

PNNL- 33658

# Valuing Ecosystems in Equitable Energy Transition Planning

November 2022

Katie K Arkema  
Simon Geerlofs  
Caitlin Gunn

## DISCLAIMER

This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States Government. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor Battelle Memorial Institute, nor any of their employees, **makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights.** Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof, or Battelle Memorial Institute. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY  
*operated by*  
BATTELLE  
*for the*  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
*under Contract DE-AC05-76RL01830*

Printed in the United States of America

Available to DOE and DOE contractors from  
the Office of Scientific and Technical  
Information,  
P.O. Box 62, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0062  
[www.osti.gov](http://www.osti.gov)  
ph: (865) 576-8401  
fox: (865) 576-5728  
email: [reports@osti.gov](mailto:reports@osti.gov)

Available to the public from the National Technical Information Service  
5301 Shawnee Rd., Alexandria, VA 22312  
ph: (800) 553-NTIS (6847)  
or (703) 605-6000  
email: [info@ntis.gov](mailto:info@ntis.gov)  
Online ordering: <http://www.ntis.gov>

# **Valuing Ecosystems in Equitable Energy Transition Planning**

November 2022

Katie K Arkema  
Simon Geerlofs  
Caitlin Gunn

Prepared for  
the U.S. Department of Energy  
under Contract DE-AC05-76RL01830

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory  
Richland, Washington 99354

## Abstract

In this report we explore three areas of research and practice needed to scale clean energy sustainably: 1) advancing the predictive science to quantify positive and negative outcomes of energy development for the wellbeing of communities, environments, and disadvantaged groups; 2) scenario design using this science to shape renewable energy solutions for nation-wide decarbonization while delivering tangible, local benefits; and 3) participatory science-policy processes to understand what people want for the places where they live and work and how incorporating renewable energy can help or hinder their goals. Together these three components – quantifying social-ecological values, scenario design, and participatory processes – form the basis for a framework for valuing ecosystems to inform a more equitable energy transition.

## Acknowledgments

This research was supported by the **Energy and Environment Directorate (EED) Mission Seed**, under the Laboratory Directed Research and Development (LDRD) Program at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). PNNL is a multi-program national laboratory operated for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) by Battelle Memorial Institute under Contract No. DE-AC05-76RL01830.

## Contents

Abstract .....	ii
Acknowledgments.....	iii
1.0 Introduction .....	1
2.0 Framework for Valuing Ecosystems in Equitable Energy Transition Planning.....	3
2.1 Modeling of social-ecological values with natural capital assessments.....	3
2.2 Scenario design .....	6
2.3 Participatory process .....	8
3.0 Conclusion .....	10
4.0 References.....	11
Appendix A – Renewable energy and ecosystem values .....	A.1

## Figures

Figure 1. Framework for valuing ecosystems for equitable energy transition .....	2
Figure 2. An ecosystem service assessment for marine energy and coastal risk reduction. ....	5

## 1.0 Introduction

Climate change is putting communities across the US and around the world at risk. The Intergovernmental Platform on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report on Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability warns of global sea-level rise, flooding, and droughts<sup>1</sup>. In the US, western states experienced record high temperatures this year, with Sacramento reaching 116°F, Puerto Rico was plunged into darkness after another hurricane, and firefighters battled hundreds of thousands of acres of wildfire. Such impacts disproportionately affect disadvantaged and vulnerable populations.

To address this climate crisis, the Biden Administration and Congress have passed a series of executive actions and legislation. In 2021 the United States rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement, committing to a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 and ultimately achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. Combined with the Infrastructure Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, these initiatives aim to increase high-quality jobs, invest in more resilient infrastructure, and spur American technological innovations, especially in clean energy. However, there is a tension between scaling renewable energy to meet nationwide decarbonization goals and achieving positive, place-based outcomes for local communities, including, but not limited to communities of color.

To avoid past mistakes going forward, government agencies, industry, investors, civil society, and scientists have an historic opportunity to leverage and advance sustainable development approaches that have gained traction internationally over the past decade. These approaches include mainstreaming of natural capital and nature-based solutions, as well as the development of justice-centered benchmarks that are now embraced and increasingly widely employed by multilateral development banks. The United Nation's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals recognize that poverty reduction, health, economic growth, and other social goals are intertwined with the health of ecosystems and the urgency of tackling climate change<sup>2</sup>. The World Bank is exploring global ecosystem products as a complement to traditional metrics like Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the Inter-American development bank has mainstreamed social-ecological values and climate change into its policies and programs.

The United States is making progress too, especially around investing in nature-based solutions for increasing resilience to natural hazards. The US Army Corps of Engineers recently spearheaded the development of international guidelines for incorporating nature-based solutions for flood risk mitigation which accounts for a suite of social and economic values of ecosystems<sup>3</sup>. In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the Department of Interior spearheaded a program to invest in conservation and restoration of shoreline ecosystems to reduce risk from coastal hazards all along the eastern seaboard. The

Biden Administration recently established the federal Justice40 initiative and the White House Task Force on environmental justice to address the disproportionate health, environmental, and economic impacts that have been borne primarily by communities of color<sup>4</sup>.

However, quantifying the social and economic value of ecosystems as part of renewable energy planning and development with a goal of benefiting local communities is still nascent. There is an opportunity to leverage natural capital approaches and tools to inform an equitable energy transition. In this report, we ask three main questions:

1. How do we quantify the socioeconomic values of ecosystems to inform community-driven energy planning processes?
2. How can energy solutions be shaped to support nation-wide decarbonization goals while delivering tangible, quantifiable local benefits?
3. How do we increase local interest in energy transitions so that demand rises to meet the coming supply of technological solutions?

We propose a framework that addresses these three questions through the application of 1) an ecosystem services assessment approach, 2) design of qualitative and quantitative scenarios, and 3) development of participatory science-policy processes for incorporating ecosystem services into renewable energy transitions (Figure 1). Taking a more interdisciplinary and community-driven approach to clean energy development will foster local demand for renewable technologies and result in a more equitable energy transition.

