**Core**

The Wadden islands aim to be self-sufficient in terms of energy requirements by the year 2020. Many initiatives are being carried out on the mainland’s coast, under the “Energy Valley” framework. A ‘Blue Energy’ pilot centre is operational in Kornwerderzand on the Afsluit dike, and a tidal turbine is located in a dike overflow outlet in Den Oever. The placement of a tidal turbine in the fast-flowing Marsdiep is currently being investigated. However, the extent to which these forms of energy will affect nature and scenery is still uncertain.

**Approach**

Monitoring is required to supervise the switch to renewable energy in the Wadden Sea region. Assessing the effects that (small-scale) renewable energy experiments may have on natural and scenic values is necessary, in order to determine the extent to which other interests may be compromised. Special attention is being paid to the possible shortcomings in standard monitoring, which serves as the basis for assessing any monitoring efforts of new activities related to renewable energy.

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