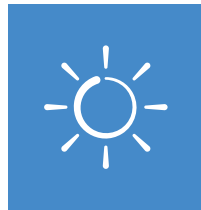




EirGridGroup.com

# Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2023





# Introduction

This document summarises EirGrid's plans for stakeholder engagement for 2023.

We are now in the fourth year of our 2020–25 corporate strategy that was launched in September 2019.

A fresh approach to stakeholder engagement is one of the pillars of the strategy and this is reflected in how we have engaged with a wide range of stakeholders over the past three years.

A highlight was the rollout of the "Shaping Our Electricity Future" national public consultation in 2021. Engagement on "Shaping Our Electricity Future" continued throughout 2022.

Some of the most significant initiatives were the EirGrid Energy Citizens Roadshow, the EirGrid and Young Social Innovators Partnership, the establishment of the "Shaping Our Electricity Future" Advisory Council and a partnership with NGOs Friends of the Earth and the Renewable Grid Initiative (RGI).

Effective engagement is essential for EirGrid to achieve our purpose - to transform the power system for future generations.

This document sets out our planned 2023 engagements and how our stakeholders can participate.

In addition to listing our planned engagements, we also highlight key areas of focus for 2023. Our approach to engagement will continue to take the considerable learnings from our "Shaping Our Electricity Future" consultation and will seek to maximise all channels available to us.

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# Who We Are and What We Do

## Our Role

EirGrid develops, manages and operates the transmission grid and electricity market in Ireland. The grid transports power from where it is generated to where it is needed. It brings power to industry and businesses that use large amounts of electricity.

The grid also powers the distribution network, which supplies the electricity used every day in homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and farms. We balance supply and demand every minute of the day, while also planning for Ireland's long-term electricity needs.

EirGrid is part of the EirGrid Group, which includes SONI – the transmission system operator for Northern Ireland. The Single Electricity Market Operator (SEMO) is also part of the group and it runs the wholesale electricity market. This ensures electricity users always have reliable power at a competitive price. We do this in the most cost-effective way possible, in the interests of all electricity users. In October 2022, the UR and the CRU respectively re-designated SONI and EirGrid as a Nominated Electricity Market Operator (NEMO) in NI and Ireland respectively. The NEMOs, working together as SEMOpx, provide day-ahead

auctions and intra-day coupling arrangement for trading in the Single Electricity Market.

EirGrid is responsible for developing and operating interconnections with neighbouring grids, such as with National Grid in the UK via the East West Interconnector. Other proposed interconnections include the North South and Celtic Interconnectors. We also enable interconnections developed and operated by third parties, such as the proposed Greenlink Interconnector.

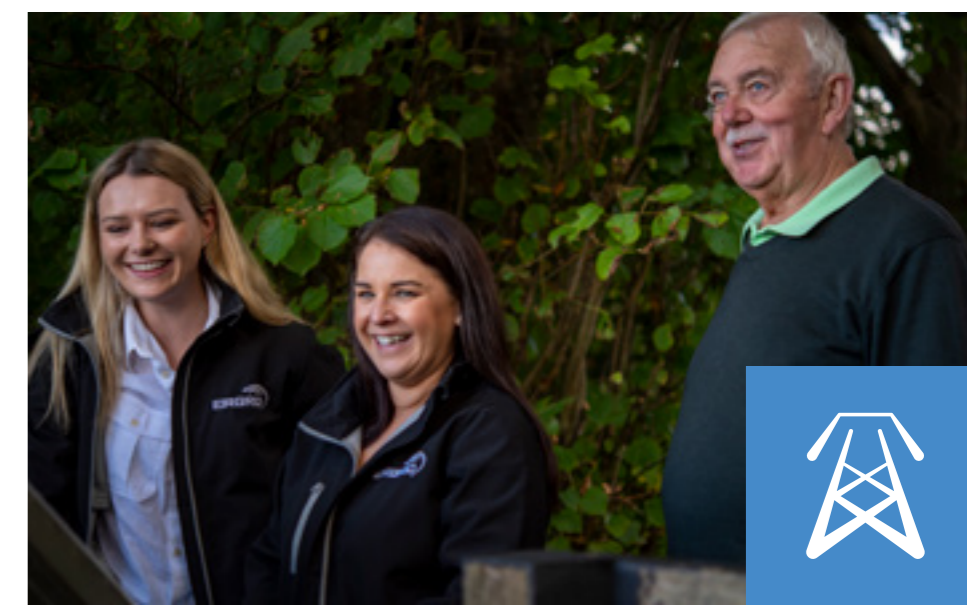
We implement Government and EU policy in Ireland. We act independently and in the public interest.

In May 2021, the Government published the "Policy Statement on the Framework for Ireland's Offshore Electricity Transmission System". This tasked EirGrid with the development and ownership of a new offshore electricity grid.

The policy statement identified a centralised offshore transmission system model, with assets to be planned, developed, owned and operated by EirGrid, as delivering maximum societal benefits. We are regulated as a monopoly service provider. We perform our services for the benefit of every electricity user and to support the economy.

## The context in which we work

We actively engage with policymakers, industry and society at all levels, from local to European, in line with our strategic objectives. However, as stated above, we are also a regulated business, and our engagement takes place within a regulatory environment. Our engagement strategy provides the principles and tools to ensure that, whether we are talking to our customers or local communities, we are clear about our regulatory obligations and our objectives.



# Who are Our Stakeholders?

EirGrid has a broad range of stakeholders across its various roles. These stakeholder groups include:

## Industry

- Our customers include those directly connected to the transmission system. Some customers generate electricity from conventional or renewable sources. Other customers have a high demand for electricity, which only the transmission system can provide. Others provide the services necessary for operating the transmission system such as demand side and storage units. Interconnector customers provide energy and procured services to other electricity systems. We also serve the electricity suppliers and stakeholders with an interest in the operation and enhancement of the transmission system.
- EirGrid aims to deliver quality services to customers and other industry stakeholders. We respond to a wide range of needs across the wholesale energy sector in Ireland. We recognise that many of our customers are key enablers to achieve up to 80% of Ireland's electricity needs from renewable

sources by 2030 through electricity generation, interconnection and the supply of necessary services to operate the system with high penetration of generation from renewable sources.

