

State News for NSPE Members

Rhode Island Energy to Issue Request for Proposals for Offshore Wind

Rhode Island Energy is issuing a request for proposals (RFP) to solicit approximately 1200 megawatts of new offshore wind, [according to Daily Energy Insider](#).

“Offshore wind is critical in advancing Rhode Island’s 100% renewable energy standard and Act on Climate objectives,” Governor Dan McKee said. “It’s more important than ever that we continue to push for new opportunities to expand offshore wind generation in Rhode Island while ensuring it is affordable for future generations.”

The new RFP will be released to coincide with offshore wind RFP procurement efforts in Massachusetts and Connecticut. This will drive a unique offshore wind industry opportunity and economies of scale across southern New England.

“Rhode Island has big clean energy aspirations and Rhode Island Energy is committed to helping achieve them,” Dave Bonenberger, president of Rhode Island Energy, said. “This new procurement can help advance the state’s clean energy goals and support achievement of Rhode Island’s emissions-reduction targets. We look forward to seeing how offshore wind developers can balance those goals with affordability and wider economic benefits for the state.”

The RFP is expected to be issued in October, with proposals due in early 2024. A potential selection is anticipated in summer 2024. [Read more](#).

Governor Endorses State Climate Panel’s \$2.6 Million Spending Plan

Governor Dan McKee recently endorsed action by the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) to approve a spending plan allocating \$2.6 million across state partners to support Rhode Island’s implementation of the Act on

Climate law.

The EC4 is the panel statutorily charged with assessing state efforts to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, catalyzing government agencies to do their part in cutting GHGs, and strengthening the resilience of Rhode Island communities to prepare for the effects of climate change. The EC4 received its first-ever direct funding in the state budget approved by the Rhode Island General Assembly and signed into law by Governor McKee in June.

“The funding allocated in this first-ever EC4 budget is a balanced distribution of funds to agencies with a good split between resilience and reducing carbon emissions, as well as a balance between direct program support, capacity building, and engagement,” said Terry Gray, the director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. “We look forward to working collaboratively across all the agencies and offices on the EC4 to implement these key investments.” [Read more.](#)

RI University Partners with National Guard on STEM Event

[Rhode Island University reports](#) that a recent event at Quonset Air National Guard Base in North Kingstown showcased a partnership between the Rhode Island National Guard and URI’s College of Engineering to introduce young people to opportunities in the STEM fields.

It attracted 500 high school students and 100 college students from across the state. Seventy College of Engineering faculty, staff and students presented 16 engaging hands-on exhibits, joining additional exhibitors such as NASA, Space Force, and the Civil Air Patrol.

“The possibilities for students to make a positive impact on society through a career in STEM were on full display,” says College of Engineering Dean Anthony Marchese, “from building submarines and aircraft that protect our national security, to using autonomous vehicles that can disable explosives or explore the ocean depths.”

The program drew 12 local colleges and universities in total, with the largest presence from URI. The day ended with presentations of the Rhode Island National Guard Rhody Innovator Awards, recognizing students who have excelled in STEM areas in the classroom. [Read more.](#)

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

Looking Toward a Promising Future



As I continue on my professional journey as the NSPE president, I often reflect on what our organization has done since its founding in 1934 and what NSPE needs to do going forward. The next stage of NSPE's future begins with our vision to ensure that the public lives in a world where engineering decisions are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. This will require that a unified engineering community step up to protect licensure laws across the nation and maintain high standards for professional practice. It will require that we embrace innovation and emerging technologies. This future will be bolstered by a new generation of engineers that we must encourage to understand that they can truly make a difference in the world. I look forward to playing my part and supporting others in these efforts.

Licensure and Emerging Technologies

Protection of the public health, safety, and welfare is at our core as professional engineers. Licensure is key to ensuring consistent standards of practice and professional competencies. We must make sure that these standards and competencies remain relevant to how we do things today, while looking toward the future.

We must continually question ourselves and the regulations that are in place. Are state licensing laws adequately regulating the profession of engineering without precluding otherwise qualified individuals from practicing? Is our current licensure model adequately serving its purpose? Are engineering licensure exemptions creating gaps where the public could be harmed? The answers to these questions can help drive us to better ways of safeguarding the public.

I believe that most individuals that become engineers do so because they are good at making things better. They are not tied to the world they are in today and are always pursuing excellence and improvement. I believe that by pooling our experiences as engineers, we can bring the best and brightest together to tackle any challenge that we may face as we seek to evolve. This evolution will involve the development and use of emerging technologies to spur innovative solutions.

NSPE is supporting members by providing professional development that showcases the use of these technologies in a manner that is ethical and will benefit the public. [Read more](#).

NSPECon24 – Call for Presentation Proposals

Prepare to share your expertise during NSPECon24 in Raleigh, North Carolina, August 7-9, 2024. [Review the topics](#) NSPE seeks in the areas of career development, leadership, and issues and trends, and think about how you can contribute. The submission site will open on November 1 and the proposal deadline is **January 10, 2024**.

The [NSPECon23 program](#) is still available online and may give potential presenters some ideas about the caliber of sessions needed for next year.

Volunteers are the Heart of NSPE: Get Involved and Share Your Voice



Volunteers are essential to advancing NSPE's vision to ensure a world where the public can be confident that engineering decisions affecting their lives are made by qualified and ethically accountable professionals. Volunteering is also a great opportunity for members to grow their professional network and connect with other leaders in the field.

There are [several ways to get involved](#)...here a few opportunities to consider

Serve as a mentor for an engineering student. If interested, send an email to education@nspe.org.

NSPE online community champion. Virtual opportunity to promote community and sharing of ideas through NSPE's online channels. If interested, send an email to membership@nspe.org.

Write an article for *PE* magazine. Share your expertise and insights on

professional practice, education, ethics, leadership, licensure, public policy, DEI, emerging technologies, and sustainability and resilience by serving as a guest writer for *PE* magazine. If interested, email pemagazine@nspe.org for submission guidelines.

Collaborate with staff to draft/supply input on federal legislation, regulations or public comments to federal Congressional staff and committees (Identify your area(s) of vocational expertise.) If interested, send an email to governmentrelations@nspe.org.

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