

Strategic Stakeholder Engagement Channels

Networks Stakeholder
Engagement Evaluation (NSEE)

2027



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About this document

In 2018, the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) introduced a new incentive for EirGrid (as the Transmission System Operator), and ESB Networks (as the Distribution System Operator) in relation to stakeholder engagement.

The objective of this incentive, as stated by the CRU, is to promote cultures within the Transmission System Operator (TSO) and Distribution System Operator (DSO) that put stakeholders (i.e., customers, generators, local communities and others) at the centre of what the network companies do. This ensures that the System Operators deliver high-quality outcomes for energy customers and the wider public. The CRU formed a Panel made up of representatives from stakeholders to assess and score EirGrid and ESB Networks on the quality, good implementation and effectiveness of their stakeholder strategy in the previous year. This score determines the financial incentive the companies receive, impacting directly on the incentive revenues earned.

This process requires EirGrid to demonstrate our comprehensive, up-to-date stakeholder engagement strategy and delivery, our channels and initiatives for engaging with stakeholders and demonstrable positive impacts on stakeholders, stakeholder groups or the business.

As part of our planned engagements for 2027 (detailed in EirGrid's 2027 Stakeholder Engagement Plan), this document sets out the strategic groups that we engage via.

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 and Government policy. However, 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.

This document focuses on our engagement within our remit as a TSO and is a requirement under PR6 [CRU2025197](#), the CRU's Price Review 6 Regulatory Framework, with further details captured within the CRU's [CRU2025200d](#) Price Review Six Annex D Performance Incentives document.

Who we are and what we do

EirGrid's role, as Transmission System Operator (TSO) in Ireland, is to ensure electricity gets from where it is generated to where it is needed across Ireland.

We operate the high-voltage transmission system, the network that forms the backbone of the country's electricity system, and are responsible for keeping it running safely, securely and reliably at all times. This means ensuring there is enough electricity to meet demand every moment of every day, and that the system can respond to changes or unexpected events.

Alongside operating the transmission system, EirGrid also operates the all-island wholesale Single Electricity Market (SEM), in partnership with SONI in Northern Ireland.

The SEM is where electricity generators sell their power and retail sellers buy it to sell to consumers.

In October 2022, the Utility Regulator (UR) and the CRU respectively re-designated SONI and EirGrid as a Nominated Electricity Market Operator (NEMO) in Northern Ireland 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 also plans for the future of the electricity system. As demand grows and Ireland transitions to renewable energy, we identify where new infrastructure is needed and how the grid should evolve to support homes, businesses and economic growth.

This includes major grid development and new connections for very large generation and demand customers.

A key part of our role is enabling offshore wind. Under Government policy, EirGrid is responsible for developing, owning and operating the offshore transmission system that connects wind farms at sea to the onshore grid. This will allow large volumes of clean energy to be brought onshore securely and integrated into the system.

We also safeguard Ireland's security of electricity supply by monitoring the system, identifying risks, and advising on actions where needed.

In addition, we develop and operate interconnectors that link Ireland to other countries and facilitate the connection of other interconnectors to the system, improving resilience and supporting the transition to cleaner energy.

We note ambitions for further interconnection beyond those in existence and under construction are expressed in the Government's [National Policy Statement on Electricity Interconnection 2023](#).

Why we engage

As Ireland's Transmission System Operator, EirGrid has a unique role to play in transforming our power system.

A secure, modern electricity system is now fundamental not only to Ireland's climate ambitions, but to national competitiveness, industrial growth, housing delivery and long-term economic resilience.

As an organisation, we occupy a dynamic space and achieving our purpose - to power up Ireland's electricity grid for a clean energy future - depends on close collaboration with all key stakeholders across the energy ecosystem.

Our key priorities are two-fold: to securely operate the grid of today while planning for the grid of tomorrow.

This means balancing security, affordability and sustainability, while contributing our expertise to support effective policy and planning. All of these priorities are interconnected, and each brings complexity, risks and challenges.

During this critical period for the grid, it's vital we work together with key stakeholders including Government, our Regulator, our customers, industry and communities, so that together, we can drive real progress towards a more secure, clean and affordable energy future for everyone.

Our strategic channels for engagement

EirGrid's planned stakeholder engagement activities are captured in each iteration of our [Stakeholder Engagement Plan](#), which we produce in line with the NSEE incentive.

This year, in response to NSEE Panel feedback to support the brevity of the main 2027 Stakeholder Engagement Plan, we have taken a new approach and separated the strategic channels that we engage via (normally embedded within each chapter) and placed these in a separate document (below).

As an integral part of EirGrid's Stakeholder Engagement Plan, both this Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Strategic Channels document should be read and considered in tandem as part of the NSEE incentive.

The structure of this document

We have structured this document in line with the EirGrid 2026-2030 Group Corporate Strategy. As a result, all of the chapters have been grouped under their relevant strategic pillar (outlined below).

Government, European and policy engagement

Keeping Ireland Powered

- Operating the grid
- Future markets engagement and market participant engagement
- Long-term auctions engagement
- Security of supply
- Fault Ride Through (FRT)
- Renewable Dispatch Down
- Electricity Connection Policy (ECP)
- Transmission Outage Programme

Building the backbone: A Grid that enables growth

- Customers and connections
- TAO partnership
- DSO partnership
- Grid upgrade projects and public engagement
- Consenting and environment

Transforming for clean energy

- Energy research
- Future networks
- Sustainability

Unlocking new frontiers: Offshore and interconnection

- Offshore
- *(Interconnection updates within the main plan include TSO related activity and Celtic Interconnector engagements, captured in the Government, European and policy and the Grid upgrade projects and public engagement chapters.)*

Government, European and policy engagement



1 Government, European and policy engagement

1.1 European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E)

ENTSO-E has significant obligations under EU electricity regulations and as a result plays a key role in developing the pan-European electricity grid and cross-border markets to achieve the ambitious European decarbonisation goals by 2050. Through ENTSO-E, EirGrid engages actively with TSOs across Europe to tackle the key challenges brought about through decarbonisation such as offshore resource development, market integration and maintaining system security.

