



# Working Together

Building Ireland's  
offshore wind industry



[www.windenergyireland.com](http://www.windenergyireland.com)









# Our Vision

*Ireland has a compelling opportunity to create a whole new industry around offshore wind, while transforming our energy future.*

With climate change and the crisis in Ukraine there is an even more urgent responsibility to transform our energy system to one that is clean, secure and equitable, while protecting our marine environment and securing the confidence of fishing and coastal communities.

For the people of Ireland, offshore wind will deliver greater energy security, dramatically reduced reliance on fossil fuels, as well as increased price stability.

With the right approach, through a concerted effort between industry, Government and coastal communities, we can build a whole new industrial sector, supporting regional development, creating thousands of jobs and driving sustainable and inclusive growth in Ireland.

## **To achieve this, we must work together.**

This will require a shared purpose, an understanding that the Government needs the industry, the industry needs the Government, and the people of Ireland desperately need and deserve a clean energy future.

Together, we can drive strategic investment in our ports, infrastructure, skill capacity and local enterprise to ensure Irish wind farms create jobs, support businesses at home and deliver long-term benefits for communities across this island.

We have enough offshore wind to power our country and export our energy as both electricity and green hydrogen. We can become an international centre of excellence; the Silicon Valley of renewable energy.

To unlock the opportunity, we, as a country, must come together to do it. This is what makes Ireland so special. We are a small country. We are well connected. In partnership, we flourish.

The need is there. The potential is there. As set out in this paper the first step is to come together, to create an Offshore Renewable Industry Forum to unite industry, Government, the relevant State agencies and our fishing and coastal communities behind our shared vision for true energy independence.









## Introducing Green Rebel

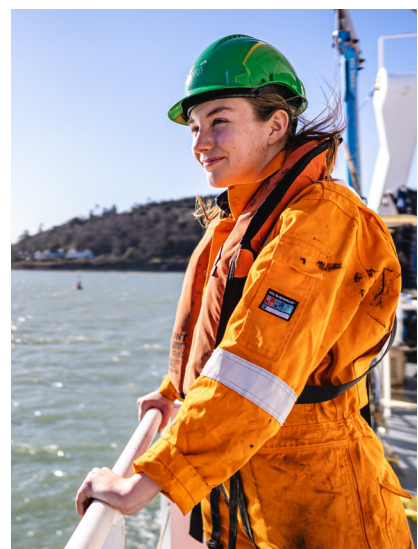
**In less than two years Green Rebel has grown to be a key player in Ireland's offshore renewable energy industry, employing a team of more than 75 scientists, surveyors, engineers, ecologists and consultants to provide state-of-the-art site investigation, surveying and data services across three primary divisions; Marine, Aerial and MetOcean.**

To harness Ireland's abundant wind resource, developers must complete a wide range of site investigations. The presence of Green Rebel means developers can use a local, Irish, company instead of importing expertise from overseas.

Green Rebel is growing rapidly, creating exciting career opportunities and the next generation of industry leaders in Cork. It manages its own fleet of vessels and aircraft with offices in Crosshaven, Cork city, Cork airport and Limerick.

Their assets, technology and team of experts enable them to compete not just in Ireland but internationally. Since it was founded in 2020 they have been building relationships with every major developer looking to develop offshore wind energy and, in March 2022, was announced as Energia's primary geophysical supplier for their Celtic Sea project.

Green Rebel is a prime example of how a meaningful Irish wind energy supply chain can present an opportunity for people to progress their careers in their own hometowns as well as revitalise local, especially coastal, communities.









# Advantages of an Irish supply chain

Working together to create a domestic supply chain to help design, build and operate offshore wind farms will create thousands of jobs, support countless local Irish businesses and help to regenerate coastal communities around the island.

But there are also other, perhaps less obvious, advantages to a strong Irish supply chain.

## Supporting our energy transition

Building offshore wind farms will need the support of local, particularly coastal, communities. This is why projects invest so much in reaching out to people who will be living close to proposed wind farms to explain their plans and try to address any concerns.

Our experience is that people strongly support offshore wind energy but they also, understandably, want to see and understand the benefits for their local economy.

