### Wind Energy Ireland Research Prospectus

**Industry Collaboration in Research Projects** 









#### Introduction

- Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) is Ireland's largest renewable energy organisation with 170 members who have come together to plan, build, operate, and support the development of wind energy and other green, clean and sustainable technologies.
- We play a leading role in the areas of policy development, media and communications, training and skills development, event and conference organisation, and energy and climate research.
- We represent companies with development plans and operations in Ireland and further afield, and work closely with our members, other renewable energy associations and international partners to collaborate on research projects, both at national and EU level.
- WEI's Research Strategy for 2022-2025 articulates the key role we believe research will play in helping to deliver societies' collective decarbonization goals. WEI's vision statement aims 'to realize the potential presented by research, to support the ambition of a zerocarbon society'. Our Research Strategy is available <a href="here">here</a>.

### Our Network of Industry Stakeholders



Representing all aspects of onshore and offshore wind and other clean, green technologies.

- Wind farm developers
- Turbine manufacturers
- Construction companies
- Planning consultancies
- Supply companies
- Accountants
- Insurance
- Consultancy
- Legal firms
- Banks
- Small local businesses



#### WEI's Research Goals

- ✓ Policy development: Doubling down on our influential role to date, continuing to deliver evidence-building, policy-priming research to address important climate goals for society.
- ✓ Partnerships: Rooted in the co-production of energy research, supporting essential studies, collaborating in proposals and projects, and generating research funding to deliver on plans.
- ✓ Education and engagement: Focusing on the dissemination of research, using education and communication tools to steer positive sentiment towards renewables for a zero-carbon society.
- ✓ Industry supports: Encouraging the application of research to deliver new technologies in industry, while also working with academia to fulfil skills needs and talent development in our sector.



Wind Energy Ireland has developed this new research strategy to articulate the pivotal role we believe research is going to play in helping to deliver on our decarbonisation targets, and to outline how WEI can best contribute to the research eco-system over the coming years. Research is going to be a key enabler for shaping the transition to a sustainable economy. In this regard, WEI has the capability and ambition to make a significant contribution. Our research strategy addresses a number of emerging themes.

- Dave Linehan, Head of Research





RATEGY GOAL

Position leading energy research at the centre of national policy formation and trends. STRATEGY GOAL

Establish WEI as
a collaborative
partner in the
co-production
of grant funded
research.

Connect energy research with education and engagement, driving positive actions by us, our supporters, and society. STRATEGY GOAL resear innovation needs growing

Support our members, using research to innovate and deliver the skills needs of a growing sector.

### **Policy Research from WEI**

WEI has a track record in publishing game changing industry research, regularly undertaking studies with our partners to support policy development.

- Our 70 by 30 report with Baringa Partners was a pivotal publication which set out ways to deliver Ireland's national Climate Action Plan in 2019.
- The Harnessing Our Potential study with the Carbon Trust outlined how offshore wind has the potential to create 2,500 jobs over the next ten years through developing our supply chain.
- Our research with MaREI in Our Climate Neutral Future: Zeroby50 showed how Ireland can achieve a net-zero energy system by 2050.
- And in Endgame: A zero-carbon electricity plan with Baringa Partners we set out a pathway for a zero-emissions Irish electricity grid by 2035.





### **Recent Research Activity**

Europe's and Ireland's ambitions for a zero-carbon and climate-resilient economy bring significant opportunities to the research community. WEI is actively seeking partners for funded collaborations.

- We are a partner of the ERASMUS+ THSORE project, leading tasks on dissemination and communication. TSHORE will be establishing centres of excellence in offshore wind across Europe over the next 4 years.
- We recently submitted two proposals to the EU
  Horizon programme related to wind in the natural
  and social environment. Feedback is expected Q3.
   We also announced our inaugural research poster
  event, taking place at the WEI conference.
- We are currently exploring opportunities for the upcoming INTERREG, HORIZON, LIFE, ERASMUS+ and other funding programs launching in 2022.



## Are you a looking for an impactful Research Dissemination Strategy?

Project funding is available in many different areas of energy, climate and the environment. However, the search for a partner who can combine strong industry insights, with the best tools for engaging stakeholders, broad project communication, media messaging and knowledge dissemination can often be a complex and lengthy process.

Successful research projects need well-planned dissemination strategies, to ensure that scientific, societal and commercial impacts of research, and the potential for results uptake can be maximised. The best proposals combine academic and industry actors in partnerships, where associates can share their diverse and unique insights and skillsets.

# Wind Energy Ireland can be your perfect research partner.

Bringing together industry and research colleagues in our working groups, we can facilitate sharing of insights and knowledge, cooperation and networking between different partners. This also provides access to additional expertise and essential data for the project team.

Applying communications, media and event experience, we can expertly execute the dissemination of results for research projects across a spectrum of stakeholders. This helps to ensure the research meets user needs and acceptability and also creates buy-in to end goals.



### **Project Dissemination Techniques**

- Research funding comes with clear expectations for communication and dissemination of results, and the need for meaningful engagement with the different stakeholders and actors involved.
- WEI is a team of dedicated communication, event management, and policy development experts, with proven experience in the management and dissemination of project tasks and results.
- We have developed a range of service functions –
  combining a team of resources that can focus on
  engaging, informing and educating stakeholders
  including industry, policy makers and broader
  society, in projects of varying scope and scale.

### **WEI's Tailored Approach**

- 1. Maximum Visibility: We will utilize a range of online media platforms to distribute project materials, tailored to specific audiences, to maximize project visibility.
- 2. Maximum Outreach: We will develop a bespoke dissemination strategy, maximizing outreach with policy makers, members of industry and energy citizens alike.
- 3. Maximum Engagement: We will generate various stakeholder engagement plans and gather feedback through networking and events. This will maximize awareness and build trust and acceptance of results.



## Are you a looking for advisory services to support your research?

Research projects often involve a consortium of diverse partners from a number of jurisdictions, seeking to trial, demonstrate and implement innovative solutions, often across multiple territories.

Wind Energy Ireland can provide expertise and in-depth knowledge to projects on both Irish and wider EU policy, legislation and regulations and frameworks already in place and those currently in development.

WEI's experience can support consortium members to understand the complexities in the Irish market and how they differ with other jurisdictions, ensuring compliance with current regulations. We can also advise on the best ways to streamline approaches, to support project goals.

## Wind Energy Ireland can be your perfect research partner.

The WEI team has extensive experience with tracking, monitoring and responding to policy consultations, in collaboration with industry partners, to influence policy development in Ireland and the wider EU. We are well-placed to support research projects to understand and comply with existing policies and regulations as they relate to research.

WEI also works with industry to identify where existing policies and legislation are not as effective as they need to be. In supporting research projects, we can help to identify opportunities for regulatory sandboxes to trial and test new ideas, and also further influence and shape policy to support innovative solutions on the transition to net-zero.



#### **Contact Us Today**

For more information, please contact

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