

WEI Policy Brief

March 2025 Edition

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Welcome to the WEI Policy Brief – March 2025 Edition

Introduction from Dave Linehan
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Hello and welcome to the first Policy Brief of 2025, fresh from a busy period of Committee kick off meetings for WEI's policy team.

2025 marks the last year of the current WEI strategy, and the team are focused on closing out **key objectives** under the “We will build a secure zero-carbon energy system” vision over the next 9 months. You will find a one-page update on each objective on [pages 8-22](#).

Following a successful introduction last year, a new **Policy Priorities Action Plan** is now up and running for 2025. This follows a period of consultation with members at our Committee kick offs and approval by the WEI board. This plan, outlined on [pages 23-27](#), contains 30 actions covering key strategic policy areas. It will be reviewed and updated every 3 months.

Alongside the “We will build a secure zero-carbon energy system” vision, is the equally important ambition that together “We will build powerful communities”. Updates on recent work in our **External Affairs** team are contained on [pages 28-30](#) below.

Policy-priming research continues to be a key focus for WEI. Our investment in evidence-based policy development is made possible thanks to the support of Policy & Research funders, a group that grew to 9 in 2024.

In January we launched **Good for Your Pocket** with Baringa, and two additional studies are underway with MKO and DNV focusing on the **future opportunities for onshore wind**, and the **economic opportunities from surplus wind**. Further details are shown on [pages 31-34](#).

2025 has already seen the launch of several **consultations**, including RESS 5, hybrids policy, future state aid framework and connection policy for LEUs. You'll find details of WEI's responses on [pages 35-36](#).

There is a huge amount of ongoing activity across our industry, and across WEI. To ensure you are connected to the most relevant workstreams for your organisation please review the latest **Committees and Working Groups overview** shown on [page 39](#).

Finally, we're only a couple of weeks away from our next **Policy Forum**, taking place on May 7th in the Ashling Hotel in Dublin followed by a **Member Connect lunch**. The Forum topic will be Health & Safety and members attend for free. Details on [page 3](#).

A couple of weeks later we'll be gathering in the Burlington Hotel for our annual **Offshore Conference**. With the agenda taking shape, and lots to catch up on, we hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, myself or one of the team would be happy to help. As always, we hope this Policy Brief is useful in keeping you updated in all that is happening in our sector.

Health & Safety Policy Forum & Connect Lunch



Policy Forum – 7th May, 10am

- WEI's next Policy Forum will explore key Health and Safety related themes for the onshore and offshore wind industry.
- The key themes of the policy forum include:
 - a) Cultivating a Positive Health and Safety Culture
 - b) Behavioural Safety
 - c) Health and Safety Legal Obligations and Consequences

Member Connect Lunch – 7th May, 1pm

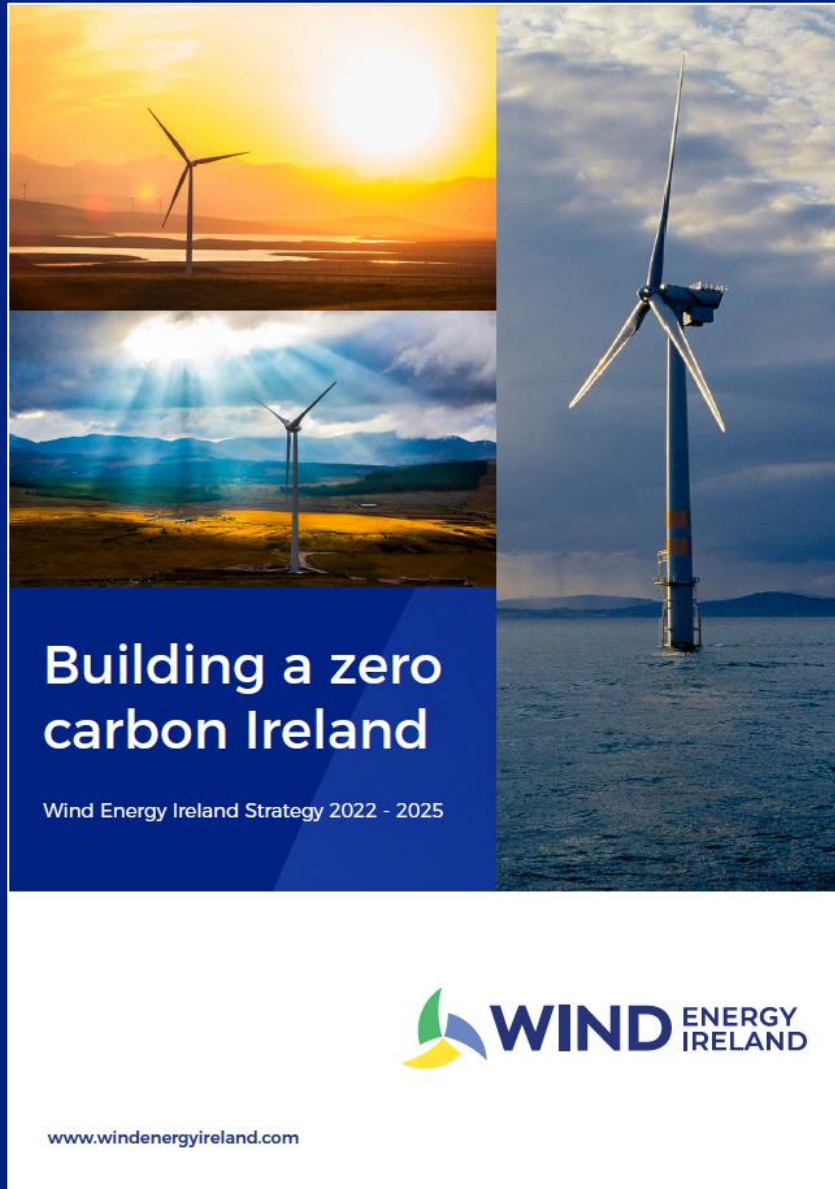
- Our policy forum will be followed by a Member Connect networking lunch. However, please note that **places are limited**, and preregistration is required.

This WEI Policy Forum and Connect Lunch is organised exclusively for WEI members and are free to attend. Please note that capacity is limited so be sure to reserve your place.

More details and **how to register** will be posted online:
<https://windenergyireland.com/events/upcoming-events>

The flyer features the WIND ENERGY IRELAND logo at the top. Below it, the title "Health & Safety Policy Forum" is centered. The venue "Ashling Hotel Dublin, 10-13 Parkgate Street, Dublin 8." and date "Date: 7th May 2025" are listed. The time "Time: 10am – 1pm" is also provided. At the bottom, it says "Kindly sponsored by" followed by logos for Green Tech and Skillnet.