When the national, and the local, economy clearly benefits from the development of offshore wind farms, when they can see their neighbours employed and local businesses growing, it helps to build support for Ireland's energy transition.

## Carbon footprint

Wind energy cuts our carbon emissions but the actual construction of a wind farm, particularly the manufacture and transportation of turbines, itself produces carbon emissions.

While it is unlikely we will see turbine or blade manufacturing in Ireland we can help to reduce the carbon emissions associated with constructing a wind farm by using, wherever possible, local suppliers rather than importing personnel, equipment or machinery from abroad.

# Challenges for an Irish supply chain

Industry and Government must work together to inject a sense of urgency in developing Ireland's domestic supply chain for offshore wind energy.

If Irish companies are not encouraged and enabled to be in a prime position to support offshore wind development, many of the social and economic benefits will go outside of Ireland.

## Lack of certainty

There is no certainty about Ireland's offshore wind project pipeline. We do not know how many we will build, or where, or when.

Greater clarity will enable Irish businesses to make timely investment decisions to ensure they are able to take advantage of the new offshore wind energy opportunity.

## Port development

Only a single port in Ireland, Belfast Harbour, is suitable for supporting the construction of an offshore wind farm. While this is an excellent facility we will need more port infrastructure to deliver our offshore wind energy ambition.

This is a huge opportunity for ports big and small. Codling Wind Park and Arklow Bank have already identified Wicklow and Arklow ports respectively as the bases they will use for their projects once completed.

## The skills gap

The Irish supply chain is predominantly focused on development activities but the offshore wind industry needs a diverse array of specialist disciplines with a range of specific skills.

To identify the skills development needs of the offshore wind industry in Ireland a detailed understanding of the labour and skills requirements across the supply chain is required.





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## Introducing Codling Wind Park

Codling Wind Park is the largest of Ireland's Phase One offshore wind projects, proposed to be developed in the Irish Sea, approximately 13-22 kilometres off the County Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town. The project is a 50:50 joint venture between EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Seawind.

Codling Wind Park represents one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade and the project will deliver substantial benefits to the regional and national economy, including more than 1,000 construction jobs and around 75 long-term, locally based, jobs.

**Mindful of the importance of an effective supply chain in delivering large-scale projects of this nature, Codling Wind Park appointed a dedicated supply chain manager in December 2021.**

The supply chain manager's role is to work in partnership with businesses, State agencies, and training and education providers, to maximise the opportunities for Irish companies. Codling Wind Park is working in partnership with bodies such as Enterprise Ireland, Wicklow County Council and training and education providers to identify suitable existing Irish suppliers that can be part of the offshore wind market and to encourage, where possible, new entrants.