ENTSO-E operates several committees covering a wide range of relevant areas including markets, research and innovation, system development, system operations and technology. Despite being relatively small compared to many European TSOs, EirGrid contributes actively to many of these committees, and to the supporting working groups. This ensures that the issues most important to Ireland such as the development of offshore transmission infrastructure, or the market arrangements with Great Britain, are taken forward in a way that supports wider Irish goals. For the development of offshore grid infrastructure in particular, EirGrid's interaction with other TSOs through ENTSO-E will help enable renewable resources in Ireland to contribute to wider European goals.

1.1.1 Research, Development and Innovation Committee (RDIC)

EirGrid participates in the ENTSO-E Research, Development and Innovation Committee (RDIC). Committee coordinates RDI activities and fulfils the mandate regarding the area of RDI under the EU Clean Energy Package. In 2027, EirGrid plans to continue engaging through RDIC and its associated working groups and taskforces, supporting knowledge exchange, future energy systems research, digitalisation, technology assessment and innovation planning. This engagement helps ensure Irish perspectives are represented in European innovation activities while supporting EirGrid's innovation and research strategy.

Key outcomes of our engagement include:

- Ensuring Irish representation in strategic innovation planning at the European level.
- Influencing the development of European research and innovation priorities through the Research, Development and Innovation Roadmap and Implementation Plan.
- Supporting standardisation and interoperability for future grid technologies.
- Ensuring alignment with European best practices while supporting national policy and regulatory development.

1.1.2 Legal and Regulatory Group (LRG)

EirGrid participates in the ENTSO-E Legal and Regulatory Group. This group meets 4-5 times annually to discuss various matters while ensuring that member TSOs operate within clear legal and regulatory boundaries. There is engagement with the EU regulators and other stakeholders and there are also various sub-committees within the LRG group.

1.1.3 Policy and Communications Group (PCG)

The Policy and Communication Group (PCG) aims to support ENTSO-E's voice in the policy debates at EU level by addressing the Board's strategic objective to develop a core public relations and public affairs capability for ENTSO-E, increase transparency and build trust among stakeholders. EirGrid members are active participants in this group which holds a variety of online, hybrid and in-person meetings across the year. In July 2026, EirGrid hosted a meeting of the PCG to coincide with the Irish Presidency. Participation

in PCG level meetings provides valuable insights that helps to inform EirGrid's engagement with our wider stakeholders such as DCEE and with Irish MEPs.

1.1.4 System Operations Committee (SOC)

EirGrid participates in the ENTSO-E System Operations Committee (SOC) to contribute to the development of European operational policies, methodologies and initiatives while ensuring that the specific needs of the Irish power system are considered in European regulatory and operational frameworks. Through these engagements, EirGrid exchanges operational knowledge and best practices with other TSOs, while supporting the evolution and implementation of European legislation, and sharing insights regarding emerging challenges affecting power system operation.

Key outcomes of our engagement include:

- Learning and sharing operational experience with other TSOs, particularly regarding major system incidents, disturbances and blackouts in order to improve the resilience of the power system.
- Influencing the development of European operational legislation, methodologies and standards to ensure Irish system specificities are properly considered.

1.1.5 Market Committee (MC)

EirGrid participates in the ENTSO-E Market Committee to influence the development of European electricity market policies, network codes and market integration arrangements. Engagement helps ensure that SEM and Irish interests are represented in key EU discussions, while offering early visibility of regulatory changes, and supporting outcomes that enable secure, efficient and competitive electricity markets and the delivery of Ireland's energy transition objectives.

Key outcomes of our engagement include:

- Influence the development of EU market rules, policies and legislative proposals.
- Ensure SEM and Irish system considerations are reflected in European frameworks.

1.1.6 Information and Communication Technologies Committee (ICTC)

EirGrid's involvement in the ENTSO-E Information & Communication Technologies Committee (ICTC) is centred on European TSO technology strategy, cybersecurity, interoperability, data exchange standards and common operational platforms. ICTC provides the forum through which TSOs coordinate technology direction and govern many of the shared capabilities connecting the European TSOs. EirGrid is represented at ICTC with a primary and alternate representative, which was formally nominated through ENTSO-E governance processes. EirGrid also has representatives on a range of ICTC steering groups and working groups, including:

- ICTC Steering Group ICT Strategy
- ICTC Information Security groups
- Enterprise Architecture (EA) Working Group
- Communications Network (CN) Working Group and CN Technical User Group (TUG)

Through ICTC, several key European initiatives are shaped, including:

- Cybersecurity governance and compliance frameworks
- Common European energy data exchange and interoperability initiatives
- Enterprise architecture standards, information modelling and cross-border operational data sharing
- Shared ENTSO-E digital and operational services supporting TSO collaboration

1.1.7 System Development Committee (SDC)

EirGrid participates in the ENTSO-E System Development Committee to contribute to the development of European transmission system planning and ensure that Irish and regional system needs are appropriately represented in European planning processes.

Engagement enables EirGrid to influence key methodologies and deliverables, including the TYNDP, while supporting coordinated development of the European transmission system.

Key outcomes of our engagement include:

- Influence the development of European system planning methodologies, studies and strategic network initiatives.
- Ensure Irish and regional system needs, are appropriately reflected in ENTSO-E planning processes.

1.2 European Agencies

As part of EirGrid's European engagement, we also work closely with CRU to support their interactions with agencies such as the Agency for Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER). We are also actively involved with Coreso, to support the continued development of Ireland's grid and market. As Regional Coordination Centres (RCCs), Coreso supports TSOs to contribute objectives that are in line with recommendations made by the European Commission.

1.3 Offshore TSO Collaboration (OTC)

The OTC is a collaborative forum of TSOs from nine Northern Seas Countries, who work together on joint regional offshore grid planning. The group has developed a coordinated 'grid map' of cross-border hybrid interconnector projects aimed to complement existing plans such as the Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP). As a member, EirGrid exchanges expertise and ensures the requirements of the Irish system are considered. Furthermore, it enables us to participate in shared, cost-efficient regional offshore grid development and funding and financing methodologies.