- The Government's "Policy Statement on the Framework for Ireland's Offshore Electricity Transmission System" has tasked EirGrid with the development and ownership of a new offshore electricity grid. This introduces a new group of stakeholders with whom EirGrid will be engaging over the coming years. These include offshore windfarm developers, supply chain organisations, engineering firms, specialist consultancies and Government agencies. Engagement with both customers and other industry stakeholders is important for us to shape how we continue to meet the evolving needs of our customers, as well as future development of how we plan, develop and operate the transmission system.

## Statutory and Other

- We also talk to businesses, academia, industry representative organisations, statutory and other state bodies and political authorities at all levels. This helps us to get the insights and opinions of those with a specific interest in our plans or on an issue. It also ensures that we are engaging on the policy that affects our operations and therefore our customers.
- We engage with organisations from many sectors by talking to groups interested in issues like the environment, tourism and heritage. We also talk to relevant government departments when needed.

## Society

- When we consider grid development, we consult with local landowners, local communities that may be affected and the general public. This can include:
  - Individual landowners, or companies that own the land;
  - Members of local communities, businesses and groups; and

- Local authorities and elected representatives.
- The scale and pace of changes to the power system required to achieve the targets in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2023 will need a proportionate increase in our engagement with landowners and communities. Learning how best to scale and optimise this engagement is a key priority for our engagement planning.
- In the next decade, we will need to develop new grid infrastructure - more than in the last ten years. It's important that we gain the support of individual landowners, their neighbours, and their wider communities. We must acknowledge the challenges of what we ask from individuals and communities for the benefit of the entire population ensuring that they are consulted with and listened to from the outset.
- In recent years, we transformed our public and stakeholder engagement for grid development projects. We use a consistent, six-step public engagement process to explore options and make decisions. This means we follow the same steps for every project. The decision-making tools we use, and the amount of engagement we carry out at each step, depends on the scale and complexity of each project.



### Stakeholder List

Some of the stakeholders we engage with most frequently are listed in the table below. Each engagement has a different audience and there is no prioritisation. The ordering of the list does not imply importance.

Stakeholder Group	Examples of Stakeholders
Academia	Universities, ESRI
Chartered Institutions	Engineers Ireland
Customers	Generators, interconnectors, large energy users, energy suppliers, demand-side aggregators
Communities, landowners	Communities with major infrastructure projects, planning authorities
Energy Industry	ESB Networks, Gas Networks Ireland, Electricity Association of Ireland, Energy Storage Ireland (ESI), Wind Energy Ireland (WEI), Demand Response Aggregators of Ireland (DRAI), NOW Ireland, Microgeneration Ireland, Irish Wind Farmers' Association (IWFA), Irish Solar Energy Association (ISEA), Irish Energy Storage Association (IESA), Renewable Energy Ireland, Federation of Energy Response Aggregators (FERA)
Environment	National Parks and Wildlife Service
Government	Department of the Taoiseach, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Oireachtas committees
Government and Advisory - NI/UK	Department for the Economy, Department for Infrastructure, Northern Ireland Assembly, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Climate Change Committee (CCC)
Government Advisory Boards	Climate Change Advisory Council, National Competitiveness Council, NESC, ESRI, Heritage Council
Industry Bodies	IDA, IBEC, American Chamber, Chambers Ireland, French Chamber, British-Irish Chambers, Enterprise Ireland
Infrastructure	Irish Rail, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Irish Water
Media	Print (regional & national), Broadcast (regional & national), trade, financial, digital and social
NGO	Friends of the Earth, IFA, Fáilte Ireland, Irish Rural Link, Irish Environmental Network
Non-Political - Europe	ENTSO-E, RGI, European Investment Bank
Political - Europe	European Commission, European Parliament, French Government
Regulatory	CRU, SEM Committee, UR
Think Tanks	IIEA, EPC, University College Dublin

# How We Engage with Our Stakeholders

## Across our work, stakeholders have opportunities to influence our decisions in different ways.

Whilst there are often regulatory or other factors that also influence decision making, we are open to, and want to actively encourage, collaboration with our stakeholders to develop solutions and new approaches together. The engagement spectrum is a tool we commonly use to categorise the different approaches to engagement. It enables us to understand how a decision can be influenced and to select the best methods for effective stakeholder involvement. It is important that we are clear with our stakeholders about the level of influence that is possible on any topic to ensure we have a shared understanding of the purpose of our engagement.

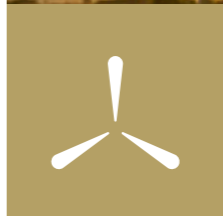
We continue to engage with large energy users. EirGrid acknowledges that this is an important sector for the Irish economy and is committed to working with developers and CRU to help deliver the "Government Statement on the Role of Data Centres in Ireland's Enterprise Strategy". Published in July 2022, the policy seeks to enable the "twin

transitions" of digitalisation and decarbonisation of our economy and society.

EirGrid's approach to engagement is tailored to the project or initiative. A bespoke engagement plan is used for each key project or initiative, identifying the channels we will use to provide information to the stakeholders. This can include emails to customers and stakeholders, project brochures and updates, targeted social media content, advertising in local and national press, letters to landowners and statutory bodies, providing spokespeople for discussions on public radio, providing phonelines and conducting webinars. For grid development projects, it also includes promotion in public locations and open days in the local area where members of the

public can meet the experts and have their queries addressed.

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback in multiple formats including feedback forms online and at open days, through fora and webinars and by email or letter. Stakeholders can also engage directly with a dedicated Community Liaison Officer or Agriculture Liaison Officer for each grid development project. Customers can engage directly with their Customer Account Manager.



### Enhancing our Stakeholder Engagement

Our Stakeholder Engagement plan for 2023 was informed by a comprehensive consultation process with our industry, society and statutory stakeholders.

Learnings from the "Shaping Our Electricity Future" consultation are significant as new channels and methods of engagement were trialled for the first time. These have been fed into our consultation activities to ensure they are appropriately tailored and reflect valuable feedback from industry, society and statutory consultees.

