President Biden vowed to suspend all new drilling on federal lands and waters. In January, 2021 he paused all new leasing, leading to legal challenges. Now the Administration has released a proposed plan that will establish a framework for offshore leasing during the next 5 years.

One of the best ways to fight the twin climate and extinction crises is to protect the oceans, which serve as “heat sinks” by trapping carbon while providing habitat for wildlife and livelihoods for coastal communities. Drilling threatens ocean life with pollution and spills, as well as the damage caused by emissions when oil and gas are burned.

The oil and gas industry says new leases are needed to meet the demand for energy, but already holds more than 9,000 unused leases on public lands, more than enough to last beyond 2030. The US Administration has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030. To meet this goal, we can't extend the production and use of fossil fuels.

Submit a comment about the 2023-2028 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Program which will determine how many ocean sites will be leased for drilling. The comment period ends on October 6, 2022.

An overarching principle conveyed by Jewish tradition is ki li kol ha'aretz, that the land belongs to God (Leviticus 25:23, Exodus 19:5.) Consequently, our use of it must be limited to what is appropriate for a guest and it cannot be permanently sold. Furthermore, Jewish law has much to say about our responsibility for the public domain (reshut harabim,) forbidding many activities outright and tightly regulating the rest. If we recognize that the entire Earth is not ours to despoil, how much more so public lands and waters, which have been designated expressly for the benefit of all, including future generations.
Key Message

Revise the plan to offer no new offshore oil and gas leasing. To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we must end fossil fuel development immediately, but the proposed plan could lock it in for decades of extraction and destruction.

Talking Points for Your Comment

- New offshore oil drilling is **not worth the risk to the economy** that relies on a clean coast. Ocean resources must be protected for tourism, fishing and recreation to support generations to come.
- More offshore **drilling will not significantly decrease the price of gas** in the short or long term.
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency is a viable alternative. **Offshore wind alone could provide 2 times the combined generating capacity of all U.S. electric power plants.**
- Offshore drilling is dangerous. **Leaks and spills pollute our waters.** The BP Deepwater Horizon oil rig blowout killed 11 workers. Natural disasters and severe weather events, worsening due to climate change, exacerbate the risk of oil spills.
- There is wide **bipartisan opposition** to new offshore drilling at the local level.

Learn More

- [Offshore Drilling Fuels the Climate Crisis and Threatens the Economy](https://oceana.org/index.php/oceana/energy-wind-energy/offshore-wind-energy), Oceana
- [The Case Against New Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf](https://www.nrdc.org/en/energy/oil-and-gas/oil-drilling-gulf-coast), NRDC

SAMPLE COMMENT TO BOEM

Revise the plan to offer NO new offshore oil and gas leasing. To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we must end fossil fuel development immediately, but the proposed plan could lock it in for decades.

Add your personal story: Do you live near the coast? Have you experienced a climate disaster? Do you know someone who needs or wants a job in renewable energy?

Add a talking point from above related to your story.

As a Jew, I have been taught that Earth does not belong to us. Humans are guests on Earth and it is our responsibility to guard it and care for it. Continuing to expand offshore drilling would be a sin.

More You Can Do

**Ask your Member of Congress to speak out** for No new leasing under the 2023-2028 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Program. You can contact their website, call, or send a letter.

**Sign and share a petition** for Gulf States residents, or for **everyone**.

**Speak at a BOEM virtual meeting**.

Find your Members of Congress: [https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials](https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials) For active links find this **Action Alert** online: [JewishEarthAlliance.org](https://JewishEarthAlliance.org)