

World-first: RWE operates wind turbines on a dike



- In the Dutch district of Eemshaven, three wind turbines are now running on a sea dike
- Innovative installation methods: climbing crane and CSM panels
- Oostpolderdijk wind farm highlights new options for utilising dikes

Essen, 1 December 2022





“Our three wind turbines on top of a sea dike are a world first. The Oostpolderdijk project illustrates the potential for dikes to have an additional role. In taking this action, we are also conscious of our particular responsibility to uphold the integrity and safety of the dike, which is our highest priority. With innovative projects like these, we are creating new options for the expansion of renewable energies.”

Katja Wünschel, CEO Onshore Wind and Solar Europe & Australia at RWE Renewables:

For the first time, wind turbines are now running on a sea dike. In Eemshaven, within the Dutch province of Groningen, RWE has erected three wind power plants with installed capacity of 7.5 megawatts, which became fully operational in September 2022. In order to safely install the individual components in this particular location, with limited space around it, RWE relied on some innovative installation methods. For the installation of the upper turbine components, for example, a special climbing crane was used, which climbed upwards by inserting individual segments as construction progressed. In addition the turbines were erected on so-called CSM (Cutter Soil Mixing) panels. In this process, the existing soil is strengthened by mixing it with concrete and covered with a layer of sand on which the foundations are then built. In this way, the wind turbines are not directly connected to the subsoil and can safely move with it if the dike settles.

Katja Wünschel, CEO Onshore Wind and Solar Europe & Australia at RWE Renewables:

This world first and all the installation challenges are paying off. The wind conditions in this exposed location are excellent. The three turbines will generate sufficient green power to supply up to 7000 Dutch households annually. And we have gained valuable insights from completing this project, which will enable us to erect wind farms on dikes in other locations too. My particular thanks go to the Noorderzijlvest Water Board and the consent authorities involved for their many years of constructive cooperation.”

Over the past few years, RWE and the owner of the dike, the Noorderzijlvest Water Board, meticulously analysed the installation process, with a view to dyke safety and the potential environmental impacts of the project, and incorporated this into a technically complex design. The most important aspect of the project development process was protection of the dyke to ensure its flood-water prevention function was not impaired in any way.

The electricity from the wind farm has already been marketed: In February 2022, RWE signed a power purchase agreement with ASML, the world’s largest provider of lithographic systems for



the semiconductor industry, on the supply of green power, which will be generated at this wind farm in Oostpolderdijk amongst other places.

Images of the Oostpolderdijk wind farm for media use (credit: RWE) are available at the [Media Centre](#)





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RWE Renewables

RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With an extensive investment and growth strategy, the company will expand its powerful, green generation capacity to 50 gigawatts internationally by 2030. RWE is investing more than €50 billion gross for this purpose in this decade. The portfolio is based on offshore and onshore wind, solar, hydrogen, batteries, biomass and gas. RWE Supply & Trading provides tailored energy solutions for large customers. RWE has locations in the attractive markets of Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific region. The company is responsibly phasing out nuclear energy and coal. Government-mandated phaseout roadmaps have been defined for both of these energy sources. RWE employs around 19,000 people worldwide and has a clear target: to get to net zero by 2040. On its way there, the company has set itself ambitious targets for all activities that cause greenhouse gas emissions. The Science Based Targets initiative has confirmed that these emission reduction targets are in line with the Paris Agreement. Very much in the spirit of the company's purpose: Our energy for a sustainable life.

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