





A unique Island offer

The Isle of Wight, sitting at the centre of the South Coast's marine economy, is perfectly positioned to be a thriving hub of activity for the renewable energy sector. We start from strength and we offer experience and resources. Over the past decade, hundreds of jobs have been created and millions of pounds invested in the Isle of Wight's renewable energy sector.

We are now seeking to build on that. We are looking to expand our:

- offshore wind
- tidal capabilities
- bio-mass
- photovoltaic solar power sectors

We welcome investment enquiries from companies who expect to flourish and who want to cluster alongside others in the renewable energy sector and in related activities, to their mutual advantage.

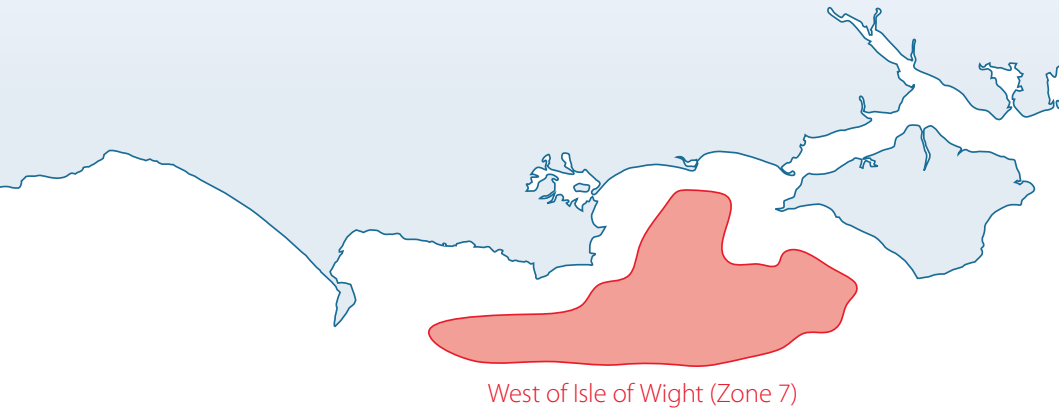


What's really special is that our Eco Island vision is grounded in the desire to combine jobs and prosperity with the highest levels of ecological stewardship. Locating on the Isle of Wight will help to promote the values of your business and the wellbeing of your employees and their families. Why? Because the Isle of Wight offers outstanding natural beauty, an abundance of exciting recreational activities, a high quality of life and strong social cohesion, alongside complete commitment to business growth. We are committed to protecting and enhancing all of our natural assets, while giving companies the space and the freedom to grow and prosper.

So for renewable energy companies and those in related sectors, who need to be centrally located but who aspire to something sustainable and special, the Isle of Wight is the ideal investment location.



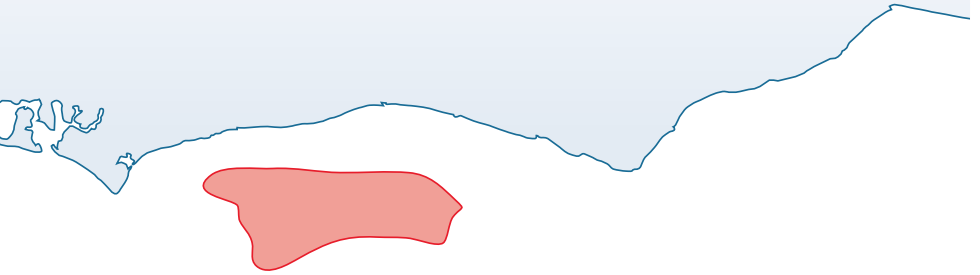
A strategic



The Isle of Wight is perfectly situated to support the development of the off-shore renewable energy sector. Our strategic geographical location between Zone 6 to the East and Zone 7 to the West makes us an ideal location from which to address both opportunities.

Uniquely among Britain's offshore islands we offer excellent transport links. London is just two hours away by high speed ferry and train. We have excellent road and rail connections. Southampton Airport, just 15 miles away, offers direct flights to nearly 50 destinations. These include Aberdeen, Amsterdam, Durham, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Inverness, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle and Paris. Over 300 ferry crossings per day and the opportunity to run your own boat services mean that you are always within easy reach of national and international clients, but located on an island with all that implies: quality of life, quality of the natural environment, extraordinary recreational opportunities, shared cultural and ecological values.

location



Hastings (Zone 6)



A successful economy



The Isle of Wight economy has grown significantly in the last ten years with employment growth in excess of the UK and South East averages. Our success has been based on our key sectors: aerospace and defence, marine and advanced engineering, and of course renewable energy. All of these are supported in their contribution to the economy by tourism, retailing, agriculture and horticulture, health and education.






Key Island businesses include BAE Systems, GKN Aerospace, Vestas, Gurit and South Boats. Their commitment to the Island reflects:

- a skilled, loyal and experienced Island workforce, plus the ability to attract specialist workers from the neighbouring high-technology south Hampshire micro-economy, and from further afield;
- an impressive record of innovation and technological development, backed by proximity to universities, notably Southampton – one of the UK's top 15 research universities with its recently launched National Centre for Marine Sciences;
- available land and premises, ranging from managed office space to green field sites and from R&D facilities to logistics opportunities;
- lower overheads – more affordable labour costs, business rates, and property costs compared to much of the South East;
- a marine transport infrastructure, allowing easy transport on and off the Island of both bulk and high value-added items.



An aerial view of a large offshore wind turbine being installed by a blue and white ship on the sea. The turbine's tower is yellow and white, and its three blades are white. The ship has 'MSEA' written on its side. The background is a vast expanse of dark blue water.

