacts are mitigated. The Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature (OCEaN) between the wind industry and NGOs is a perfect forum to identify and disseminate these best practices."

Ariel Brunner, Director of BirdLife Europe:

"The urgently-needed energy transition can and must go hand inhand with restoration of nature. We need planning based on good science, deployment of smart mitigation technologies, and strategic investments in restoration alongside the investment in energy infrastructures."

More Info About RGI, OCEaN, & WindEurope

Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI)

RGI is a unique collaboration of NGOs and TSOs from across Europe engaging in an 'energy transition ecosystem-of-actors'. We promote sustainable grid development to enable renewables' growth to achieve decarbonisation in line with the Paris Agreement. Visit our [website](#).

Offshore Coalition for Energy & Nature (OCEaN)

OCEaN brings together NGOs, TSOs and wind industry organisations from across Europe to work towards a sustainable deployment of offshore energy and grid infrastructure, while ensuring alignment with nature protection and healthy marine ecosystems. Visit our [website](#).

WindEurope

WindEurope is the voice of the wind industry, actively promoting wind energy across Europe. We have over 600 members from across the whole value chain of wind energy: wind turbine manufacturers, component suppliers, power utilities and wind developers, financial institutions, research institutes and national wind energy associations. Visit our [website](#).

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