### Problem Statement

- More than 70 offshore wind farms have been proposed for U.S. coastal waters since the early 2000s.
- Completed in fall 2016, the Block Island Wind Farm, built off the coast of Block Island, Rhode Island, is the only fully constructed and operating U.S. offshore wind farm.
- In comparison, European countries have installed more than 70 offshore wind farms.
- Most coastal states have renewable energy and climate mitigation goals, but a lack of available land for development, making offshore wind an ideal option.

### Framework & Theory

The Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF), developed by Sabatier and Jenkins-Smith, is a theoretical tool used by policy analysts to systematically describe and study the complex policy process.

**ACF Theory:** Stakeholders share resources and strategies and arrange themselves into coalitions, or groups, based on their values and beliefs concerning a specific policy issue.

**ACF Theory:** Contests shape coalitions’ values & beliefs, and available resources & strategies.

Science & Technology Studies (STS)

- A field of interdisciplinary study that emerged in the 1960s and 70s, which recognizes that scientific research, data, and environmental knowledge are not "disinterested products" that are simply produced and applied.
- STS acknowledges that social, political, and cultural values influence the production, use, & circulation of knowledge. For instance, societies often "police knowledge boundaries," determining what counts as science and truth.

### Case Study Selection

- Offshore wind project case studies — the Block Island Wind Farm, located on the coast of Block Island, Rhode Island, and the Fisherman’s Energy Wind Farm, proposed for the coast of Atlantic City, New Jersey — were selected based on similar design parameters and initial timelines, but different stages of development.
- Selection process allows for a focus on how municipal and state-level stakeholders and contextual factors affect offshore wind planning processes and policies.

### Findings

#### Rhode Island

1. **Year Proposed:** Around 2006, the RI General Assembly support offshore wind energy.
2. **Preplanning:** In 2008, an RI state agency notes the benefits of offshore wind energy, but the need for an "Ocean Special Area Management Plan" (Ocean SAMP) recommended by input from more than 100 unique stakeholder & research institutions (co-produced knowledge).
3. **Turbines:** 5 in 2008, an RI state agency notes the benefits of offshore wind energy, but the need for "scientific baseline studies" recommended by input from more than 100 unique stakeholder & research institutions (co-produced knowledge).
4. **Status:** Operational in 2008, an RI state agency notes the benefits of offshore wind energy, but the need for "scientific baseline studies" recommended by input from more than 100 unique stakeholder & research institutions (co-produced knowledge).

#### New Jersey

1. **Preplanning:** Around 2006, the NJ Board of Public Utilities and NJ governor support offshore wind energy. They established the Blue Ribbon Panel to study costs & benefits of offshore wind development in NJ.
2. **Turbines:** 5 in 2008, an NJ state agency notes the benefits of offshore wind energy, but the need for "scientific baseline studies" recommended by input from more than 100 unique stakeholder & research institutions (co-produced knowledge).
3. **Status:** Operational in 2008, an NJ state agency notes the benefits of offshore wind energy, but the need for "scientific baseline studies" recommended by input from more than 100 unique stakeholder & research institutions (co-produced knowledge).

### Research Questions

- How did state and local policy makers, researchers, and other state actors and stakeholders contribute to the success of the Block Island Wind Farm?
- What are the policy lessons from the offshore wind planning process in Rhode Island for:
  - States pursuing offshore wind farm development?
  - States pursuing other forms of renewable energy development?

### Data Collection and Analysis

**Data are collected from three sources, providing a convergence of evidence to confirm findings:**

- Documents, Observations, & Stakeholder Interviews

**Qualitative Data Analysis Coding**

- State-supported offshore wind studies
- State and multi-agency meeting minutes
- Governor correspondence records
- Legislative sessions
- Stakeholder interviews

### Preliminary Conclusions

- No one or few conditions, for example, community or market acceptance or the availability of offshore wind as a resource or governor support, and no one strategy, for instance, commissioning offshore wind studies or setting a policy goal for offshore wind, determines the success or failure of a state pursuing offshore wind farm development.
- This suggests that policy-makers interested in renewable energy development should consider a range of interdependent issues, policies, stakeholder actions, and potential outcomes.
- Offshore wind policy created from the coproduction of knowledge, or knowledge generated by scientists, policy-makers, and stakeholders, is more likely to result in effective and timely offshore wind, or renewable energy policy than science and data produced in isolation.
- Coproduced knowledge advances effective offshore wind policy because:
  1. Scientists are more likely to know the spectrum of science needed for multiple policy decisions.
  2. Trust is established between scientists, stakeholders, policy-makers, and researchers.
  3. Policy implementation rate increases, which is important for avoiding a change in a political regime or political values.

### New Jersey and Rhode Island Offshore Wind Farm Planning Timelines

#### New Jersey

- **2006:** NJ Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) establishes 100% renewable energy goal for New Jersey.
- **2008:** Then-Gov. Codey (D) establishes Offshore Wind Act, creates Office of Ocean & Coastal Policy.
- **2009:** Acting Gov. Cris Christie (R) establishes Blue Ribbon Panel to study costs & benefits of offshore wind energy.
- **2010:** RI Ocean SAMP recommended by input from more than 100 unique stakeholder & research institutions (co-produced knowledge). RI uses SAMP recommendations for development.
- **2016:** Offshore Wind Economic Act (OWEDA) signed into law by Gov. Chris Christie (R).

#### Rhode Island

- **2006:** RI General Assembly support offshore wind energy.
- **2008:** RI state agency notes the benefits of offshore wind energy.
- **2010:** RI Public Utilities Commission (RPUC) approves power purchase agreement (PPA) between Deepwater Wind and National Grid.
- **2013:** Deepwater Wind completes construction of 304-MW Block Island Offshore Wind Farm (expected to generate electricity to the grid by 2016).