Consultation tools and approaches are constantly evolving as are stakeholders' expectations. Our stakeholder engagement is geared towards understanding and responding to learnings and concerns, highlighting impacts and opportunities we were not previously aware of, and ensuring we deliver the best possible service with the least disruption.

In 2023, we are committed to reviewing the operation of our consultation portal with a view to enhancing the portal's efficiency and transparency.



“  
Shaping Our  
Electricity  
Future  
”





# Project and Public Engagements

Throughout the year there will be a range of consultation and engagement activities across all major grid development projects. This will be done via bespoke public engagement initiatives as well as through local community forums.

There will be a focus on the projects listed below which have significant milestones that will take place in 2023.

- “Powering Up Dublin” programme - Identification of cable routes.
- Flagford to Sligo Step Three consultation will take place during Q2 or Q3. This identifies what’s the best option and what area may be affected by the project.
- Kildare Meath planning application.
- East Meath North Dublin – Identification of Best Performing Route Option
- North Connacht - Outcome of planning application.
- Celtic Interconnector - Construction commencing, first round of community benefit.

## Energy Citizens Roadshows

In May 2022, EirGrid embarked on a series of Energy Citizens Roadshow events aimed at informing local communities on how the organisation plans to future-proof the electricity grid, as well as connecting the dots about microgeneration, home retrofitting, energy upgrades and regional energy development issues. Over the year, 13 Roadshows were held across Donegal, Sligo, Westmeath, Dublin, Wicklow and Cork.

Our national partners are Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and ESB Networks. We are also working with regional partners - the Western Development Commission, Wicklow County Council, Codema - Dublin’s Energy Agency, Youghal Blue and Green Community Network, Cork City Council - Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí, Donegal PPN, Sligo PPN, Westmeath PPN, Dublin City PPN, DLR PPN, Cork County PPN, Cork City PPN and numerous exhibitors.

To date, over 1,000 stakeholders have participated in the events, including members of the public, community organisations, business associations and the farming community.

These roadshows are helping enhance our understanding of communities’ attitudes towards hosting grid infrastructure and their ambitions to play a part in the climate transition – down to the energy they use every day. They have enhanced our knowledge of the priorities and perspectives of stakeholders.

We will continue to roll out these events in 2023 with seven planned through to June 2023 (see below) with the autumn and winter 2023 series to be announced in early summer.

Date	Roadshow
1 <sup>st</sup> February	Kildare(Naas)
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Kildare (Maynooth)
1 <sup>st</sup> March	Meath
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Mayo (Castlebar/Westport)
6 <sup>th</sup> April	Mayo (Ballina)
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Kilkenny
7 <sup>th</sup> June	Laois

### Community Benefit

EirGrid is putting communities at the heart of our engagement works closely with all stakeholders to minimise the disruption and maximise the benefit to those most impacted by our projects. Our enhanced Community Benefit Policy recognises the importance of the local communities who support our work. Under this initiative, we create a community benefit scheme in proportion to the scale of the project and establish a Community Forum to ensure that the scheme is designed for the local community, by the local community.

In 2022, communities in Clashavoon - Dunmanway in East Cork began the drawdown of funding, following the award of a €600,000 community benefit fund in late 2021.

Community groups and non-profit organisations in Laois and Kilkenny were awarded €204,600, the first of three phases of funding available in the areas adjacent to this key project.

The Celtic Interconnector Community Forum commenced development of its community benefit strategy for its €2.4m fund. By Christmas, over 300 stakeholder submissions had been received. The strategy is expected to be published by April, with the first phase of funding released for applications in June 2023.

#### Community Benefit Fund 2022

 **Clashavoon  
Dunmanway**

**36** Projects to date

**€600,000**

Development of community, sports and youth facilities. Support to heritage, enterprise initiatives and older people.

- Rusheen
- Macrom
- Tirelton
- Kilmichael
- Coppeen
- Dunmanway
- Aghinagh
- Carrigadrohid
- Killmurry

 **Laois  
Kilkenny**

**13** Projects to date

**€204,600** PHASE 1

Development of community spaces and sports facilities. Support to old and young people.

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| <b>Laois</b>  | <b>Kilkenny</b> |
| • Spink       | • Ballyragget   |
| • Ballyroan   | • Ballyousskill |
| • Ballinakill |                 |

### Energy Policy and Thought Leadership

EirGrid engages in active and ongoing consultation with Government on policies and strategic issues as required by legislation.

EirGrid also engages in active and ongoing consultation with regulatory authorities as required by legislation on a range of matters.

#### In 2023 we will:

- engage with the Government and the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) on a range of matters, including security of supply matters and our Shaping Our Electricity Future roadmap.

- continue to engage with the stakeholders who are providing input and supporting us to deliver on the CAP 2023 deliverables where we are acting as lead stakeholder, e.g. actions associated with integration of renewables, system services and interconnection development.
- continue to proactively seek opportunities to feed our perspective and thought leadership into policy development across Government.
- continue to identify opportunities to engage with a broader stakeholder audience across industry and society on the developments we foresee as required to support climate and energy goals.
- continue to work closely with DECC and the CRU to ensure that the key decision makers in Europe understand our pioneering efforts to facilitate electricity from renewable sources and the solutions that are required to meet the associated challenges.



# Enhanced Customer Journey

## Industry and customer engagement

In 2023 we will continue to focus on enhancing and bringing consistency to our engagement with industry and customer stakeholders. This encompasses implementing learnings from reviews and feedback received to enhance business as usual, as well as specific engagements on projects and initiatives to support delivery of our 2020-25 strategy and meet customer needs as set out in our key areas of engagement.

In 2023 we will continue our work on the initiatives under PR5, to deliver an enhanced customer journey from start to finish, focusing on effective customer and industry engagement. This work is focusing on early engagement and ensuring that customers and industry stakeholders can easily find relevant and up to date information on connecting to, as well as the planning, development and operation of, the transmission grid. See EirGrid's [Guide for New Customers](#) for more detail.

