EirGrid

EirGrid Price Review 6 Business Plan (2026-2030)

Plain English Summary

July 2025

EirGrid.ie

Contents

1 Who we are and what we do

EirGrid, as Transmission System Operator (TSO), develops, manages and operates the transmission grid in Ireland.

We balance supply and demand every minute of the day, while also planning for Ireland's long-term electricity needs.

Our grid infrastructure and the capacity and capability of EirGrid to fulfil its critical role is fundamental to unlocking greater energy independence and security, as well as supporting national and regional economic growth and a resilient society.

We're currently progressing the most ambitious programme of work ever taken on the transmission system in Ireland. This includes connecting significant volumes of offshore and onshore wind, solar and conventional generation while also reinforcing the grid to enable this power to reach demand customers throughout the country.

As part of our work, EirGrid is making Ireland's grid renewable-ready in line with the Government's Climate Action targets.

We are experiencing a period of growth for both the country and the economy, which has been accelerated by the 2025 Programme for Government, 'Securing Ireland's Future'.

In this Programme, the Government puts emphasis on prioritising the delivery of essential infrastructure projects, including energy, and makes a commitment to prioritise investment in the electricity system.

As EirGrid continues to make significant progress towards our targets, our focus remains on working closely with our stakeholders including the Government, our Regulator and industry, to support Ireland's progress towards a cleaner, more sustainable future.

2 Our vision

Every five years, EirGrid develops a Business Plan for the Energy Regulator, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), for the operation and development of the transmission system for the forthcoming five years.

This document is a plain English summary of our Business Plan, 'Price Review 6' or 'PR6', which details our key priorities for the PR6 period (January 1st 2026 to December 31st 2030), along with how much achieving these priorities is estimated to cost.

EirGrid developed this plan against a backdrop of objectives laid down by Government and the CRU.

Key legislation and initiatives such as the European legislative Clean Energy Package[1] (CEP), the Climate Action Plan[2] (CAP), the revised Renewable Energy Directive[3] (RED III), Housing for All[4] , the National Development Plan[5] and the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act 2021[6] , along with EirGrid's

[1] The CEP was adopted by the European Parliament and European Council. The CEP, made up of eight legislative acts, involves a comprehensive update of the EU's energy policy framework aimed at enabling the transition to cleaner energy and facilitating a reduction in greenhouse gas emission levels, including the revised regulation on the internal market for electricity (Regulation (EU) 2019/943), which amends aspects of wholesale electricity markets in Europe to facilitate the transition to renewable energy. The CEP entered into force in July 2019 with the majority of the Articles in Regulation (EU) 2019/943 applying from January 2020.

[2] Climate Action Plan (www.gov.ie)

[3] Renewable Energy Directive (europa.eu)

[4] Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland (www.gov.ie)

[5] National Development Plan (2021-2030) (www.gov.ie)

[6] Maritime Area Planning (2021) Act (www.irishstatutebook.ie)

new role in offshore including delivering offshore infrastructure on the South Coast of Ireland, will all impact our work. An unprecedented level of investment is required to make the transmission grid more resilient and renewable-ready. EirGrid will also be enabling the reintegration of the electricity markets on the Island of Ireland with the European electricity markets through the Celtic Interconnector, which will bring further changes and developments.

EirGrid's expenditure proposals set out in this plan have been carefully considered and designed to support the delivery of these objectives in a cost effective, efficient, safe, reliable and secure manner, while supporting a cleaner, more sustainable future for Ireland.

It's important to note that EirGrid's PR6 Business Plan is just one part of a strategic roadmap that puts in place the foundations for further investment beyond 2030 as we continue to support Ireland's decarbonisation journey.

Looking ahead to 2050, we already know that our work will involve not only strengthening the grid but also evolving it. This will require a huge amount of collaboration across the energy sector, to understand what new technologies and innovation can help us create a network, powered by renewables, that can meet the growth in demand. It will also require substantial and sustained investment.

We shared this plan with the CRU in October 2024 for their consideration in accordance with the timelines for PR6. The CRU will hold a formal consultation on a draft decision as part of this process, followed by their final decision on the framework and costs in 2025.

3 EirGrid's engagement with ESB Networks

EirGrid as TSO plans, manages and operates the transmission grid in Ireland. The transmission grid transports power from where it is generated and brings it to industry and businesses that use large amounts of electricity. EirGrid is also the asset owner of the offshore transmission grid.

ESB Networks holds the role of Transmission Asset Owner (TAO). This means they own the onshore transmission grid and are responsible for its construction and maintenance in accordance with the development plans set out by EirGrid.

ESB Networks is also the Distribution System Operator (DSO). This means ESB Networks (as DSO) plans, manages and operates the distribution network which supplies the electricity used in homes, schools, hospitals and farms. The distribution system is connected to the transmission system but is operated separately by ESB Networks.

Every five years, EirGrid and ESB Networks (TAO) each develop Price Control Business Plans for Transmission as per our respective roles. Together, we ensure these plans are aligned with a particular focus on any dependencies between the two.

4 What we need to achieve

Our regulator, the CRU, set out what we need to achieve through our PR6 Business Plan via the following three outcomes detailed in their PR6 Strategy Paper:

- **Decarbonised Electricity:** EirGrid (and ESB Networks) must facilitate the realisation of Ireland's decarbonisation ambitions, enabling high levels of renewable electricity to be integrated and driving an environmentally sustainable, low carbon electricity system. EirGrid will seek to deliver upon this outcome through many aspects of the PR6 Delivery Roadmap, such as the integration of new technologies and tools, readiness for the Celtic Interconnector, as well as our extensive transmission network programmes, both onshore and offshore. EirGrid will have a new role building, owning, operating and maintaining transmission grid infrastructure necessary to bring power generated by offshore windfarms into our national grid.
- **Secure and Resilient Networks and Supplies:** EirGrid must ensure a safe, secure and resilient transmission network and electricity supply. Maintaining a safe and secure supply of electricity has always been a priority for EirGrid in its capacity as TSO. EirGrid will seek to deliver upon this outcome in PR6 through many aspects of the PR6 Delivery Roadmap, such as our Cyber Security programme, changes to the National Control Centre, its tools, and the delivery of network infrastructure.
- **Empowered Customers:** EirGrid must deliver high-quality and reliable services to customers, ensuring their voice is heard and reflected in the work they do, and that the cost of the transition is minimised. EirGrid will seek to deliver upon this outcome by empowering customers and stakeholders through efficient and comprehensive consultation and engagement processes, to allow them to come to informed opinions and to make informed decisions.

5 Delivering for the future

To achieve these outcomes, the CRU has set out the following strategic objectives for all network companies (which includes EirGrid):

- Deliver infrastructure at pace.
- Enhance system efficiency.
- Ensure compliance with security of supply standards.
- Drive smarter, flexible, more digitally enabled networks.
- Customers at the heart of business planning and decision making.

Additionally, the CRU highlighted the importance of building EirGrid's capability to deliver on its expanded activities as owner and operator of the offshore transmission assets.

EirGrid has kept the above priorities, outcomes, and objectives at the forefront of our thinking when developing our plans and priorities for PR6.

6 The importance of stakeholder engagement

Through meaningful engagement with our stakeholders, we gain valuable insights into the stakeholder mindset, which better enables us to align our objectives and address any concerns. This inclusive approach not only enhances transparency but also strengthens relationships, as we adapt to an energy market evolving rapidly.

As both national and European energy legislation develops, so too will the stakeholder environment in which we operate. Our stakeholders are varied and include customers, on whose behalf the electricity transmission network is operated, industry participants, society groups and statutory organisations, legislators and more.