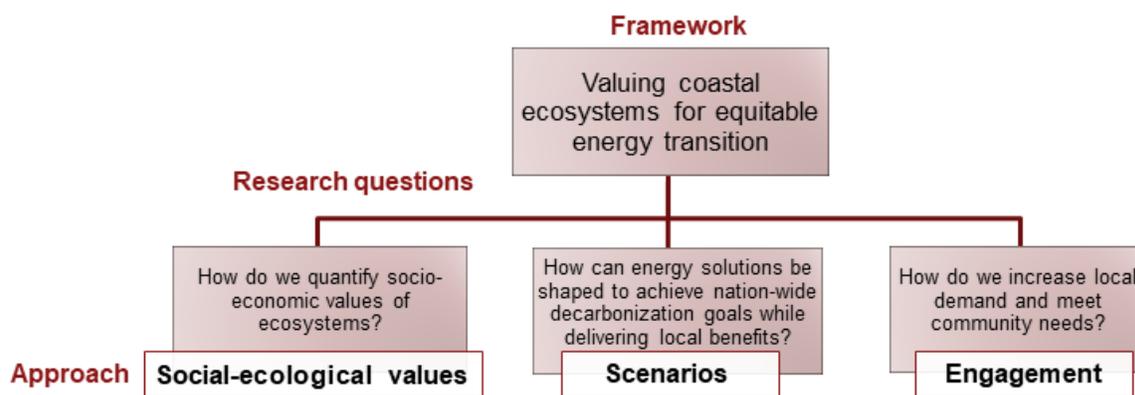


Figure 1. Framework for valuing ecosystems for equitable energy transition

## 2.0 Framework for Valuing Ecosystems in Equitable Energy Transition Planning

### 2.1 Modeling of social-ecological values with natural capital assessments

Natural capital is the stock of natural resources, including soils, air, water, and all living organisms that generate the ecosystem services underpinning economies and societies<sup>5</sup>. Natural capital assessments—as applied to sustainable development decisions—incorporate interdisciplinary models that reveal how infrastructure projects of all kinds (e.g., transportation, energy, commercial, residential development etc.) influence the socioeconomic benefits of ecosystems for human wellbeing<sup>6–8</sup>. These natural capital frameworks can be used to understand the outcomes of siting, design, and other infrastructure decisions for different groups of people based on a combination of qualitative and quantitative information<sup>9,10</sup>. They are also explicitly designed to explore trade-offs and synergies among a suite of social equity, economic prosperity, and environmental health outcomes that underly human wellbeing, rather than focusing only on cost and economic objectives considered in traditional optimization modeling<sup>11</sup>.

All people and all communities depend on ecosystems – a concept referred to as “ecosystem services” or more recently as “nature’s contributions to people”<sup>5,12</sup>. Natural capital is the stock of natural resources which generate ecosystem services. For example, forested watersheds retain sediments and cycle nutrients, maintaining clean water for drinking and recreating<sup>13,14</sup>. Healthy soils and pollinator habitat support agriculture<sup>15</sup>. Coastal habitats such as wetlands, corals, oysters, seagrasses, and dunes help to attenuate waves and surge, reducing nearshore flooding and stabilizing shorelines<sup>16</sup>. Nearshore vegetation and reefs provide nursery habitat for fish, supporting commercial and subsistence fisheries that provide sustenance and livelihoods<sup>17,18</sup>. All types of vegetation, on land and in the ocean, store and sequester carbon, contributing to climate stabilization<sup>19</sup>. The challenge is that the value of these benefits is not often recognized until they are lost. If we can understand and account for the ways in which healthy ecosystems provide societal and economic benefits before development decisions are taken, we can avoid unintended consequences, ensuring that both nature and people thrive<sup>20,21</sup>.

Since the publication of the millennial ecosystem assessment nearly two decades ago, scientific understanding of the myriad ways in which nature benefits people has exploded<sup>12,22</sup>. So too has the development of natural capital approaches and tools for informing sustainable development<sup>23</sup>. Thousands of papers categorize, quantify, and

explore nature's contributions to people in the peer-review and grey literature. Decision support tools provide more transparent and accessible approaches for practitioners to explore how climate and land-use scenarios will influence composition of land and seascapes and how these changes lead to changes in water quality, climate regulation, resilience to natural hazards, agricultural productivity, and many more of nature's services<sup>24</sup>. Scientists, stakeholders, and policymakers are using this information to guide a variety of conservation and development decisions<sup>25</sup>. Calls for mainstreaming ecosystem services and natural capital into decision-making are being put into practice nationally and globally<sup>2,3,26–28</sup>. The time is right, and the science is there to leverage natural capital tools and approaches to inform renewable energy development and implementation<sup>29</sup>.

Application of natural capital tools and approaches for renewable energy is growing. Several papers have illustrated how efficiency frontiers, as adopted from the field of economics, can be used to reduce conflicts and improve outcomes<sup>30,31</sup>. Efficiency frontiers identify a set of optimal solutions to a decision (e.g., siting) where one objective cannot be increased without diminishing returns to another objective. In this way efficiency frontiers can be used to explore trade-offs among objectives, for example, highlighting sites for renewable energy development that have the greatest potential to deliver energy resources and reduce risk to ecosystem services provided by land or seascapes.

Example applications for offshore wind include using efficiency frontiers to maximize net benefits across a range of preferences for offshore wind, whale conservation, and fishing<sup>30</sup> and offshore wind and viewsheds<sup>31</sup>). A study in 2015 found that, in contrast to nuclear and offshore oil, which lead to predominantly negative effects on marine ecosystem services, offshore wind has a mix of positive and negative effects on cultural, provisioning and supporting services, while the effect on regulating services (e.g., water quality, shoreline protection, sediment retention) was not studied<sup>32</sup>. This year Trifonova and colleagues published a natural capital framework that combines environmental and socioeconomic implications of offshore wind that would be broadly applicable to other renewable energy technologies<sup>33</sup>.

