

Sea Grant & U.S. Department of Energy Understanding Energy Transitions and Coastal Resilience in the Non-Contiguous U.S. Funded Projects, FY2023

Project descriptions list

A Climate-Ready Workforce for Coastal Alaska

[Alaska Sea Grant](#), Project Leads: Ginny Eckert and Davin Holen

Federal funding: \$200,000

This project provides funding to Alaska Sea Grant to increase understanding and appropriate resources going to rural Alaska communities for renewable energy. The project, A Climate Ready Workforce for Coastal Alaska, will evaluate programs available across Alaska to assess the necessary qualifications for maintaining renewable energy systems and available technical training programs, and make recommendations for additional training opportunities where the training opportunities should be located to ensure a locally resourced workforce, and potential funding sources to build training programs. The project will also create informational materials with partners for communities to understand the various renewable energy options that can meet the challenges of Alaska's diverse environment. The goal is a climate-ready, locally sourced workforce serving the communities where these workers reside with high-paying jobs in rural communities in Alaska.

Understanding Community Perception Around Ocean Renewable Energy

[Guam Sea Grant](#), Project Leads: Austin Shelton and Francis Dalisay

Federal funding: \$200,000

This project provides funding to Guam Sea Grant to better understand coastal communities' perceptions and attitudes regarding transitioning to renewable energy. A community-wide online survey will be launched to gather responses to questions regarding their knowledge, perception, and acceptance of ocean renewable energy. An advisory board of energy leaders from Guam as well as interested parties that might be affected by the implementation of ocean energy will be consulted on how to design the survey, pre-screen potential survey questions, and provide suggestions on how the survey could be improved. The results of this community consultation on ocean energy will be gathered in a report and shared with energy-interested parties in Guam. Results will also be shared with the community. This will help inform Guam's renewable energy strategy and help Guam secure a more resilient and cleaner energy future.

Building Coastal Community Resilience Through Energy Transition Engagement in the Main Hawaiian Islands

[Hawai'i Sea Grant](#), Project Leads: Amy Wirts, Katy Hintzen, and Darren Okimoto
Federal funding: \$400,000

This project provides funding to Hawai'i Sea Grant to develop an extension program in partnership with the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) to better understand community needs and perspectives on renewable energy transitions. The project seeks to develop information pathways and trusted relationships through reciprocal knowledge transfer and to support community-based energy planning to unlock ocean energy development. The three main elements of the project are: (1) expansion of the existing [HSEO Energize Kākou community engagement program](#) to include ocean energy and rural communities, (2) further development and professionalization of the HSEO Clean Energy Wayfinders outreach program, and (3) capacity building for community and local organizations to directly engage with underserved communities to support energy transition engagement and discussions. These discussions will include assessing whether a community is well-suited for and interested in future development of an ocean energy-focused, community-based renewable energy project. Additionally, this project will convene professionals working on related projects with experts from the funding entity to discuss lessons learned.