### Customer Clinics

To ensure we are engaging effectively with customers, the customer and connection team, alongside members of technical disciplines within EirGrid, facilitate monthly customer clinic meetings, where prospective

and/or existing customers can speak with key EirGrid subject matter experts (SMEs) before submission of a new connection application, or modification to a current connection agreement. It is necessary for customers to complete a pre-clinic attendance screening form, at which point it will be decided by the SMEs as to whether it is appropriate to proceed with a clinic meeting.

### Customer Surveys

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, the customer and connections team conduct an annual customer survey to gather structured feedback from our external customers on their experiences of engaging with EirGrid. This feedback is very important and enables us to continue to improve and enhance our stakeholder engagement and drive customer service improvements where possible. The 2022 customer survey will take place in Q1 2023 and the feedback will shape our approach for the upcoming year. We will also conduct a customer outage planning survey in Q3 2023. Information on customer outage plans is very important as it allows for the outage planning team to input customers' planned outages into the wider development of the Transmission Outage Programme for the forthcoming year, increasing the opportunity

for overlapping transmission outages with planned customer outages wherever possible, thereby maximising efficiency for all parties.

In 2023, the customer team will circulate post- customer clinic feedback surveys to the clinic meeting attendees, in an effort to obtain feedback from existing and prospective customers in relation to the customer clinic meetings. Following assessment of this feedback obtained, process improvements will be implemented where possible.

### Customer Relationship Management Tool

The EirGrid customer and connection team previously introduced a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool, which will continue to be rolled out across the organisation on a phased basis throughout 2023. The purpose of the tool is to support the effective management and engagement of customers and stakeholders across the business. The tool provides a central repository for customer engagement information; enhances query management activities; and promotes collaboration and consistent, transparent and accountable customer engagement. This tool supports us in "Engaging for Better Outcomes for All".

# Offshore

## EirGrid recognises the key role that offshore wind will play in meeting Ireland’s energy needs and in the Irish economy in the next decade and beyond

We are strongly supporting the Government’s ambition through our collaboration with our key stakeholders and industry, and through the work being undertaken in the organisation. We are also playing a leading part in transitioning the electricity system to accommodate offshore wind onto our grid and into the electricity market. EirGrid has established a specific offshore project team with dedicated expertise. We have also completed our Offshore Asset Readiness Roadmap to prepare for our asset ownership role and continued the implementation of our offshore engagement strategy.

We provided position papers to the CRU in order to inform their consultations on offshore grid connections and conducted extensive industry engagement. In May 2022 we received applications for 4.4GW of offshore wind and have issued key technical specifications and connection information to the Phase 1 developers.

Whilst there is a particular focus on the successful delivery of the Phase 1 projects, we are also working hard to ensure that our actions and decisions support the transition to a planned approach for offshore grid delivery as provided for in the Government’s policy statement on the Framework for Ireland’s Offshore Electricity System. EirGrid’s “Shaping Our Electricity Future” blueprint for transforming the power system assumes that 5 GW of offshore wind capacity will connect by 2030. Approximately 4 GW of this is located in the seas off greater Dublin.

There is already capacity for offshore windfarms to connect today. Subject to detailed analysis, it is estimated that the greater Dublin grid today can connect 1.5 GW of offshore wind.

However, this means that the grid must be enhanced. EirGrid has identified a suite of reinforcements which are deliverable by 2030 which will accommodate the 4 GW of offshore wind off greater Dublin. Central to this is a major, multi-year upgrade of the Dublin electricity grid, “Powering Up Dublin”, with a phased construction programme starting in 2024.

The programme includes the installation of approximately 50 kilometres of underground electricity cables across the capital. Some cables will replace ageing circuits, and some are new installations. There will also be new electricity substations and upgrades to some of the older substations.

Technical studies have identified that cables linking substations at North Wall and Poolbeg; Finglas and North Wall; Poolbeg and Carrickmines; and two cables linking Inchicore and Poolbeg need to be replaced. Furthermore, a new connection linking Carrickmines and Inchicore is required. The studies have also identified a possible requirement for new cables to feed into potential new substations in the north and west of the city.

To help minimise disruption and work as efficiently as possible, EirGrid is coordinating with a wide range of organisations, including ESB Networks, Gas Networks Ireland, Irish Water and Dublin Bus. This is taking place through the newly established Dublin Infrastructure Forum. EirGrid is also participating in the Government’s Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce, aimed at ensuring the country meets key medium-term outcomes.

These include ensuring that -

- At least 5GW of offshore wind is on track for delivery by 2030;
- All grid projects required for 2030 are designed and going through consenting process and on track for delivery of 2030 targets
- The supply chain and skills capability are in place for maximisation of benefit to Ireland and to guarantee delivery success

Meanwhile EirGrid continuing to work closely with offshore developers. A series of workshops have been held with the Phase 1 developers and an engagement plan has been running since November 2021 in order to work collaboratively with them and industry representative bodies.

Work is now nearing completion on updating and expanding the functional specifications for offshore transmission assets. EirGrid is continuing this work with the development of the functional specifications for the offshore network. The grid connection assessments for these projects, are complete and have been issued.

These developments are critical to the successful delivery of a thriving, new offshore industry. At a broader level, EirGrid will host a series of coastal community workshops in mid to late 2023. These will enable discussion of offshore grid developments and help co-create our approach to offshore grid consultation and engagement processes with stakeholders who will be impacted.



# Climate Action Plan 2023

## Under the Government's 2023 Climate Action Plan, the target for renewable-sourced electricity by 2030 is 80%. This will involve an increased deployment solar, onshore wind and offshore wind power

To achieve this, EirGrid is carrying out further grid, operational, and market studies. Preliminary analysis indicates oversupply plays an increasingly dominant role at higher levels of RES-E and the economics of higher levels of RES-E require careful consideration.

This work will be reflected in an updated version of "Shaping Our Electricity Future". This is due for publication in 2023, and will be updated regularly thereafter, to assess additional supply and demand side measures, beyond current plans.

In the interim, the "Shaping Our Electricity Future" Advisory Council will continue to meet throughout 2023.

The council is comprised of representatives from across the energy sector, including academia, DSO, regulation, developers, storage, conventional and renewable generators, large energy users and Government.

