



Onshore Wind Action Plan

How Ireland can accelerate
onshore wind delivery



windenergyireland.com

WEI Member Engagement



Four Key Pillars

Our Onshore Wind Action Plan identifies four key pillars.



1. Building Public Support



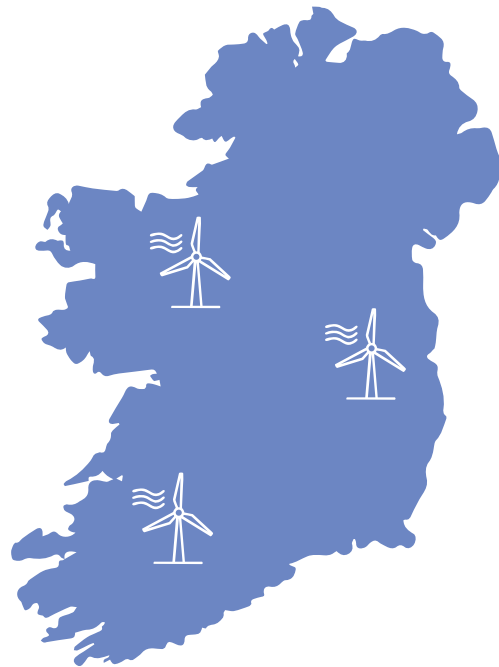
2. Achieving Consent



3. Getting Connected



4. Enabling Investment



Introduction

The challenge is no longer whether Ireland can build onshore wind. We have already developed one of Europe's most successful onshore wind industries.

The challenge is whether our planning system, our electricity grid and our electricity market can work together to deliver the next generation of projects at the speed Ireland needs.

While significant progress has been made over the past two decades the State's limited capacity to consent and connect projects is a barrier to achieving Irish energy independence.

The barriers are systemic. The planning process is inconsistent, and critical agencies are under-resourced and lack the capacity they need. Our electricity grid cannot accommodate today's demands, let alone those of the future, while growing project risk is eroding investment certainty.

Despite this, the pipeline of projects is strong – it is growing – and there are experienced teams across Ireland working every day to build the projects our country needs.

Recognising the challenges in delivery, Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) held workshops with 22 members, representing almost the entire national onshore wind project pipeline. Those discussions identified the practical barriers undermining project delivery and the reforms, improved implementation and stronger cross-Government coordination needed to overcome them.

This Action Plan translates those findings into a practical roadmap for delivery. Many of the legislative and regulatory foundations are already in place. The priority now is effective implementation, clear accountability and coordinated action to achieve Ireland's ambition of energy independence.

The Action Plan is also focused on supporting Irish electricity consumers. We can, and must, make it more affordable to generate renewable electricity to see the difference in their bills. We can do this by accelerating project delivery, maximising renewable generation, using our existing infrastructure more efficiently and cutting project costs.

Fifteen actions are identified in total, within four interconnected pillars that together determine whether new wind farms can progress from concept to operation.

1. Building Public Support focuses on tackling disinformation designed to undermine Ireland's energy revolution, mobilising support at every level of society for energy independence and ensuring that local communities continue to benefit directly from energy and grid infrastructure.

2. Achieving Consent focuses on creating a faster, more consistent, planning system through effective implementation of RED III, updated planning guidance, streamlined appeals processes and better alignment between national, regional and local planning policy.

3. Getting Connected sets out the actions required to accelerate the delivery of strategic transmission infrastructure, improve certainty around grid connections and energisation, reduce Dispatch Down and maximise the efficient use of existing network capacity.

4. Enabling Investment identifies the reforms needed to grow investor confidence, strengthen the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS), expand Corporate Power Purchase Agreements (CPPAs) and enable private wires.

The fifteen actions are further subdivided into several deliverables, and each deliverable is assigned an owner and supporting stakeholders spanning Government departments, planning authorities, regulators, system operators and industry.