1.4 International System Operator Network (ISON)

The International System Operator Network (ISON) is a TSO working group which consists of six system operators, led by their CEOs, and supported by a rotating Executive Director role and Technical Designates. The overarching objective of this forum is to enable operation of 100% Inverter-Based Resource (IBR) power systems. Collaboration takes place via the revision and delivery of the System Operator Transitional Priorities report, and implementation of priority initiatives, various technical engagements and development of knowledge sharing briefs, and initiatives such as System Operator secondment.

1.5 Collaboration with other TSOs

TSOs in countries with high levels of non-synchronous renewable energy sources (RES) face similar challenges to EirGrid especially where they are situated in peripheral locations and/or are relatively small compared to the larger more centrally based TSOs. By working closely with other TSOs across Great Britain and continental Europe, EirGrid is enabling greater energy cooperation as we work towards our shared climate ambitions. In addition to the various multilateral engagements with TSOs, EirGrid is also proactively working bilaterally with the TSOs in countries such as the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and the UK. In some instances, this is under the guise of Joint Government Plans of Actions, and in other instances, under a specific Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which we have developed.

1.6 CIGRE

As a collaborative global forum for sharing and developing technical expertise, EirGrid's engagement with CIGRE predominantly supports our role in leading the secure transition of Ireland's electricity grid to a sustainable low-carbon future. EirGrid works with other CIGRE members internationally, on specific topic-themed working groups and Study Committees. This collaboration creates opportunities for staff to work with leading experts. It also helps to build EirGrid's reputation as a one of the most innovative TSOs in the integration of non-synchronous renewables.

1.7 International Energy Agency (IEA)

In 2027, EirGrid will continue to engage with the IEA to help support the successful integration of renewables while continuing to ensure power system security. Building on active engagements and presentation to international expert audiences in the IEA, this engagement will continue in the coming year.

1.8 The Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI)

The Renewables Grid Initiative is a unique collaboration of NGOs, TSOs, DSOs, and renewable industry stakeholders from across Europe engaging in an 'energy transition ecosystem-of-actors'. EirGrid's engagement with the RGI is particularly important in facilitating close collaboration, as well as enabling a holistic approach to resolving shared challenges, alongside experts in our field from across Europe.

1.9 Government Taskforces and Working Groups

EirGrid continues to liaise with Government stakeholders, including established key taskforces and working groups in order to progress the delivery of renewable energy, key grid infrastructure and the future energy landscape, as well to discuss matters relating to energy affordability. These workstreams are important to ensure continued alignment between EirGrid and Government policy.

EirGrid is active in the following taskforces and others as required (if they arise):

- Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce (DCEE)
- Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce (DCEE)
- Accelerating Infrastructure Taskforce (DPER)
- National Energy Affordability Taskforce (DCEE)
- Cost of Business Advisory Forum (DETE)
- Housing Activation Office (DHLGH)
- Urban Capacity Contact Group (DCEE)
- Hydrogen Taskforce (DCEE)

Through these taskforces and working groups, we work with Government departments on tackling barriers and exploring opportunities related to the development of Ireland's electricity transmission system. The different groups look at the electricity system through various policy lenses.

The Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce, in addition to tackling policy and regulatory barriers to grid delivery, also works to implement and transpose key grid related EU directives.

The National Energy Affordability Taskforce is concerned with addressing affordability issues across the energy sector.

EirGrid is active across the taskforces, providing expert knowledge to Government stakeholders, while supporting policy making decisions.

1.10 Joint Electricity and Transport Working Group (JET WG)

The publication of the 'Accelerating Infrastructure Report and Action Plan by the Department of Public Expenditure Infrastructure Public Service Reform and Digitalisation (DEPR) further reinforces the need for collaboration across the energy sector in order to accelerate delivery as well as support Government objectives.

In line with the Action Plan, a Joint Utilities and Transport Clearance House (JUTCH) was set up (led by DEPR) as well as a Joint Electricity and Transport Working Group (JET WG) within the Accelerating Renewable Energy Taskforce.

EirGrid engages with the JET on a quarterly basis. The purpose of the JET WG is to provide a collaborative forum for stakeholders to meet and support the achievement of renewable electricity targets by overseeing the development and implementation of solutions to mitigate or remove barriers to the delivery of grid projects along public roads, without compromising the road network.

1.11 Forums and steering groups

EirGrid continues to engage with Government, the CRU, local authorities, and other public authorities on a range of matters, including the climate action plan, interconnection, energy security, security of supply, and planning and consenting, and environmental matters. This is via a range of mechanisms such as planning forums, working groups and steering groups.

1.12 Corporate communications and reporting

EirGrid continues to support the Government through regular communications and reporting, requests for information, publications, Parliamentary Questions and more.

1.13 North Seas Energy Corporation (NSEC)

EirGrid participates as Ireland's TSO via several technical working fora within the ministerial level initiative of NSEC. The cooperation brings together ministries and TSOs from nine countries from the North Seas as well as the European Commission, to coordinate the development of offshore renewable energy and grid infrastructure projects. Through participation in the group, EirGrid participates in joint planning initiatives backed by political will through ministerial inclusion, that underpin wider European offshore energy development.

1.14 The Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER)

EirGrid continues to support DG ENER and European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) at events such as their annual PCI (Projects of Common Interest) Energy Days. Engagement and updates to key officials will also continue, particularly around the progress of the Celtic Interconnector.

We will also continue to engage with DG ENER to greater understand how radial projects which we are looking to garner PCI status, can be evaluated.

1.15 EU-UK Specialised Committee on Energy (SCE)

The EU-UK SCE is a joint forum between the EU and the UK to monitor and review the implementation of the energy provisions in the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). The SCE holds technical discussions, shares information and ensures the functioning of the energy provision. The issue of EU-UK electricity trading arrangements is a key area of work for the SCE. Through our involvement in ENTSO-E, EirGrid contributes to this work as part of a group of EU TSOs.

1.16 National Energy System Operator (NESO)

The NESO for Great Britain (GB) is responsible for electricity system operation and gas system planning. EirGrid, SONI and NESO meet regularly to share knowledge and experience on the electricity markets and related areas. These engagements are particularly important given EirGrid's interconnection with the GB market which is known as a third country market under EU rules.