Analysis of multiple benefits provided by ecosystems can help support place-based approaches to renewable energy by quantifying the benefits and costs of alternative development scenarios. The first and most fundamental step of assessing ecosystem services is explicitly recognizing and assessing how changes in natural features, as a result of infrastructure development, may lead to changes in ecosystem functioning and in turn the provision of societal benefits (Fig. 2 top row)<sup>34</sup>.

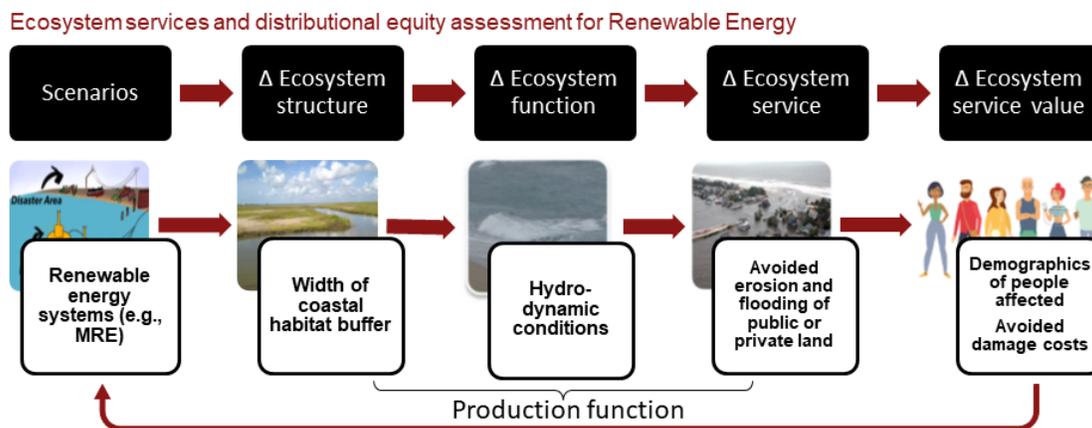


Figure 2. An ecosystem service assessment for marine energy and coastal risk reduction.

For example, through extraction of wave energy, marine energy systems could create a calmer nearshore environment conducive to recruitment and growth of nearshore and shoreline vegetation such as seagrasses and saltmarshes. These coastal habitats in turn can help to retain sediments and reduce wave action, leading to lower coastal erosion and flooding of public or private land. The risk reduction provided by coastal ecosystems may in turn benefit coastal communities by reducing damage costs from storms and high tides (Fig 2. bottom row). As another example, photovoltaic solar panels can support pollinator habitat by providing partial shade for flowering plants<sup>35</sup>. An increase in the diversity and abundance of pollinators throughout the growing season could in turn support agricultural production, especially in regions suffering from warming temperatures and drought. Improved stewardship with implementation of solar in previously barren areas could also support water quality through sediment and nitrogen retention. These positive outcomes can in turn result in increased demand for the energy system.

For the most part, the scientific literature has focused on ecological impacts of renewable energy technologies and not necessarily extended these to changes in societal values that may result from ecosystem degradation<sup>36,37</sup>. To better understand the potential influence of renewable energy development on social-ecological values, we conducted a review of the literature on different renewable energy technologies and ecosystem services (Appendix A). We developed a set of attributes to track 1) the focal renewable energy technology, 2) the ecosystem services considered, 3) whether alternative scenarios were developed, and 4) the extent to which the studies were integrated within science-policy processes to inform decision-making. Several recent studies have shown the potential impacts of renewable energy development on

regulating services such as air and water quality and natural hazards, food production, and cultural services such as aesthetics and inspiration, sense of place, and recreation and tourism opportunities (see Ref [38] for a review and Appendix A for database of findings)<sup>38</sup>. Understanding these impacts is an important part of the design and siting of renewable energy infrastructure to meet local goals. More research and example case studies are needed on the ways in which renewable energy can help to achieve local economic and societal goals through positive influences on ecosystem services and by supporting nature-based economies<sup>39</sup>.

Two key aspects of natural capital assessments can help to support place-based renewable energy design and implementation. First, ecosystem service assessments are inherently spatial. Because key social and ecological variables that influence benefits vary spatially, models that quantify ecosystem services tend to take in spatial information and produce spatial outputs. These have the advantage of supporting siting decisions related to energy generation, transmission, and storage and allow for exploring alternative scenarios that could reduce conflicts or safeguard as opposed to degrade, ecosystems and the societal benefits they provide<sup>20</sup>. Second, ecosystem services are frequently quantified using a diverse set of metrics<sup>40,41</sup>. While monetary metrics are useful for shining a light on previously unrecognized ecosystem services, other metrics such as numbers of people or demographic groups benefiting, or the production of goods can resonate more with certain stakeholders. Both the spatial information and the multiple metrics for valuing ecosystem services can help to elucidate the beneficiaries of renewable energy development and the geographical communities and demographic groups potentially impacted by the development. This information can in turn be used to inform financing mechanisms to compensate those impacted or incentives for communities to participate<sup>42</sup>.

## 2.2 Scenario design

President Biden's renewable energy goals require major investment in infrastructure to support renewable energy generation, transmission, storage, and resilience<sup>43</sup>.

Infrastructure development of any kind (e.g., transportation, commerce, housing, energy) can impact land- and seascapes, altering ecological systems and the benefits they provide to people. However, the relationship between infrastructure development and environment isn't just about impacts of people on ecosystems. Informed infrastructure development and stewardship of ecosystems can also enable communities that rely on natural resources to prosper<sup>6</sup>. For example, sustainably designed investments in processing plants that draw on local renewable energy resources to process fish, agricultural products, or other commodities can enable

communities to reap higher profits from local, harvested goods. Well-planned roads, reliable, electric ferries, and green accommodations can facilitate tourism in beautiful places. The same is true for the development of renewable energy systems. Community-designed renewable energy projects could help cities and towns on their journey towards sustainable prosperity. The key is to understand how future scenarios of renewable energy development influence ecosystems and the benefits they provide to people<sup>44</sup>.

