

Blue Energy Innovation Act

Investing in Technological Innovation to Ensure Low-Cost, Reliable Blue Energy

Rep. Derek Kilmer (WA-06) and Rep. Dan Newhouse (WA-04)

Over the last decade, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has made impressive strides in developing energy technologies that are essential for powering the 21st-century economy, creating jobs, combatting climate change, and generating clean and reliable energy. However, there is still more to be done to advance renewable energy technologies that capitalize fully on water's low-cost energy (also known as 'blue energy') and decarbonization potential, and to develop a robust strategy for deploying new renewable energy technologies in aquatic environments.

With 3,200 miles of shoreline, 50,000 miles of rivers and streams, and direct access to the Pacific Ocean, the blue economy in Washington state (also known as the [maritime economy](#)) is thriving – encompassing 2,300 companies that employ over 69,500 workers and generate more than \$21 billion in revenue. In recent years, the blue economy in Washington has led the national charge to develop the 'blue energy' and water-based technologies that utilize marine energy resources (including ocean waves, tides, currents, and salinity, and temperature gradients) to drive sustainable economic development and create jobs, lead the global transition to the clean and resilient energy sources, and provide underserved communities with reliable power at lower cost.

In order to capitalize on the effort to drive innovation in, and deployment of, 'blue energy' technologies, Rep. Kilmer and Rep. Newhouse are introducing the *Blue Energy Innovation Act* – which aims to redouble government efforts to harness the blue economy and reassert the United States as the global leader in the research, development, and deployment of blue energy technologies. This bill will help DOE leverage resources across relevant federal agencies, national laboratories, and other partners to develop the cutting-edge technologies that will improve the sustainability and cost-effectiveness of activities tied to our blue economy.

Investing in Blue Energy Technologies to Create a Clean, Resilient Blue Economy

***The Blue Energy Innovation Act* will establish the Blue Economy Center of Excellence and a cross-cutting blue energy technologies program under the Department of Energy to advance research, development, and deployment of these renewable energy technologies.** Specifically, the bill will:

- Establish the Integrated Blue Economy and Blue Energy Technologies Program, under which the Secretary of Energy will provide \$75 million in supplemental funding to advance technological innovation to better harness ocean energy, enhance deployment of next generation renewable technologies in aquatic environments, drive decarbonization efforts, and create jobs across the blue economy.
- Establish the Blue Economy Center of Excellence to support the new cross-cutting program and help coordinate across DOE offices, national laboratories, research institutions, state governments, and other federal agencies to achieve the shared decarbonization and renewable energy mission.
- Provide funding to upgrade or create a state-of-the-art facility for the Blue Economy Center of Excellence, taking advantage of existing national laboratory infrastructure.
- Create opportunity for improved interagency cooperation to accelerate the research, development, and deployment of these technologies.
- Require the Department of Energy to report to Congress on all funding for blue energy technologies across its line offices and programs.