

Ørsted aims for net-positive biodiversity impact from new projects commissioned from 2030

As a global sustainability leader with a strong commitment to protect biodiversity, Ørsted sets the ambition to deliver a net-positive biodiversity impact from all new renewable energy projects it commissions from 2030 at the latest. The ambition is part of the company's new strategy.

The accelerated global build-out of renewable energy which is needed to decarbonise global energy systems and stop global warming at 1.5°C must take place in balance with nature. Therefore, Ørsted sets the ambition to deliver a net-positive biodiversity impact from all new renewable energy projects that are commissioned from 2030 at the latest. A net-positive impact occurs when a project has an overall positive biodiversity impact due to active measures taken to offset potential biodiversity losses.

"Over the coming decades, the deployment of renewable energy must accelerate significantly to speed up the transformation of the world's energy systems to renewable energy and halt global warming. The build-out of green energy must go hand-in-hand with protection of natural habitats and wildlife, including in our oceans," says Mads Nipper, CEO of Ørsted. He continues: "That's why we've decided to build in the criterion that all new projects that we start to develop from now on must have a net-positive biodiversity impact. This means all renewable energy projects commissioned by Ørsted will have a net-positive impact on biodiversity by 2030 at the latest. By building a net-positive contribution to biodiversity into our future projects, we want to do good for the planet and strengthen our competitive advantage as one of the world's largest renewable energy developers."

When developing new projects, Ørsted will systematically implement initiatives that ensure an overall net-positive contribution to natural ecosystems, habitats, and species in and around the company's new renewable energy projects in offshore wind, onshore wind, solar PV and energy storage, and renewable hydrogen. Ørsted will also seek to identify initiatives that can have a positive impact on biodiversity before 2030.

New challenges to be solved

Today, Ørsted works to avoid, mitigate, and address the potential biodiversity impact of its projects, with one of the renewable energy industry's most experienced in-house teams of environment specialists. Ørsted has delivered initiatives such as [artificial reefs](#) to support Atlantic

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cod at Borssele 1 & 2 in the Netherlands; monitoring of [crustacean habitats](#) at Westermost Rough in the UK; and a programme to [protect and conserve](#) the North Atlantic right whale. Still, there will be new challenges to solve when delivering on the new ambition.

Mads Nipper says: "With our ambition for a net-positive impact, we want to help create a world that runs entirely on green energy and set reinforced standards for how this is done in the most sustainable way. Integrating a net-positive biodiversity impact raises the bar, and we don't have all the answers yet to how to realise the ambition."

He continues: "I'm convinced that, by continuing to put sustainability at the heart of our business with our net-positive ambition, we'll unleash innovation to further catalyse green action in the energy industry and drive progress towards a low-carbon economy in balance with nature and society."

One of the challenges to be solved is the lack of industry-wide standardised approaches to measure biodiversity impact. Especially working in offshore environments, which are more dynamic and variable due to the forces of oceans, it is more complex to establish a baseline and measure the change.

Ørsted has therefore joined the [Science Based Targets Network](#) Corporate Engagement Program to help develop nature science-based targets and advance long-term development of tools and guidance to measure its impact and dependencies on biodiversity, land, water, and oceans.

Track record of meeting ambitious sustainability goals

According to scientists, reducing carbon emissions is a powerful way to combat climate change and its impact on species and ecosystems. As one of the world's largest renewable energy companies and with carbon-reduction targets [aligned](#) with the 1.5°C pathway, Ørsted aims to address both the climate and biodiversity crisis through a sustainable build-out of green energy at scale.

Ørsted is on track to be [carbon-neutral](#) in energy generation and operations by 2025 and targets a [carbon-neutral supply chain](#) in 2040. The company has transformed its business from fossil fuels to renewable energy and is [ranked](#) the world's most sustainable energy company.

Fact box: Net-positive biodiversity impact

- Biodiversity is defined as the variety of life in all forms, but is often simplified to diversity within and between species and of ecosystems.

- Within renewable energy development, biodiversity impact can be understood as impact on the natural environment, which includes both habitats and species, including terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes.
- A net-positive impact occurs when the totality of the biodiversity impact, including through measures taken to offset the residual impact of a development project, exceeds the loss, thereby creating an overall benefit.

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About Ørsted

The Ørsted vision is a world that runs entirely on green energy. Ørsted develops, constructs, and operates offshore and onshore wind farms, solar farms, energy storage facilities, and bioenergy plants, and provides energy products to its customers. Ørsted ranks as the world's most sustainable energy company in Corporate Knights' 2021 index of the Global 100 most sustainable corporations in the world and is recognised on the CDP Climate Change A List as a global leader on climate action.

Headquartered in Denmark, Ørsted employs 6,311 people. Ørsted's shares are listed on Nasdaq Copenhagen (Orsted). In 2020, the group's revenue was DKK 52.6 billion (EUR 7.1 billion). Visit orsted.com or follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter.