

Offshore Renewable Energy Tour of Aberdeen: Proposal

Overview

The offshore renewable energy sector in the UK is one of the most advanced and dynamic in the world, with a strong focus on innovation, collaboration, and development. The Aberdeen area, in particular, is a hub for offshore wind, especially floating offshore wind, which offers a huge potential for growth, innovation, and export opportunities.

The aim of this tour is to provide members of the Blue Cluster, a network of Flemish companies and knowledge institutions active in the blue economy, with an opportunity to learn from the best practices, technologies, and projects in the Aberdeen offshore renewable energy sector, and to establish contacts, customers, and partnerships with relevant stakeholders, such as developers, suppliers, innovation centres, and clusters.

The tour will take place from Monday October 7th to Wednesday the 9th, 2024, and will include a combination of site visits, meetings, networking events, and participation in the [Floating Offshore Wind](#) exhibition, the UK's leading event for floating offshore wind. The tour will be organised by the Blue Cluster, in collaboration with Flanders Investment & Trade, and local partners such as the [Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group](#), the Scottish Government, and the [Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult](#).

Programme

The following is a **tentative** programme of the tour, subject to availability, interest, and confirmation of the hosts and venues. The programme may be adjusted according to the preferences and feedback of the delegates. The programme offers different options for delegates, depending on their interests and availability, please let us know which 3 options would be of most interest to you and we will plan accordingly.

Date	Time	Activity
Monday, October 7th	Morning	Travel from Brussels to Aberdeen
Monday, October 7th	Afternoon	<i>Available</i>
Tuesday, October 8th	Morning	<i>Available</i>
Tuesday, October 8th	Afternoon	<i>Available</i>
Wednesday, October 9th	All day	Attend the Floating Offshore Wind exhibition

Monday, October 7th: Arrival and networking

- Delegates fly Brussels to Edinburgh in the morning, and take a 3 hour coach to Aberdeen.
- Transfer to the hotel and check-in.
- Lunch at the hotel or a nearby restaurant.
- Afternoon activity to be confirmed
- Dinner at a local restaurant.

Tuesday, October 8th: Site visits and meetings to be confirmed

Wednesday, October 9th: Floating Offshore Wind exhibition

Attend the Floating Offshore Wind exhibition, organised by RenewableUK and Scottish Renewables, at the P&J Live venue in Aberdeen. The exhibition is the UK's leading event for floating offshore wind, and will feature over 180 exhibitors, showcasing the latest technologies, products, and services for the sector.

At the exhibition, delegates will have the opportunity to network with the exhibitors and other attendees, and to attend the conference sessions, covering topics such as policy, finance, innovation, supply chain, and global markets.

Lunch at the exhibition venue or a nearby restaurant.

Dinner at a local restaurant.

Thursday, October 10th: Departure

Delegates check-out from the hotel and transfer to the airport by coach.

Delegates depart from Edinburgh by flight.

	Activity Options	✓/x
1	Board a boat from Aberdeen harbour and sail to the Kincardine Offshore Wind Farm , the world's largest floating offshore wind farm, located 15 km off the coast of Aberdeen. The wind farm consists of six turbines with a total capacity of 50 MW, and is expected to be fully operational by 2024. On the boat, delegates will receive a presentation and a Q&A session from the project developer, Kincardine Offshore Wind Limited, a consortium of Spanish and Portuguese companies. The presentation will cover the technical, financial, and	

	<p>environmental aspects of the project, as well as the challenges and opportunities of floating offshore wind.</p> <p>Delegates will also have a chance to see the wind farm from a close distance, and observe the floating platforms, the mooring systems, and the subsea cables.</p>	
2	<p>Visit Aberdeen harbour and visit the Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project, a £350 million development that will create a new state-of-the-art harbour facility at Nigg Bay, south of the existing harbour. The project will enhance the capacity and capability of the harbour, and support the growth of the offshore renewable energy sector, as well as other industries.</p>	
3	<p>Visit the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG), a membership organisation that supports the renewable energy sector in the Aberdeen area. AREG will host a speed networking event, where delegates will have the opportunity to meet and exchange with local companies and organisations involved in offshore renewable energy.</p>	
4	<p>Visit the Energy Transition Zone (ETZ), a planned development that will transform the south of Aberdeen into a low-carbon hub, supporting the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. The ETZ will include a range of facilities, such as an energy transition centre, a hydrogen hub, a clean energy park, and a net-zero innovation cluster.</p> <p>At the ETZ, delegates will receive a presentation and a Q&A session from the ETZ team, covering the vision, the objectives, the partners, and the opportunities of the development.</p>	
5	<p>Visit the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult, the UK's leading technology innovation and research centre for offshore renewable energy. The ORE Catapult has a test and demonstration facility in Aberdeen, where it supports the development and commercialisation of new technologies and solutions for the offshore wind, wave, and tidal sectors.</p> <p>At the ORE Catapult, delegates will receive a tour of the facility, and a presentation and a Q&A session from the ORE Catapult staff, covering the current and future projects, the services and support offered to the industry, and the innovation and collaboration opportunities.</p>	
6	<p>Visit two leading offshore wind suppliers with projects in the Aberdeen area: DEME Offshore and Jan De Nul.</p> <p>With each supplier, delegates will receive a presentation and a Q&A session from the company representatives, covering the company profile, the project portfolio, the technical capabilities, and the market outlook.</p>	

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Logistics

The following is some practical information regarding the logistics of the tour.

- The tour is open to all members of Blue Cluster, Belgian Offshore Cluster and Agoria Energy Technology Club who are interested in the offshore renewable energy sector, especially floating offshore wind.
- The tour is limited to a maximum of 20 delegates, on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The tour fee is € 900 excl. BTW per delegate, which covers the transportation, the meals, and the entrance to the exhibition. The fee does not cover accommodation, the flight tickets, which delegates have to book and pay for themselves. We will provide a suggestion for the accommodation.
- The accommodation will be at a four-star hotel in Aberdeen city centre, with single occupancy rooms and breakfast included.
- The transportation will be by coach, taxi, or boat, depending on the itinerary.
- The meals will be at local restaurants, with a variety of cuisines and dietary options.
- The delegates will be accompanied by a Blue Cluster and a Flanders Investment & Trade representative, who will act as a guide and a facilitator throughout the tour.

Registration

If you are interested in joining the tour, please fill in the registration form by July 9th, 2024. The tour will be organised if at least 10 participants have registered. You will receive a confirmation email in August.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the tour, please do not hesitate to contact Blue Cluster at ann.overmeire@blauwecluster.be or 0496 51 11 45. We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you to the tour.