The council met twice in 2022 and further meetings are scheduled for 2023. Its purpose is to:

- Discuss, review and help facilitate the progress of the "Shaping Our Electricity Future" programme
- Share relevant information related to the implementation of the programme
- Communicate with stakeholders
- Provide a forum to discuss stakeholder views and concerns on those issues which impact on the implementation of the programme
- Provide input, advice and assistance on matters related to the programme and its implementation

### Advisory Council Provisional 2023 Meeting Dates

- |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|
| 1. | 18 January 2023   |
| 2. | 10 May 2023       |
| 3. | 13 September 2023 |

EirGrid will also work with ESB Networks on an in-depth analysis of local, regional, and system-level flexibility requirements, identifying opportunities and internal changes required to facilitate demand flexibility and provide flexibility to support the system operation and local network congestion management.



# Security of Supply

EirGrid is working closely with the CRU and DECC to implement a coordinated approach to address Security of Supply challenges in Ireland in the short- to medium term, as well as measures to address security in the longer-term

In 2022 the CRU published an update on its programme of work aimed at addressing the security of supply situation. The programme encompasses six workstreams, or pillars, to create a more efficient process and to accelerate the delivery of each work item.

### In 2023 EirGrid will continue to play an active role across the pillars



#### Pillar 1

System Operations & Emergency Planning EirGrid is continuing to develop and update emergency response protocols to respond to potential supply issues



#### Pillar 2

Temporary Emergency Generation (TEG1 & TEG2) – EirGrid is leading the procurement of two tranches of temporary, emergency generation



#### Pillar 3

Retain Existing Units – EirGrid is leading a programme of work concerning the possibility of extending the operational life of a number of older generators on a temporary basis



#### Pillar 4

Long Term Capacity - This work-stream is progressing a number of papers through the SEM Committee on potential changes to the Capacity Market



#### Pillar 5

Capacity Market Auctions – EirGrid is supporting the closer monitoring of successful Capacity Market auction projects



#### Pillar 6

Policy Development & Implementation – EirGrid is providing support through advising on national and regulatory policy and legislation

EirGrid will continue to publish the “Systems Margins Outlook” throughout 2023. This is a twice weekly report that provides an early warning signal of system tightness for demand customers. This initiative was developed in response to customer need and requests.

It provides a warning to customers when the system is tight; Demand Side Units (DSU) are likely to be dispatched; and mandatory demand curtailment (MDC) may be invoked.

At the end of August, there was an initial release of the “Systems Margins Outlook” issued to MDC customers and ESB MDC customers from info@eirgrid.com. This was done on a pilot basis and included a call for feedback to ensure that the report provided the level of information that was useful and supportive.

This report is now sent to market participants and MDC customers with a final version published on the SEMO website every Monday and Friday at 2.00pm. There may be ad hoc issuances to reflect

rapid changes in generator availability and wind forecast.

In the latter half of 2023 EirGrid will publish the Generation Capacity Statement, which forecasts the security of supply outlook over the next 10 years, and the Winter Outlook, which provides analysis for the coming winter. In 2022, EirGrid published a Plain English Summary for the Generation Capacity Statement to increase the accessibility of the information for our stakeholders. We will replicate this in 2023 while also engaging with key stakeholders in advance of their publication.



# Operate, Enhance and Develop

## The All-Island Grid & Market



### Asset Management

EirGrid has an asset management and maintenance role and is responsible for setting maintenance policy and standards which is comprised of policies for maintenance, replacement and refurbishment of the assets forming part of the transmission system.

The transmission system consists of over 7,000 km of overhead line, 350 km of underground cable and over 170 substations containing transmission assets. EirGrid plans and manages the maintenance programme and ESB Networks, as Transmission Asset Owner (TAO) of the bulk onshore transmission system, carries out the physical maintenance work. EirGrid in conjunction with ESB Networks as TAO is also responsible for assessing asset condition and making the decision to invest in either refurbishing or replacing assets.

As part of PR5, an asset refurbishment plan was submitted to the CRU which covers the period 2021 to 2025. It is expected that stakeholder engagement will continue to be carried out during 2023 on these asset refurbishment and replacement projects.



### 2023 We Will:

Progress our identified overhead line, underground cable and station refurbishment projects as well as specific equipment replacements to address transmission asset condition or end of life needs. We will also develop and manage the 2023 Transmission Maintenance Plan to ensure maintenance of the transmission system.



### Success Will be Measured as:

Progress asset management projects through the relevant steps of the grid development framework and obtain necessary approvals to progress to the next framework step; and Assess the various technical options available and select the best performing option for specific budget approval, influenced by feedback from the stakeholder engagement conducted prior to and during 2023.



## Operating the Grid and Market

To ensure safe, secure and reliable power and market system operation and development, we engage on a day-to-day basis and collaborate regularly with our customers and industry representative bodies and other key stakeholders. In 2023 we will continue to engage through a broad spectrum of methods, including one-to-one engagements with specific customers and industry representative bodies, formal engagement processes and panels, industry fora, publications and workshops on a range of topics including:

- Generator and transmission outages, including outturn availability reporting and fora
- Scheduling and dispatch, including forecasting, Balancing Market Principles Statement, operational data, reporting
- Dispatch down analysis, reporting, updates and industry engagement
- Generator commissioning and testing, including Grid Code compliance
- System services, performance monitoring and tariffs
- Interconnection
- Business continuity, emergency communications and emergency and restoration planning;
- Dispatch Balancing Cost forecasting, management and reporting
- System integrity, including protection, revenue metering and system performance
- Grid Code, including the Grid Code Review Panel and derogations process
- EU Network Codes Implementation
- \*Market pre-registration and registration
- \*Market queries and disputes;
- \*Capacity Market qualification and auctions;
- \*Renewable Electricity Support Scheme auction;

- \*Market Settlement; and
- \*Nominated Electricity Market Operator (NEMO) commercial management.

### Success will be measured as:

- Satisfactory outcomes to quantitative assessment through the key performance indicators and incentives put in place as part of our regulatory price review to measure operational performance.
- Customer feedback gathered through individual formal and informal engagements will provide qualitative assessment.

\*Note: Operation of the Market and associated stakeholder engagement are SEMO functions rather than EirGrid TSO functions and are included here for completeness. EirGrid TSO contributes to a number of the market engagements such as Market Operator User Groups (MOUGs) and Market Operator Specialist Topics (MOSTs).