Strategic Policy Updates

Wind Energy Ireland Strategy 2022 - 2025

Wind Energy Ireland

Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Goal 1: We will build a secure zero-carbon energy system

We will deliver this by:

- Building evidence to support a sustainable and economic transition.
- Building support for enabling policy and regulatory decisions.
- Building knowledge to help people make the right choices.
- Building a roadmap for delivery of renewable generation and supporting technologies.

We will build a secure zero-carbon energy system



1. WEI will **develop a roadmap for the delivery of a secure zero-carbon electricity system** in Ireland and Northern Ireland by 2035, with the purpose of establishing this as a Government endorsed target by 2025.
2. WEI will seek to **work in close cooperation with the system operators** to utilise all options available **to increase grid capacity in Ireland and to deliver cost-effective and speedy grid connections** which allow for the targets of 9,000 MW of onshore wind and 5,000 MW of offshore wind, together with the necessary supporting technologies, to be achieved by 2030.
3. WEI will seek to **monitor and minimise the dispatch down of wind generation**, its impact on the commercial viability of renewable generation projects, and the associated increased costs to the electricity consumer.
4. WEI will work to **promote a functionally effective planning system, which complies with climate legislation**, and prioritises the urgent progression of the onshore and offshore wind energy pipelines, related grid connection infrastructure and supporting technologies.
5. WEI will continue to **promote excellence in Health & Safety standards across the wind industry** and the sharing of best practice and learnings from our members.
6. WEI will work to **ensure the creation and evolution of well-functioning routes to market for renewable generation, and supporting technologies** needed to deliver a secure zero-carbon power system, which deliver the best value to the electricity consumer including securing greater revenue certainty and appropriate risk allocation for development.
7. WEI will **promote the continued use and evolution of sustainable and environmentally responsible development practices** and uses for wind energy and supporting technologies in Ireland.
8. WEI will **advocate for legislation, policy and the most suitable design for energy markets in Ireland and Europe** to support the transition to a secure zero-carbon electricity system by 2035 including the design of the energy, capacity and system services markets.

We will build a secure zero-carbon energy system



9. WEI will **set out our vision for the delivery of offshore and onshore wind energy in Ireland from 2030 out to 2050** and highlight its ability to contribute to decarbonising the domestic and European electricity, heat, and transport sectors, including the planning of floating offshore wind energy, interconnection and alternative routes-to-market, and its contribution to supporting EU security of supply policy and delivering European energy independence.
10. WEI will work to **improve the planning, grid and route-to-market policies needed to streamline the repowering and life-extension** of Ireland's wind generation fleet.
11. WEI will **promote the growth of a strong and resilient domestic supply chain for offshore and onshore wind energy** and supporting technologies in Ireland and will support the development of a strong international supply chain for the delivery of Ireland's offshore wind ambitions.
12. WEI will continue to **support the development of energy storage** to minimise emissions, minimise dispatch down, support security of supply and further the delivery of an energy independent Ireland **through our partnership with Energy Storage Ireland**.
13. WEI will **progress the development of policy and strategy to deliver on the potential of Green Hydrogen in Ireland** and meet the Government's target of 2 GW of Green Hydrogen in development by 2030.
14. WEI will **progress the development of policy and strategy to enable greater proliferation of electrification of heat and transport** at domestic, business, and industrial levels, **and support the decarbonisation of large energy users** by championing enabling measures such as direct wires and Corporate PPAs.
15. WEI will **position leading energy research at the centre of national policy formation** and trends.

Key updates since the last policy brief:

- We prepared a written submission with our priority recommendations for inclusion in the incoming Government's work plan and engaged with departmental officials and advisers on it. Several of WEI's recommendations were included in the final Programme for Government, which was published in January 2025.
- The Net Zero Committee kicked off in February with a discussion on key priorities for 2025, including a refresh of our roadmap to a zero-carbon electricity system, completion of a technology review that was undertaken in 2024, and a focus on EirGrid's Net Zero Network Plan.
- Work is concluding shortly on MKO's future development study for onshore, which is being led out of the Future Onshore Working Group.
- A meeting took place with EirGrid in early March to discuss the proposed plan of engagement ahead of an anticipated consultation on their Net Zero Network Plan in Summer 2025.

Key upcoming deliverables and focus areas:

- Launch *Protecting consumers: Our onshore wind energy opportunity* with MKO at the Ireland Pavillion at Wind Europe, Copenhagen in April.
- Leveraging previously published WEI reports e.g., *Endgame* (2021), agree a plan at the Net Zero Committee for an updated roadmap for the delivery of a secure zero-carbon electricity system. Target for completion in Q3.
- Engagement with key stakeholders across DCEE, DHLGH, and key state agencies (e.g., EirGrid, ESB, CRU) on an ongoing basis as part of the Accelerating Renewable Electricity taskforce and associated workstreams. The next taskforce meeting is in April.

Key updates since the last policy brief:

- The ECP WG has been engaging with the SOs on the implementation of the ECP-GSS ahead of its first batch in September 2025.
- The CRU published its decision on grid-related policy that will apply to offshore wind generation projects as they seek connection to the transmission grid under Phase 2 of Ireland's offshore wind development programme.
- TNEI concluded its study on Firm Access for WEI, with a workshop being planned to present and discuss the results.
- The CRU has launched the consultation on Sharing MEC for Hybrid projects. WEI and ESI will be responding through the joint Hybrids WG.
- A workshop on the Build Our Grid campaign took place with WEI council to plan the year ahead.

Key upcoming deliverables and focus areas:

- The Grid Capacity WG will be arranging a workshop with EirGrid to discuss the next Firm Access run and the methodology used. WEI will also look to present the TNEI report findings to EirGrid.
- The ECP WG will be engaging with EirGrid on the next iteration of constraints reports, and how they can improve after guidance from the CRU's ECP-GSS decision.
- WEI will be presenting to the Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce on Dispatch Down and Grid Delivery concerns.
- The Grid Capacity WG are working on developing a tracking tool for EirGrid grid projects utilising NDP and SOEF data.

Key updates since the last policy brief:

- Curtailment levels to date in 2025 are similar to 2024, due to a combination of lower wind conditions counteracted by higher interconnector imports and Min Gen levels.
- Min Gen levels have generally been the predominant driver of curtailment. The SNSP limit has been increasing since 2015, but there has not been similar levels of improvement to Min Gen. It is for these reasons why Min Gen has been the predominant driver of curtailment.
- The Greenlink interconnector has energised and is now fully operational.
- Baringa completed its work on investigating the effects of interconnector flows on Dispatch Down.

Key upcoming deliverables and focus areas:

- WEI have been engaged with the ARE taskforce to establish a working group to focus on Dispatch Down.
- Separately, WEI are seeking a workshop with EirGrid to discuss short, medium and long-term solutions to tackle dispatch down levels.
- WEI are developing a short paper outlining the key asks of relevant stakeholders, including the development of a Dispatch Down Action plan for ROI.

