



Energising our Ports and Supply chain

Three strategic barriers stand in the way of Wales securing a clean energy future: our grid network, planning & consenting system, and port and supply chain readiness. Each has its unique challenges but impact one another and must be tackled in unison.

Our Welsh ports are multi-modal global gateways which are major and growing providers of renewable energy infrastructure. This briefing document underscores the **critical need to champion their key role in driving Wales' green growth**. It highlights the significant economic opportunities presented by the Celtic and Anglesey Freeports and outlines various strategies for the Welsh Government to address upfront capital investment challenges, including incentives to attract anchor companies, workforce development, and streamlining planning processes. It concludes with actionable steps for policymakers to support port investment and supply chain development.

The foundation of Wales' green economy hinges on our capacity to generate clean power. Renewable energy is the prime opportunity for widespread economic growth throughout Wales. To achieve this, our ports are evolving into pivotal multi-modal hubs to nurture these projects throughout their lifecycle – from the transport and storage of floating offshore wind turbine components as tall as The Shard and platforms the size of football pitches, to their ongoing operations and maintenance. It is also crucial to acknowledge the onshore wind opportunity for ports and supply chain that exists today. With larger, more efficient turbines, this sector will play a key role in driving port expansion and enhancing the Welsh supply chain readiness over the coming decade.

There is an immense economic opportunity for Wales to further leverage the potential of Celtic and Anglesey Freeports. These strategic locations could host new manufacturing and assembly facilities, catering to offshore wind, tidal energy, hydrogen, and carbon capture and storage sectors.

The economic opportunity

- The Floating Offshore Wind Taskforce estimates **47,000 UK jobs** could be created by 2030 through investment in port infrastructure to support floating wind farms.
- The UK supply chain for offshore wind alone has the potential to capture **£92bn of GVA by 2040**.
- The Floating offshore wind opportunity in the Celtic Sea is predicted to be worth **£1.4bn to local communities**.



Gwynt y Môr

The wind energy sector is already providing a significant economic boost for Wales. Off the North Wales coast, RWE's Gwynt y Môr fixed offshore wind farm invested £90 million into Welsh businesses during construction. Since becoming operational it has continued to invest about £8 million each year.



Overcoming investment barriers

Consideration must be given to the substantial upfront capital investment necessary to transform our ports. The Welsh Government can address this challenge in several ways. Firstly, they can stimulate inward investment by identifying **strategic supply chain gaps and offering incentives** to attract anchor companies to Wales. For instance, emulating the Scottish Government's approach of providing grants to secure private sector investment in vital infrastructure, such as a new cable factory for the offshore wind sector, could be effective.

Moreover, **accelerating the delivery of the Net Zero Skills Action Plan** is crucial to developing a skilled local workforce. Collaboration with industry, training providers, and educational institutions is

essential here. A future-proofed workforce strategy that prioritises critical occupations and offers compelling opportunities to the Welsh workforce through attraction, retention, and upskilling will be paramount.

Additionally, **addressing delays and under-resourcing in the consenting and planning process** is vital to supporting supply chain development and the expansion of Welsh ports. Delays with Harbour Revision Orders (HROs) leads to uncertainty for developers who need to be confident of timely decision making enabling their own investments in projects. This streamlining is essential if Wales wants to foster an attractive investment environment for renewable energy development.

How can you help?

1. Show your support by endorsing an independent task and finish group with a Welsh Government Ministerial lead made up of government officials and industry representatives. Working together, we can provide the strong evidence base needed to coordinate supply chain and skills development.
2. Write to the Cabinet Secretary for Planning to voice your concern over planning and consenting delays, including HROs, which are impacting the development of our Welsh ports.
3. Urge the Cabinet Secretary for Energy to champion the role of Welsh ports which are competing in global markets such as floating offshore wind.
4. Arm yourself with the necessary knowledge to serve your constituents on this issue. Read our handy FAQs and case studies.