# Innovation

In Q1 2023 we will publish a consultation on our annual Innovation Report.

The report will focus on innovation projects that are being initiated; projects that are in progress, and projects that are complete.

The report will include relevant, proportionate evidence on the scope, cost, rationale for each project. It will also identify project activity or their impacts during the year.

In 2023, we will publish our refreshed Innovation and Research Strategy, which is aimed at enhancing our innovation and research capability. The publication of the Innovation and Research Strategy will follow after the publication of the updated version of "Shaping our Electricity Future".

It is designed to help us become more innovative by putting in place the necessary support structures, frameworks, and people to help make innovation part of who we are and how we go about doing what we do.

We will seek to actively engage with stakeholders on our future innovation programmes to help guide the direction of the programmes, and ensure they are supported by our key stakeholders.



# Work With Partners For Positive Change



We recognise the need for successful partnerships to deliver our strategy and our climate action targets. By collaborating with our partners and having a common purpose, goals and a shared view of what success looks like, we will deliver the most significant change to the energy system since rural electrification

### ESB Networks

We work closely with ESB Networks to develop, maintain and manage the transmission system, connect generation and demand customers and to ensure that we continue to operate the transmission system in a safe, secure, and reliable manner.

### EirGrid & ESB Networks

#### Principles to Guide our Partnership

- Both organisations are committed to jointly review end-to-end programme and project delivery timelines to meet 2030 climate change targets, while maintaining safety and security of supply.
- Full project lifecycle process improvements will be considered when employing continuous improvements.
- Both organisations are committed to jointly review project delivery timelines with a commitment to improving outcomes for customer project.

- We will jointly work together to ensure the development and roll out of new and innovative technologies in a timely manner, informed by the needs of the grid system.
- Project timelines will be accelerated by the elimination, reduction or the paralleling of activities where appropriate to the risk. Consideration will also be given to grouping projects, where appropriate, to improve the efficiency of the project development & supply chain lifecycle.

### ESB Networks - TAO

ESB Networks, as TAO, owns and builds grid transmission assets, managing the capital and maintenance work programmes for the transmission system. In 2023 we will be continuing our close collaboration with the TAO to jointly develop and implement optimal grid delivery process improvements and further enhancing collaboration and cooperation between us to the

benefit of all our customers and Ireland's consumers. Success of our partnership will be measured as our performance and associated joint incentives in PR5 around the delivery of our programme for grid delivery including new connections and asset management. This programme, which started in 2021, has seen even closer cooperation between EirGrid as TSO and ESB Networks, as TAO, leading to increased project delivery output and joint process improvements. Details regarding the assessment and metrics for our joint incentives for 2021 to 2025 are detailed in the CRU's PR5 decision.

### ESB Networks - DSO

ESB Networks, as DSO, operates the electricity distribution system in Ireland. The transition to a power system with up to 80% of its electricity met by renewable energy sources, with a significant portion of the new technologies connecting to the distribution system, will

require a heightened level of collaboration with ESB Networks in its role as the DSO. We both have challenging goals to achieve climate action targets and key to achieving these is partnership and collaboration.

In 2023 we will be collaborating with the DSO on:

- Operational policies, operational coordination, exchange of data and training
- Implementation of legislation and energy policy including EU Network Codes and Ireland's 2023 Climate Action Plan

- Initiatives and programmes, to address local and system challenges as the system becomes more diverse as we connect and implement a wider array of technologies
- Collaboration of DSO and TSO to ensure security of supply is maintained and to address customer needs as required
- Success of our partnership will be measured as on track implementation of a programme of work developed jointly between EirGrid and ESNB and focused on the changes required to operational policies & tools and markets,

as well as the enablement of new technologies, to meet 80% renewable energy by 2030. Customer and stakeholder feedback is welcome and will also be considered.



# Conclusion

EirGrid's plan for our Stakeholder Engagement in 2023 is set out in this document, including key areas we will be engaging on over the coming year.

We understand and recognise the benefits and importance of learning from stakeholder feedback in influencing our engagement strategy and plans.

We look forward to further collaboration and engagement with our customers and stakeholders to ensure that we continue to enhance and improve our stakeholder engagement throughout 2023 and beyond.

# Appendices 1 - Consultations

Consultation	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Annual Innovation Report	All	Q1 2023	EirGrid Consultation	Report on Innovation projects (i) being initiated, (ii) projects that are in progress, and (iii) projects that have completed, including relevant, proportionate evidence on the scope, cost, rationale for and impacts of each project with either activity or impacts during the reporting year.
Draft 2023 Stakeholder Engagement Report	All	Q1 2023	EirGrid Consultation	Feedback on our stakeholder engagement throughout 2023 to allow for more meaningful and effective stakeholder engagement.
Transmission Development Plan 2023	All	Q1 2023	CRU Consultation	Seek feedback on the TDP 2023. The final version will be published on the EirGrid website subsequent to completion of the consultation process and CRU approval.
Proposed 2023/24 Transmission Loss Adjustment Factors (TLAF)	Relevant stakeholder group	Q3 2023	EirGrid and SONI	Publication for Comment Publish Proposed 2022/23 TLAF for comment.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) scoping of EirGrid Grid Implementation Plan 2023 – 2028	All	Q1 2023	EirGrid website	Scoping report will be made available for comment by members of the public and interested stakeholders.
Draft Environmental Report and SEA Statement	All	Q3 2023	EirGrid website	Report and statement will be made available for comment by members of the public and interested stakeholders
Balancing Market Principles (BMPs) statement	Relevant stakeholder group	Q3 2023	EirGrid and SONI consultation	Consultation with industry on proposed revisions to the BMPS - a guide to the scheduling and dispatch process.
Customer Survey	All	Q1 2023	EirGrid Consultation	Seek customer feedback on engagement with EirGrid. This will shape our approach for the upcoming year.
Customer Outage Planning Survey	All	Q3 2023		Gather information that will input into the wider development of the Transmission Outage Programme for the forthcoming year.