In March 2025, Ireland and the UK issued a joint statement representing the starting point for a strengthened relationship. In the statement, “ensuring a strategic and efficient approach to our shared maritime space to mobilise investment, support a healthy marine environment and provide clean energy for our islands” was a key focus. The joint statement also specifically named EirGrid and other system operators (GNI, NESO, and National Gas) when welcoming “the opportunity for more formal co-operation between British and Irish system operators”. In March 2026 this was followed up with the signing of an MoU between EirGrid, NESO and SONI to deepen cooperation and knowledge-sharing on managing grids integrating high levels of renewables on the road to clean power.



Keeping Ireland Powered

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- Security of supply
- Fault Ride Through (FRT)
- Renewable Dispatch Down
- Electricity Connection Policy (ECP)
- Transmission Outage Programme



2 Operating the grid

2.1 Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) and CRU engagements

To ensure our continued alignment with Government RES-E onshore and offshore renewable policy, EirGrid engages regularly with our regulators who play an important role in connection, asset and charging policy and ensuring auction competition. CRU ensures we remain compliant and support our work in achieving our climate ambitions.

2.2 Future Arrangements System Services (FASS) and the Schedule and Dispatch Programme (SDP)

We seek recommendations on Future Arrangements System Services (FASS) and the Schedule and Dispatch Programme (SDP) design from our expert partners. These recommendations are communicated to and discussed with the energy industry and the regulatory authorities via workshops, papers from our partners ([published on the EirGrid website](#)) and bilateral engagements facilitated on request.

2.3 Grid Code Review Panel (GCRP)

At EirGrid, we are responsible for the development and maintenance of the grid code in Ireland. The Grid Code Review Panel (GCRP) is a standing industry body whose purpose is to review and discuss the grid code.

The GCRP regularly discusses the grid code's functionality and offers suggestions for updates and amendments. Each member of the GCRP represents the interests of their appointing body. [Meeting notes are published online](#).

2.4 Large Energy User Taskforce

The Large Energy User Taskforce serves as a platform for Transmission and Distribution System Operators and the data centre industry to engage on issues related to data centre fault response and power quality, which impact power system planning and operations. Its purpose is to facilitate communication and engagement on these challenges, share relevant information and data, and consider potential solutions. Chaired by EirGrid, the Taskforce includes representatives from SONI, ESB Networks and data centre customers. We hold monthly meetings to support regular and effective engagement while providing important updates as needed.

2.5 Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council (new name TBC)

EirGrid and SONI formed the Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF) Advisory Council in 2022. The council is made up of representatives from across the energy sector including developers of storage, conventional and renewable generators, academia, large energy users, demand response, new technology, gas networks, manufacturing and consultancy. The council meets every four months in Dublin, with every fourth meeting in Belfast.

As of September 2026, 16 of the 32 members were newly invited to join the Council, strengthening the body of experience and expertise within the Council.

Engagement is core to our strategy and this is an important forum for discussing our initiatives for overcoming key strategic challenges while gaining insight and consideration from across the electricity system.

As a result, we are currently in the process of enhancing this forum while extending its focus to beyond 2030.

3 Future markets and market participant engagement

3.1 Engagement with the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) and CRU

To ensure our continued alignment with Government RES-E onshore and offshore renewable policy, EirGrid engages regularly with DCEE and CRU in relation to connection, asset and charging policy and ensuring auction competition. CRU ensures we remain compliant and supports our work in achieving our climate ambitions.

3.2 Newsletters

EirGrid's [Future Power Markets newsletters](#) are an important communication channel to share updates on key programmes and workstreams with stakeholders. They also supplement our monthly workshops and signpost upcoming consultations.

3.3 External Markets Association Group (EMAG)

In 2024, EirGrid created an internal, cross-functional group known as the External Markets Association Group (EMAG). The objective of the EMAG is to act as a single source of truth for EirGrid's representation within external associations (with particular reference to European groups) relevant to market development, which helps to ensure clear and consistent communications across the external organisations that we engage with.

3.4 Market Operator User Group (MOUG) meetings

The Market Operator User Group (MOUG) is a bi-monthly meeting (usually held every 8 weeks) which brings together the Single Electricity Market Operator (SEMO) and market participants, to provide updates on a wide range of topic such as settlements, trading, the market interface, IT releases and ex-ante markets.

3.5 Weekly participant calls

Another channel for our engagements includes weekly calls with market participants, run by EirGrid, to provide operations, settlements and trading updates.

4 Long-term auctions engagement

4.1 Onshore and Offshore Renewable Support Scheme (RESS) Auctions engagement

The RESS Auctions Team meets regularly with DCEE, CRU, ESB Networks and EirGrid key stakeholders to agree the design, rules and eligibility of the Onshore and Offshore Renewable Support Scheme Auctions. Regular engagements like these are vital to ensure the pipeline and delivery of RES-E as per the government Climate Action Plan and EirGrid's Shaping our Electricity Future roadmap.

4.2 RESS Qualification & Auction Information sessions

The Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) is a Government initiative. The scheme supports renewable electricity projects in Ireland. RESS auctions are delivered by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE), with the support of CRU and EirGrid.

As part of this engagement, EirGrid chairs two industry information sessions in advance of each annual auction (RESS and ORESS) to introduce industry applicants to key changes since the previous auction.

4.3 Coordinating RESS auction design with DCEE and the regulators

As part of our continued collaboration, EirGrid works with DCEE and our regulators to draft the RESS and ORESS Terms and Conditions to agree a final draft for consultation.

4.4 Regular meetings with the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) and CRU

To ensure our continued alignment with Government RES-E onshore and offshore renewable policy, EirGrid engages regularly with our regulators who play an important role in connection, asset and charging policy and ensuring auction competition. CRU ensures we remain compliant and support our work in achieving our climate ambitions. In 2027, we will also be looking to further enhance these engagements.

4.5 Coordinating capacity market operations

Capacity auctions are a key element of the all-island wholesale electricity market and are designed to deliver a reliable electricity supply at the least possible cost. The auctions also aim to encourage new and efficient power plants into market. This auction is known as the T-4 auction because it secures capacity four years in advance. Capacity Auctions are run jointly by EirGrid and SONI in their roles as System Operators in Ireland and Northern Ireland respectively. As part of this work, we engage with multiple stakeholders across a number of engagement channels.