WEI believes the Government's Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce (ARET) is well placed to oversee implementation of this Action Plan, coordinate delivery and monitor progress and review. Regular reporting and review will strengthen accountability, provide confidence to investors and ensure emerging challenges are addressed promptly.

Ireland has built one of Europe's leading onshore wind industries. The next phase of the energy transition requires a shift in focus – from setting ambitious targets to delivering projects.

This Action Plan sets out the practical reforms needed to accelerate that transition and ensure onshore wind continues to power Ireland's economy, strengthen energy security, deliver lasting benefits for communities across the country and lay the foundation for an Irish electrostate.

Priority Actions

Delivering Ireland's onshore wind ambitions requires coordinated action across Government, planning authorities, regulators, system operators and industry.

While this plan contains a total of fifteen actions, eight stand out as key priorities for restoring delivery momentum and improving investor confidence.

Action	What Success Looks Like	Outcome
Make RED III Legislation Work in Practice	Standardise procedures and provide support, including advice and training, to all planning authorities and statutory consultees to ensure consistent implementation of RED III.	Faster, more consistent and predictable planning decisions.
Align Planning Policy Across All Levels of Government	Publish updated Wind Energy Development Guidelines, Regional Renewable Energy Strategies and aligned local development plans that reflect national renewable energy policy and current planning legislation.	A consistent planning framework that provides greater certainty for planning authorities, developers and local communities.
Accelerate Grid Infrastructure Delivery and Long-Term Planning	Strengthen governance and reporting for nationally significant transmission projects and publish a long-term strategic roadmap for Ireland's electricity grid.	Timely delivery of grid infrastructure and greater certainty over future network capacity.
Deliver a Faster, Fairer and More Predictable Grid Connection Process	Improve transparency of grid connection programmes, publish multi-year energisation schedules and provide greater visibility of project dependencies.	Greater certainty for project development, financing and delivery.
Launch a Dispatch Down Action Plan for Ireland	An ARET-monitored programme of actions with measurable targets and accountable owners that delivers sustained reductions in Dispatch Down and increased renewable generation.	Reduced Dispatch Down, increased renewable generation, lower consumer bills and improved project economics.
Enable Fully Hybrid Connections for Renewable Projects	Implement Sharing of MEC, publish a roadmap for Multiple Legal Entities in Connection Agreements and establish a pathway for integrated hybrid units.	Greater utilisation of existing grid connections and accelerated deployment of hybrid renewable projects.
Advance the Deployment of Long Duration Energy Storage	Deliver a dedicated Long Duration Energy Storage procurement framework, provide a long-term route to market and establish a clear investment pathway for future deployment.	Increased deployment of Long Duration Energy Storage, greater renewable integration, improved utilisation of electricity infrastructure.
Maintain a Stable and Bankable RESS Framework	Confirm the future of RESS under State Aid, publish a multi-year auction roadmap and maintain the bankability of future auctions.	Continued domestic and international investment in Ireland's renewable energy sector.



Pillar 1: Building Public Support

Ireland’s onshore wind sector has been built on strong public support, constructive engagement with local communities and the delivery of tangible economic and social benefits across the country. As deployment accelerates, maintaining and strengthening that support will be essential to achieving Ireland’s renewable energy ambitions.

Our members consistently stressed that communities should share in the economic, social and environmental benefits of renewable energy infrastructure. Continued investment in community engagement, transparent communication and local benefit-sharing will help sustain public confidence and support the delivery of future projects.

Maximise Community and Economic Benefits

Onshore wind already delivers significant economic value across rural Ireland through employment, investment, commercial rates,

landowner payments and local procurement. Wind farms will pay €75 million in commercial rates to rural County Councils in 2026 and nine counties now get more than 10 per cent of their entire commercial rates income from wind farms.

Wind farms support a broad range of businesses, including construction contractors, engineering firms, transport providers, environmental consultants, accommodation providers and other local enterprises. In addition, almost €7 million was distributed through community benefit funds in 2024, supporting projects that reflect local priorities and deliver lasting benefits to host communities.

