

# Eureka Times-Standard

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## Cal Poly Humboldt joins offshore wind consortium

The Samoa peninsula will see the building of a marine terminal to aid in the development of offshore wind.  
(Oren Nardi for Humboldt Waterkeeper)



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Amid plans to turn 20 miles off the coast of Eureka into a major center for producing offshore wind power, and a marine terminal set to be constructed in Humboldt Bay, Cal Poly Humboldt **announced Tuesday** a university center has joined a science consortium to study the subject along with two other research centers on the West Coast.

The consortium aims to advance research and innovation, university-level workforce education and professional development, and community and Tribal engagement and knowledge exchange, according to a news release from the University.

The Pacific Offshore Wind Consortium (POWC) includes the Schatz Energy Research Center at Cal Poly Humboldt, which focuses on clean energy, the Pacific Marine Energy Center at Oregon State University, and the Center for Coastal Marine Sciences at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

“Together, these universities are housed in and support the coastal communities in California and Oregon which are anticipated to host floating offshore wind development. The POWC (pronounced pow-sea) will enable universities, host communities, and Tribal nations to share resources, co-develop best practices, and design comprehensive research programs that reflect the dynamic nature of the ocean environment and the diversity of community perspectives,” the release said.

The Schatz Energy Research Center has been focused on offshore wind production in recent years. Reports from the center include transmission lines, a major barrier to sending power off to the rest of the state, plus topics ranging from economic benefits and wind studies.

“We are coming together as a consortium because we know we need to take bold action to address climate change, and offshore wind has potential to play an important role. We also know that the transition to clean energy needs to happen in a way that is inclusive, equitable, and environmentally responsible,” said Arne Jacobson, Director of the Schatz Center in a prepared statement.

Included in the founding POWC Advisory Committee, which the release said met for the first time recently, are a number of local representatives, including Cal Poly Humboldt staff, representatives from RWE and Vineyard Offshore, companies who won the two Northern California lease sites, state agencies, oceanographic researchers and representatives from the Blue Lake Rancheria, the Hoopa Valley Tribe and the Yurok Tribe.

“The Blue Lake Rancheria recognizes the urgency of the climate crisis and intends to leverage their knowledge and resources to continue to advance clean energy innovations,” said Heidi Moore-Guynup, Director of Tribal and Government Affairs at the Blue Lake Rancheria (BLR) in a prepared statement in the release. “At the same time, BLR understands the imperative need to coordinate scientific inquiry and research and believes that Traditional Ecological Knowledge must be part of such inquiry. BLR is honored to serve on the POWC advisory committee and looks forward to uplifting the findings of this consortium.”

A group of local tribal governments drafted opposition statements to offshore wind development earlier this year; many of the resolutions cited a lack of tribal engagement in the process. The Yurok Tribal Council, the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, the Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation and The Trinidad Rancheria.

The production of offshore wind locally is likely decades out. State and federal agencies are relying on the enterprise to meet clean energy goals.