

Choose Delaware

Delaware & The Blue Economy

Already known for its vibrant coastal tourism and recreation, Delaware is primed to expand in offshore wind, aquaculture and blue tech.

Delaware, with its strategic location on the East Coast and exceptional business environment, is emerging as a premier destination for industries at the forefront of the blue economy. The state's initiatives in ocean robotics, aquaculture, offshore wind, and innovation/entrepreneurship underscore a collaborative commitment from academia, industry, non-profits, and government. This unified approach ensures a runway for growth and innovation, where key stakeholders work hand in hand to propel these sectors forward. Delaware boasts a dynamic ecosystem that fosters workforce development, R&D and implementation, creating an ideal environment for industries and leaders to thrive. From cutting-edge research institutions to Project Able, the state offers a seamless integration of resources, expertise, and support, making it an intelligent choice for those looking to pioneer in the blue economy.

Delaware's unique geographic and oceanographic characteristics allow for a broad swath of research and development activities for advancements in blue technology. For example, operations at the Robotics Discovery Laboratories and the marine operations facility – both housed at the University of Delaware's Lewes Campus – utilize the state's coast, inland bays and salt marshes, along with its low-lying elevation to make Delaware a test bed for new blue tech innovations.

Delaware sits near multiple offshore wind projects from New Jersey to Virginia that are under development by industry leaders like US Wind. Delaware also lies within driving distance of Maryland's Tradepoint Atlantic, the New Jersey Wind Port and Virginia's Portsmouth Marine Terminal – three ports integral to the assembly and marshaling of offshore wind turbines.

Furthermore, Delaware's central East Coast proximity to Washington, D.C., and New York City, ensures businesses have convenient access to federal regulators and financial decisionmakers. It also enables businesses to draw from a highly educated and talented regional workforce. Delaware's Port Wilmington offers multi-modal logistics capability and a 60-acre development site for wind turbine component manufacturing, assembly and staging.



Highlighting Delaware's capacity to develop and commercialize new technology are the state's placements on the Milken Institute Science and Technology Index, listing Delaware's strengths in R&D inputs, risk capital and entrepreneurial infrastructure. Delaware's rankings in the Tax Foundation KPMG "Location Matters" report, especially for manufacturing firms and research and development companies, underscore the strength of the statewide business environment.

Delaware universities and community partners are serving as catalysts for growth of the state's and region's Blue Economy. Facilities and programs at Delaware State University (DSU) and the University of Delaware (UD) are exploring Blue Economy opportunities in areas such as aquaculture, sustainability and technology while also preparing the next generation of blue technology innovators.

At the same time, community partners such as the Delaware Coastal Society provide blue tech startups with access to business incubator services. These targeted initiatives, along with Delaware's strong innovation ecosystem, have positioned the state as an ideal spot for early-stage blue tech innovators.

Finally, workforce training partnerships supported by DSU, UD, Delaware Technical Community College and the private sector ensure that employers in Blue Economy industries can access needed personnel and training.

Delaware

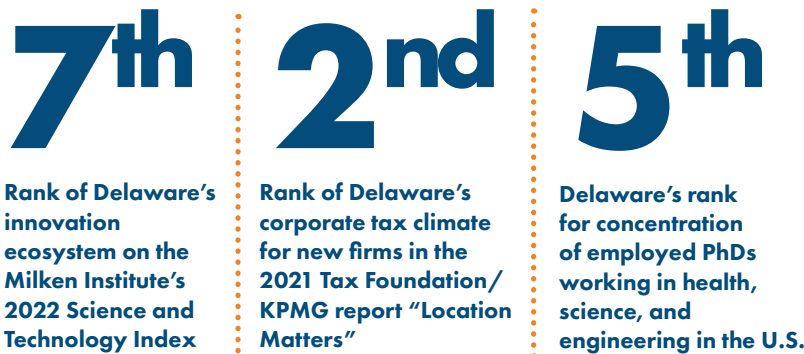
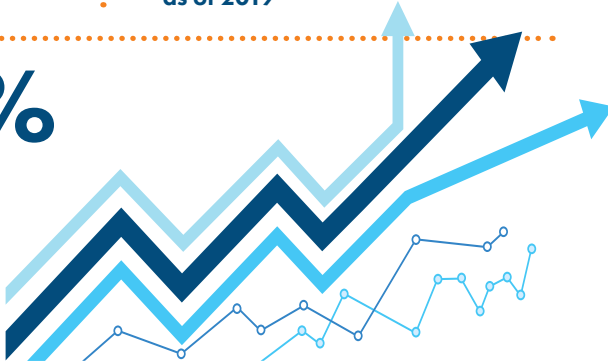
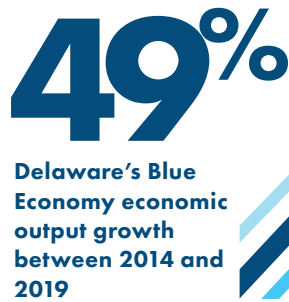


“We have an estuary system and salt marshes, so we can study areas where there’s fresh water mixing with salt water. We have coastal waters, the Mid-Atlantic. We also have our inland bays areas and salt marshes. We’re the lowest-lying elevation state in the nation, which allows us to address key issues around climate change, sea-level rise and coastal resilience. We’re at one with the bays and the ocean, and we are punching well above our weight with what we can offer groups wishing to develop and test new technologies. The holy grail is we want to improve the economy while we improve our understanding and stewardship of the planet.”



- Dr. Arthur Trembanis
Deputy Director
Center for Autonomous and Robotic Systems
University of Delaware
Project Able

Key Facts



Key Organizations, Centers and Programs:

Port Wilmington, a 308-acre deepwater port with an almost 4,000-foot marginal wharf and 38-foot MLW water depth. Capable of receiving, unloading and transferring more than three-dozen 62.2m wind turbine blades (each weighing just under 13.5 tons) in just two days.

University of Delaware

- Center for Autonomous and Robotics Systems
- Robotics Discovery Lab
- Ratcliffe Eco Entrepreneurship Fellows (REEF@UD) Program
- HORN Entrepreneurship
- Offshore Wind Academy
- Delaware Sea Grant Oyster Hatchery

Delaware State University

- Aquaculture Research and Demonstration Facility

Delaware Technical Community College

- Global Wind Organization Basic Safety Training

About DPP

Delaware Prosperity Partnership leads Delaware’s economic development efforts to attract, grow and retain businesses; to build a stronger entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem; and to support private employers in identifying, recruiting and developing talent.

choosedelaware.com



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