As Ireland continues to expand its onshore wind fleet, ensuring that communities continue to benefit directly from renewable energy development will strengthen public confidence, reinforce local support and help accelerate project delivery.

Deliverable	Responsible	Supporting
Allocate €10 million annually for a national communications and marketing campaign, using independent polling and behavioural research, to counter disinformation, strengthen public engagement and build public support for energy infrastructure delivery.	DPER DCEE	SEAI WEI
Invest in the SEAI to enable it to train and empower communities, collaborate with local authorities and fund administrators to maximise the impact from renewable energy community benefit schemes.	DCEE SEAI	WEI
Proactively communicate the economic, environmental and community benefits for Ireland from the development of onshore wind energy.	DCEE	WEI



Pillar 2: Achieving Consent

A planning system that is efficient, proportionate and predictable is fundamental to delivering Ireland’s renewable energy ambitions. Every onshore wind project depends on timely planning decisions that provide confidence to developers, investors, communities and the wider supply chain.

In recent years, the Government has introduced significant reforms to Ireland’s planning framework, creating a strong foundation for a faster, more streamlined and more consistent consenting system. However, feedback from WEI members indicates that new legislative and regulatory requirements are not being applied consistently across planning authorities and statutory consultees. While intended to accelerate processes, so far, the reforms have delivered increased complexity, greater administrative burdens and longer timelines.

We must ensure that Ireland’s planning system becomes a strategic enabler of renewable energy delivery.

Achieving this objective will require coordinated action across Government, An Coimisiún Pleanála, local authorities, statutory bodies and industry to ensure that planning reforms deliver their intended benefits in practice.

Make RED III Legislation Work in Practice

The revised Renewable Energy Directive (RED III) represents one of the most significant reforms to renewable energy permitting introduced across Europe. It provides a unique opportunity to accelerate renewable energy deployment while maintaining robust environmental safeguards.

Our members strongly support the objectives of RED III but consistently highlight that its implementation is inconsistent. Different approaches to application validation, Environmental Impact Assessment scoping, consultation requirements and interpretation of new legislative provisions are creating unnecessary complexity, extending project timelines and reducing confidence.

The priority now is to ensure RED III is implemented consistently across all planning authorities and statutory consultees. Clear and specific direction is needed from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage along with standardised procedures, targeted training and transparent performance reporting to ensure the benefits of the Directive are fully realised.

Deliverable	Responsible	Supporting Stakeholders
Provide clear and explicit direction to ACP, local authorities and statutory consultees on their responsibilities under RED III by the end of 2026. This should include pre-application consultation, completeness checks, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and mandatory EIA scoping.	DHLGH	WEI ACP Local Authorities NPWS
Establish mandatory RED III training for planning authorities and statutory consultees.	DHLGH OPR	ACP Local Authorities
Publish annual RED III performance metrics, including average validation periods, application timelines and appeal durations for An Coimisiún Pleanála and Local Authorities.	DHLGH ACP	OPR Local Authorities

Unlock a Faster and More Consistent Planning and Judicial System

A well-resourced planning system, supported by specialist expertise and consistent decision-making, is essential to delivering renewable energy infrastructure. Recent reforms, including the establishment of the Planning and Environment Court, provide an important opportunity to improve the speed and predictability of planning decisions.

WEI members nevertheless identify significant variation between planning authorities in validation processes, Environmental Impact Assessment, Appropriate Assessment, consultation requirements and information requests. They also highlighted the duration and unpredictability of judicial review as an ongoing source of project risk.

The priority now is to ensure recent reforms deliver tangible improvements. Greater resourcing, consistent planning processes, effective judicial case management and improved transparency will reduce unnecessary delays while maintaining robust environmental oversight and appropriate access to judicial review.



