

# STAFF REPORT REGULAR MEETING

**AGENDA DATE:** January 29, 2026

**DEPARTMENT:** Electric Utility

**TITLE:**

Development of Ocean Current Energy Initiative Update

**SUMMARY:**

Update on the development of ocean current energy as a viable renewable energy resource and component of the City's efforts to achieve net-zero emissions.

**BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:**

The City has a long-standing relationship with the Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center (SNMREC), a U.S. Department of Energy Center located at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). SNMREC is focused on the safe and responsible use of marine renewable energy from the Gulf Stream. ([www.fau.edu/hboi/research/ocean-engineering/renewable-energy/](http://www.fau.edu/hboi/research/ocean-engineering/renewable-energy/)).

The ultimate goal and mutual interest of the City and FAU is to harness this extreme natural force to power the City's electric utility and some of Florida's most populated coastal communities sustainably. At the core of SNMREC research is a novel ocean turbine prototype created and deployed by FAU Harbor Branch ocean engineers. The Institute is poised to take this technology from prototype to landing a permanent place within the Nation's alternative energy portfolio.

The City and Equinox Ocean Turbines B.V., one of a number of potential turbine developers working in the ocean current energy space, have executed a Non-Binding Letter of Interest to explore the potential of ocean current energy as a predictable and continuous energy source.

Bart Velthuisen of Equinox Ocean Turbines (<https://equinoxoceanturbines.com/>) will brief the City Commission on their plans for developing an ocean current energy project connected to the Lake Worth Beach Electric Utility.

Equinox Ocean Turbines' web site explains that they provide a solution for the energy challenge by harnessing the clean energy source available in ocean currents. The Equinox Ocean Turbine is a two-stage turbine with a semi-floating foundation, suitable for all water depths and has no visual or environmental impact. Equinox's business model is based on turbine sales, project pre-development and 'operate and maintenance'. The roll-out of the turbine technology is based on proven elements and existing product infrastructure and builds.

**MOTION:**

N/A

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Fiscal Impact – N/A

Equinox Ocean Turbines Presentation

Non-Binding Letter of Interest