By continuing to prioritise stakeholder engagement, we aim to ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity to inform our decision mak ing, throughout the PR6 period and beyond.

7 Investment programme

We have developed an extensive business plan that aims to meet the objectives of the Government and regulator. This has resulted in the development of the following areas of focus for the PR6 period which are laid out in more detail below and form part of our PR6 delivery roadmap:

- **Digital Transformation**
- **Technology Resilience and Modernisation**
- **Cyber Security**
- **Power System Capability Enhancements**
- **TSO DSO Coordination**
- **National Control Centre Infrastructure**
- **Celtic Operational Readiness Programme**
- **Onshore Network Plan**
- **Offshore Network and Readiness Plan**
- **Growing our workforce**

7.1 Digital Transformation

As an operator of ‘Critical National Infrastructure’, EirGrid must have secure and resilient IT solutions underpinning our work on the power system.

As part of our PR6 Business Plan, EirGrid will adopt new ways of operating using a range of digital solutions. Our objective is that our stakeholders will have rapid access to information and will see EirGrid as an organisation which responds reliably and rapidly. This improved collaboration and responsiveness will enable rapid delivery.

7.2 Technology Resilience and Modernisation

EirGrid’s Technology Resilience and Modernisation programme will specifically focus on modernising our applications to ensure that they are aligned to technology standards and business needs. This programme will help improve operational efficiency while decreasing downtime by increasing utilisation of real time

data. Security and reliability will also be improved as we continue to enhance our technological capabilities.

7.3 Cyber Security

Today's threat landscape is highly sophisticated and ever evolving, which is why ensuring the highest level of cybersecurity resilience is so critical. As part of this programme of work, EirGrid will continue to enhance our cybersecurity capabilities so that we can identify, assess and mitigate potential cybersecurity risks. This will help to safeguard the electricity transmission system from cyber-attacks that could disrupt essential services while maintaining stakeholder confidence in EirGrid and in Ireland's reputation as a stable, secure, and reliable place to live, work and invest.

7.4 Power System Capability Enhancements

Currently, up to 75% of renewable generation can be accommodated by Ireland's electricity grid at any one time, which is high by international standards. EirGrid's target is to increase this to 95% in line with Government targets. Doing this will require our operational capabilities to further adapt and evolve to manage this highly complex and technical transition.

Our focus for this programme of work will be to enhance grid stability while optimising energy usage so that we can operate the power system in a secure and resilient manner while accommodating higher levels of renewable generation.

7.5 TSO-DSO Coordination

Enhanced coordination between EirGrid (as Transmission System Operator) and ESB Networks (as Distribution System Operator) is important to deliver more efficient markets and a more resilient power system. As part of our PR6 Business Plan, EirGrid and ESB Networks will continue to collaborate closely while enhancing how we work, so that together, we can strengthen the electricity grid while supporting further integration of renewable generation in line with Government targets.

7.6 Celtic Operational Readiness Programme

The Celtic Interconnector will enable the exchange of 700 MW of electricity between Ireland and France. Moving this electricity across a distance of 575 km, with 500 km of the cable running under the sea, this interconnector will have the capacity to supply electricity to 450,000 homes. The project is a key step on Ireland's energy journey to a low carbon energy future. It will make an important contribution to shoring up Ireland's security of electricity supply by providing a direct link to continental Europe.

The Celtic Interconnector Cable is expected to be in operation within the PR6 period. As such, the Celtic Operational Readiness Programme of work is a key focus for EirGrid's PR6 Business Plan and will ensure that both our grid and market operations are ready to integrate this critical piece of infrastructure.

7.7 Control Centre Infrastructure

The National Control Centre (NCC) is central to the operation of the Transmission System in Ireland. It is where EirGrid controls the movement of electric current across the grid from where it is generated to where it needs to be used, 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

As part of our PR6 Business Plan, EirGrid will grow and evolve our control centre infrastructure to ensure future readiness for managing new and additional functions such as the operation of the offshore system and increased interconnection.

