

Questions and answers about the offshore wind project

Why is Metsähallitus launching an offshore wind power project?

Finland's goal is to be a fossil-free welfare state by 2035. As the manager of the state-owned land and sea areas, Metsähallitus has an important role to play in achieving this goal. We are involved in developing fossil-free energy and bringing revenue into the state budget.

Why does Metsähallitus plan the offshore wind farm near Korsnäs?

The area has favourable wind conditions. The depth of the water - mainly 10 to 20 meters, with significantly less bottom species than in shallower water - and the geology of the bottom are well suited for wind power construction. By locating the project at sea, 15 km from the coast, the landscape effects of the project can be mitigated. In addition, ports are needed during the construction phase. The ports of Kaskinen, Kristiinankaupunki and Vaasa with railroad connection are located near the offshore wind park area.

How much electricity does the planned offshore wind farm generate?

The nominal capacity of the wind farm would be about 1300 MW. The farm would generate about 5,000 GWh of electricity per year. It would be enough, for example, for the annual electricity needs of 250,000 detached houses with electric heating.

The Korsnäs wind farm is planned for the state water area. Why do property taxes go to the municipality of Korsnäs?

Property taxes are paid to the construction community in accordance with the Property Tax Act. The project will result in work for the municipality of Korsnäs along the way. For example, the current zoning will increase the work of the municipality.

Metsähallitus is looking for a partner in the project to build wind farms and run electricity production. How does Metsähallitus plan to choose a partner?

Metsähallitus will arrange an auction process of the project partnership in accordance with EU rules. The goal is to build a responsible wind power project and therefore, we have set responsibility criteria for our partner. For partner candidates capable of large wind power projects, these are business as usual.

At what stages do local residents have the opportunity to have their say?

Local views are sought at many stages:

- Stakeholder events will be organized at the start and completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure.

- The social impact of the project is also assessed in the EIA process. The EIA procedure with all its stages takes a couple of years.
- In addition, Metsähallitus will organize local public events already now to present the progress of the project and to provide an opportunity to ask questions.

How much does building a wind farm employ? What if it's in action?

The number of jobs during the construction phase depends on how the partner organizes the construction. The construction phase should last at least 1-2 years. Construction specialists are likely to come from the partner company. In addition, local services are likely to be needed, for example in the construction of foundations or in the maintenance of machinery, equipment and personnel involved in construction, as well as accommodation and catering services.

The number of jobs during the operation of a wind farm depends on how the partner company organizes the control and maintenance of the operation.

The construction of the transmission line to the grid requires Finnish planning and construction work. The transmission line is needed from the sea to the substation on the mainland.

How will the construction of the Korsnäs wind farm affect the marine environment?

When building offshore wind farms, sediments are moved and seabed materials are dumped, which affects the water for a short time.

How does Metsähallitus determine the environmental impact of a wind farm?

Metsähallitus collects information and has already carried out nature surveys, such as herring spawning area surveys and bird surveys. These will continue in 2022. The EIA process will ensure that the environmental impacts will be carefully assessed, while measures are planned to address potential negative effects.

How are fishing and fishing waters taken into account in the construction of a wind farm?

Metsähallitus has already launched surveys of herring spawning grounds. We have also asked fishermen for their views so that we can get the best possible local view into the planning.

How have marine birds been taken into account in the design of the wind farm?

According to studies carried out on the main migration route along the Bay of Bothnia, birds collide with wind farms very little, even during migration. Birds clearly can detect and avoid turbine blades. Sea eagles mostly stay closer to the coast, usually they do not come this far to the sea.