Deliverable	Responsible	Supporting Stakeholders
Prepare an interim report on progress to date, and complete the delivery, of the Ministerial Action Plan on Planning Resources, to increase resourcing for An Coimisiún Pleanála and Local Authorities and to ensure the timely processing of renewable energy applications in line with mandatory timelines.	DHLGH Local Authorities ACP	DPER
Commence all remaining sections of the Planning and Development Act 2024 by the end of 2026, while ensuring RED III is fully implemented.	DHLGH	DCEE
Review the operation of Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) thresholds under the revised planning legislation.	DHLGH	ACP WEI
Further resource the Planning and Environment Court, including the appointment of at least one additional judge along with any required support staff to manage renewable infrastructure cases efficiently.	Department of Justice Courts Service	DHLGH DPER





Align Planning Policy Across All Levels of Government

Ireland is updating and integrating its renewable energy planning framework through new Regional Renewable Energy Strategies, updated Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and new Renewable Acceleration Areas. Together, these reforms provide an opportunity to create a more coordinated approach to renewable energy development.

Our members are supportive of this but concerned about how the different planning instruments will interact in practice. Without strong alignment between national policy, Regional Renewable

Energy Strategies, Renewable Acceleration Areas and County Development Plans, there is a risk of inconsistent implementation and reduced availability of suitable sites for onshore wind.

Members also highlighted how important the OPR is in aligning County Development Plans with national policy and the need for publishing updated, evidence-based, Wind Energy Development Guidelines that reflect current technologies, planning legislation and national renewable energy policy.

Deliverable	Responsible	Supporting Stakeholders
Publish Regional Renewable Energy Strategies across all Regional Assemblies by the end of 2027.	Regional Assemblies	DHLGH DCEE OPR
Continue to ensure that County Development Plans align with national renewable energy policy and targets.	OPR Local Authorities	DHLGH
Implement Renewable Acceleration Areas in accordance with RED III.	DCEE	DHLGH Local Authorities
Publish updated, evidence-based, Wind Energy Development Guidelines that reflect current technologies, planning practice and regulatory requirements while supporting the delivery of Ireland's renewable energy targets.	DHLGH	DCEE OPR

Accelerate Repowering and Lifetime Extension

Repowering is a significant opportunity to increase renewable power output by making better use of existing wind farms, grid connections and related infrastructure. Advances in turbine technology mean many existing sites could generate significantly more electricity from fewer turbines.

However, our members highlighted that the current planning and regulatory framework has largely been designed around new developments rather than the repowering or lifetime extension of existing projects. This creates uncertainty and risks delaying investment in projects that can deliver additional renewable generation.

The Repowering Ireland report¹ has already established the case for a dedicated national framework. The priority now is to establish

a clear planning and regulatory pathway that supports repowering and lifetime extension projects.

Given that there is approximately 1,080 MW of existing onshore wind energy located in or near SPAs, collaboration with NPWS & Government is required to support these, along with an integrated policy on the repowering and lifetime extension of projects in or near SPAs.

The potential impact of revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines on Ireland's ability to repower projects needs to be considered. Given the extent of decommissioning that may be required for projects seeking to repower, and to make the most efficient use of existing infrastructure, we believe greater flexibility should be afforded to repowering projects where appropriate.

Deliverable	Responsible	Supporting Stakeholders
Publish a National Repowering and Lifetime Extension Framework and/or guidance to support repowering and lifetime extension projects, including those in or near SPAs & SACs.	DHLGH DCEE	ACP Local Authorities NPWS
Publish a circular to direct planning authorities to stop attaching planning conditions limiting the operational lifetime of wind farms.	DHLGH	ACP Local Authorities
Remove the limits on the operational lifetime of existing wind farms by introducing legislation that classifies the continued operation of existing wind farms as exempted development.	DHLGH	ACP Local Authorities

Enable Renewables in Areas Affected by Aviation and Defence Constraints

Protecting aviation safety, national security and renewable energy development are complementary objectives. International experience demonstrates that, through collaborative planning, radar mitigation technologies and clear operational procedures, these objectives can be successfully achieved together.