Parameter	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (Jan)
Curtailment (%)	4.2%	4.0%	6.4%	3.2%	3.8%	5.0%	5.0%	2.4%
Constraints (%)	2.5%	4.3%	6.7%	4.8%	5.4%	6.5%	10.0%	4.3%
Total Dispatch Down (%)	6.7%	8.3%	13.1%	8.0%	9.2%	11.6%	15.0%	6.8%
Estimated Dispatched Down Energy (GWh)	705	1015	1874	917	1238	1599	2028	78
Estimated Lost Revenue (€)*	€49m	€77m	€129m	€78m	€160m	€145m	€181m	€9m
Dispatched Down Energy equivalent to CO ₂ emissions from thermal generators (Mt CO ₂)**	0.256	0.370	0.688	0.496	0.653	0.746	0.933	Not available
Estimated Lost Wind Energy as Percentage of All-Island Electricity Demand***	1.9%	2.8%	5.2%	2.4%	3.2%	4.0%	5.0%	2.0%

* High level estimate of lost revenue which takes account of EirGrid monthly average dispatch down percentages, monthly & annual average day ahead market prices during dispatch down events, support scheme energy prices, firmness etc. Does not consider proposed revenue cap.

** Estimates based on SEAI data: monthly energy balances and emissions factors published on their website.

*** Based on all-island demand figure obtained from EirGrid's "System-and-Renewable-Data-Summary-Report" spreadsheet on their website.

Key updates since the last policy brief:

- WEI attended the latest Planning Pillar meeting of the ARET in February. This included updates and discussions on topics including RED III, the National Planning Framework, the Planning & Development Act and Onshore WEGs. A full summary note was issued to members.
- The NPF is expected soon. It will need Cabinet approval and then Oireachtas approval on a straight up or down vote. The DHLGH are already doing some work on implementation with the Regional Assemblies, but focus will move much more heavily here once the NPF is agreed.
- Supported by Green Tech Skillnet, WEI hosted a webinar with Arthur Cox, 'Navigating the Planning and Development Act 2024: what does it mean for wind energy?', to brief members on the key legislative outcomes of the Act with over 200 attendees.
- A plan for the commencement of the Planning & Development Act has also been published. Arthur Cox has been supporting WEI with a review of the legislation and discussions have been taking place at the Planning Committee.
- An industry engagement workshop with MARA took place in Dún Laoghaire on 28th March.

Key upcoming deliverables and focus areas:

- Regular engagement with DCEE and DHLGH on planning policy priorities e.g., implementation plan for the Planning & Development Act and implementation of RED III. A new Planning Policy WG is being established under the Planning Committee to lead on this.
- WEI will be working with key stakeholders to ensure a timely publication of the National Planning Framework and ensuring that the methodology for translating national targets for onshore wind to the regional and local development plan tier is robust and adequate as it progresses in 2025.
- The Future DMAP Roadmap (wider roadmap applicable to all activities in the maritime space, as opposed to specifically ORE) is expected to go to Government shortly for approval, currently with the Minister.

Key updates since the last policy brief:

- In Q4 of 2024, the Emergency Response WG completed their Emergency Response Drills Lessons Learned Document.
- The draft agenda for the first HSA quarterly meeting of 2025 is being compiled with input from the H&S Committee & WGs. Application of the Constructions Regs and Welfare facilities are notably being flagged as a priority topic for HSA discussion by members.
- One of the H&S Committee's priority actions for 2025 is to hold a health & safety focused policy forum to spread safety messaging on key issues. This policy forum will take place in the Ashling Hotel, Dublin on May 7th. The H&S Committee assisted in proposing speakers and presentation topics.
- The Phase 1 HSE subgroup have been engaging with EirGrid on their draft operational safety rules which they have asked for industry feedback on. The Subgroup collated and submitted comments on the draft safety rules to EirGrid. The Subgroup held an in-person meeting in March where they decided on the priority areas of focus for 2025.

Key upcoming deliverables and focus areas:

- The next stakeholder meeting with the HSA will take place at the beginning of Q2.
- WEI will circulate registration and agenda details for the upcoming health and safety policy forum shortly.
- The Phase 1 HSE Subgroup are developing a scope for a National Safety Implementation Roadmap for Offshore Wind Industry in Ireland. This is a 2025 priority action for the H&S committee. The scope for the roadmap is due to be completed in Q2. The purpose of the road map is to help drive change at a national level to ensure implementation of necessary legislative, state agency, inter-agency coordination and organisational change to ensure effective and efficient development of Offshore Wind Farm Projects throughout their lifecycle.

Key updates since the last policy brief:

- The WEI Route to Market WG co-ordinated an industry submission to the RESS 5 Terms and Conditions consultation. Among the key asks were, extending the contract duration to 20 years, providing full indexation and continuing to offer relief for JR and SO delays. A separate response was also submitted to the Community Benefit Fund consultation.
- WEI attended a session with WindEurope and the European Commission on the Draft Implementing Acts (technical rules and measures) pertaining to Article 25 & 26 of the Net Zero Industry Act which will see non-price criteria integrated into renewable energy auctions and public procurement contracts in the coming years. Wind Europe also delivered a presentation to WEI members – the slides and recording are available upon request.
- DCEE published an updated indicative auction roadmap for ORESS 2.1 in December, with a number of key pieces of information to be shared with industry in Q1 2025. WEI continue to engage with DCEE and EirGrid on auction plans, with provision of the Grid Information Pack, updated T&Cs, confirmation of the Grid Delivery Date, and detailed auction timetable expected to be shared with industry by the end of March.

Key upcoming deliverables and focus areas:

- WEI will continue to engage with DCEE on RESS 5+, considering future auction design, non-price criteria and state aid approval for the post 2025 RESS. DCEE anticipate that an extension will be granted.
- WEI will continue to engage with DCEE, WindEurope, and DG ENER on the NZIA, and its implementation into the Irish market.

Key updates since the last policy brief:

- The Sustainability WG completed the paper on circular economy from which the WG will build on in 2025.
- The Onshore Environment WG completed the WEI position paper on Biodiversity Net Gain, which WEI will utilise in stakeholder engagement.
- WEI and NPWS held a positive meeting focused on the hen harrier threat response plan and intend to continue engagement on the topic throughout the implementation of the plan.
- WEI's Annual Conference featured the "Developing for Nature" session, with presentations on "Embedding Sustainability into Business Practices", "Forty Years of Foraging: Strategic Land Leases for Habitat Creation & Protection near Wind Farms", and "Nature+Energy - Optimising Land Management and the Delivery of Ecosystem Services from Windfarms".
- WEI hosted the webinar "[The RE:HARRIER Project: Understanding Hen Harrier Interactions with Wind Farms](#)" with over 200 attendees.
- WEI supported "Ireland's EIA Conference 2025", organised by Green Tech Skillnet and SOWA in partnership with FothergillTC.

Key upcoming deliverables and focus areas:

- Following the completion of all committee kick offs, work will begin on agreed priority actions through existing or new WGs, supporting collaborative opportunities for any cross-committee actions. Clarity is being sought with stakeholders on timelines for expected upcoming consultations such as NPWS' updated marine mammal UWN mitigation guidelines.
- Life extension, repowering, and blade circularity will be some of the priority topics for the Asset Management Committee and Sustainability WG.
- We expect the HHTRP Consultative Committee to reconvene in Q1/Q2 and will seek opportunities for the industry to support actions.

Key updates since the last policy brief:

- The Future Services WG collaborated again with the ESI DS3 Future Arrangements group to respond to the DS3 System Services Market Ruleset consultation.
- In the process of developing the RESS5 terms and conditions consultation response, members of the Route to Market WG penned an extensive section how to compensate for grid constraints.
- The Markets Committee agreed at their kick-off meeting to engage more frequently with Wind Europe and RenewableUK as guest speakers to keep abreast of energy market developments. A schedule of speakers aligned with the Markets Committee monthly meetings has been drafted.
- WEI learned about a White Paper being developed by the European Commission on deeper electricity market integration by early 2026. This is forms part of a suite of initiatives announced under the Clean Industrial Deal & Affordable Energy Action Plan.
- WEI's Future Market Vision workstream (on post 2030 market design) continued to progress with a follow-up meeting with DCEE.

Key upcoming deliverables and focus areas:

- WEI will continue to push for the efficient implementation of the FASS programme. SEMC decisions on the System Services Supplier Charge and Volume Forecasting Methodology are expected in Q1 2025 and working group meetings will follow to debrief accordingly.
- RenewableUK will present to the Markets Committee in April with updates on REMA, AR7 among other topics.
- WEI will track progress on the European Commission White Paper as well as the broader scope of the Energy Union taskforce that has been recently announced.

Key updates since the last policy brief:

- Following the Offshore and FLOW Committee kick-off meetings in February, it was agreed for WEI to host a cross-committee workshop to discuss and agree industry positions on the approach to future development of offshore wind in Ireland, with the aim being to develop a high-level strategic plan or vision for how this should be taken forward, which is backed by industry. This plan would then be used as a guide to share with relevant stakeholders to support and inform future policy direction.
- DCEE's ORE Roadmap will be an update of the Future Framework Policy. It will provide a progress update on the Future Framework 1 year on from publication and provide details on any new actions to be considered going forward.
- The Future Onshore Wind WG has been working with MKO on a future onshore wind potential study since late 2024.
- Work is underway on the Wind Surplus study with DNV, exploring domestic and export strategies for surplus wind energy in 2035 and 2050.

Key upcoming deliverables and focus areas:

- WEI's latest policy priming research - "Protecting consumers: Our onshore wind energy opportunity" - looking at the post 2030 development potential for onshore, with MKO, will be published in April.
- DCEE have indicated at the OWDT meeting on 7 March, that they would welcome industry input, particularly in relation to the design of the Competitive MAC Framework and options for how to progress Sites B-D of the SC-DMAP. An initial brainstorming session to agree, at a high-level, the core elements for inclusion in the industry offshore wind strategic plan will take place in mid April.
- WEI are engaging closely with DCEE to identify a meeting schedule for the Joint Future Framework Forum to reconvene and to agree discussion topics to workshop via the group in advance. One topic proposed late last year was a deep dive discussion around developing a concrete plan for FLOW, off the back of the WEI Principles Paper on the FLOW Demonstrator.

Key updates since the last policy brief:

- The Repowering working group completed a policy paper to accompany MKO's *Repowering Ireland* report in Q4 2024. This was shared with key stakeholders including DCEE, DHLGH and the wider ARET.
- WEI asked officials at the last ARET planning meeting on their plans for Repowering in 2025. They noted that they are still awaiting clarity from Government on what exactly is meant by the commitment in the Programme for Government to "Ensure a policy is put in place to streamline repowering and life extension of existing onshore wind farms that are nearing end of life". They stressed that they need to look at it in the context of the definitions in law and what it means for the system.

Key upcoming deliverables and focus areas:

- WEI has committed to cross committee engagement on repowering this year as part of our Policy Priority Action Plan.
- We plan to identify and prioritise key issues with repowering and life extension through industry workshop where experiences can be shared by those going through the process. Results to be used as basis for further discussions with WEI members, Government and other stakeholders to influence policy to streamline repowering and life extension of existing onshore wind farms that are nearing end of life.

Key updates since the last policy brief:

- WEI continue to work closely with the Offshore Wind Strategy Unit in DETE on the implementation of Powering Prosperity, Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy and identifying where we can provide support or contribute to the successful delivery of key actions.
- The WEI Offshore Supply Chain WG worked to develop an offshore wind supply chain survey in collaboration with DETE to support with the establishment of baseline data related to local supply chain spend in Ireland. This survey was issued to industry in February, with results collated and anonymised by WEI prior to sharing with DETE for further analysis.
- WEI and GTS continue to work closely with DFHERIS and DCEE on skills and workforce requirements for offshore wind. One of the key actions from the DFHERIS Skills Action Plan was to consider the implementation of a National Training Hub in Ireland.

Key upcoming deliverables and focus areas:

- The Supply Chain WG are tracking and monitoring progress against the actions set out in the Industrial Strategy and identify key priorities for industry and where the group can provide additional support to deliver these actions over the coming months.
- WEI continue to participate in the DETE Industry Forum alongside representatives from across the WEI membership base to guide and inform DETE on industry priorities. The Forum is expected to focus future meetings on deep dive workshops to discuss aspects such as the offshore wind pipeline, route to market considerations and plans for developing a national offshore wind cluster.
- SOWA will collaborate with WEI offshore committees by carrying out deep dive discussions once a quarter at the committee meetings to get additional input from industry representatives on current and upcoming training requirements.
- WEI will engage further with EirGrid and ESB on SF6 ban, and the effects on project delivery.

Key updates since the last policy brief:

- In November ESI launched a report alongside consultants ECA on Alternative Network Charges for Energy Storage. Currently Network charges present a major barrier to investment in energy storage and with the upcoming CRU tariff review in Q2 2025 ESI will use this report to make the case for fairer and more cost reflective charges on storage.
- In November ESN published its second consultation on the demand flexibility product which aims to procure 500 MW of medium-duration flexibility. The consultation provided detail on the sharing factor and contract structure. Whilst ESI supports the procurement, concerns remain over lack of clarity on certain elements. ESI submitted a response on December 9th.
- The SOs published a timeline for the LDES procurement in January 2025. ESI has some concerns over this timeline and believe it could be expedited. We have begun engaging with EirGrid on this to understand the timeline in more detail.