5 Security of supply

5.1 System adequacy and capacity market auctions

EirGrid closely monitors and supports the delivery of successful capacity market auction projects. Where the delivery of this capacity is anticipated to not meet the needs of the system, we recommend actions to be taken to address these.

5.2 Temporary emergency generation and retention of existing units' capacity market auctions

EirGrid has since 2021 led the procurement of two tranches of Temporary Emergency Generation (TEG) totalling 650 Megawatts which operate outside of the market arrangements in line with the requirements of article 16(2) of the EU Regulation on Risk Preparedness in the Electricity Sector.

EirGrid also led a programme of work with ESB Networks to extend the operation of older generators for security of supply. From 1 July 2025, three units at Moneypoint (totalling 750 MW) have been operational in line with the requirements of the regulation.

The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) has since directed EirGrid to exercise the existing contractual options to retain the Temporary Emergency Generation (TEG) arrangements to address forecast security of supply risks during the winters of 2027/28 and 2028/29. The Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment consented to the CRU directions, in July 2026, to the exercise of the option to retain the TEG 1 and TEG 2 units for their full contractual periods beyond the initial service periods, based on evidence and recommendations provided by EirGrid to the CRU that identified a continued capacity shortfall sufficient to merit retention for the full length of the contracted service periods.

The TEG arrangements have played an important role in maintaining electricity security of supply since becoming operational. Since the introduction of Non-Market Generation in Q3 2024 there have been twenty-two Margin Warnings (when the system would otherwise have been in Alert or Emergency State) and three instances of TEG dispatch to date. We monitor the power system in real-time and work with the operators of these units ensure that these units are tested and that the protocols are in place for these to be dispatched when system conditions require. Retaining the TEG units for the full length of the contracted period will provide an important security of supply safeguard while enduring generation capacity, interconnection projects and other market-based solutions continue to be delivered.

5.3 Risk preparedness

We support the CRU in developing the Risk Preparedness Plan (RPP) for Ireland every 4 years, as required under the Regulation on Risk Preparedness in the Electricity Sector. EirGrid also participates in the National Risk Assessment (NRA) for Ireland every 3 years.

EirGrid is also active at a European level in various steering and working structures in the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) related to risk preparedness and emergency planning. This has included working with the CRU on the identification of regional electricity crisis scenarios, as required under [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/941](#).

EirGrid participates in two bi-annual stakeholder meetings on emergency planning, namely the multi-agency Gas and Electricity Emergency Planning forum (GEEP) convened by the CRU, and the UK / Ireland Gas and Electricity Security of Supply forum.

5.4 Emergency preparedness

A programme of emergency simulation exercises is outlined in the Risk Preparedness Plan for Ireland. This programme addresses both operational and multi-stakeholder exercises. This includes cross-border exercises and exercises with sector departments under the National Emergency Coordination Group.

We have successfully led annual multi-stakeholder energy sector exercises since 2021, involving DCEE, CRU, Gas Networks Ireland (GNI), the National Oil Reserves Agency (NORA) and ESB Networks to test our emergency response protocols, and incorporate lessons learned and stakeholder feedback from previous exercises.

The energy sector response, led by the Joint Energy Emergency Response Team (JEERT) is outlined in the EirGrid Power System Emergency Communications Plan (PSECP). This plan also addressed integration with the NECG structures and communication requirements with other European stakeholders such as the European Commission (DG Ener), the Electricity Coordination Group (ECG), and European TSOs, through the European Networks of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E).

EirGrid has also supported DCEE in the execution of National Emergency Coordination Group (NECG) exercises in the National Emergency Coordination Centre.

Operational exercises include inter-control room emergency engagements between EirGrid and SONI, as well as EirGrid and ESB Networks, along with emergency instructions and engagements with Large Energy Users (LEUs) and generators.

5.5 Critical Entities Resilience (CER) Directive

EirGrid is listed as a critical entity under the CER Directive. EirGrid will work closely with stakeholders in the energy sector to address our obligations under the National CER Strategy including risk assessments and the development of resilience plans.

5.6 Collaboration with DCEE, CRU and other operators in the energy sector

EirGrid undertakes an annual review of the Power System Emergency Communication Plan (PSECP), which defines the roles, responsibilities, and protocols for the energy sector in responding to major power system emergencies. The plan includes DCEE, CRU, EirGrid, GNI, ESB Networks, and the National Oil Reserves Agency (NORA). It also outlines how the Operators interact with the National Emergency Coordination Group (NECG) in the event of a crisis in the energy sector.

5.7 Collaboration with DCEE and GIS

EirGrid has supported DCEE and the Government Information Service (GIS) in establishing an Energy Emergency Communications sub-group, which is activated under the National Emergency Coordination Group (NECG) in the event of a national emergency. This sub-group continues to be exercised when multi-stakeholder exercises are undertaken with the NECG.

5.8 Collaboration with ESB Networks and GNI on crisis communications

Regular and timely communications, coordinated with ESB Networks (as DSO) and GNI, are vital for ensuring the response to incidents on the power system that could impact security of supply in the energy

sector. EirGrid works closely with ESB Networks and GNI in enhancing crisis communications protocols and messaging for a variety of potential risks to security of supply.

EirGrid and ESB Networks also regularly update and test our joint crisis messaging plan, which supports the energy sector response to power system emergencies under the Power System Emergency Communications Plan.

5.9 System state and outlook communications

EirGrid issues a bi-weekly System Margin Outlook providing customers and market participants with a four-day outlook on the state of the system with regards to available renewable and thermal generation to meet the forecast demand.

EirGrid also issues a 3-monthly report on Net Transfer Capacity reductions implemented on Interconnector exports at times when the day-ahead margins have been tight.

System Alert and Emergency state communications is issued in real-time in the event of security of supply concerns. A 'Margin Warning' is also issued to market participants in real-time when the available Temporary Emergency Generation units avert Alert or Emergency system states. Market participants will also be advised of margin risks when there is a potential need to call on Retained Existing Units (Moneypoint 1, 2, and 3). Because these units can take over 48 hrs to be brought onto the system, the 'Margin Shortfall Risk' notice issued to the market is intended to encourage the market to meet the potential shortfall while these units are warmed up to address a gap, should the market not be able to meet this.