WEI members recognise the critical importance of safeguarding aviation, but many identified aviation and defence-related constraints are a significant barrier to new onshore wind development.

It would be helpful, as has been done in other countries, to establish a more strategic and collaborative approach that brings together Government, AirNav Ireland, the Department of Defence, the Department of Transport, planning authorities and industry.



Deliverable	Responsible	Supporting Stakeholders
Establish a Renewable Energy and Aviation Working Group within the ARET governance structure to facilitate structured engagement and collaboration.	DCEE	Department of Defence DHLGH Department of Transport WEI
Evaluate international best practice in radar mitigation technologies and develop an Irish implementation roadmap.	DCEE Department of Transport	WEI Department of Defence

1: <https://windenergyireland.com/images/files/final-repowering-ireland-report-june-2024.pdf>



Pillar 3: Getting Connected

A modern, resilient and efficiently delivered electricity grid is fundamental to achieving Ireland's renewable energy ambitions. The grid is the critical infrastructure that underpins the transition to a low-carbon electricity system, enabling renewable generation to connect, consumers to benefit from lower-cost electricity and the wider economy to electrify.

"Across Wind Energy Ireland's engagement with our members, grid-related issues emerged as the single greatest barrier to the delivery of new onshore wind projects".

Ireland's electricity network must provide the certainty, capacity and operational performance required to accelerate the deployment of onshore wind. Achieving this will require coordinated action across Government, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities, EirGrid, ESB Networks and industry to accelerate strategic grid infrastructure, improve connection certainty, reduce Dispatch Down and maximise the efficient use of the electricity grid.

Accelerate Grid Infrastructure Delivery and Long-Term Planning

The timely delivery of strategic electricity network infrastructure is consistently being identified by members as one of the most

significant risks to growing Ireland's installed onshore wind capacity. While substantial progress has been made in adding renewable capacity, there are growing concerns that delays in the delivery of major grid projects is rapidly becoming a major bottleneck in the energy transition.

Many new onshore wind projects are dependent on strategic grid reinforcements, new substations and wider network upgrades before they can connect to the grid. Delays to grid reinforcements and enabling infrastructure can delay project energisation dates, increase development costs and reduce confidence in future investment.

WEI members also highlighted the urgent need for public visibility of post 2030 grid development plans, so that industry and communities have confidence that sufficient capacity will be available to support the needs of a modern 21st century economy.

The priority now is to accelerate delivery under Price Review 6, while also strengthening long-term strategic grid planning. A coordinated approach across Government, EirGrid, ESB Networks and industry can help to maximise the utilisation of renewable generation while maintaining a secure, reliable and resilient electricity system.

Deliverable	Responsible	Supporting Stakeholders
Accelerate the delivery of priority grid projects identified in PR6 and the Critical Infrastructure Act.	EirGrid ESBN	DCEE
Publish a long-term Strategic Network Plan beyond 2030 aligned with Ireland's economic and electrification ambitions.	EirGrid	DCEE ESBN WEI
Strengthen programme governance and reporting of nationally significant grid projects, with publication of detailed quarterly project updates for industry.	EirGrid ESBN	DCEE

Deliver a Faster, Fairer and More Predictable Grid Connection Process

Ireland's grid connection framework has continued to evolve through successive Enduring Connection Policy reforms. These reforms provide an important foundation for connecting increasing volumes of renewable generation to the electricity system.

Our members welcome this progress but highlighted that the connection process has become increasingly complex. They identified evolving technical specifications, changing connection requirements, increasing costs and limited visibility of project progression as key challenges.

The greatest concern raised by members was the growing uncertainty between accepting a connection offer and achieving energisation, particularly where projects depend on wider grid reinforcements, new substations or planned network outages outside the control of developers.

Some members report receiving Grid Connection Offers with connection dates more than five years into the future.

The priority now is to provide a more transparent, collaborative and predictable connection process.