Several papers we reviewed include the development of scenarios for exploring outcomes of renewable energy projects on ecosystem services. Scenarios are “plausible description[s] of how the future may unfold based on a coherent and internally consistent set of assumptions about key driving forces ... and relationships”<sup>1</sup>. They are useful for exploring how actions taken today might play out in the future. Scenarios are increasingly recognized as a key component of sustainable development planning<sup>45</sup>.

Scenarios often consist of both qualitative storylines and quantitative information<sup>46</sup>. They provide an opportunity for stakeholders, communities, scientists, and policymakers to come together to develop multiple options or pathways, to capture and reflect back alternative perspectives and opinions about what that future may look like, and to explore trade-offs. In the case of renewable energy, scenarios could involve comparing different technology options, siting locations, or design proposals. Alternative scenarios could be co-developed to explicitly explore trade-offs and synergies between achieving national scale decarbonization goals and local outcomes. We are still exploring the scenarios documented in the literature for renewable energy and ecosystem services and how these could be advanced to tackle the tension between place-based and national-scale goals (Appendix A).

Scenario design often includes the development of several written storylines describing the social, economic, and environmental conditions under alternative futures. Scenario design may also include hand-drawn maps where community members have depicted current and future elements of the land and seascape which they would like to see developed (e.g., new energy infrastructure or development projects requiring additional power) or protected (e.g., ecosystems, viewsheds, recreational access points, commercial or subsistence fishing locations)<sup>46</sup>. Scenarios may also include quantitative information in tables or maps describing social, economic, and environmental conditions under the different possible futures.

## 2.3 Participatory process

To increase the decision relevance of natural capital assessments and scenarios, there is a need to link this science with better understanding of the needs and values of communities that may interact with renewable energy infrastructure<sup>47</sup>. There is also a need to explore trade-offs in not only monetary metrics, but also human health and demographic metrics that may resonate with different world views and perspectives. In collaboration with local populations and stakeholders, this information can in turn be used to shape the design and development of renewable energy technologies, as well as incentive programs, to achieve positive social, ecological, and economic outcomes and assure benefits of development projects for communities<sup>33</sup>.

Traditional approaches to infrastructure development have pursued stakeholder and community participation primarily through elicitation of stakeholder feedback on proposed projects. However, more recent approaches to community-based development projects and community-based natural resource management involve collaborating with local populations and stakeholders throughout the planning and implementation phases. At the beginning of a process, scoping and convening stakeholders and/or community members involves understanding the challenges a community is facing, the overarching goals of the community for the future of where they live and work, and how these goals may relate to potential renewable energy interventions. A truly participatory process would also involve working closely together in each phase, including incorporating local knowledge into data collection, developing alternative scenarios for the future that incorporate differences in community perspectives and preferences, ensuring parameters in models reflect assumptions agreed on by the community, providing interim results for review and input from community members, and iterating on the analysis to ensure community input is incorporated.

A participatory process is inherently iterative and not all communities or energy transitions will proceed through the various steps and stages in the same order. A key part of an iterative process is not just integration of knowledge gained from monitoring, evaluation, and stakeholder feedback into future planning and projects (i.e., adaptive management), but also the feedback from stakeholders, community leaders, and other partners during each step in the planning process and the role of these partners in framing the research or technical assistance in the first place. Iterative and sustained collaboration with community members and key stakeholders fosters community ownership of the energy transition and enables identification, analysis, and monitoring of social, economic, and environmental goals that underpin sustainable development

and the blue economy. Coproduction of information among researchers, communities and policy-makers maximizes the chances that scientific results will be salient, credible, and legitimate<sup>48,49</sup>. Processes that incorporate active participation, information exchange, transparency, fair decision-making, and positive participant interactions are more likely to be supported by stakeholders, meet management objectives, and fulfill community development goals.

### 3.0 Conclusion

Achieving national decarbonization targets and communities' economic, social, and environmental goals requires interdisciplinary and participatory approaches to a renewable energy transition. The framework we lay out in this report outlines three key components of a natural capital approach to sustainable development that we believe can be effectively applied to renewable energy. These components include 1) quantifying the social-ecological outcomes of alternative renewable energy options, 2) design of qualitative and quantitative scenarios for future infrastructure development, and 3) development of participatory science-policy processes for incorporating natural capital and justice benchmarks into renewable energy transitions.

Several major next steps are needed to test and implement this framework and these approaches. These steps include building out the conceptual and quantitative models that capture relationships between renewable energy development and social-ecological systems. Second, there's a need to identify key elements of alternative future energy scenarios that will allow us to explore the tension and realize synergies between local and national goals. Third, capacity building and cultural change within government, industry, and academia are needed to support the transferability of best practices for participatory science-policy processes from other sectors to the energy sector. Lastly, there's a need to test and refine our framework for valuing ecosystems to inform the renewable energy transition by applying it—in collaboration with government, industry, academia, and communities—to real-world planning processes and development decisions.