7.8 Onshore Network Plan

EirGrid has been tasked with making Ireland's grid renewable-ready in line with the Government's Climate Action targets. In order to meet these targets, we're currently progressing the most ambitious programme of work ever taken on the transmission system in Ireland. This includes reinforcements, upgrades and new infrastructure across the whole of the country. The PR6 Investment Plan for EirGrid and ESB Networks (TAO) forecasts expenditure across 369 projects.

It is anticipated that the Onshore Network Plan will deliver 876 km of uprates to existing lines, 181 km of new overhead lines, the replacement of 55 km of underground cables with 319 km of new underground cables and 40 new/expanded substations.

The delivery of this infrastructure is absolutely critical. Not only for supporting Ireland's renewable ambitions but also in ensuring that we can continue to meet the growing demand for electricity which is expected to more than double by 2050.

7.9 Offshore Network and Readiness Plan

EirGrid is responsible for the development, ownership and operation of Ireland's offshore transmission network. As part of this work, our preparation includes for the purchase of transmission infrastructure from private developers in the case of the East coast phase 1 projects, getting our internal systems and business 'offshore ready' for the ownership and operation of offshore transmission assets, as well as the construction of offshore transmission assets on the south coast of Ireland under phase 2.

Developing the offshore electricity grid is key to harnessing Ireland's offshore wind energy potential and providing greater security of electricity supply from a clean renewable source.

A number of offshore renewable energy projects are already being progressed by private developers in phase 1. On completion, the offshore assets connecting these offshore generation projects to the transmission system will be taken over by EirGrid.

In addition to these, as part of the Government-led approach to the delivery of offshore wind, we intend to procure an additional 900 MW of generation capacity from wind farms off Ireland's south coast under phase 2- enough to power almost one million homes with clean energy.

To facilitate the connection of this additional 900 MW of capacity, EirGrid is advancing the Powering Up Offshore South Coast project to build the new transmission grid infrastructure needed to bring power generated by these offshore windfarms onto our national grid.

7.10 Growing our workforce

As we enter PR6, EirGrid is facing a workforce capacity and capability gap at a critical juncture in the green transition. Not only do we need a significant capacity increase, but we also need to build our capability to meet emerging and future targets.

That's why our PR6 Business Plan also includes details on the need to build out our workforce to ensure we can continue to support the Government's climate objectives.

8 Investing in Ireland's future

To meet the Government's climate objectives, the power system will need to undergo significant transformation so that we can move away from high-carbon fossil fuels for heating and transporting, towards clean, sustainable electricity.

This will require substantial and sustained investment in Ireland's electricity network. However, this transition is fundamental in unlocking a number of long-term benefits including:

- A more flexible, interconnected, and resilient grid.
- Greater energy independence.
- A cleaner, more sustainable future.
- Enhanced security and technical efficiency.
- Economic growth and the development of a stronger society.
- Greater electrification of heat and transport.
- Realisation of our offshore renewable electricity resources.
- Access to EU electricity markets following the integration of the Celtic Interconnector between Ireland and France.

Operation of the transmission system and all transmission works carried out by EirGrid and ESB Networks (TAO) are funded over time through the Transmission Use of system charges. These 'use of system charges' are paid by all users (generators, industry, businesses and households). For households, these charges are paid in the first instance by suppliers, who in turn charge end users through their regular bills.

As we continue to support Ireland's climate objectives, EirGrid is mindful of the potential impact on all users. As such, our PR6 Business Plan looks to deliver on what the grid needs to facilitate Government and regulatory targets in an efficient manner.

We have provided a high-level summary of the costs below, for both onshore and offshore

(See Table 1 - PR6 Cost Summary).

The Offshore Transmission investment requirement reflects a high-level estimate based on three different scenarios. The actual investment required will depend on the number of offshore windfarms that connect by 2030. To manage this uncertainty, an agile investment framework will be required over PR6.