Deliverable	Responsible	Supporting Stakeholders
Establish a Connection Liaison Forum involving industry, EirGrid, ESB Networks and the CRU to provide a structured mechanism for engagement on connection policy, processes, emerging issues and delivery challenges.	EirGrid WEI	ESBN CRU
Publish quarterly, transparent updates on project connection assessments and develop multi-year outage and energisation plans, including key grid dependencies, project-readiness criteria, the sequencing of enabling works and planned energisation dates. These should be supported by regular project-level reviews involving industry, EirGrid and ESB Networks.	EirGrid ESBN	CRU WEI
Carry out a joint System Operator-industry review of connection charges and associated costs, including the transparency and predictability of connection costs, compliance costs, timelines and charging methodologies, with the set objective of identifying ways to reduce charges.	EirGrid ESBN	CRU WEI
Review the current Firm Access methodology, ensuring that the Look Ahead is performed, and conduct a review of the Firm Threshold value which is currently set at 2 per cent.	CRU	EirGrid ESBN WEI
Establish clear service standards and target timelines for connection design reviews, modification offers and offer queries, including clear stage gates, consolidated reviews and transparent resolution of outstanding technical issues.	EirGrid ESBN	WEI
Undertake a joint review of current system operator technical specifications and connection requirements to identify opportunities to remove unnecessary or disproportionate requirements while maintaining system security and reliability.	EirGrid ESBN CRU	WEI





Launch a Dispatch Down Action Plan for Ireland

Ireland has become a global leader in integrating renewable electricity onto the power system. However, members consistently identified rising levels of Dispatch Down as one of the most significant commercial risks facing projects.

Dispatch Down is already at record levels, reaching 11.4%¹ for wind generation in 2025, and rising even higher to 13.2% in the first half of 2026. This worrying trend is already influencing project economics, financing and decisions to participate in renewable electricity auctions.

Our members also highlighted the importance of considering the role of interconnector flows in managing renewable generation and reducing Dispatch Down. Periods of electricity imports can reduce the available domestic demand for renewable power increasing constraints where renewable output is high, and network capacity is limited.

An additional emerging consideration is the increasing role of large electricity demand customers, particularly data centres, in supporting secure system operation. As the number and scale of data centre connections continues to grow, ensuring that these facilities remain connected during system disturbances through fault ride-through (FRT) capability is becoming increasingly important.

The priority now is to treat Dispatch Down as a strategic national priority. A coordinated programme of work, overseen through the Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce (ARET), should bring together Government, system operators, the regulator and industry to address both the underlying causes and operational impacts of Dispatch Down while maximising the contribution of renewable generation to Ireland’s electricity system.

Deliverable	Responsible	Supporting Stakeholders
Establish a national Dispatch Down Action Plan, building on the EirGrid Dispatch Down Action Plan, with clear reduction targets, defined workstreams, accountable owners, a transparent reporting framework and clear oversight through ARET. The Action Plan should identify and prioritise the top interventions with the greatest potential to reduce Dispatch Down.	DCEE	EirGrid ESBN CRU WEI



1: <https://cms.eirgrid.ie/sites/default/files/publications/DD-Summary-Report-V20.xlsx>

Enable Fully Hybrid Connections for Renewable Projects

Hybrid renewable developments present a significant opportunity to maximise the use of Ireland's existing electricity network. By enabling technologies such as onshore wind, solar PV and battery storage to share a single grid connection, hybrid projects can increase renewable generation and cut the price of electricity.

WEI members highlighted regulatory frameworks have not kept pace with technological developments, limiting the deployment of hybrid projects in Ireland.

They consistently identified the need for clearer arrangements governing Sharing MEC, multiple legal entities and integrated hybrid units to unlock investment and maximise the value of existing grid capacity.

The priority now is to establish a clear and investable framework for hybrid connections. Faster implementation of Sharing MEC, together with a roadmap for integrated hybrid developments, will enable Ireland to make better use of existing network infrastructure while accelerating renewable energy deployment.