Consultation	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Proposed 2023/2024 Generator Transmission Use of System (GTUoS) Tariffs	Relevant stakeholder group	Q3 2023	EirGrid and SONI	Publication for Comment Publish proposed 2023/2024 GTUoS tariffs for comment.
Proposed 2024 Generator Unit Under Test (GUUT) Tariffs	Relevant stakeholder group	Q3 2023	EirGrid and SONI Consultation/ Publication for Comment	Publish Proposed 2024 GUUT tariffs for comment if change is minimal - will run consultation if substantial change proposed.
Proposed 2022/23 Other System Charges	Relevant stakeholder group	Q3 2023	EirGrid and SONI Consultation	Consultation on Proposed 2023/2024 Other System Charges.
Joint TSO & TAO Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2022	All	Q3 2023	EirGrid/ESB Networks Consultation	Seek Stakeholder feedback on TSO & TAO Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2022.
PR5 TSO Incentives Multi-Year Plans 2024-2026	All	Q4 2023	EirGrid Consultation	Seek stakeholder feedback on the proposed PR5 TSO Incentives multi-year plans for 2024-2026.
Joint TSO & TAO Investment Planning and Delivery Report 2022	All	Q3 2023	EirGrid/ESB Networks Consultation	Seek Stakeholder feedback on TSO & TAO Investment Planning and Delivery Report 2022.
Joint TSO/TAO Incentive multi-year plan 2024-2026	All	Q4 2023	EirGrid/ESB Networks Consultation	Seek Stakeholder feedback on the proposed multi-year plan for 2024-2026.
Joint TSO/DSO Joint Incentive multi-year plan 2024-2026	All	Q4 2023	EirGrid/ESB Networks Consultation	Seek Stakeholder feedback on the proposed multi-year plan for 2024-2026.

## Appendices 2 - Publications

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Annual Innovation Report	All	Q1 2023	EirGrid website	Report on Innovation projects (i) being initiated, (ii) projects that are in progress, and (iii) projects that have completed, including relevant, proportionate evidence on the scope, cost, rationale for and impacts of each project with either activity or impacts during the reporting year.
Innovation & Research Strategy	All	Following publication of the updated version of "Shaping our Electricity Future"	EirGrid website	Our refreshed Innovation and Research Strategy is aimed at enhancing our innovation and research capability. It is designed to help us become more innovative by putting in place the necessary support structures, frameworks, and people to help make innovation part of who we are and how we go about doing what we do.
Joint TSO & TAO Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2022	All	Q4 2023 Subject to CRU approval	EirGrid/ESB Networks websites	Publication of the TSO & TAO Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2022.
Weekly Operational Constraints Updates	EirGrid	Weekly	SEMO Website	To provide information regarding constraints to industry.
All-Island Outage Plan	EirGrid	Weekly	EirGrid website	All-Island Outage Plan covering the next 16 weeks to provide up to date information for industry.
Transmission Outage Summary	EirGrid	Fortnightly	EirGrid website	To communicate transmission outage dates for the next fortnight.
Wind Dispatch Down Report	EirGrid & SONI	Monthly	EirGrid Website	Monthly Wind Dispatch Down (Constraint and Curtailment) Report for Ireland and Northern Ireland.
Solar Dispatch Down Report	EirGrid & SONI	Monthly	EirGrid Website	Monthly Solar Dispatch Down (Constraint and Curtailment) Report.

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Quarterly Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP)	EirGrid	Quarterly	EirGrid Website	To communicate quarterly status update on three key milestones - EirGrid Capital Approval, Project Agreement with ESB and Energisation for 350 projects in the Network Delivery Portfolio. Includes updates for ATR projects.
Joint TSO & TAO Investment Planning and Delivery Report 2022	All	Q4 2023 Subject to CRU approval	EirGrid/ESB Networks website	Publication of the TSO & TAO Investment, Planning and Delivery Report 2022.
Combined Loss Adjustment Factors	EirGrid	As Required	SEMO Website	Loss factors as per the System Operator
Publication of updated versions of the Grid Code	EirGrid	Following approval of Grid Code modifications by CRU	EirGrid Website	To ensure that all users have access to and are aware of the latest version of the Grid Code.
Publication of Grid Code Review Panel documentation including meeting minutes, modification proposals, recommendation papers and decision papers Industry & public	EirGrid	At least three times a year as per GCRP governance	EirGrid Website	To ensure all Grid Code users are aware of all meeting minutes, modification proposals, recommendation papers and decision papers.
Transmission Outage Programme (TOP) 2023	EirGrid	Q1 2023	EirGrid Website	To communicate transmission outage dates proposed for 2023.
Outturn Availability 2023 ExAnte Report	EirGrid	Q1 2023	EirGrid Website	Outturn Availability Connection Asset Maintenance Plan for the 2023 Outage Season.



Consultation	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Capacity Auction Timetable	EirGrid	Q1 2023	SEMO Website	To provide Capacity Auction results to industry.
Use of Revenue Report	EirGrid	Q1 2023	EirGrid Website and CRU Website	Publishing of Use of Revenue for FY 2022
Annual Dispatch Down 2022 Report	EirGrid & SONI	Q1 2023	EirGrid Website	Annual Renewable Dispatch Down (Constraint and Curtailment) Report for Ireland and Northern Ireland 2022.
Final Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2023	EirGrid	Q2 2023	EirGrid Website	The document will summarise EirGrid's plans for stakeholder engagement for 2023
Final Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2023 – Consultation Response Paper	EirGrid	Q2 2023	EirGrid Website	This document summarises the responses EirGrid received during the consultation process and explains how EirGrid will respond to this feedback.
Stakeholder Engagement Report 2022 Consultation Response Paper	EirGrid	Q2 2023	EirGrid Website	This document summarises the responses EirGrid received during the consultation process and explains how EirGrid will respond to this feedback.
All-Island Transmission System Performance Report 2022	EirGrid & SONI	Q2 2023	EirGrid & SONI Websites	Contains transmission system data and performance statistics for 2022
Final Stakeholder Engagement Report 2022	All	Q2 2023	EirGrid Website	The document will summarise EirGrid's Stakeholder Engagement throughout 2022.
Outturn Availability 2022 ExPost Report	EirGrid	Q2 2023	EirGrid Website	Provide information regarding Outturn Availability Connection Asset Maintenance for 2022.
Scheduling & Dispatch Audit Report	EirGrid	Q2 2023	EirGrid Website	Independent Assurance Reporting on the 2022 Audit