## 4.0 References

1. IPCC. Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (Cambridge University Press, 2022).
2. United Nations, G. A. Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (2015).
3. Bridges, T. S. et al. International Guidelines on Natural and Nature-Based Features for Flood Risk Management. (2021).
4. Young, S., Mallory, B. & McCarthy, G. The Path to Achieving Justice40. (2021).
5. Daily, G. Nature's Services: Societal Dependence On Natural Ecosystems. (Island Press, 1997).
6. Mandle, L., Ouyang, Z., Salzman, J. & Daily, G. C. Green Growth That Works: Natural Capital Policy and Finance Mechanisms Around the World. (Island Press, 2019).
7. Arkema, K. K. et al. Embedding ecosystem services in coastal planning leads to better outcomes for people and nature. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **112**, 7390–7395 (2015).
8. Mandle, L. et al. Entry Points for Considering Ecosystem Services within Infrastructure Planning: How to Integrate Conservation with Development in Order to Aid Them Both. *Conserv. Lett.* **9**, 221–227 (2016).
9. Mandle, L., Tallis, H., Sotomayor, L. & Vogl, A. L. Who loses? Tracking ecosystem service redistribution from road development and mitigation in the Peruvian Amazon. *Front. Ecol. Environ.* **13**, 309–315 (2015).
10. Tallis, H., Kennedy, C. M., Ruckelshaus, M., Goldstein, J. & Kiesecker, J. M. Mitigation for one & all: An integrated framework for mitigation of development impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services. *Environ. Impact Assess. Rev.* **55**, 21–34 (2015).
11. Nelson, E. et al. Modeling multiple ecosystem services, biodiversity conservation, commodity production, and tradeoffs at landscape scales. *Front. Ecol. Environ.* **7**, 4–11 (2009).
12. Díaz, S. et al. Assessing nature's contributions to people. *Science* **359**, 270–272 (2018).
13. Rocha, E. O., Calijuri, M. L., Santiago, A. F., de Assis, L. C. & Alves, L. G. S. The Contribution of Conservation Practices in Reducing Runoff, Soil Loss, and Transport of Nutrients at the Watershed Level. *Water Resour. Manag.* **26**, 3831–3852 (2012).
14. Keeler, B. L. et al. Linking water quality and well-being for improved assessment and valuation of ecosystem services. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **109**, 18619–18624 (2012).
15. Kremen, C. & Chaplin-Kramer, R. Insects as Providers of Ecosystem Services: Crop Pollination and Pest Control. in *Insect Conservation Biology: Proceedings of the Royal Entomological Society's 23rd Symposium* (CABI, 2007).
16. Arkema, K. K. et al. Coastal habitats shield people and property from sea-level rise and storms. *Nat. Clim. Change* **3**, 913–918 (2013).
17. Grabowski, J. H. et al. Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services Provided by Oyster Reefs. *BioScience* **62**, 900–909 (2012).

18. Beck, M. W. et al. The Identification, Conservation, and Management of Estuarine and Marine Nurseries for Fish and Invertebrates. *BioScience* **51**, 633 (2001).
19. Mcleod, E. et al. A blueprint for blue carbon: toward an improved understanding of the role of vegetated coastal habitats in sequestering CO<sub>2</sub>. *Front. Ecol. Environ.* **9**, 552–560 (2011).
20. Polasky, S. et al. Where to put things? Spatial land management to sustain biodiversity and economic returns. *Biol. Conserv.* **141**, 1505–1524 (2008).
21. Spillias, S., Kareiva, P., Ruckelshaus, M. & McDonald-Madden, E. Renewable energy targets may undermine their sustainability. *Nat. Clim. Change* **10**, 974–976 (2020).
22. Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. *Ecosystems and Human Wellbeing*. (Island Press, 2005).
23. Guerry, A. D., Polasky, S., Lubchenco, J., Chaplin-Kramer, R. & Daily, D., Gretchen. Natural capital and ecosystem services informing decisions: From promise to practice. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **112**, 7348–7355 (2015).
24. Kareiva, P., Tallis, H., Ricketts, T., Daily, G. & Polasky, S. *Natural Capital: Theory and Practice of Mapping Ecosystem Services*. (Oxford University Press, 2011).
25. Ruckelshaus, M. et al. Notes from the field: Lessons learned from using ecosystem service approaches to inform real-world decisions. *Ecol. Econ.* (2015) doi:10.1016/j.ecolecon.2013.07.009.
26. Dasgupta, P. *The economics of biodiversity: the Dasgupta review: full report*. (HM Treasury, 2021).
27. IPBES. Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services. <https://zenodo.org/record/3553579> (2019) doi:10.5281/zenodo.3553579.
28. National Ecosystem Services Partnership. *Federal Resource Management and Ecosystem Services Guidebook*. (2016).
29. Holland, R. A. et al. Incorporating ecosystem services into the design of future energy systems. *Appl. Energy* **222**, 812–822 (2018).
30. White, C., Halpern, B. S. & Kappel, C. V. Ecosystem service tradeoff analysis reveals the value of marine spatial planning for multiple ocean uses. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **109**, 4696–4701 (2012).
31. Griffin, R. et al. Incorporating the visibility of coastal energy infrastructure into multi-criteria siting decisions. *Mar. Policy* **62**, 218–223 (2015).
32. Papathanasopoulou, E., Beaumont, N., Hooper, T., Nunes, J. & Queirós, A. M. Energy systems and their impacts on marine ecosystem services. *Renew. Sustain. Energy Rev.* **52**, 917–926 (2015).
33. Trifonova, N., Scott, B., Griffin, R., Pennock, S. & Jeffrey, H. An ecosystem-based natural capital evaluation framework that combines environmental and socio-economic implications of offshore renewable energy developments. *Prog. Energy* **4**, 032005 (2022).
34. Olander, L. P. et al. Benefit relevant indicators: Ecosystem services measures that link ecological and social outcomes. *Ecol. Indic.* **85**, 1262–1272 (2018).
35. Graham, M. et al. Partial shading by solar panels delays bloom, increases floral abundance during the late-season for pollinators in a dryland, agrivoltaic ecosystem. *Sci. Rep.* **11**, 7452 (2021).

