

Late life and decommissioning working group

Purpose: Establish industry positions for lobbying purposes in relation to onshore and offshore wind late-life and decommissioning policies. The group will lead RUK's engagement in this area building on the recommendations in the position paper "Developing effective end-of-life policy frameworks for UK offshore wind" and support establishing RUK positions on onshore late life and decommissioning.

Key priorities (2025–2027)

- Develop and refine industry positions on late life and decommissioning for onshore and offshore wind, collated in briefings, policy papers, blogs etc.
- Supporting RUK building relationships with key government stakeholders, regulators and SNCBs by raising prominence of key issues and recommendations.
- Create good understanding across decision makers about the importance of late life and decommissioning from an energy security, investor confidence, environment and supply chain perspective (also linked to circularity).
- Key milestones for the next two years include: a clear route to lifetime extension and repowering (including route to market and consenting/planning requirements/EIA), clarity on OFTOs and lifetime extension (including ownership and revenue stream setting), exploring alternatives for financial securities (e.g. PCGs), and clear decommissioning guidance (including on comparative assessment and post-decommissioning monitoring).
- Recycling and circularity are included in the Onshore Wind Task Force Strategy (Action 40), but it will be critical to build a strong case for government intervention to support the sector (recycling and circularity capabilities also need to be in place for decommissioned offshore wind farms).

Wider governance/TA/industry interaction

- OWIC: strategic compensation, consenting challenges for new offshore wind infrastructure (e.g. decommissioning plans), supply chain (IGP)
- Offshore Transmission WG: OFTOs
- Manufacturing and trade WG: Circularity and supply chains
- Market Design WG: Financial considerations around lifetime extension, CfDs for repowering
- Planning and Environment strategy group: Planning, consents and licensing issues

Engagement priorities

Building on already existing engagement with: DESNZ, The Crown Estate, Defra, MMO, Natural England, Ofgem

Build relationships with: NRW, Crown Estate Scotland, Marine Scotland

Structure

Late Life and Decommissioning WG