



Research Strategy 2022-2025





Introduction & Context

Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) is the nation's largest renewable energy organisation with more than 150 members who have come together to plan, build, operate, and support the development of Ireland's wind generation. WEI works to promote wind energy as an essential, economical, and environmentally friendly part of the country's low-carbon energy future.

Ireland is already number one in the world for share of electricity demand met by onshore wind, and in 2020, wind energy provided over 36% of the country's electricity supply. As a leader in Ireland's fight against climate change, the wind energy sector creates jobs, invests in communities, and reduces CO2 emissions. In 2019 alone, according to the [Energy in Ireland report](#) from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, wind energy avoided 3.9 million tonnes of CO2 and cut our fossil fuel import bill by €248 million.

The stage has been set to push our collective goals even further. Ireland's [2021 Climate Action Plan](#), coupled with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill 2021, have set hugely ambitious decarbonisation targets impacting all of society, to support a 51% reduction in Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and a net zero-carbon economy by 2050.



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

- Dave Linehan, Head of Research





Vision Statement

Wind Energy Ireland's research vision statement positions the organisation 'to realise the potential presented by research, to support the longer-term ambition of a zero-carbon society'. This vision statement, while focused specifically on the goals and objectives of the research department within WEI, aligns with the overall Wind Energy Ireland strategy, including the overarching Vision, Mission and Goals.



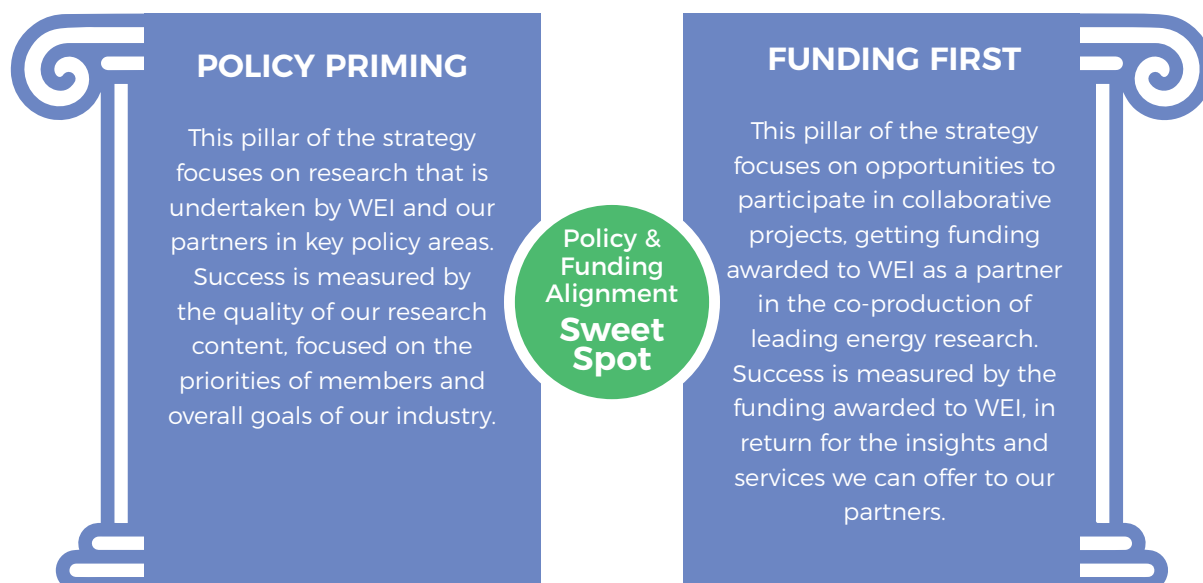
To realise the potential presented to Wind Energy Ireland by research, to support the longer-term ambition of a zero-carbon society.

Research Pillars

Wind Energy Ireland's research pillars are the supporting structures to deliver on our vision statement. Two research pillars have been identified.

A **Policy Priming** pillar aims to continue building on Wind Energy Ireland's track record in driving forward key policy developments, with a focus on the important energy research needed to build evidence and build support. Success is measured by the quality of our research content, focused on the priorities of our member companies and the overall goals of our industry.

A **Funding First** pillar seeks to establish a new role for Wind Energy Ireland within the research ecosystem. We aim to leverage opportunities to participate in collaborative projects, with funding awarded to WEI as a partner in the co-production of energy research. Success is measured by the research funding awarded to WEI, in return for the insights and services that we will be able to offer our partners.





Strategic Goals

Wind Energy Ireland’s strategic research goals set out a high-level roadmap to deliver on four key focus areas, namely policy development, partnerships, education and engagement, and industry supports.



1. The first goal is about policy development. It builds on WEI’s track record of undertaking research to drive forward important policy goals. We will double down on our influential role to date, continuing to deliver evidence-building research to address important climate goals.
2. The second goal is about partnerships. It is rooted in the co-production of energy research. We will increase our presence in Ireland’s research eco-system, supporting essential research for industry, collaborating in proposals, and generating funding to deliver on our plans.
3. The third goal is about education and engagement. It is focused on enhancing the dissemination of research. We will use communication and education tools to steer positive sentiment towards wind energy as a solution for a zero-carbon society.
4. The final goal is about industry supports. It is centered on innovation and skills growth opportunities. We will encourage the application of research across industry to deliver new technology, while also supporting skills needs and talent development in our sector over the coming years. This will be achieved through collaboration with Skillnet Ireland and other strategic partners.

These research goals are mapped from the emerging themes identified during 2021, and also Wind Energy Ireland’s four strategic goals for 2022-2025, shown below.







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