36. Copping, A. E. et al. Potential Environmental Effects of Marine Renewable Energy Development—The State of the Science. *J. Mar. Sci. Eng.* **8**, 879 (2020).
37. Tawalbeh, M. et al. Environmental impacts of solar photovoltaic systems: A critical review of recent progress and future outlook. *Sci. Total Environ.* **759**, 143528 (2021).
38. Picchi, P., Lierop, M. van, Geneletti, D. & Stremke, S. Advancing the relationship between renewable energy and ecosystem services for landscape planning and design: A literature review. *Ecosyst. Serv.* **35**, 241–259 (2019).
39. Fitzpatrick, C. A Landscape Approach to Multifunctional Floating Offshore Wind Energy in Coos Bay, Oregon. (2021).
40. Tallis, H. et al. New metrics for managing and sustaining the ocean's bounty. *Mar. Policy* **36**, 303–306 (2011).
41. Tallis, H. et al. A Global System for Monitoring Ecosystem Service Change. *BioScience* **62**, 977–986 (2012).
42. Naeem, S. et al. Get the science right when paying for nature's services. *Science* **347**, 1206–1207 (2015).
43. The White House. President Biden Sets 2030 Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Target Aimed at Creating Good-Paying Union Jobs and Securing US Leadership on Clean Energy Technologies. (2021).
44. Randle-Boggis, R. J. et al. Realising co-benefits for natural capital and ecosystem services from solar parks: A co-developed, evidence-based approach. *Renew. Sustain. Energy Rev.* **125**, 109775 (2020).
45. Biswas, S. & Miller, C. A. Deconstructing knowledge and reconstructing understanding: Designing a knowledge architecture for transdisciplinary co-creation of energy futures. *Sustain. Dev.* **30**, 293–308 (2022).
46. Wyatt, K. et al. Integrated and innovative scenario approaches for sustainable development planning in The Bahamas. *Ecol. Soc.* **26**, (2021).
47. Mandle, L. et al. Increasing decision relevance of ecosystem service science. *Nat. Sustain.* **4**, 161–169 (2021).
48. Clark, W. C., Kerkhoff, L. van, Lebel, L. & Gallopin, G. C. Crafting usable knowledge for sustainable development. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **113**, 4570–4578 (2016).
49. Posner, S. M., McKenzie, E. & Ricketts, T. H. Policy impacts of ecosystem services knowledge. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **113**, 1760–1765 (2016).

## Appendix A – Renewable energy and ecosystem values

Literature Information				Research Questions and Metadata											Ecosystem Services							Methods			
Citation	Study Location	Study Type	Energy resource	Research Question	Scenarios	Action / management	Engagement	Policy window	Iterative process	Beneficiaries	Pollination	Agriculture	Fisheries	Recreation	Climate mitigation	Coastal resilience	Water quality	Water quantity	Sediment	Flood mitigation	Renewable energy	Other Activities	Model/ Assessment Employed	Limitations of Study	
<a href="#">Burkhard and Gee, 2012</a>	German North Sea	Case Study	Offshore Wind	Seeks to highlight potential regime shifts in the marine ecosystem and the possible transitions that may result from OWF development in the socioeconomic system on the coast of Northern Germany.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do the Coastal Futures results provide evidence of potential regime shifts occurring as a result of OWF introduction?</li> <li>Partly as a result of regime shifts in the sea, will OWF introduction lead to a transition in the socioeconomic system on the coast? What factors would need to come into play for this transition to occur?</li> <li>What theoretical framework is able to capture and describe any cross-scale effects?</li> </ul>	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Full list in Table 1; cultural services discussed, including visual aesthetics, heritage, habitat/species value, sense of place, seascape character; ES not quantified, instead the study models "regime shifts in the respective subsystems and the impact of the respective trajectories on selected ecosystem services" as seen in Table 2.	Because the majority of these OWFs have not yet been built (see Fig. 1), the Coastal Futures project worked with future scenarios assuming different OWF developments in the case study area (Lange et al. 2010). Different ecological models were used to assess the environmental impacts of the assumed scenarios (Burkhard et al. 2011a). In a parallel investigation, interviews and expert assessments were used to evaluate the potential effects of OWF expansion on seascape values and related ecosystem services, as well as the secondary effects on human well-being in the case study area	
<a href="#">Casalegno et al., 2014</a>	Cornwall, UK	Case Study	Solar and Wind (as an ecosystem service)	Aims to prioritize areas for ecosystem services, urban development and renewable energy provision together, serves as a tool for optimizing their provision, and for promoting their consideration during the landscape management decision making processes. To do this, the authors address the following fundamental questions: (i) how are the values of key services spatially distributed?; (ii) what are the spatial covariances between services and the consequences for the spatial co-occurrence of services?; and (iii) where are the priority areas (locations where one or multiple service provision is greatest) for environmental service provision?	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Cultural services included: tourism (distance traveled by visitors to natural sites), aesthetics (individuals uploading photographs); Plant production (normalized differential vegetation index) and urban development (urban land cover as living space service) included	Overall patterns of spatial variation within maps were quantified using Moran's I index [61]. Moran's I index approaches a value of 1 when there is a high degree of clustering, whereas values approach zero for disperse and random distribution patterns. We determined the spatial covariance between each of the environmental service layers in Cornwall using the Clifford Richardson Hemon correlation method		
<a href="#">Causon and Gill, 2018</a>		Review	Offshore wind	Aims to specifically link changes to biodiversity, in relation to OWFs with ecosystem services through associated processes and functions.	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	None			
<a href="#">Chenoweth et al., 2018</a>	Case Study 1: Surrey, UK; Case Study 2: Raleigh, NC, USA; Case Study 3: Seattle, WA, USA	Discussion through case studies	Green infrastructure - not RE	Use case studies to offer perspectives on the relationship between green infrastructure and natural capital related to ES						N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N					