6 Fault Ride Through

EirGrid has engaged extensively with stakeholders on the FRT issue and the proposed MPID345 Grid Code modification over the past number of years. EirGrid has run a structured programme of industry webinars, running in parallel with continuous bi-lateral engagements with individual Demand Facilities.

6.1 Industry engagement

EirGrid and SONI have actively engaged with the data centre industry over the past number of years to understand the drivers of the issues from a data centre perspective, to gather individual data centre site data (to inform our models), notify data centres of performance issues observed during fault events and communicate the broader power system challenges arising and need for solutions.

Starting in 2024, and running through to the end of 2025, we engaged extensively with industry on the proposed Grid Code Modification, and then more recently in 2026 on the Derogation and Compliance Framework.

In addition to these group engagements, the TSOs have held multiple bilateral meetings with individual customers, Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and developers of newer power supply systems for data centres. These meetings have provided an opportunity for more detailed discussions on specific technical and operational challenges and solutions.

6.2 Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)

Throughout the development of MPID345 and the associated Compliance and Derogation Framework, EirGrid has engaged extensively with the CRU as the regulatory authority responsible for its assessment and approval.

6.3 Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE)

EirGrid has engaged extensively with DCEE over the course of the FRT programme, with discussions focused on maintaining awareness of the issue, the associated power system risk, and the measures being progressed to address them.

6.4 Grid Code Review Panel (GCRP)

At EirGrid, we are responsible for the development and maintenance of the grid code in Ireland. The Grid Code Review Panel (GCRP) is a standing industry body whose purpose is to review and discuss the grid code.

The GCRP regularly discusses the grid code's functionality and offers suggestions for updates and amendments. Each member of the GCRP represents the interests of their appointing body. Meeting notes are published online¹.

7 Renewable Dispatch Down

7.1 Renewable Dispatch Down Engagement

Renewable dispatch down refers to available renewable generation that cannot be accommodated on the system or in the market at a particular time. It can be categorised as surplus, curtailment or constraints.

The level of renewable dispatch down is affected by a number of factors which can vary, such as the amount of energy scheduled via markets, weather patterns, system demand, interconnector flows, scheduled grid maintenance works and the capacity factor of the renewable generation.

7.2 Renewable dispatch down reporting

EirGrid publishes details of the levels of renewable dispatch down via our monthly, quarterly and annual reports. This helps to keep customers and the broader industry, informed regarding dispatch down levels while contextualising reported figures regionally and nationally.

These reports include the following documents, which detail historical and current levels of dispatch down and what the grid would look under different scenarios and in the future.

- [System and Renewable Data Reports](#)
- [Electricity Connection Policy Constraint Reports](#)
- [Shaping Our Electricity Future v1.1](#)

¹ [Meeting Notes](#)

7.3 Renewable Dispatch Down Engagement

EirGrid established the Renewable Dispatch Down Working Group in June 2025 bringing together EirGrid and industry representatives to create a collaborative forum to further understand the management of renewable dispatch down and work together to try to identify additional actions that could mitigate levels of renewable dispatch down.

The working group was set up under the governance of the Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council (new name TBC) with updates provided to the advisory council on a quarterly basis. While the scope of the working group was focused on the areas within the TSO's remit, solutioning workshops were offered to any industry members that had proposals that could be considered as part of the working group's review.

There are currently many engagements with various members of industry and customers where renewable dispatch down is discussed. To ensure a more streamlined approach between EirGrid and all relevant stakeholders and customers, EirGrid is currently exploring routes for engagement to specifically discuss Renewable Dispatch Down, including challenges, opportunities, initiatives and solutions, while ensuring opportunities for industry to share insights. Our aim is to create a dedicated communication channel to enhance collaboration between the TSO, stakeholders and customers, while ensuring a consistent and aligned approach.

EirGrid will be continuing to engage with key stakeholders to agree the most effective approach for engagement regarding renewable dispatch down.

7.4 Renewable Dispatch Down Action Plan

One of the key outcomes identified from the working group meetings was for EirGrid to collaborate with key stakeholders to produce a renewable dispatch down action plan. The aim of this action plan is to explain the steps that EirGrid is taking in the short, medium and long term to manage renewable dispatch down, within its role as TSO, while also capturing key insights from across all key stakeholders, so that we can take a collaborative approach to support Ireland's journey in mitigating renewable dispatch down.

EirGrid will be reporting back on the status of these actions and provide updates via the most efficient engagement channel agreed on.

EirGrid will also provide a dedicated landing page on the EirGrid website for Renewable Dispatch Down updates which will include action plan updates.

8 Electricity Connection Policy (ECP)

8.1 Webinars

Throughout the year, we host a number of webinars to engage with ECP customers, industry stakeholders and statutory institutions such as CRU and DCEE. These webinars are on the constraint modelling associated with the upcoming ECP connection batch. We discuss the draft and final assumptions to gather feedback and collate suggestions for improvements, while ensuring the modelling process is robust and meets both industry needs and regulatory expectations. We present the initial and final results to all stakeholders to ensure that they fully understand the insights and analyses produced.

8.2 Constraint reports

Constraints reports, model input assumptions, a methodology statement, webinar presentation slides, frequently asked questions, and a plain English summary of the ECP constraints report process are published and updated [the EirGrid website](#) with each ECP iteration. The ECP Constraint Reports show the

results of studies for a range of generation scenarios including the levels of total dispatch down that solar and wind generation might experience in the future across surplus, curtailment and constraints.

8.3 ECP Communications

Since August 2025, EirGrid has been engaging with industry representatives on a monthly basis to gather feedback as well as share insights and updates.

As part of this process, and together with industry representatives, we create a list of priority improvements for the ECP process, presentation of data, communications and updates to methodology statement.

The list is then regularly reviewed and EirGrid endeavours to incorporate improvements at each iteration.

Industry representatives also provide a number of industry-requested studies along with additional details/data or improvements to aid industry decision making, support knowledge sharing and also support EirGrid's understanding of industry needs.