Key upcoming deliverables and focus areas:

- We are expecting a consultation from EirGrid on their LDES procurement at the end of March and will continue to engage with EirGrid, CRU and DCEE to progress this workstream.
- The Hybrid's working group is currently working on a response on the consultation on sharing MEC from the CRU.
- The team are working to conclude the study of the Benefits of Hybrid sites with Cornwall Insight. There will be a public launch of this report in the coming quarter.

Key updates since the last policy brief:

- The Green Hydrogen Committee in WEI has been restructured as a WG under the Net-Zero Committee.
- The key focus for the WG this year will be on further discussing and agreeing industry positions, particularly building on the work to date regarding support schemes for Hydrogen and how these positions can support DCEE in the implementation of the Hydrogen Strategy and key actions.
- Plans appear to be progressing within DCEE to establish a dedicated Hydrogen taskforce, like the OWDT and ARET. It is expected the taskforce will have 3 core pillars focused on (1) Safety & Regulation, (2) Infrastructure & Systems, and (3) Commercial & Route to Market, with several workstreams anticipated below these 3 pillars.

Key upcoming deliverables and focus areas:

- Work will continue via the WG in the coming months to further flesh out the principles and considerations for Hydrogen support schemes.
- A new WG chair who will lead on WG activities will be confirmed with members shortly.
- WEI will liaise closely with DCEE as the anticipated Hydrogen Taskforce begins to emerge and seek to engage at the earliest opportunity.
- On the research side, the Spine H2-IRL project is now complete with final reporting for the project recently shared.

Key updates since the last policy brief:

- Ireland Electrified first conference was held in December. Sponsors: ESNB, Energia, Enterprise Ireland, IDA, VIOTAS, Green Tech Skillnet. Speakers: EirGrid, ESNB, NIEN, VIOTAS, European Heat Pump Association, Merk Sharp & Dohme, Mullan Grid, Bus Éireann, Energia, ATC-Logistics, Cornwall Insights, Flex Power, DPD, Siemens.
- Published Cornwall Insight paper commissioned by Ireland Electrified on electricity pass-through costs and reform for flexible electrification.
- Finalised paper on DUoS tariff reforms to encourage greater electrification.
- Held first physical Committee meeting for Ireland Electrified and outlined key priorities for 2025.
- The CRU have published a proposed decision on the Large Energy Users connection policy, with WEI developing a response to this consultation.

Key upcoming deliverables and focus areas;

- Elect a Council to Ireland Electrified as the governing body.
- Hold the first of a series of webinars on electrification policy and technologies.
- Developing an electrification strategy paper across heat and transport.
- Continued engagement with stakeholders on key projects for 2025: ESNB Flexible Connections Pilots and EirGrid DCU.

Key updates since the last policy brief:

- New WEI Research LinkedIn [page](#) launched – Please like and follow us for the latest insights into our research projects and initiatives!
- We hosted dedicated Research & Innovation sessions at the WEI Trade Show (sponsored by Bord na Móna and Ocean Winds). We also had a dedicated WEI Research stand, showcasing our funded research projects. The Irish Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) for Offshore Wind Energy was officially launched, and a DIFOWT project workshop was held to gather insights from FLOW industry stakeholders.
- The T-shore project held an event in Brussels on 14 Nov – hosted in the EU Parliament by MEP Sean Kelly.
- In January WEI held our annual Research Poster Room (sponsored by Bord na Móna and Ocean Winds). The Best Poster was awarded to Anthony Gibbons (Maynooth University) for his work on AI-driven bird call classification at wind farms. The Spine-H2 project final seminar was held.
- A Call for Abstracts for the Thesis-in-Three competition at the Offshore Conference is now open! Deadline: 21 April.

Key upcoming deliverables and focus areas;

- New Team Member: Patrick Cantwell joins as Research Communications Specialist (11 March).
- WindEurope Conference (Copenhagen, April) – Research team attending; T-shore poster to be presented.
- Research at the Offshore Conference (27-28 May)
 - Thesis-in-Three competition (sponsored by Bord na Móna and Ocean Winds) to take place.
 - Research team exhibiting at the event.
 - T-shore project Dublin event scheduled for 26-27 May.
 - Offshore Adapt project side event due to be held on 26 May.

Policy Priorities Action Plan

*Aligning Committee Priorities with WEI's
Strategic Objectives 2022-2025*



We will build a secure zero-carbon energy system



#	Strategic Objective	WEI Committee(s) Lead (+ supporting)
1	Develop a roadmap for the delivery of a secure zero-carbon electricity system	Net Zero (+all committees)
2	Work to increase grid capacity, and deliver cost effective and speedy grid connections	Grid, Offshore Grid
3	Monitor and minimise the dispatch down of wind generation	Asset Management (+Grid)
4	Promote a functionally effective planning system, which complies with climate legislation	Planning, Offshore Consenting
5	Promote excellence in Health & Safety standards across the wind industry	Health & Safety
6	Creation of well-functioning routes to market for renewable generation, and supporting technologies	Markets (+Offshore)
7	Promote evolution of sustainable and environmentally responsible development practices	Planning, (+Offshore Consenting, Community, Asset Management)
8	Advocate for legislation, policy, and the most suitable design for energy markets in Ireland and Europe	Markets (+Net Zero)
9	Set out our vision for the delivery of offshore and onshore wind energy in Ireland from 2030 out to 2050	Net Zero, FLOW, Offshore (+all committees)
10	Improve the policies needed to streamline the repowering and life-extension	Planning (+Asset Management)
11	Promote the growth of a strong and resilient domestic supply chain for offshore and onshore wind energy	Offshore (+Grid, Offshore Grid)
12	Support the development of energy storage through our partnership with Energy Storage Ireland	<i>Energy Storage Ireland</i>
13	Progress the development of policy and strategy to deliver on the potential of Green Hydrogen	Net Zero
14	Progress the electrification of heat and transport, and support the decarbonisation of LEUs	<i>Ireland Electrified</i> (+Markets, Grid)

