In 2009, Department of the Interior announced final regulations for the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Renewable Energy Program, which was authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct).

These regulations provide a framework for issuing leases, easements, and rights-of-way for OCS activities that support production and transmission of energy from sources other than oil and natural gas.

DOI’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is responsible for overseeing offshore renewable energy development in Federal waters. Since the regulations were enacted, BOEM has worked diligently to oversee responsible renewable energy development.

**Commercial Leasing**

A commercial lease gives the lessee the exclusive right to seek BOEM approval for the development of a leasehold. It allows a lessee to conduct survey activities for site characterization but does not grant the right to construct any facilities.

**Office of Renewable Energy Programs Statistics**

- 8 competitive lease sales
- Over $473 million in bids
- Over 1.7 million acres
- 15 active offshore wind leases
  - with over 21 GW total capacity
For more information on what is happening in each of our coastal states, please visit

www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-State-Activities

BOEM is also in the planning stages for areas offshore New York, South Carolina, California, and Hawaii.

In addition to the leases above, BOEM received the following unsolicited research lease applications:

BOEM received two research lease requests from the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy. In response to both requests, BOEM determined there was no competitive interest. One of the research leases associated with the proposed Virginia Offshore Wind Technology Advancement Project was executed in March 2015.

A research lease request for a wave energy test site in Federal waters offshore Oregon was submitted to BOEM by Oregon State University. BOEM determined there was no competitive interest and continues to process the research lease request.