



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Offshore Wind Energy Programme

## Key Actions for 2023

*Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce*  
**March 2023**



# Taskforce Overarching Objectives



- Deploy at least 5GW of offshore wind energy by 2030, as part of the Government's objective of 80% of Ireland's electricity being met from renewable sources by 2030.
- Develop a longer-term plan setting out how Ireland will develop at least 30GW of offshore floating wind power in our Atlantic waters.

# Taskforce Medium-Term Outcomes



- At least 5GW of offshore wind is procured and consented (or significantly progressed through planning) by 2025 and on track for delivery by 2030;
- All aspects of the regulatory framework related to the construction and operational phases of offshore wind projects, including the safety framework, is fully scoped, developed and in place by end 2023;
- All grid projects required for 2030 are designed and going through consenting process and on track for delivery of 2030 targets;
- The potential economic and societal benefits from establishing the offshore wind industry are maximised (ports/supply chain/jobs);
- A strategy and implementation plan is developed for ORE development beyond 2030; including key milestones for floating offshore wind;
- The supply chain and skills capability, including ecological and environmental, is in place for maximisation of benefit to Ireland and to guarantee delivery success; and
- Alignment in the development of the Offshore Renewable Energy sector with work being progressed to improve and protect marine biodiversity through designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Marine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Marine Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and implementation of the Birds, Habitats and Marine Strategy Framework Directives more broadly.

# Taskforce Objectives



- Develop a consolidated system-wide plan, collating all activities underway across departments and agencies to ensure delivery of offshore wind and related targets as set out in the Programme for Government and Climate Action Plan;
- Identify all aspects of work on the critical path and proactively manage risks to ensure delivery;
- Ensure the potential benefits to the Irish State from establishing the offshore wind industry are maximised;
- Ensure consistent messaging to the public and all stakeholders on what is happening regarding offshore wind energy and the benefits that will be delivered; and
- Ensure alignment in the development of the offshore renewable energy sector with work being progressed to improve marine biodiversity through designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Marine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Marine Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

# Taskforce Membership



The Taskforce is chaired by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, and its membership comprises senior officials from the Government departments and agencies that are vital to the delivery of Ireland's ORE ambitions. The member organisations are:

- the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage;
- the Department of Transport;
- the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment;
- the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science;
- the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform;
- the Department of Rural and Community Development,
- Enterprise Ireland;
- the Commission for Regulation of Utilities; and
- EirGrid.

The Taskforce is working with representatives from the offshore wind industry, who are currently actively contributing to workstreams examining supply chain and skills needs.



# Taskforce System-Wide Plan



- The following is an overview of the system-wide plan adopted by the Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce and agreed by Government.
- The summary includes an overview of each of the workstreams established under the Taskforce and the key 2023 actions of each workstream.



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# Workstream Summaries



# Workstream 1A – Marine Planning, Regulations & Guidelines



<b>Owner</b>	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
<b>Support agencies</b>	An Bord Pleanála Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (once established)
<b>Summary</b>	This workstream is responsible for developing and implementing marine spatial planning policy and legislation, which will support the development of offshore wind in Ireland. It will also support planning authorities with legislation and guidelines for offshore wind development.
<b>Key Actions for 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Develop Planning Regulations to support Part 8 of the MAP Act (Q1)</li><li>▪ Prepare and issue a Circular to provide An Bord Pleanála with guidance on issuing an opinion on design flexibility (Q2)</li><li>▪ Develop and implement the Marine Planning Policy Statement</li><li>▪ Develop Ministerial Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Offshore Wind (Q4)</li></ul>



# Workstream 1B – Marine Biodiversity, Designation & Assessment



<b>Owner</b>	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage including National Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>Support Agencies</b>	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications An Bord Pleanála Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (once established)
<b>Summary</b>	This workstream will support alignment of work being carried out to ensure the protection and conservation of Ireland's marine environment with the development of offshore wind through designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), marine Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and marine Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and implementation of the Birds, Habitats and Marine Strategy Framework Directives more broadly. NPWS to support assessment of OWE projects in its role as statutory consultee during the planning process.
<b>Key Actions for 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Develop Ocean Environment Policy Statement in advance of enactment of Marine Protected Areas legislation.</li><li>▪ Following the legislative process, enact Marine Protected Areas legislation.</li></ul>

# Workstream 1C – ORE Consenting and Regulatory Framework



<b>Owner</b>	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
<b>Support Agencies</b>	An Bord Pleanála (ABP) Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (once established)
<b>Summary</b>	This workstream plays a key role in offshore wind consenting and licensing. This includes foreshore licensing, Maritime Area Consents and development consents from An Bord Pleanála.
<b>Key Actions for 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Formal establishment of MARA</li><li>▪ ABP to develop recruitment plan for and ensure adequate resources to assess Phase 1 applications, with an initial short-term focus on resources to begin pre-application consultations with Phase 1 developers (Q1)</li><li>▪ ABP to carry out pre-application consultations with Phase 1 developers (concluding Q3)</li><li>▪ Commence assessment of planning applications for Phase 1 developments (Q3/4)</li></ul>

