



Research Programme Manager – Policy & Research Team - Wind Energy Ireland

Job Type: Full Time Permanent

Working Hours: 9am – 5pm, Monday - Friday

Location: Flexible, some travel to WEI office in Naas

Salary: Competitive Package

Reporting to: Head of Policy & Research

You are advised to submit your application as soon as possible as we reserve the right to close this post at any time, once we have received sufficient applications. Applications with a one-page cover letter should be emailed to: office@windenergyireland.com

The Candidate:

The successful candidate will lead the planning, execution, and oversight of Wind Energy Ireland's research initiatives, including coordinating industry analysis and reports, managing our portfolio of grant-aided research projects, and delivering on key elements within the Wind Energy Ireland strategy 2022-2025. You will enjoy initiating, building, and maintaining effective relationships to engage and consult with relevant stakeholders including research centres, academics and the third level sector. You will be committed to helping Ireland respond to the climate emergency.

Wind Energy Ireland:

Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) is Ireland's leading renewable energy representative body with over 200 members involved in wind and renewable energy development in Ireland. We represent members with projects across the development spectrum - in operation, under construction, awaiting connection, and along the whole supply chain. Our members are involved in over 95% of connected and planned onshore and offshore wind projects in Ireland.

Our primary purpose is to promote the use of wind energy in Ireland, coordinating the work of our members, pooling information, and resources. We carry out and commission research to contribute to the development of Government policy on renewable energy and we work closely with statutory bodies and State agencies to support the growth of renewable energy and wind in particular. We also undertake funded research projects with partners in Ireland and across the EU. Our vision is to lead Ireland to a zero-carbon electricity system by 2035.

Our Policy and Research Team:

The successful candidate will be joining our Policy and Research Team, working alongside our Research and Development Analyst and Research Communications Specialist colleagues, as well as Policy Managers and Analysts. You will be reporting to the Head of Policy & Research. You will be a member of WEI's extended management team.

Role Description:

You will take ownership of WEI's Research Strategy and will have core responsibility for delivering our research workstreams including coordinating industry analysis and reports and leading a portfolio of grant-aided research projects. You will also ensure a pipeline of future opportunities for collaboration with relevant stakeholders. You will have a key role in managing a work programme within the team to support the implementation of WEI's strategy 2022-2025. You will:

- Create and monitor detailed programme plans, timelines, and budgets for successful research programme execution, under the direction of the WEI senior leadership team.
- Partner with other WEI teams (including Finance, Communications, Events, Green Tech Skillnet) to identify, plan and deliver milestones within the research programme.
- Initiate, build, and maintain effective relationships to engage and consult with relevant stakeholders including research centres, academics and the third level sector.
- Stay up to date with emerging industry trends, research funding opportunities, and emerging research priorities from WEI members to inform programme development.
- Implement processes and tools to support communication of research outputs to stakeholders and/or translation of scientific research findings into policy and practice.
- Manage and support direct reports in the team, fostering a positive environment and enabling continuous learning and development.
- Assist the WEI senior leadership team with preparation of status updates and reports to highlight progress with implementing strategic goals for WEI Board and Council.
- Perform any other tasks or duties required of the role as appropriate, and,
- Complete all work to a high standard with a focus on timely delivery.

Required Criteria:

- Engineering, science, economics, business or energy related third level qualification.
- Enthusiastic and high calibre candidate with a minimum 6 years' experience working in a research, academic, consultancy, policy and/or communication role.
- Experience in project and programme management with a proven track record of delivering on objectives in teams and working with multiple stakeholders.
- Experience in managing teams and/or large projects or programmes of work.
- Ability to demonstrate strong research, analytical and writing skills, including accessing information quickly and strategically which will also enable you to manage a number of key projects to a high professional standard.
- Advanced written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to produce clear, succinct reports and presentations that communicate complex ideas effectively.
- Ability to motivate, empower, and collaborate with others; promoting a culture where others feel ownership.
- Experience of establishing and maintaining effective relationships with internal and external stakeholders.

- Experience of working collaboratively with diverse teams and functions.
- Ability to introduce innovative ideas, solutions, or new ways of doing things.
- A demonstrated ability to make sound decisions and meet deadlines with a strong track record of success.
- Understands principles and practice of good governance.
- Committed to playing your part in responding to the climate emergency and making Ireland energy independent.

Desirable Criteria:

- Experience of working in a membership-based organisation.
- Experience in managing funded research projects or programmes and collaborating with multiple partners across multiple countries.
- Knowledge of renewable energy policy in Ireland and at European level.
- Experience in an advocacy environment, with an understanding of Irish and European current affairs and political systems.

Work Environment and Benefits:

Wind Energy Ireland prides itself on being a good employer, creating a people focused company, developing teams, enhancing roles, and supporting its people. We are committed to a positive progressive culture that facilitates a great work environment.

- WEI's offices are based in Naas, Co. Kildare. We accommodate flexible working arrangements, and staff are required to be available to attend meetings and/or work from the office when needed (typically approx. 4 days per month).
- Staff are also required to be available to attend WEI conferences and policy forums (typically 4-5 events annually).

Wind Energy Ireland currently provides the following non-salary benefits:

- 23 annual leave days and 4 company days, plus an option to buy-back an additional 3 days annual leave each year.
- Healthcare scheme provided by VHI.
- Pension scheme with employer contributions.
- Income protection insurance for staff.
- Hybrid and flexible working.
- Supportive maternity & paternity schemes and parents leave.
- Employee Assistance Programme.
- A competitive sick pay scheme.
- Phone and laptop, along with home office equipment.
- Mileage at standard civil service rates.