

Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF)

Advisory Council

Terms of Reference

September 2024

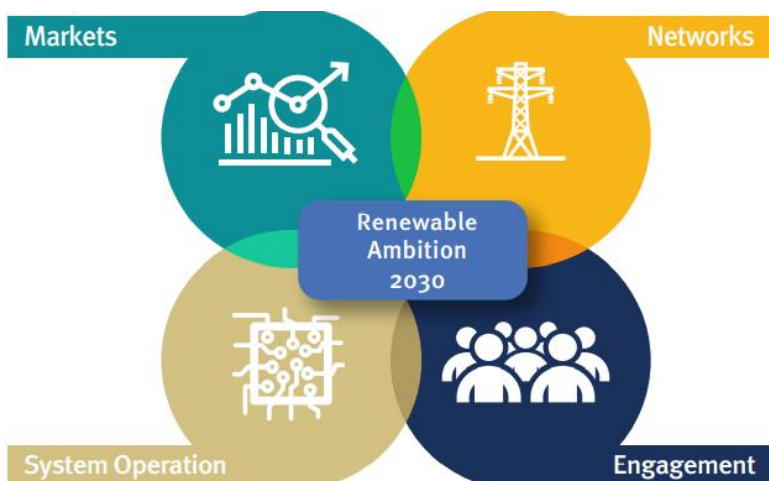
Introduction

The main objective of the Shaping Our Electricity Future Roadmap is to outline a secure transition to deliver the renewable ambition. In consultation with governments, regulators, and stakeholders we have used scenario-based analysis across the whole electricity system to identify a roadmap to delivery of the renewable ambition in an economic and reliable fashion. Given the relatively short planning horizon to 2030, Shaping Our Electricity Future provides a deliverable, economically feasible, dynamic, and transparent roadmap that delivers system reliability while meeting the renewable ambition. The future evolution of the power system beyond 2030 is also implicitly considered in delivering the broader EU ambition of net zero carbon emissions in the economy by 2050.

EirGrid and SONI believe that the renewable ambition can be delivered while maintaining the stability of the power grid. This roadmap is informed by stakeholder and public engagement feedback, comprehensive modelling and analysis of network reinforcements and detailed reviews of market operations and system operations. The scale of the transition is challenging and the current approaches to network planning, public and industry engagement, electricity system operation and electricity markets need to be transformed if the renewable ambition is to be achieved.

Our networks analysis identifies key transmission network projects in Ireland and Northern Ireland. These projects will now need to be progressed appropriately through the respective EirGrid and SONI grid development frameworks. In addition, we will seek to maximise the use of existing power grid infrastructure, apply proven technologies, optimise the delivery of renewables and demand connections pipeline – all in the context of overall system reliability.

Ireland and Northern Ireland are already world leaders in renewable integration. However, to achieve our renewable ambition we must evolve our proven practices of system operation even further to allow operation at 95% System Non-Synchronous Penetration (SNSP) by 2030. Enhancements to current operational policies, electricity market rules, together with support from regulators and government bodies will be needed to allow us to bring online and operate the appropriate resources on the system in a timely and efficient manner.



The roadmap ¹ is based on consultation and studies spanning across transmission networks, stakeholder engagement, power system operation and electricity markets with the aim of developing an integrated vision of the 2030 power system and electricity markets for Ireland and Northern Ireland.

¹ https://cms.eirgrid.ie/sites/default/files/publications/Shaping-Our-Electricity-Future-Roadmap_Version-1.1_07.23.pdf
https://www.soni.ltd.uk/media/documents/Shaping-Our-Electricity-Future-Roadmap_Version-1.1_07.23.pdf

Remit of the Advisory Council

The Advisory Council will not be a decision making or policy formulation body. As the achievement of the Shaping Our Electricity Future roadmap will be a collaborative effort across the eco-system, invited guests will include Government Departments, Regulators and Distribution System Operators in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The remit and purpose of the Advisory Council is to:

- Provide a forum to communicate and share relevant information and to discuss stakeholder views and concerns on those issues which impact progress of the implementation of the roadmap;
- Discuss, review and ultimately help facilitate the progress of the Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF) roadmap;
- Provide input, advice and assistance on matters related to the roadmap and its implementation;
- Highlight areas of concern that this forum can help to address;
- Actively contribute to agenda preparation and identification of potential issues facing the industry in the energy transition.

Schedule and Format

- The Advisory Council will meet every four months (three times a year);
- Every 4th Advisory Council will be in Belfast;
- The meetings will be chaired by the EirGrid Chief Transformation and Technology Officer and the SONI Director of Networks and Innovation;
- Meeting minutes and presentations will be published on the EirGrid and SONI websites after each meeting;
- Ad-hoc meetings outside the regular schedule will be held on an exceptional basis as required;
- Attendance in person is considered mandatory.

Membership

Every two years, EirGrid and SONI will seek expressions of interest for membership of the Advisory Council from representatives across industry and academia, including both the renewable and non-renewable generation sectors. Following review of these expressions, the initial membership of the Advisory Council will be determined by EirGrid and SONI to ensure the appropriate breadth of experience and perspectives are captured. Members are appointed ad personam and primarily for their competencies and therefore alternates shall only be allowed if essential for the success of the Council.

In person attendance at the Advisory Council will be tracked. This will form part of the evaluation criteria for the next Membership Refresh which will take place in 2026.

Administration

The Council shall operate in accordance with the need for a high level of transparency.

A draft agenda and draft presentation slides shall be circulated to the members of the Advisory Council no later than five business days before the meeting.

After the meeting, and within ten business days, EirGrid and SONI will circulate minutes and final presentation slides from the meeting to all Advisory Council Members and both will be published on the EirGrid and SONI websites.



All costs incurred by members of the SOEF Advisory Council associated with their participation will be at their own expense.