



Wadden Sea Forum
39th meeting
Half-day online, 18 March 2021



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The second part of the WSF-39 dealt with the topic of energy transition in the Wadden Sea Region. There is a range of several new developments in the Wadden Sea Region with regard to change from fossil fuel to cleaner and renewable energy carriers. In the past, a lot of offshore wind parks have been installed which contribute to this change and this will be done in the future. Furthermore, producing, transporting and using hydrogen as a clean energy carrier for industrial and transport sectors is under investigation and implementation. All these developments in the energy sector will have (spatial) implications for the coastal zone, especially for the World Heritage site Wadden Sea. In order to exchange up-to-date information on current and future activities, the WSF organised a first session on energy transition in the Wadden Sea Region.

In the first part of the session, WSF members presented their ongoing activities:

- a) The New Energy Coalition (Miralda van Schot) presented the activities conducted in the northern part of the Netherlands.
- b) The company Entec GmbH (Jochen Kaufholt) working for the WSF member Wintershall Dea presented the development of a hybrid engine for the support vessel propulsion to the platform Mittelplate in the Wadden Sea.
- c) The University of Oldenburg (Ulli Scheele) and New Energy Coalition (Ingrid Klinge) presented an overview on different hydrogen projects in the northern part of the Netherlands as well as the northwestern part of Lower Saxony.

- d) Member of staff from TenneT and Amprion (Simo Taptue and Felix Beierlein) informed about the current activities on connecting offshore wind parks to the main land.

And

- e) Florette Rijman, student from the University of Wageningen, presented first results of her study on the energy transition on Wadden Sea islands. She investigated the status and developments with regard to energy transition on the Wadden Sea islands of Texel (The Netherlands) and Mandø (Denmark).
- f) Zakaria Mohamed, student from the University of Groningen, informed about the aims and scope of his study on the role of Wadden Sea harbours in context of the topic of energy transition.

Following the presentations, the participants discussed the topic of energy transition and especially: What role could the WSF play in this context? Feedback from audience were:

- Initiate and facilitate discussions on this topic
- Bringing different companies together with a variety of stakeholder groups from the Wadden Sea Region
- Enable a strategic approach linked to different topics in order to start a discussion, e.g. on what is necessary until 2040 or 2050?
- The installation of RRT could be helpful to discuss on both levels on regional and trilateral about the requirements, needs and demands

Final Discussion:

Both days were characterised by a stimulating discussion on the future development of the WSF's work organisation and the development of a positioning of the members on the topic of energy transition. The exchange about ongoing processes, the provision of up-to-date information, the active involvement of the members and interested affiliates of the WSF as well as the positioning in the WSF should lead to an even stronger external presence and visibility of the WSF in the future. A first step was taken with these meetings. This momentum must now be maintained and the WSF's members must remain active. The Secretariat will actively support this process.