BACKGROUNDER

Since its inception in 2007, the Oregon Wave Energy Trust (OWET) has helped establish Oregon's leadership as an innovator for the ocean energy industry. Today, Oregon is the national leader in ocean energy, recognized for both its proactive support for the industry, as well as its resource potential and supply chain. With programs that have emphasized streamlining conditions to getting projects in the water, OWET has created a forum for Oregon to act as an incubator for creative policies and initiatives, new technologies, and ultimately, commercial projects.

In this biennium, OWET continues its efforts that emphasize ocean energy innovation and long-term job creation. Partnering with the Legislature and the Oregon Innovation Council, OWET's multi-focused approach enables the state to take maximum economic advantage of this evolving and promising industry – from start-up technologies developing intellectual property to putting commercially viable devices in the water.

OWET also recognizes that with this opportunity comes responsibility to protect and promote the things that Oregonians value: the beautiful and powerful Oregon coast, the social fabrics of the coastal communities and the vision of a cleaner, more independent energy future.

Accomplishments

To date, OWET's investments have leveraged nearly \$30 million of additional public and private investment into Oregon. We have funded over 80 projects with an investment of \$8,000,000 that have engaged stakeholders, answered important questions about the human, economic and environmental impacts of the ocean energy industry in Oregon, streamlined the permitting process and, most importantly, helped put steel in the water. Companies like Oregon-based M3 Wave Energy, LLC, Northwest Energy Innovations and Columbia Power Technologies continue to lead the industry. As these local companies develop their technologies, Oregon's supply chain also continues to grow around them, positioning Oregon's businesses for growth locally, regionally, and internationally.

Territorial Sea Plan

The Territorial Sea Plan (TSP) is a great step forward for Oregon. It strikes the correct balance between promoting the nascent ocean renewable energy industry and protecting the ocean and its users. Additionally, it provides a clear regulatory pathway for developers, and provides adequate space to support multiple technologies in areas specifically intended for wave energy development. Oregon is the only state to adopt a comprehensive plan for ocean energy, and the TSP ensures that Oregon will continue to lead the nation in advancing this new form of clean, reliable power and support the family wage jobs the industry will create.

Renewable Energy Facility Site Suitability Areas

- Clatsop County Camp Rilea
- Coos County Lakeside
- Tillamook County Pacific City/Nestucca

Partnership with the Northwest National Marine Renewable Energy Center (NNMREC)

In-water ocean-energy testing centers are proven to accelerate commercialization and job creation by facilitating device testing, attracting manufacturing and other supply-chain jobs, and driving port facility improvements, among other benefits. Oregon is fortunate to the have the flagship nationally funded research center, NNMREC, at Oregon State University. OWET and NNMREC are leveraging the state's natural advantages and industrial capability to develop the Pacific Marine Energy Center (PMEC). PMEC will encompass a range of test facilities available to the marine energy industry. PMEC South Energy Test Site (SETS) will serve as a utility scale wave energy test facility expected to be available for device testing in 2017/18. PMEC North Energy Test Site (NETS) accommodates device testing when no grid connection is required.

Camp Rilea

In addition to the deep water testing capabilities of PMEC NETS and SETS, Oregon also benefits from the shallow water capabilities located off of Camp Rilea, in Clatsop County. Over the past two years, OWET, NNMREC, and the Oregon Military Department (OMD) have helped establish Camp Rilea as an optimal shallow water deployment site. Oregon's own M3 Wave Energy, LLC deployed there in 2014 with support from OWET. Two other companies are planning to deploy their technologies at Camp Rilea over the next two years. The OMD has been selected for the U.S. Army netenergy neutral program, and wave energy could provide a strategic, locally generated power source that will help power Camp Rilea, while continuing to help move the U.S. Department of Defense toward tactical energy security.

Manufacturing Hub

One of the benefits of Oregon's industry leadership is the early development of Oregon's supply chain and manufacturing capability. Companies like Oregon Iron Works and Vigor Industries are building devices for deployment in Oregon as well as other locations, such as Hawaii. Ongoing research and development in Oregon improves our understanding of the technology, provides time for regulators and the public to grow accustomed to this new technology, and helps our manufacturing and supply chain industries to develop projects in Oregon and around the world. OWET's vision is to parlay this early R&D work into creating a manufacturing, deployment, and operations hub in Oregon that will grow and attract investment back to our state from around the world.