The Non-Network Capital Expenditure (Capex) reflects EirGrid's required investment in the development of our core IT systems, to support onshore and offshore activities, critical all-island programmes and PR6 Delivery Roadmap programmes.

Finally, the Operational Expenditure costs comprise two cost groups:

- **Controllable costs** – These relate to EirGrid's day-to-day and recurring costs such as resource costs, facilities, IT licencing and service costs, and general business expenses.
- **Non-Controllable Costs** – These relate to external costs which, as TSO, EirGrid incurs in carrying out our functions.

Description (2024 monies**)	Onshore Total Forecast (€'bn)*	Offshore Total Forecast (€'bn)*
Transmission Capital	*See note in text box below this table*	€0.7 to €4.2
Non-Network Capital Expenditure	€0.7	€0.08
Operational Expenditure *Controllable* *Non-Controllable*	 €1.1 €1.1	 €0.47 to €0.52 -
Total Costs	**€2.9**	**€1.25 to €4.8**
Onshore & Offshore Total	**€4.15 to €7.7**	

Table 1 - PR6 Cost Summary

** All numbers subject to rounding.*
***All costs were set in 2024 monies which exclude any forecast inflation*

Onshore network capital expenditure costs are included in the ESB Networks TAO proposals to the CRU, which includes EirGrid's portion of those costs. The actual investment required for onshore transmission will depend on the number and nature of onshore networks projects which are progressed in the period. EirGrid's (TSO) share of these costs is €262m and are forecast to be the same at either end of the estimated range.

The existing typical cost to households arising from: controllable TSO costs, funding for non-network capex, and funding for offshore network capex is €57 per year. This is approximately 3% of a household's total electricity bill, which is, on average, just over €1,900 per year (incl. VAT).

EirGrid also covers non-controllable costs and the cost of system services through the Transmission Use of System Charge (TUoS). The cost of system services will be recovered in the future via the Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS) Programme charges. Combined, these would add approximately another €60 per year, so another 3% of the overall bill.

The costs associated with the securing of essential system services was historically recovered via TUoS. From 2026/2027 this will be funded through a separate Future Arrangements for System Services tariff.

The actual costs borne by customers will depend on the final consideration of the business plan by the CRU.

To support our expanded role in offshore wind development, our Shareholder (which is the government) has indicated it will provide an equity injection to support EirGrid in raising funds to develop and acquire offshore transmission assets.

In summary, EirGrid's expenditure proposals have been carefully considered and designed to support the delivery of Government targets in a cost effective, efficient, safe, reliable and secure manner. And although we expect there to be an impact on household bills, this should be viewed as a long-term investment that supports a cleaner, more sustainable future for Ireland.

9 Conclusion

EirGrid's PR6 Business Plan reflects the unprecedented level of work required to make the transmission grid more resilient and renewable-ready, as well as EirGrid's new role in offshore. The growth in low carbon and renewable sources will require significant changes to the electricity system. EirGrid also needs to make the grid stronger and more flexible.

Given the scale of change, a great deal of new grid infrastructure needs to be delivered, including underground cables, pylons, overhead lines and substations.

This will build on progress made in recent years adding significant reinforcements to the transmission system and progressing critical infrastructure projects, supported by investment provided through PR5.

It's important to note that EirGrid's PR6 business plan is just one part of a strategic roadmap that aims to lay the foundations for further investment beyond 2030.

Through the consultation period, EirGrid will engage with the CRU on its draft decision extensively. Following the publication of the final decision by the CRU, and within the parameters of PR6, EirGrid will look to deliver on our ambitions set out in the PR6 Business Plan for the period 2026-2030.

During this critical period for the grid, we believe our PR6 programme of work will allow EirGrid to contribute our share towards delivering Ireland's energy and climate targets as we continue to drive progress towards a cleaner, more sustainable future.