An established renewable energy sector


The Island already has an emerging expertise in renewable energy technology and associated activities. Blade manufacturer Vestas is currently investing in a major research and development centre for offshore wind technology. Gurit is a worldwide leader in composite technology and a tier 1 supplier to the wind industry. Its UK operation is based on the Isle of Wight. South Boats is an Island-based company specialising in the production of boats to maintain off-shore turbines. Other Island-based companies are involved in or examining bio-mass opportunities and tidal technologies. Two sites have been identified for testing and developing tidal energy devices near Fort Victoria and St Catherine's Point.



Island companies also benefit from the capabilities of neighbouring Solent businesses, for example in the development of next generation turbines, but also in the provision of port facilities, engineering services, foundations, cabling, offshore electrics, maintenance, shipping and other services. Reflecting that, we are working with our sub-regional partners to bid for Low Carbon Economic Area status. The aim is to pull together national, sub-national and local agencies to focus on accelerating the growth of low carbon industries, supply chains and the necessary skills base.



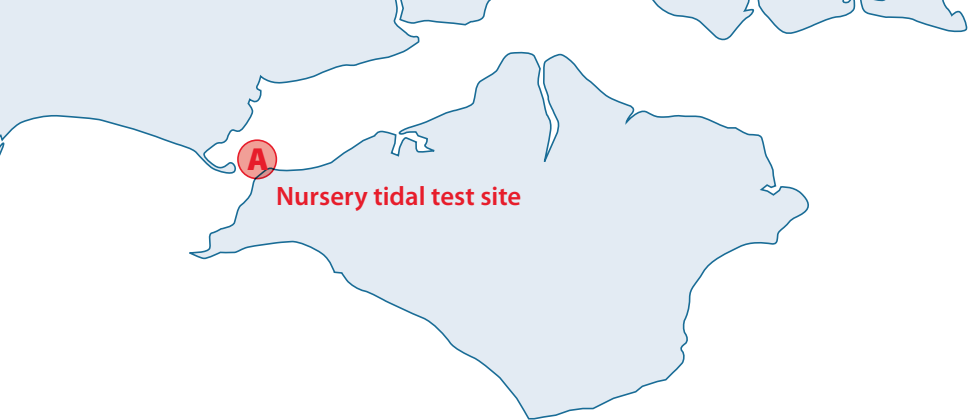
Marine energy



A collaborative initiative, the **Solent Ocean Energy Centre** (SOEC), has been formed to advance the UK marine renewables sector by supporting, de-risking and accelerating the technological advancement and commercial development of Marine Current Energy Converters (MCECs).

SOEC is a marine energy park for developers of first, second and third generation MCECs in and around the Isle of Wight coast and Solent region. It will comprise:

- A **commercial site** of at least 100MW capacity. Current estimates suggest that the potential capacity is in the region of 250MW. Two key studies are underway to confirm the technical and practical resource as well as grid capacity and strengthening requirements.
- A **test and support centre**, including:
 - a 1MW **nursery tidal test site**, for pre-prototype sea trials in the Solent, adjacent to Fort Victoria on the Isle of Wight. This will support scaled prototypes;
 - a 10MW **pre-commercial tidal test site**, for full-scale demonstrations / arrays in the English Channel, at St Catherine's Race off the south coast of the Island;
 - both grid connected in-water test sites will be supported by a **shore-side facility** for data, monitoring and control. SOEC will provide full test capacity for technologies and procedures, as well as a comprehensive instrumentation suite to provide MCEC developers with useful test data.
- An **onshore cluster** of associated hard and soft assets, including a first class offshore renewables supply chain, a well established maritime and offshore skills base, and a world leading support and development infrastructure. Specific to SOEC, to comprise of:



B Pre-commercial tidal test site

- a technology centre for RD&D and planning;
- a large assembly facility and port for MCEC deployment.

In addition to the rich combination of existing assets, the Solent region is an ideal location for a marine energy park due to its strong tidal flows, physically protected waters and easy access.

Designed for phased implementation, it is estimated that SOEC will be fully operational by the end of 2013.

Over its 25 year operational life, SOEC will produce UK economic benefits of more than £900 million and generate more than 3,700 UK jobs.

SOEC is supported by project partners and a steering group, consisting of QinetiQ, Gifford, BAE Systems, Ricardo, Halcrow, the University of Southampton, Marine South East and the Renewable Energy Association. The Isle of Wight Council are the government lead, and EnviroBusiness are the project managers.

The European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) is fully supportive of SOEC and ongoing discussions are being held with DECC, The Crown Estate, MCEC device and project developers, RenewableUK as well as other key organisations and existing test centres.

With the completion of detailed scoping, key studies and pre-planning stages, the Isle of Wight Council and EnviroBusiness would like to host strategic discussions with device and project developers regarding tenancy, both short and long term.



Helping businesses to invest and prosper

We will achieve nothing unless we actively assist businesses that share our vision to relocate or expand on the Isle of Wight. That is why the Isle of Wight Council, on behalf of the people of the Island and in collaboration with national and sub-national partners, manages an inward investment service tailored specifically to the needs of companies offering renewable energy and associated activities.





Services include:

- an integrated planning, property and development package;
- assistance with infrastructure and development projects;
- workforce recruitment and support in relocating key personnel;
- local and regional supply chain linkages;
- introductions to our regional partners;
- assistance with financial and business support;
- local public relations advice;
- economic, labour force and market intelligence;
- aftercare services.



Our Eco Island vision



Our commitment to building a renewable energy economy is part of a larger vision. We seek to stand out as a place where sustainability is central to all our future goals. That vision has grown from within the Island community, and it is our aspiration to attract businesses that share our values and will support us in our commitment to:

- protect and enhance our Island's natural beauty;
- have as low a carbon footprint as possible;
- produce as much energy from renewable sources as possible;
- support demand for local goods by local people.



Making contact

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