



Marylanders for Offshore Wind Campaign Talking Points: The “Four R’s” of Offshore Wind Power

A Reliable Message

To ensure the public and our decision makers learn the facts about the benefits of offshore wind power, we’ve got to keep to a “reliable” message. That’s what the “Four R’s” of offshore wind energy are all about. Memorize the Four R talking points and use one or more of them whenever you are talking to the public, the press, writing a letter to the editor, or lobbying your legislators about offshore wind energy.

Reliable Jobs

Offshore wind power creates jobs. We could create over 15,000 career-length jobs in Maryland over the next 20 years by investing in wind. By taking the lead now, Maryland will help ensure that manufacturing, construction, and operations jobs will stay in Maryland.

Reliable Price

Offshore wind power stabilizes electricity prices. The costs of dirty-energy sources (oil, coal, gas) have fluctuated wildly in recent years. Electricity bills have risen *75 percent* in Maryland since 2002 as a result. But wind prices are steady. Utilities enter into long-term price contracts with wind developers (15-25 years), made possible because once construction of a wind farm is complete, the “fuel” – wind – is free.

Reliable Supply

Offshore wind power creates energy independence. European nations have harnessed offshore wind since 1991 and get 20% of their power from wind. Maryland’s viable wind potential is equivalent to 2/3 of Maryland’s total energy load. We can soon power our homes and our cars with clean electricity from *Maryland’s* ocean shores instead of using oil from the Middle East, or natural gas extracted with harmful methods that poison people’s water supplies.

Reliable Climate

Offshore wind power displaces global warming pollution and therefore protects human health. By reducing the need for dirty energy that’s contributing to global warming and causing premature deaths, offshore wind power will save lives and coastal habitat. Sea-level rise alone could devastate Maryland’s shorelines, and extreme weather events – heat waves, flooding, droughts -- are already hurting farmers and businesses. The solution is to transition away from heat-trapping fossil fuels and onto clean energy like wind power.