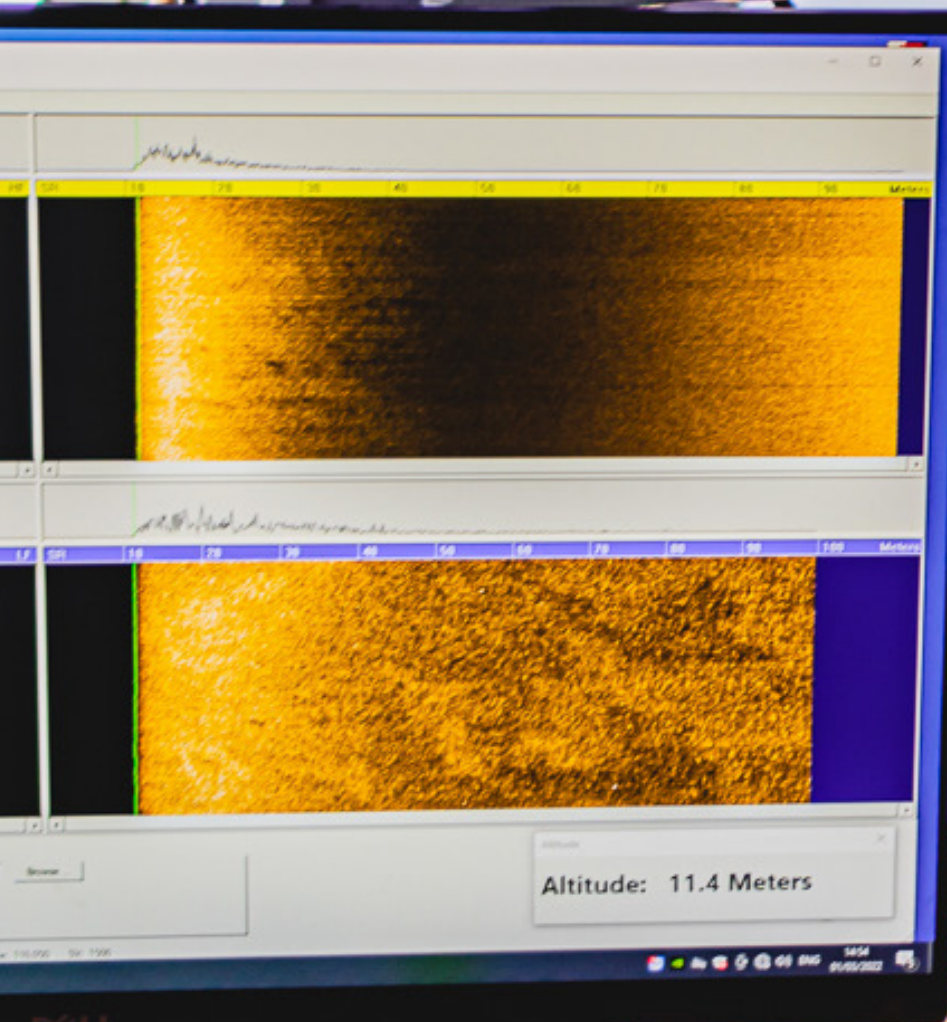
The project is also seeking opportunities to partner on workforce development and training initiatives, including apprenticeships.

**The importance of port infrastructure for offshore wind cannot be overstated.**

Codling Wind Park announced in November 2021 that Wicklow Port had been selected as the preferred home for its operations and maintenance (O&M) base, a decision which will result in significant opportunities for Wicklow Port and for the wider county.

The new O&M facility will see the creation of 75 new, long-term, local jobs in a variety of maintenance, technician, engineering, administration and other roles and is an example of the type of long-term economic benefits that offshore wind energy can provide.







# Taking Action

**The Climate Action Plan commits to prioritising “the development of supply chain opportunities through appropriately designed and complementary energy and enterprise policies and measures of priority”.**

It is time for us all to work together to make this commitment a reality, to build on the excellent work of Enterprise Ireland in developing an Offshore Wind Industry Cluster and on the efforts of Irish companies already investing in equipment and recruitment.

We have set out below some key actions which we believe will help create a robust, growing, supply chain in Ireland. But we do not claim to have all the answers.

This is why our key action is that an Offshore Renewable Industry Forum is established, led by the Department of Enterprise – but bringing together other departments, key State agencies and our members – to agree a much broader list of actions and work together to deliver them.

It is time to seize Ireland’s offshore wind energy opportunity.

Action	Lead stakeholder	Other stakeholders
Establish an Offshore Renewable Industry Forum to agree and implement an Action Plan to support the development of a domestic offshore renewable energy industry.	DETE	DECC; D/Education; Industry; DFHERIS
Review the National Ports Policy to ensure that it supports the development of Irish port infrastructure to enable the construction of offshore wind farms.	D/Transport	DECC; IMDO; Irish ports
Establish a High-Level Implementation Group to deliver the recommendations set out in the <i>Skills for Zero Carbon</i> report of November 2021.	DETE	DFHERIS, DHLGH, DECC, SEAI and Industry
Enterprise Ireland should continue to develop and support its Offshore Wind Industry Cluster which comprises over 60 Irish supply chain companies.	Enterprise Ireland	DETE; DECC; Industry
Allocate significant resources into research and development around floating wind energy, the development of green hydrogen and emerging offshore renewable energy technologies.	SEAI	DFHERIS
Highlight to the public the economic opportunities presented by the transition to an Ireland powered chiefly by renewable energy.	DECC through National Climate Dialogue	DETE; Industry
Develop a Renewable Energy Secondment Programme to share knowledge, expertise and best practices across industry and Government.	Wind Energy Ireland	DECC; DETE; DHLGH





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