As part of these engagements, every renewable technology type will have an SME representative on each of the industry calls to share insights with stakeholders. This is to discuss improvements while sharing insights regarding the ECP constraints and forecasting process and reporting.

In addition, to streamline communication with industry and to provide a path for customer queries, EirGrid has also created an ECP mailbox: ecp_constraintsanalysis@eirgrid.com

9 Transmission Outage Programme

9.1 Transmission Outage Programme (TOP) 2027

The Transmission Outage Programme 2027 (TOP27) is the programme for all outages of transmission infrastructure which are planned to take place during 2027. The TOP27 will include planned outages for capital works, for example, plant upgrade/refurbishment, connection of new plant and customer connections and maintenance work outages.

There is a large volume of customer connections to be delivered in 2027. Any works impacting customers, (for example, the offloading of customer plant for maintenance works) require extensive engagement which provides an opportunity for the customer and EirGrid to schedule outages at a time which suit both.

9.2 Generator and Outturn Availability Forum

EirGrid meets industry via the Generator and Outturn Availability Forum to provide updates to industry on outturn availability reports and to address generator customer queries.

Building the backbone: A Grid that enables Growth

- Customers and connections
- Our partnership with the TAO
- Our partnership with the DSO
- Grid upgrade projects and public engagement
- Consenting and environment



10 Customers and connections

Connecting new customers is a core part of what we do at EirGrid and requires a significant level of close collaboration and regular communication, so that we can successfully connect our customers to the transmission system, including strategically important conventional and renewable projects, as well as large energy users.

As part of our pre-engagement processes, which differ slightly for our generation and demand customers, we provide guidance to our customers to help ensure that they are adequately informed and prepared to make their way through the connection process (managed in the first instance through our customer clinics). These supports continue through the application stage as we work collaboratively with customers to determine the best connection option for their projects. We also support customers through their connection offer journey.

10.1 Enhanced Engagement

Throughout 2027, we will continue to enhance our engagement with industry and customer stakeholders, strengthening the quality and reach of our interactions. EirGrid remains committed to maintaining and expanding strategic engagement across our customer base.

As part of this effort, all connected customers will be offered at least one engagement during 2027. Focus will be placed on customers who have traditionally had limited engagement with EirGrid, while continuing to provide meaningful and consistent support to those who regularly engage. Within the connection offer process there are many interactions and touch points between customers and EirGrid, and a key focus for us is to ensure we identify and resolve any potential issues as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

This approach is being supplemented by the introduction of an enhanced pre-engagement process with potential customers looking to apply via the new ECP-GSS policy as well as the introduction and ongoing development of an online application portal to facilitate a smoother and more efficient journey throughout the process.

Following the publication of the new Large Energy User (LEU) Connection Policy by CRU and the [Data Centre Connection Offer Process and Policy \(DCCOPPV3\)](#) by EirGrid in 2026, we are implementing and enhancing the new data centre connection application process which now includes clearly defined early engagement and pre-application processes. This will facilitate a more streamlined, predictable and efficient progression through the connection offer process for our data centre customers.

Through these initiatives, we aim to better understand and predict when customers require additional support from EirGrid while providing consistency in our approach in response to the stakeholder panel feedback.

10.2 Account Management Engagements

EirGrid provides a range of bespoke engagements across our customer base including monthly and quarterly customer engagements, webinars and periodic industry body engagements. We also support ad hoc engagement as required for specific issues.

EirGrid Customer Account Managers (CAM) offer dedicated support as well as a single point of contact for customers to raise specific issues, as well as discuss individual requirements throughout the project lifecycle. EirGrid plans to arrange further one-on-one engagements with each of our transmission connected customers at their sites. We will continue to work with our customers throughout 2027 to schedule these visits. Site visits provide a valuable opportunity for EirGrid to engage directly with customers, gain a deeper understanding of their operational environment, and strengthen working relationships. These visits facilitate open discussion on project progress, operational challenges, future plans, and areas where EirGrid can provide additional support across our customer base.

Through these engagements, EirGrid aims to strengthen our working relationships with customers and obtain meaningful feedback that we can use to enhance future engagements.

Our Customer Account Managers also manage the primary relationship with energy industry bodies. We plan to evolve our engagement forums across this group allowing for further opportunities to gather industry feedback while offering access to EirGrid Subject Matter Experts (SMEs).

10.3 Customer clinics

The purpose of the [EirGrid Customer Clinics](#) is to facilitate meaningful engagement between customers and the relevant EirGrid SMEs on proposed grid connection projects, prior to submission of a connection application.

Existing customers seeking to modify their connection or site plans can also request clinic meetings. The objective of the customer clinic is to facilitate early project interaction with EirGrid SMEs before application, providing technical expertise and support to customers. In an effort to continuously improve our engagements, a customer clinic survey is completed after the clinic to ensure feedback is received from the customer with respect to the effectiveness of the clinic. Feedback from these surveys is used to improve and enhance future clinic effectiveness.

As highlighted above, EirGrid is currently implementing and enhancing the new data centre connection application process which now includes clearly defined early engagement and pre-application processes.

Before any customer engagement takes place, the projects are reviewed internally by EirGrid SMEs. During this internal review, project suitability, high level policy compliance, and other key considerations are assessed. Based on the outcome of the discussion, eligible customer projects are then progressed to a data centre customer clinic meeting, where the customer meets with the relevant SMEs to discuss the project in more detail.

In respect of the connection offer process, changes continue to be introduced following the requirement to comply with REDIII and the introduction of ECP-GSS. The new online application portal is being further refined (while incorporating stakeholder feedback) to facilitate a more efficient journey for our customers. Furthermore, our customer engagement is evolving to ensure that customers are better informed and have sufficiently mature projects on application to the process, with customer clinics, early engagement meetings, and connection method options meetings ensuring that EirGrid and the customer can work collaboratively to shape solutions together and identify any issues or opportunities that may be present.

10.4 Measurement of Customer Sentiment

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, EirGrid conducts several customer surveys during the year to monitor customer sentiment and gather feedback on customer experiences.

The annual EirGrid customer survey provides structured insights into how customers experience our services and interactions.

This feedback plays a vital role in identifying lessons learned, recognising areas of good performance that should be maintained, and highlighting opportunities for continuous improvement.