Deliverable	Responsible	Supporting Stakeholders
Publish a policy roadmap for the rollout of integrated hybrid units.	CRU	WEI EirGrid ESBN
Implement sharing of MEC policy decision before the end of 2027 and publish a policy decision for Multiple Legal Entities in Connection Agreements.	EirGrid ESBN CRU	DCEE
Clarify the regulatory, charging, settlement and commercial arrangements for co-located wind, solar and storage projects, including cross-charging and arrangements involving Multiple Legal Entities.	CRU	WEI EirGrid ESBN



Advance the Deployment of Long Duration Energy Storage

Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) can play a critical role in supporting Ireland's transition to a power system dominated by renewable electricity. As increasing volumes of renewable power connect to the grid, LDES can provide substantial flexibility to support system security while making more efficient use of the existing grid.

Our members strongly support the progress made in developing energy storage policy but highlighted continued uncertainty

regarding long-term market arrangements, revenue opportunities and investment signals for LDES. They emphasised that a clear route to market will be essential to unlock investment and complement shorter-duration storage and demand-side flexibility.

The priority now is to establish an enduring framework that provides confidence to investors while enabling the deployment of LDES at the scale required to support Ireland's renewable energy ambitions.

Deliverable	Responsible	Supporting Stakeholders
Launch the first LDES procurement scheme in early 2027, with at least 500 MW to be procured.	CRU EirGrid	DCEE
Increase Ireland's LDES deployment target to 1 GW by 2030.	CRU EirGrid	DCEE
Publish a long-term Long Duration Energy Storage roadmap identifying future system requirements and establishing an enduring route to market by the end of 2028.	CRU EirGrid	DCEE

Enable Development of Renewable Hubs and Green Energy Parks

Renewable hubs and green energy parks provide an opportunity to connect renewable generation more efficiently, optimise the use of network infrastructure and support regional economic development. By encouraging the co-location of renewable generation, storage and electricity demand, these approaches can reduce network constraints while improving overall system efficiency.

WEI members welcome EirGrid’s development of concepts such as Renewable Hubs, including the System Operator Preferred

Connection Method (SOPCM), but highlighted the need for greater policy certainty regarding funding arrangements, cost recovery mechanisms and delivery models. They also identified significant opportunities to co-locate renewable generation with large electricity users, reducing Dispatch Down levels, while supporting industrial decarbonisation and regional investment.

The priority now is to establish a clear implementation framework that supports the development of renewable hubs and green energy parks as an integral part of Ireland’s future electricity system.

Deliverable	Responsible	Supporting Stakeholders
Publish a Renewable Hub implementation framework that clarifies funding arrangements, cost recovery mechanisms and stakeholder engagement.	EirGrid ESBN	WEI CRU
Identify Renewable Hubs and Green Energy Parks within the Strategic Network Development Plan and Regional Renewable Energy Strategies.	EirGrid DCEE	Regional Assemblies DHLGH DETE



Improve Coordination of Enabling Infrastructure

As Ireland accelerates the deployment of energy infrastructure, coordination between transport authorities, utilities, local authorities, system operators and industry will become increasingly important.

Our members identified recurring challenges relating to road opening licences, abnormal load movements, cable routes, telecommunications infrastructure and other enabling works. While

these issues are often operational rather than strategic, they can create unnecessary delays and additional costs where processes differ between organisations or engagement occurs too late in the project lifecycle.

The priority is to strengthen coordination and oversight, standardise approaches where appropriate and promote earlier engagement across relevant organisations. This can remove avoidable delivery risks and accelerate the delivery of renewable projects.

Deliverable	Responsible	Supporting Stakeholders
Expand membership of the Joint Utilities and Local Authorities Group (JULA) group to include industry representatives and promote consistent standards and guidance across all stakeholders.	DCEE Department of Transport WEI	EirGrid ESBN
Finalise standardised approaches to road opening licences, abnormal load movements and cable route approvals that are proportionate, cost-effective and timely.	EirGrid ESBN	DCEE Department of Transport WEI
Establish a cross-sector coordination forum under ARET, with industry representation, to coordinate delivery of energy and transport projects.	DCEE Department of Transport	EirGrid ESBN WEI



Turbine blades on their way into Galway Port.
Credit: Murt Fahy.

