

Environment & Energy

California Energy Commission OKs Larger Offshore Wind Targets

By Zach Bright

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The California Energy Commission unanimously voted on Wednesday to sizeably heighten the state's offshore wind development goals.

Commissioners adopted a plan to build 2 to 5 gigawatts by 2030 and at least 25 gigawatts of offshore wind energy by 2045, up from previous goals of 3 gigawatts by 2030 and 10 to 15 gigawatts by 2045. It exceeds Gov. Gavin Newsom's (D) recent call for 20 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2045.

"We're going to enter a period which I would call 'The Great Implementation,' where we're not actually debating what the goal is or whether to do offshore wind," Commission Chair David Hochschild said.

"We're just trying to do it, and it's really, really complicated."

1. A federal lease auction follows this fall, and trade groups expressed in public comment praise for the report and the desire to create a modern transmission strategy and ensure equitable workforce development. "We cannot continue to have equity coming at the end," Commission Vice Chair Siva Gunda said after comments concluded.
2. The Inflation Reduction Act, which the US Senate passed Aug. 7, would extend 10 years of tax credits that would support the development, Hochschild noted.
3. The Biden administration's wants the US to develop at least 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030.
4. The commission is mandated to set statewide offshore wind gigawatt targets as part of a wind energy framework passed last year.

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