# Workstream 2 – Enduring Regime



<b>Owner</b>	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
<b>Support Agencies</b>	EirGrid Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Commission for the Regulation of Utilities
<b>Summary</b>	This workstream supports the development of ORE policy for the enduring regime. It includes spatial assessments, and the development of a long-term plan to assess the potential for floating wind and hydrogen production.
<b>Key Actions for 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Publish the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan II – Ireland’s new national spatial strategy for the transition to the Enduring Regime (Q2)</li><li>▪ Publish Draft Enduring Regime Policy for consultation (Q4)</li></ul>

# Workstream 3 – Communications



<b>Owners</b>	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, supported by Department of Rural and Community Development
<b>Support Agencies</b>	All Taskforce Member Organisations
<b>Summary</b>	This workstream plays a role coordinating strategic communication on the OWEPP and facilitating meaningful engagement with the public, local communities and other stakeholders on the plans, benefits and initiatives being carried out under the OWEPP.
<b>Key Actions for 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Establish a dedicated ORE Communications Unit within DECC (Q1)</li><li>▪ Develop and implement a medium/long term Communications Strategy to establish a clear narrative of benefits related to ORE (Q2 onwards)</li></ul>

# Workstream 4 – ORESS



<b>Owner</b>	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
<b>Support Agencies</b>	EirGrid Commission for the Regulation of Utilities
<b>Summary</b>	This workstream plays a key role in the design and rollout of dedicated Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS) auctions delivering significant volumes of renewable energy at a maximum value for Irish energy consumers.
<b>Key Actions for 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Hold ORESS 1 (Q2)</li><li>▪ Publish draft ORESS 2 Terms and Conditions (Q2)</li><li>▪ Launch ORESS 2, subject to designation of Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Designated Areas (Q4)</li></ul>



# Workstream 5 – Grid Development including Licensing and Regulation



<b>Owner</b>	EirGrid
<b>Support Agencies</b>	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Commission for the Regulation of Utilities
<b>Summary</b>	This workstream plays a key role in the development of the grid related aspects (offshore grid development and delivery including licensing and regulatory aspects) required for the delivery of the offshore wind energy targets for 2030. The workstream also monitors the delivery of the required onshore grid upgrades
<b>Key Actions for 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>EirGrid:</b> Publication of final Phase 1 offshore grid functional specifications (Q1)</li><li>▪ <b>EirGrid:</b> Publication of Network Delivery Portfolio (quarterly)</li><li>▪ <b>DECC:</b> Phase 2 policy decision (Q1)</li><li>▪ <b>EirGrid:</b> Revenue recovery (2021-22) and forecast statement (2023-25) submission to CRU (Q2)</li><li>▪ <b>CRU:</b> Determination of EirGrid's revenue recovery (2021-22) and forecast statement (2023-25) (Q4)</li></ul>

# Workstream 6 – Maritime Transport and Commercial Ports Policy



<b>Owner</b>	Department of Transport
<b>Support Agencies</b>	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
<b>Summary</b>	This workstream plays a key role in supporting the development of port infrastructure and capabilities to maximise the use of Irish ports for offshore wind assembly and Operations and Maintenance.
<b>Key Actions for 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Assess the minimum Irish port capacity and deliverability regarding deployment and Operation and Maintenance required to meet out 2030 targets (Q1)</li><li>▪ Develop technical guidance on navigational safety, pollution control and emergency response for ORE installations (Q3)</li><li>▪ Explore the availability of funding streams to support the delivery of port projects required for the facilitation of offshore wind (ongoing)</li></ul>

# Workstream 7 – Supply Chain



<b>Owners</b>	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment Enterprise Ireland
<b>Support Agencies</b>	Department of Transport Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Industry
<b>Summary</b>	This workstream supports the mitigation of supply chains risks regarding the delivery of the OWEF and seek to capitalise on the economic opportunities of offshore wind for Irish businesses in the domestic and international offshore wind supply chain.
<b>Key Actions for 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Develop assessment with industry on OWE supply chain issues and risks to Ireland's 2030 targets (Q1)</li><li>▪ Develop strategy for offshore wind enterprise development based on the Enterprise White Paper</li><li>▪ Support the development of Irish companies in the domestic and international wind energy sector (ongoing)</li></ul>

# Workstream 8 – Skills and Workforce



<b>Owner</b>	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
<b>Support Agencies</b>	All Taskforce Member Organisations Industry
<b>Summary</b>	This workstream supports the development of skills capability and the workforce required to maximise the economic and social benefits of offshore wind to Ireland, and to facilitate successful delivery of the Offshore Wind Energy Programme.
<b>Key Actions for 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Establish Expert Advisory Group on skills/workforce requirements (Q1)</li><li>▪ Carry out a detailed assessment report of the skills and workforce requirements for offshore wind (Q2)</li><li>▪ Support and promote research, innovation, science and technology in offshore wind in Ireland, as well as promoting Irish engagement with international research and innovation activity (ongoing)</li></ul>



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