Pillar 4: Enabling Investment

Ireland has established itself as one of Europe's most attractive markets for renewable energy investment. A successful Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS), abundant renewable resources and a strong pipeline of projects have attracted significant domestic and international investment over the past decade, helping position Ireland as a leader in the energy transition.

WEI members recognise the strength of Ireland's investment framework but highlighted that maintaining this momentum will depend on continued policy certainty and a competitive investment environment. They noted that challenges relating to planning, grid delivery and project timelines are increasingly influencing investment decisions and reinforcing the importance of stable market arrangements that support project finance and long-term investor confidence.

Maintain a Stable and Bankable RESS Framework

The Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) has been a

critical part of Ireland's renewable energy investment framework over the past six years, providing the long-term revenue certainty required to advance the deployment of onshore wind.

Our members strongly support the success of RESS but highlighted the need for adaptation to mitigate the growing uncertainty around project economics and long-term revenue predictability. They also emphasised the importance of providing clarity on future auction design, particularly as Ireland implements new European requirements under the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) and introduces non-price criteria into future auctions.

The priority now is to provide investors with long-term confidence in Ireland's renewable electricity support framework. Early confirmation of future State Aid approval, clear auction schedules and the continued protection of project bankability will help maintain investment momentum.

Deliverable	Responsible	Supporting Stakeholders
Confirm the State Aid extension for RESS and publish a multi-year RESS roadmap providing visibility on future auction schedules.	DCEE	EirGrid WEI
Maintain bankability protections within the RESS Terms and Conditions (such as retention of UAEC) and assess opportunities to improve long-term revenue certainty through further changes such as extended contract tenure and indexation arrangements, as well as expansion of timelines for Relief Events.	DCEE	EirGrid WEI
Provide clarity and certainty ahead of future auctions on the specific auction design principles for the implementation of NZIA and the implications of these requirements on auction parameters over time.	DCEE	WEI



Expand Alternative Routes to Market

Ireland's renewable electricity market is becoming increasingly diverse, with Corporate Power Purchase Agreements (CPPAs), and large electricity users an increasingly important complement to the RESS framework.

Ireland currently has more than 2 GW of renewable energy capacity contracted through Corporate PPAs¹, demonstrating the growing maturity of this market. Some of our members also highlighted the significant opportunity presented by private wires to facilitate direct renewable electricity supply to large energy users, strengthen investment certainty and support regional economic development.

The priority is to establish clear and enduring policy and regulatory frameworks that support a wider range of investment models. Recent initiatives, including the Large Energy User connection policy framework and the Large Energy User Action Plan, provide a strong foundation. Building on these measures, Ireland should develop a coordinated demand strategy to make full use of all renewable electricity generation and maximise the benefits for the country. This would provide greater certainty for corporate power purchase agreements (CPPAs) and private wire projects. In turn, it would help unlock new investment and support a more flexible, competitive and decarbonised electricity system.

Deliverable	Responsible	Supporting Stakeholders
Prioritise the development and implementation of coordinated demand strategies across multiple regions, which should complement EirGrid's wider and long-term grid capacity building studies, build on the LEU action plan and the IDA's strategy for next generation sites.	DETE	IDA EirGrid DCEE WEI
Complete the consultation on market barriers to CPPAs in Ireland, followed by the publication of a robust policy to support the enablement of increased CPPAs to be delivered in Ireland over the coming years.	DCEE	WEI Large Energy Users
Publish legislation and a clear national policy framework for private wire development and clarify regulatory and licensing requirements.	DCEE CRU	WEI

1: <https://resource-platform.eu/tool/ppa-deal-tracker/>





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