<a href="#">Copping et al., 2020</a>	International	Review/State of the Science	Marine energy	Compiles the most current and pertinent published information about interactions of marine renewable energy (MRE) devices and associated infrastructure with the animals and habitats that make up the marine environment.	NA	Literature Review																	
<a href="#">Custodio et al., 2022</a>	Belgian Continental Shelf	Stakeholder engagement method	Predominantly offshore wind	This study presents a process for stakeholder engagement process and its outcomes, namely a list of ES priorities and the linkages between those ES and marine activities. These results help to understand the priorities of the blue economy sectors and establish a baseline for ES prioritization in upcoming assessments. It is anticipated that this pragmatic approach can be adapted and applied to other geographical areas to capture stakeholder knowledge quickly and efficiently. The study also presents a conceptual diagram was co-developed linking marine activities and ES to highlight potential synergies and trade-offs, with a focus on offshore wind	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	biodiversity, wild plants	Es to include in the participatory discussions were identified through a Web of Science review and using CICES - list of 14 relevant ES is outlined in table 1	
<a href="#">Datta et al., 2020</a>	Western Canada	Scoping Review	Pipelines and Indigenous communities	This paper reports on a scoping review of critical issues in sustainability, particularly energy pipelines and their impact on Indigenous peoples' drinking water access.	NA																		
<a href="#">Davis et al., 2018</a>	Oklahoma, USA	Case Study	Wind Energy and Unconventional Gas	To examine the land-use changes caused by unconventional gas and wind development in the Anadarko Basin of the Woodford Shale in west-central Oklahoma, then calculate the ecosystem services costs associated with these land-use changes. They chose this region as a case study because the area has seen the rapid development of both unconventional gas wells (from 0 to 228 wells) and wind turbines (from 0 to 418 turbines) from 2008 to 2015. They measured the amount of land developed and the associated ecosystem services costs and standardized these measurements on a per unit basis (i.e., well or turbine) and on a per unit energy produced (i.e., gigajoules). The goal was to determine which type of energy development is associated with higher environmental costs, in terms of habitat modification and ecosystem services due to land-use changes.	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Land-use (hectares per gas well/hectares per turbine). See Table 1	GIS-based analysis; energy and ES calculations were based on a 25-year life span. Obtained habitat-specific ecosystem services (ES) values from a previous study (Moran et al. 2017). Annual ES costs per unit (well or turbine) were calculated by multiplying the number of hectares developed for each respective habitat by its estimated ES value (from Moran et al. 2017) and summing the values of each habitat. We then calculated the ES cost on a per gigajoule basis to acquire a standard ecosystem cost per unit of energy produced. In all calculations, monetary values were adjusted to USD 2015.	the time frame of 25 years is somewhat arbitrary, but it serves as a reasonable estimate to compare the two sources of energy production. assumed modified habitat still possessed ES values, so the cost of that modification was calculated as the difference in ES value between the new habitat and original habitat (Moran et al. 2017).
<a href="#">Egli et al., 2017</a>	Switzerland	Modeling Method/ Case Study	Wind energy	They propose a method to apply the ES approach in a spatially explicit setting combined with an optimisation tool to evaluate, assess, and quantify the trade-offs resulting from wind electricity development.	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	'Intellectual and representative interactions', which is termed 'Aesthetics' in the present study, and 'Physical and experiential interactions' which we refer to as 'Tourism'. Presents proportional change based on scenarios.	Marxan was used as optimisation software to evaluate, assess, and quantify the trade-offs between ES provisioning and wind electricity production. Marxan is optimisation software that was designed as a tool to provide decision support for systematic nature conservation planning. To minimise cost while maximising benefits, the program evaluates different potential spatial management decisions. Ecosystem Service selection was based on the current Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services	Since Marxan was originally designed as a conservation planning tool, some of the inputs, outputs, and parameters were necessarily adjusted for use in the present study.	
<a href="#">Emanuel et al.</a>	US	Desktop study	Natural gas pipeline and social vulnerability	Study compared the density of natural gas gathering and transmission pipelines to social vulnerability on a county-by-county basis for all the pipeline-containing counties in the US using geospatial data.	NA	compared the density of natural gas gathering and transmission pipelines to social vulnerability on a county-by-county basis for all the pipeline-containing counties in the US using geospatial data from the social vulnerability index (SVI) for 3,142	No counties in Hawaii, and only one county in Alaska contained any gathering or transmission pipelines																