We will build a secure zero-carbon energy system



#	Policy Priorities Action Plan	Responsible WEI Committee(s)	Status
1	Leveraging previously published WEI reports e.g., Endgame (2021), develop an updated roadmap for the delivery of a secure zero-carbon electricity system. Follow-up with key stakeholders including SEAI, EirGrid, CRU and DCEE.	Net Zero	Planned
1	Engage with EirGrid on their Net Zero Network Plan as it is developed during 2025, including formal consultation response, workshops and presentation of WEI analysis on future system needs.	Net Zero	Ongoing
2	Track delivery of critical transmission infrastructure by EirGrid and ESB Networks and engage with SOs and ARET on opportunities to accelerate delivery of grid capacity, utilising analysis of the Network Delivery Portfolio to support key asks.	Grid	Planned
2	Work with key agencies (CRU, EirGrid, ESB Networks) to establish a new Connection Policy Forum (to take the place of the Generator Connections Liaison Group) in advance of the next ECP window.	Grid	Ongoing
2	Publish "Benefits of Hybrids sites" study in Q1 2025 and utilise this research to influence policy on hybrid plants including through a formal consultation response to the CRU.	Grid, Energy Storage Ireland	Ongoing
3	Complete study with Baringa to identify the key factors leading to the change in interconnector flows in the near term and solutions that can minimise dispatch down. Utilise report to determine next steps for WEI's dispatch down taskforce.	Grid, Asset Management	Ongoing
3	Engage with DCEE and/or SO to establish a Dispatch Down working group to address concerns around market drivers for interconnector imports and dispatch down levels; develop an Action Plan.	Grid, Asset Management	Ongoing
4	Work with key stakeholders to 1) ensure a timely publication of the National Planning Framework and after this ensure that the methodology for translating national targets for onshore wind to the regional and local development plan tier is robust and adequate, and 2) influence and support the transposition of EU legislation in a planning context, most notably RED III.	Planning	Ongoing
4	Submit a detailed consultation response to the revised draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines/National Planning Statement; regular engagement with DCEE and DHLGH on this and other key issues e.g., implementation plan for the Planning & Development Act.	Planning	Planned
4	Share position(s) on Habitats Regulations with stakeholders to help support development of stakeholders' preferred principles and approach for Ireland for priority topics. Utilise sharing of lessons learned from approaches in other jurisdictions.	Offshore Consenting, Planning	Planned
5	Hold a health & safety focused policy forum to spread safety messaging on key issues.	Health & Safety	Ongoing
5	Coordination between Offshore Committee and H&S/Offshore Safety WG on priority issues related to safety in the offshore environment. Engage with key stakeholders including DCEE & MARA on key issues identified to work towards solutions.	Health & Safety, Offshore	Ongoing

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#	Policy Priorities Action Plan	Responsible WEI Committee(s)	Status
5	Continued engagement with safety stakeholders (such as the National Ambulance Service) and two-way dissemination of information to work towards improved emergency response processes and readiness for incidents on onshore wind farms.	Health & Safety	Ongoing
6	Work with key stakeholders in lead up to ORESS Tonn Nua auction to ensure successful auction process and engage and collaborate with DCEE and other key stakeholders via the OWDT (and related subgroups/forums) on plans for subsequent auctions (ORESS 2.2) and the SC-DMAP sites, as well as future DMAP development.	Offshore, Offshore Grid, Offshore Consenting	Ongoing
6	Deliver positive changes to RESS 5 T&Cs to reduce auction risks; develop a position paper outlining the WEI position on treatment of constraints for future RESS Auctions.	Markets	Ongoing
6	Develop a position paper outlining the key principles for the future RESS and ORESS auction design, factoring in the implementation of NZIA, other changes to T&Cs, increasing volume, etc., culminating in clarity on State Aid for future auctions by Q4 2025.	Markets, Offshore	Planned
7	Support implementation of Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan, with opportunities for industry to support actions shared via engagement with key stakeholders (such as NPWS, HHTRP Consultative Committee).	Planning	Ongoing
7	Facilitate discussion with experts about lessons learned from offshore environmental measures (e.g. strategic compensation) in other regimes to support environmentally responsible ORE development in Ireland.	Offshore Consenting	Planned
8	Ongoing work to track Market Reviews occurring in the UK and Europe, including quarterly updates from RUK and WindEurope to the Markets Committee. Track any workstreams coming from European Commission on EMD (i.e. White paper which would lay the ground for further electricity market reforms).	Markets	Ongoing
9	Complete Future Onshore Wind report highlighting future onshore wind development opportunities post 2030; engage with key stakeholders on the outputs and utilise datapoints to influence future spatial and grid development plans.	Net Zero	Ongoing
9	Publish a study which will quantify Ireland's onshore and offshore wind energy surplus in 2035 and 2050; evaluate domestic and export strategies for utilising surplus wind energy; produce a final report and presentation for communication and dissemination to a range of audiences.	Net Zero, Offshore, FLOW	Ongoing
9	Track developments in the new EU Commissions work plan and work to prepare a paper defining WEI's and Ireland's priorities for Ireland's EU presidency in 2026. This will include ongoing focus on market design for net zero through the Future Markets working group and identifying opportunities for alignment with key stakeholders.	Net Zero	Planned

We will build a secure zero-carbon energy system



#	Policy Priorities Action Plan	Responsible WEI Committee(s)	Status
9	Develop an industry agreed and backed Strategic Plan/Roadmap for the future development of offshore wind in Ireland beyond ORESS Tonn Nua (for both fixed & floating wind), to be utilised to inform and guide the policy direction and approach with key stakeholders.	Offshore, FLOW, Offshore Grid, Offshore Consenting	Ongoing
9	Develop position paper on Hybrid Interconnectors, with focus on a case study, and outlining the barriers to hybrid interconnection today in Ireland. This paper will also outline how to overcome the barriers and open a pathway for hybrids to be delivered in the 2030s.	Net Zero	Ongoing
10	Identify and prioritise key issues with repowering and life extension through industry workshop where experiences can be shared by those going through the process. Results to be used as basis for further discussions with WEI members, Government and other stakeholders to influence policy to streamline repowering and life extension of existing onshore wind farms that are nearing end of life.	Planning, Asset Management, Grid, Markets	Planned
11	Ongoing collaboration with DETE and other key stakeholders (such as DFHERIS & GTS/SOWA) to support offshore wind skills and supply chain development as part of the implementation of Powering Prosperity and feeding into subsequent iterations of the Industrial Strategy.	Offshore	Ongoing
11	Work with members to build up information on port requirements for FLOW, to be shared with relevant stakeholders such as the Department of Transport.	FLOW	Ongoing
12	Ensure a decision on LDES procurement by the end of the year through engaging with DCEE, CRU and EirGrid.	Energy Storage Ireland	Ongoing
13	Engage with DCEE on implementation of the Hydrogen Strategy, working with members to develop key principles and views on risks and opportunities to enable development of a hydrogen market.	Net Zero	Planned
14	Advocate, through Ireland Electrified, for policy frameworks supporting electrification including demand flexibility and pass-through cost reforms.	Ireland Electrified	Planned

Wind Energy Ireland

Strategic Plan 2022-2025

Goal 2: We will build powerful communities

We will deliver this by:

- Building our story to tell Ireland about the benefits of renewable energy.
- Building advocates to champion our story at national and local levels.
- Building partnerships with communities and bodies to enable a just sustainable transition.
- Building education programmes to equip the next generation to continue tackling climate change.