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Committed Outage Programme (COP) 2024 and Provisional Outage Programmes (POP) 2025 and 2026	EirGrid	Q3 2023	EirGrid Website	To provide outage programme for the year ahead and provisional plans for subsequent two years.
SEM Parameters Decision Paper	EirGrid	Q3 2023	SEMO Website	Decision Paper for Market Tarriffs for 2024
SEMOpX Statement of Charges	EirGrid	Q3 2023	SEMOpX Website	Charges for SEMOpX Annual Fees for 2024
Enduring Connection Policy -2.3 Constraint Reports for Wind and Solar	All	Q4 2023	EirGrid website	Results of studies for a range of generation scenarios used to indicate the potential levels of total dispatch down (including transmission curtailment and constraint) that solar and wind generation in Ireland might experience in the future.
Shaping Our Electricity Future 1.0	All	Q2 2023	EirGrid website	Latest version of Shaping Our Electricity Future to reflect 80% renewables target and the Government Climate Action Plan 2023.
Annual Report	EirGrid	Q2 2023	EirGrid Website	Publication of EirGrid Annual Report.
Generation Capacity Statement	EirGrid	Q4 2023	EirGrid Website	To provide an overview of electricity demand and generation capacity that will be required on the island plus generation adequacy studies to assess the balance between this supply and demand over the next ten years.
Approved Transmission Loss Adjustment Factors (TLAF) for 2023/24	EirGrid & SONI	Q3 2023	EirGrid Website	To communicate the approved TLAFs for 2023/2024.
Winter Outlook	EirGrid	Q4 2023	EirGrid Website	Annual summary that provides information on expected electricity demand and capacity margin for the winter ahead in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios (TES) 2023	EirGrid	Q3 2023	EirGrid Website	To outline a range of credible scenarios for Ireland's clean energy transition with a specific focus on the electricity transmission grid.

## Appendices 3

### EirGrid hosted industry fora working groups

Engagement Topic	Audience	When	Method	Objective
ECP 2.2 Area Dispatch Down Results	ECP 2.2 customers and wider industry	Q1 2023	Online – MS Teams	To support the publication of the ECP 2.2 constraint reports
ECP 2.3 Initial Assumptions Webinar	ECP 2.2 customers and wider industry	Q3 2023	Online – MS Teams	To provide an overview of the initial assumptions being considered for the Plexos modelling used for the ECP 2.3 constraints reports
Customer Clinics Pre-Connection Application Information and Support	Customers looking to connect to the Transmission System	Monthly	EirGrid Industry Forum	Clinic days with bilateral meetings to support future customers.
Grid Code Review Panel Meetings	Industry	At least three times per annum	EirGrid Industry Forum	Review, discuss and ensure user consultation of recommendations for Grid Code amendments.
Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council	Every four months	EirGrid	Industry Forum	Discuss, review and facilitate the progress of the Shaping Our Electricity Future programme
Demand Side User Forums	Demand Side Users	Quarterly	EirGrid Conference Call	Engagement Forum for Industry
Wind Industry Forums	Wind Industry Representatives	Monthly/Quarterly	EirGrid Conference Call	Engagement Forum for industry
Market Operator User Group	Market Participants	Monthly	Virtual Conference	Inform Members of any key activities and updates
Capacity Market Qualification Participant Sessions	Capacity Market Participants	Annually	Conference Call	Inform Participants on qualification process for Capacity Market

Engagement Topic	Audience	When	Method	Objective
RESS Qualification Participant Sessions	RESS Participants	Annually	EirGrid Conference Call	Inform participants on qualification process for RESS
Generator and Outturn Availability Forum	Generation Customers and CRU	Q2 2023	EirGrid Industry Forum	Provide update on transmission outages, outturn availability reports and to address generator customer queries.
EirGrid Stakeholder Conference	Stakeholders	Q4 2023	EirGrid Conference	Conference for customers and stakeholders facilitating information sharing and industry discussion.

## Appendices 4 - Project Engagements

Project	Audience	When	Method	Objective
North Connacht 110kV Project	All	2023	Community Forum	EirGrid will liaise with the North Connacht Community Forum throughout 2023 as the 110kV project enters its construction phase.
Powering Up Dublin	All	Q2 2023	Public Consultation	Public consultation and stakeholder engagement regarding the identification of cable routes to run from 28 March to 23 May.
Flagford to Sligo	All	Public Q2 or Q3 2023	Public Consultation	Identification of best option and area - We will consider technology options in detail and look at the broad study areas for possible routes or site locations. We will also provide information to stakeholders on the methods we're using to analyse the technology options and study areas. We will then narrow our analysis to a preferred option and study area.

East Meath North Dublin	All	Q2 2023	Public Engagement	Emerging Best Performing Route Option – A Consultation and Engagement Report and Emerging Best Performing Option will be published in Q2. Engagement and media activity will take place around the announcement. A best performing route option is expected later in the summer. Engagement with the East Meath North Dublin community forum is ongoing.
Kildare Meath	All	Q2 2023	Public Engagement	EirGrid will host "Energy Citizen Roadshows" in Kildare and Meath in advance of the submission of a planning application for the project in Q2. Engagement with the Kildare Meath community forum will continue.
Woodland Station Redevelopment	All			Community and landowner engagement will occur during 2023 as the Woodland Station Redevelopment progresses. The engagement around Woodland and Batterstown will be to ensure the local community are informed of any relevant updates to EirGrid projects in the area, including CP1021 East Meath North Dublin and CP0966 Kildare Meath.
Laois Kilkenny Reinforcement Project	All			Community forum activities will continue throughout the year. This will entail updating the forum members on the project's progression and arranging the release of the next round of community benefit funding (phase 2) with a view to opening it in Q3 2023. The fund amount is €153,450. Further landowner engagement will also take place on the new Ballyragget-Coolnaback 110 kV overhead line which is due to commence construction in Q2 2023.



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