<a href="#">Howard et al., 2013</a>	Bedfordshire, England.	Case Study	Land based renewables	To determine how an understanding of the energyscape and ecosystem services could help guide the deployment of land based renewables through presenting a a one year pilot study to discover the potential benefits and obstacles in using a whole system approach to evaluate the energy system. Also to examine energy system options in the context of the wider landscape by taking into consideration the interactions both between the energy components and ecosystem services.	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Recreation/culture and conservation (provisioning of habitat for farmland birds)	The existing land use was described through field survey and remote sensing and the production through the key provisioning ecosystem services was modeled (Fig. 4). Other ecosystem services that were assessed include the regulation of biochemical processes (e.g. soil carbon), culture (e.g. recreation) and conservation (provision of appropriate and sufficient habitats for farmland birds). The local energy demand was also mapped (Fig. 5)	Within this paper only a brief indication of the outputs from the case study analysis has been presented by way of a demonstration of the potential of this approach.	
<a href="#">Intralawan et al., 2018</a>	Mekong River, Southeast Asia	Tradeoff Analysis	Hydropower	This study builds on previous assessments of Mekong River basin-wide scenarios with updated inputs including electricity price, loss of capture fisheries, fish price, hydropower project data, values of wetlands, sediment loss and social and environmental mitigation costs.	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Discusses economic impact			
<a href="#">Jonasson et al., 2019</a>	Canada	Discussion/Case Study	Pipelines and Indigenous communities	Analyses Canadian environmental impact assessments used for fossil fuel expansion failed to include health impacts and risks of spills; uses Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion and impacts on the Tsleil-Waututh Nation as a case study for discussion	NA																			
<a href="#">Jordaan et al., 2021</a>	Chihuahuan Desert, USA	Case Study	Wind, solar, also natural gas	To develop and implement a novel approach for quantifying both land requirements and ecosystem services values based on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity framework.	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	The ES is based on land-use intensity and doesn't necessarily go to the specific ES level - land uses included are grassland, shrubland, woodland; Note the total ecosystem services value of the Chihuahuan Desert has recently been estimated at \$367 per hectare (2016 USD) using the well-established TEEB framework	builds upon the framework for LCIA of land use developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) Life Cycle Initiative working group; distinguishes between three types of land-use impacts in our methodology: transformation, occupation, and permanent impacts.		
<a href="#">Kilcher et al., 2020</a>	USA	Review/Resource Characterization	Marine energy	Provides a concise and consolidated summary of the location and quantity of utility-scale wave, tidal current, ocean current, ocean thermal, and river hydrokinetic resources. The information presented herein is intended to help improve understanding of the locations and characteristics of the resources and how they might contribute to the future energy portfolio of the United States.	NA	Model																		
<a href="#">Kim et al., 2012</a>	Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada	Modeling Framework /Case Study	Wave energy	To develop a freely available decision-support tool capable of 1) providing spatially-explicit information for siting wave energy conversion facilities and 2) helping decision-makers tackle challenges for integrated coastal and marine spatial planning related to wave energy projects. The analysis presented illustrates how a spatially-explicit estimation of economic returns from wave energy conversion and exploration of the compatibility of promising energy sites with existing uses can help decision-makers and stakeholders decide where to install devices to maximize value from wave energy while minimizing potential conflict with existing uses of coastal and marine ecosystems.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	ecological characteristics, shipping, and transport - compares the annual wave energy value to a representative annual value of the existing use for which economic data are available.	Presents a Wave Energy Model as a component of the InVEST, also conducted a compatibility analysis to identify where wave energy conversion facilities and existing marine uses are most compatible. he wave energy model uses the ecosystem services framework proposed by Tallis et al. [19] and consists of three parts: 1) assessment of potential wave power based on wave conditions ("supply metrics"), 2) quantification of harvestable energy using technology-specific information about a wave energy conversion device ("service metrics"), and 3) assessment of the economic value of a wave energy conversion facility over its life span as a capital investment ("value metrics"). The second component included a compatibility analysis to identify where wave energy conversion facilities and existing marine uses are most compatible.	Does not take into account cultural and local benefits of fishing activities in the study area. The study also notes the compatibility analysis can be improved in several ways. The data used for the commercial fisheries analysis reflect fisheries and other human uses from 1993–1996. More recent data on fishing regulations, fleet activity and the abundances of target species would lead to a more accurate	







<a href="#">Scorza et al., 2020</a>	Melfi municipality in the Basilicata region, Italy	Framework /methodology	Wind/Solar ; case study site includes 79 wind turbines and 7 solar farms. The estimated installed electricity production capacity is close to 200 MW.	How to improve the territorial monitoring system so as to achieve an appropriate landscape and environmental assessment in renewable energy planning? Consequently, how to develop effective innovations in the normative planning framework in order to improve long-term sustainability for territorial transformation on a local scale?	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Habitat quality; measured bny habitat quality and degradation	InVEST used; Presents ex-post-impact assessment methodology based on cumulative ecosystem services losses; a multi-criteria analysis conducted by means of the Spatial Analytical Hierarchy Process method, further analyses were carried out using GIS	
<a href="#">Stebbins et al., 2021</a>	UK	Framework and Case Study	Offshore Wind	This study therefore defined the capacity of a system to supply specific benefits through a combination of natural and human factors. It attempts to measure different environmental benefits by describing them as the product of different forms of capital: natural capital as described in environmental accounts or NCA, as well as inputs from within the production boundary of national accounts. Indicators were chosen for each of the factors and a composite index was calculated that described the capacity to supply benefits (Section 2). The related economic sectors were identified, and the economic contribution of these benefits was estimated. The application of this approach was demonstrated with case studies from the UK for four marine benefits: seafood, offshore wind energy, wildlife watching and water sports.	-	-	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	None	Assessment was based on multi-criteria assessment and composite indicators; a detailed assessment of individual ES was undertaken (i.e. this approach went beyond the high-level categories of provisioning, cultural or regulatory services)	
<a href="#">Stokesbury et al., 2022</a>	International, presents a mock-up framework for wind farm development in Massachusetts	Framework	Offshore wind	Outline a framework for ecosystem-based management to quantify tradeoffs among ecological, economic, social, and institutional pillars over multiple ocean use sectors, with considerations to both windfarms and fisheries including their interactions. Ecological objectives include productivity and trophic structure, biodiversity, and habitat and ecosystem integrity. Economic objectives include economic viability and prosperity, livelihoods, and distribution of access and benefits. Social objectives include health and well-being encompassing food supply, green energy supply, recreation, and leisure, reduced stress in the work environment, safety, and ethical considerations. Institutional objectives include good governance structure, effective decision-making processes, and legal obligations.	-	-	Y	Y	NA	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Y	NA	The "systems" framework categorizes data on spatial scales of 1 cm2 to 1 km2 (individual turbines/fishing vessels), 1–1000 km2 (companies), and >1000 km2 (regions), and by their ecological, economic, cultural, and institutional impacts. The framework should be repeated over temporal scales of the wind farm: pre-development (1–3 years), construction (1–2 years), post-construction (20–40 years), and decommission.	
<a href="#">Tallis et al., 2012</a>	NA	Framework	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		
<a href="#">Tallis et al., 2012</a>	NA	Framework	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	InVEST, LPJmL		
<a href="#">Torres et al., 2021.</a>	NA	Review	NA	(1) Provide an update of the progress in ecosystem services research, (2) Identify dominant and emerging areas of interest in the ecosystem service field	-	-	-	-	NA	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N		Systematic literature review	Differences among databases influences outputs, identification of key themes and approaches carries subjectivity, approach





# **Pacific Northwest National Laboratory**

902 Battelle Boulevard  
P.O. Box 999  
Richland, WA 99354

1-888-375-PNNL (7665)

***[www.pnnl.gov](http://www.pnnl.gov)***