We will build powerful communities



Key updates since the last policy brief:

- As part of our regional public affairs campaign, we had a very successful event in Clare in partnership with Ennis Chamber. The event was addressed by Minister Timmy Dooley TD and attended by approximately 120 people from the business community, elected representatives, staff of Clare County Council, Clare PPN and others.
- We collaborated with the Association of Irish Local Government to deliver in-person training on wind energy to over 200 county councillors at two locations. Feedback from attendees was very positive and the presentation was distributed to all 950 county councillors countrywide.
- The European Commission has recognised our work as a best practice in sustainable education. We were invited to contribute to the European Commission's Sustainable Education Working Group meeting in Brussels as part of a Wind Europe initiative in which Ireland is one of only three participating countries.
- We had a very successful exhibition at the [at the BTYSTE in January](#), engaging with thousands of teachers and students.
- Our most recent renewable energy explainer series is running on Limerick Live95FM radio and will end on April 8, 2025.
- Our [County Colours initiative](#), made public at the new year, has been very well received by elected representatives.
- We prepared a written submission with our priority recommendations for inclusion in the incoming Government's work plan and engaged with departmental officials and advisers on it. Several of WEI's recommendations were included in the final Programme for Government, which was published in January 2025.

We will build powerful communities



Key upcoming deliverables and focus areas:

- We will have a presence at the Irish Skipper Expo again this year over 2 days in March.
- We will host a briefing for all members of the new Oireachtas on 26 March to update them on progress in achieving our Climate Action plan targets for wind energy and discuss policy areas where action is needed to speed up the pace of development of renewable energy in Ireland.
- Our efforts to inform county councillors are set to continue in April when we will have a wind energy information stand at the AILG Annual Conference. We will also have a WorkinWind stand at the Annual Conference of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors.
- We are launching a marketing campaign in April to raise awareness of Ireland's six Phase One offshore wind projects. It will highlight the benefits of offshore wind - job creation, energy security, and sustainability - through real voices from coastal communities to build engagement and support.
- Launching in June, Get Out in the Wind will highlight wind farms as safe, thriving spaces that support biodiversity and local communities. The campaign will invite the public to visit wind farms while also showcasing relevant content through our social media platforms.
- Work has started on our pre-budget submission, which we would intend to submit in the summer, and on developing a manifesto document for Ireland's EU Presidency in the second half of 2026.

Policy Research Reports from WEI

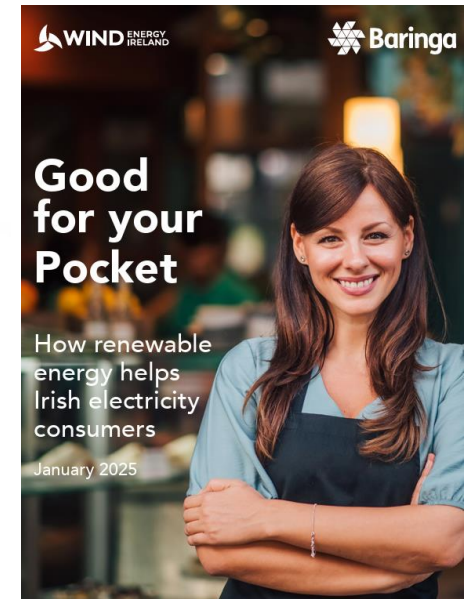
*Building an Evidence Base to
Support Policy Development*



WEI Policy Research Reports

- Policy-priming research continues to be a key focus for WEI, driven by need to deliver evidence and analysis that can move the dial on policy development in key areas of our strategy.
- Thanks to the continued support of [Policy & Research Fund](#) contributors, WEI was able to commission 4 strategic reports at the end of 2024.
- We have already published two reports this year:
 1. [Cutting Carbon, Cutting Bills Report - Wind Carbon and Fuel Savings](#)
 2. [Good for your Pocket: How renewable energy helps Irish electricity consumers](#) (see summary takeaways on next two slides)
- A further two reports are progressing and will be launched in Q2:
 1. *A planning assessment for future onshore wind development (MKO)*
 2. *The Wind Surplus: Utilising Ireland's Vast Renewable Resource (DNV)*

If you'd like to see your idea transformed into a report, please submit your research topic today. This [list](#) will be reviewed and prioritised by WEI council members later this year. Please add to it today!



Good for your Pocket

How renewable energy helps Irish electricity consumers



In 2019's *Wind for a Euro*, Baringa estimated that the development of wind capacity would cost Irish consumers around €65 million by 2020, a total of **less than €1 per person per year**

In *Good for your Pocket*, they have updated their analysis for 2018-2023 and have turned their attention forward, to project the further savings that could be unlocked by **achieving 80% renewable electricity**



Good for your Pocket

Shows that renewables have **saved consumers more than €840 million** since 2000 – and new investment could **save an additional €610 million per year**

To date, wind and solar farms have lowered the cost of electricity for everyone in Ireland by an

**average of €165 per person
- that's €840 million in total**



Renewables have prevented the need to burn €7.4 billion worth of polluting fossil fuels – including

**enough gas to heat every home
in Ireland for nine years**



**Renewables could unlock additional
savings of €610 million per year**

if Ireland continues to invest in wind and solar generation – and achieves 80% renewable electricity



**The renewable transition has saved
over 47 million tonnes of CO₂**

since 2000 – equal to the lifetime emissions of 1.1 million cars – 40% of the vehicles in Ireland

Policy Consultation Responses from WEI

WEI submissions in 2025



WEI Consultation Log 2025

Stakeholder	Consultation Title	Closing Date	Responsible Committee / WG	WEI Lead	Link to WEI Response
EirGrid / SONI	DS3 System Services Market Ruleset Consultation	17-Jan-25	Future Services / ESI DS3 Future Arrangements	Cathal	PDF
EirGrid	Powering Up Offshore South Coast	24-Jan-25	Phase 2 Grid WG	Caoimhe / Marcos	In-person workshop & feedback provided.
EirGrid	GTUoS Cap Consultation	31-Jan-25	Multiple	John	PDF
DECC	RESS 5 Terms & Conditions	14-Feb-25	Route to Market WG	John	PDF
DECC	Community Benefit Fund	7-Mar-25	Community Benefit WG	Eva	PDF
EirGrid	Draft 2024 Stakeholder Engagement Report	19-Mar-25	Multiple	John	PDF
SEMO	DS3 System Services Tariffs to FASS ('The Gap') Consultation	21-Mar-25	Future Services / ESI DS3 Future Arrangements	Cathal	Ongoing
CRU	Large Energy User Connections Policy	4-Apr-25	Multiple	Marcos	Ongoing
CRU	ECP GSS – Charging and Rebating Methodology	11-Apr-25	ECP WG & Phase 1 Offshore Grid	Marcos	Ongoing
CRU	Consultation on Sharing of MEC behind a Single Connection Point	14-Apr-25	Hybrids WG	Pat	Ongoing
European Commission	Consultation on the draft new State Aid Framework	25-Apr-25	Route to Market WG	John	Ongoing
SEMC	SEMO Price Control 2024-29	6-May-25	Markets Committee	Marcos	Ongoing

