



Statement of Intent

Introduction

The Crown Estate and North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA) are actively working together to realise the tremendous energy and carbon storage potential of the North Sea, including maximising the co-existence potential of different technologies, which we believe is possible and can lead to significant benefits, as well as essential for meeting UK net zero targets. The purpose of this Statement of Intent is to confirm our joint aspirations in enabling sustainable marine development and a coordinated approach to managing the seabed and outline the ways in which the two organisations will work together to deliver this.

The Crown Estate manages the seabed and renewable energy rights within the economic zone in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and provides rights to natural resources (excluding fossil fuels), electricity generation, transport and storage of natural gas and carbon dioxide on the UK Continental Shelf. The Crown Estate seeks *'to create lasting and shared prosperity for the nation'*, which means taking an active role in how the seabed is used and how it considers economic, social, and environmental value through the rights and activities for which it is responsible.

The NSTA licenses, regulates and influences the UK oil and gas, offshore hydrogen and carbon storage industries. The NSTA supports UK energy security, drives emissions reductions, and helps accelerate the transition to net zero and realise the potential of the North Sea as an integrated energy basin.

The Crown Estate and the NSTA have distinct but complimentary roles in relation to many aspects of offshore energy and the utilisation and management of the seabed and its resources, and seek to work together where relevant while recognising our individual remits.

This Statement of Intent is not legally binding, nor does it override the statutory duties and powers of either The Crown Estate or the NSTA, or the law.

Common Priorities

Climate change and decarbonisation:

- helping to meet the UK Government's net zero and decarbonisation targets, including net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050

Coordinated and sustainable marine development:

- working together towards coordinated leasing and licensing of carbon storage, and collaborating to help make the UK a world-leading destination for CCUS project investment and the supply chain
- maximising seabed potential, including by identifying opportunities for co-location and co-existence through our respective activities and collaborative actions, including the Offshore Wind and CCUS Co-location Forum
- addressing relevant key challenges facing marine industries and the environment

Data and evidence:

- making the best use of available data and evidence, including mutually sharing data in line with confidentiality requirements to support coordination of respective activities
- working together, and with other partners, to improve the evidence base, identifying gaps and commissioning studies where relevant to support robust, scientifically sound, evidence-based decision making in our respective organisations

Digital tools and platforms:

- identifying opportunities to accelerate the digital maturity of the offshore energy sector e.g. through the Offshore Energy Digital Strategy Group
- ensuring data is efficiently delivered and hosted on relevant platforms (Marine Data Exchange, National Data Repository, etc.) with minimal duplication and consistent standards where appropriate to promote data sharing across offshore industries

Common Challenges

- Addressing co-location challenges between key sectors, including assessing technical viability, in an increasingly busy sea space
- Supporting UK CCUS developments and helping to meet carbon storage targets, while considering other energy sectors, marine industries, sea users and the natural environment
- Clarifying the respective roles of The Crown Estate and the NSTA to ensure understanding and alignment
- Accelerating data and digital maturity, maintaining consistent data quality and addressing evidence gaps to ensure lesson learnt inform future work

Shared Values

Collaborative:

- work collaboratively on strategic solutions to common challenges, recognising and understanding each other's respective priorities, ambitions and drivers

Evidence-based:

- engage in effective and regular cross-organisation engagement and sharing of data and evidence as appropriate

Transparent:

- work towards a “no surprises” approach to sharing of information between our organisations, including commitment towards sharing communications where appropriate

Non-exclusive:

- seek to support one another to work effectively with other partners with shared objectives