Additional Resources



Stakeholder	Engagement Fora
EirGrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WEI engages with EirGrid directors each quarter on grid, markets and related issues, covering both onshore and offshore wind. The WEI team also meets the relevant EirGrid teams each quarter for dedicated workshops on key topics. WEI Contact: Marcos
ESB Networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WEI engages with ESB Network's senior management team each quarter on grid and other topics relevant for the wind industry. WEI Contact: Marcos
Commission for Regulation of Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WEI engages with the CRU commissioners and relevant directors each quarter on grid, markets and other topics, covering both onshore and offshore wind. WEI Contact: Dave
Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCEE coordinates bi-monthly joint meetings with industry and all key relevant departments and State agencies. The OWDT contains 10 workstreams including skills, supply chain, and ORE communications. A director level meeting for Phase 1 projects also takes place each month. A joint Future Framework group involving industry representatives meets every 6 weeks. WEI Contact: Caoimhe
Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the Government led taskforce for onshore renewables. DCEE coordinates quarterly meetings of the ARET, which includes other key departments such as DHLGH and DETE. WEI attends a dedicated industry session at each meeting. The taskforce contains 9 working groups across 3 pillars – grid, planning, route to market. Pillar meetings also take place each quarter, attended by WEI and key stakeholders. WEI Contact: Dave
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DETE coordinates a quarterly industry forum to progress implementation and delivery of the Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy. WEI Contact: Caoimhe
Health & Safety Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WEI meets with the Health and Safety Authority each quarter to discuss key priorities and best practice for the wind sector. WEI Contact: Eva
Marine Spatial Planning Advisory Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCEE's Marine Planning Policy Division hosts this forum 2-3 times per year (may convene additional meetings as required). It includes representation from public sector, industry, environmental, social etc. to help provide strategic direction RE: Marine Spatial Planning. WEI Contact: Caoimhe

Brought to you by



Key Policy Stakeholder Engagements

This list is non-exhaustive and further engagement with other key stakeholders such as the DHLGH and ABP takes place at regular periods during the year.

For more information on any recent engagements, please reach out to any of the team.

WEI Committees & Working Groups Q1 2025



Wind Energy Ireland 2025 Committees & Working Groups

Read Committee and Working Group descriptions at
<https://windenergyireland.com/committees>

To join a Wind Energy Ireland Committee please
contact Malcolm.Bird@windenergyireland.com
To join a Working Group, please contact the WEI Rep.

Cross Cutting

	Working Group	Chair	WEI Rep
Markets WEI: Marcos Chair: Andrew Burke Vice: Cian Fitzgerald	Route to Market	Kate Garth	John B
	Energy Market Implementation	Andrew Burke	John B
	Future Services	Paraic Higgins	Cathal
Community Engagement WEI: Justin Chair: Emma Kerins Vice: Rosy Billingham	Offshore Comms & Engagement	Jodie Neary	Justin
	Community Benefit	TBC	Eva
Health & Safety WEI: Eva Chair: Declan Corrigan Vice: Allie Byrne	Emergency Response	Kieran O'Regan	Eva
	Construction Safety	Brendan Heneghan	Eva
	Offshore Safety	Michelle Ruane	Eva
Asset Management WEI: Éabhín Chair: Joe Dalton Vice: David Dunne	Dispatch Down	Rory Mullan	John B
	Sustainability	Mia Fahey McCarthy	Éabhín
	Cybersecurity (Temp)	John Gartland	Éabhín
Net Zero WEI: Dave Chair: Bernice Doyle Vice: TBC	Future Networks	Jack Counihan	Marcos
	EU Energy Policy	Christian Kjaer	John B
	Future Markets	Peter Harte	Dave
	Green Hydrogen	Philip Connolly	Caoimhe
	Future Onshore Wind (Temp)	Eoin McGurk	Dave

Onshore Wind

	Working Group	Chair	WEI Rep
Planning WEI: John W Chair: Brian Keville Vice: Caroline Donnelly	Onshore Environment	Elaine Dromey	Éabhín
	Repowering	Alan Clancy	John W
	Planning Policy	TBC	John W
Grid WEI: Marcos Chair: Margaret Nee Vice: John McDonagh	Connection Delivery	Joe Colleran	Marcos
	Connection Policy	Donal Smith	Marcos
	Grid Capacity	Laura Mehigan	Marcos
	Hybrids	Kate Garth	Pat

Offshore Wind

	Working Group	Chair	WEI Rep
Offshore WEI: Caoimhe Chair: Peter Lefroy Vice: Ciaran McManus	Supply Chain	Paul Doherty	Caoimhe
	Fishing	Paul Kelly	Justin
	Phase 2/ Route to Market	Eoin McPartland /Laura Paton	Caoimhe
	Future Framework	Patricia Comiskey	Caoimhe
Offshore Consenting WEI: John W Chair: Tina Raleigh Vice: Caroline Roche	Offshore Environment	Caroline Roche	Éabhín
	Marine Planning Policy Statement (Temp)	Chris Turner	John W
Offshore Grid WEI: Marcos Chair: Rory Mullan Vice: John McGuckin	Phase 1 Grid	Rory Mullan	Marcos
	Phase 2 Grid	John McGuckin	Marcos
Floating WEI: Caoimhe Chair: Val Cummins Vice: Ronan O'Flynn	Ports (Temp)	Sarah Gibson	Caoimhe



WIND ENERGY IRELAND

Policy & Research

Research



Sarah Kandrot
Research Manager



Dáire Horgan
Senior Specialist



Patrick Cantwell
Communications Specialist



Dave Linehan
Head of Policy & Research

Consenting & Asset Management



John Willoughby
Policy Manager



Eabhin Byrne
Senior Analyst



Chloe Furley
Graduate Analyst

Grid & Markets



Marcos Byrne
Policy Manager



John Bourke
Policy Analyst

Community Engagement



Justin Moran
Director of External Affairs



Yvonne O'Brien
Regional Public Affairs Manager

Energy Storage, Electrification



Bobby Smith
Head of Energy Storage Ireland



Cathal Murphy
Senior Analyst,
Ireland Electrified



Pat Lambert
Policy Analyst,
Energy Storage Ireland

Offshore & Health & Safety



Caoimhe McCarthy
Policy Manager



Eva McCarthy
Policy Analyst



Brenn Liddy
Graduate Analyst



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