The findings help inform process enhancements and support the ongoing development of our services.

The survey identifies what went well and what should be repeated, in addition to what could have been better and the improvements that can be implemented as a result.

Survey results are circulated, and satisfaction ratings are tracked and presented on extensively internally within EirGrid.

To further enhance the customer experience, a re-format of the customer survey was undertaken in 2026 to streamline the scope of the survey as well as tailor it to individual customers, which allowed for the provision of more meaningful and targeted feedback. We will continue with the re-formatted survey approach in 2027 which allows us to more easily obtain and follow up on feedback on areas that require improvement. The reformatted survey also highlights areas that are working well and where customers are most satisfied.

In addition, EirGrid introduced a new initiative in 2026 where post-engagement satisfaction Pulse check-in surveys were implemented, to allow customers to rate the effectiveness of any recent meetings, interactions or issue-resolutions. Feedback from senior management will also be incorporated into the pulse check-in survey process from Q1 2027 onwards, to support governance and insight.

We have also introduced a metric within our quarterly 'Pulse' check-in survey for heavily engaged customers, to track overall customer feedback trends over time, enabling us to monitor changes in sentiment and measure the impact of improvement initiatives.

These surveys will allow us to more accurately measure and track customer sentiment and trust. We will continue to utilise and enhance these surveys throughout 2027 to ensure we remain in a position to drive change for customers and strengthen working relationships.

A theme from previous surveys has been the request for access to experts within EirGrid through improved engagement and increased accessibility to information. In response, work is currently underway to strengthen engagement between customers and experts, improve knowledge-sharing opportunities, and make information more accessible. This initiative is being actively driven and supported at a senior leadership and executive level, demonstrating a strong organisational commitment to addressing this feedback and enhancing collaboration across EirGrid.

10.5 Customer Information Portal (CIP)

In 2027, EirGrid will drive the creation of a new Customer Information Portal (CIP). The goal of the CIP is to allow customers and stakeholders to obtain relevant data efficiently and consistently. This project is still in its early stages of development and updates will be provided to industry as the project advances.

10.6 Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council (new name TBC)

EirGrid and SONI formed the Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF) Advisory Council in 2022. The council is made up of representatives from across the energy sector including developers of storage, conventional and renewable generators, academia, large energy users, demand response, new technology, gas networks, manufacturing and consultancy. The council meets every four months in Dublin, with every fourth meeting in Belfast.

As of September 2026, 16 of the 32 members were newly invited to join the Council, strengthening the body of experience and expertise within the Council.

Engagement is core to our strategy and this is an important forum for discussing our initiatives for overcoming key strategic challenges while gaining insight and consideration from across the electricity system.

As a result, we are currently in the process of enhancing this forum while extending its focus to beyond 2030.

10.7 Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP)

The focus of the Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP) is to increase outage availability, and to maximise utilisation and effectiveness of these outages. EirGrid and ESB Networks have been working closely on this as a priority and in December 2023, a [joint communication](#) was published which outlines the 18 specific interventions across the 7 workstreams which are now the focus of the JOTP.

In 2024, EirGrid set up the Tri-Party Forum as part of the JOTP Customer and Industry Workstream. This forum consists of EirGrid, ESB Networks and industry representatives and meets on a quarterly basis to discuss challenges, improvements, lessons learned and best practices. These engagements are already helping to streamline the customer connection delivery process, reducing delays and ensuring the timely delivery of new customer projects.

(Please see the chapter on ‘Our Partnership with the TAO’ for more information on workstreams within the Joint Outage Transformation Programme).

11 Our partnership with the TAO

The principal engagement channels between EirGrid and ESB Networks in the Grid Infrastructure Delivery area include joint committees, closely aligned teams, specialist working groups and digital workspaces to deliver on annual and multi-year programmes of work, such as the Transmission Infrastructure Delivery (TID) and the Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP).

11.1 Transmission Infrastructure Delivery (TID)

EirGrid and ESB Networks continue to collaborate to deliver the most ambitious investment plan ever undertaken on the Irish transmission system. The Transmission Infrastructure Delivery (TID) framework provides a jointly developed view of transmission infrastructure projects being developed and delivered during the PR6 period (2026-2030), and beyond.

The TID framework reflects an enhanced joint forecast developed by EirGrid and ESB Networks and integrates, where possible, end-to-end delivery requirements including project development, consenting processes, outage requirements and resource planning into a single prioritised delivery plan. This approach supports greater transparency, improved stakeholder visibility and enhanced collaboration across the transmission infrastructure lifecycle.

Quarterly TID updates provide stakeholders with progress information on active transmission infrastructure projects and monitor delivery against key project milestones, including EirGrid Capital Approval, Project Agreement with ESB Networks, Initial Energisation (where applicable) and Final Energisation. These milestones provide a consistent framework for tracking progress and communicating delivery expectations throughout the PR6 period.

11.2 TSO/TAO Multi-Year Joint Incentive Plan 2027-2030

EirGrid and ESB Networks continue to collaborate through the PR6 TSO/TAO Joint Incentive framework to improve the delivery of transmission infrastructure and enhance outcomes for customers. The incentives promote joint working across technology deployment, process improvements, asset and programme data exchange, and project development activities.

To support the incentive framework, EirGrid and ESB Networks have developed two complementary multi-year plans that set out how the organisations intend to deliver the objectives of the PR6 joint TSO/TAO incentive framework over the 2027-2030 period.

- **The TSO/TAO Joint Incentive Plan** focuses on improvements and deployments in new technology, infrastructure portfolio processes, data exchange and joint project development milestone performance.
- **The TSO/TAO TOP Delivery Incentive Plan** focuses on outage delivery performance and the continued implementation of outage transformation initiatives.

Maintaining two separate plans reflects the distinct objectives, deliverables and assessment criteria associated with each incentive. Through regular engagement, governance forums and collaborative initiatives, EirGrid and ESB Networks continue to work together to support the efficient delivery of the PR6 programme, improve transparency and strengthen coordination across the transmission project lifecycle.

11.3 Digital Collaboration

Section 12 of the Infrastructure Agreement requires the TSO and the TAO to operate effective information exchange arrangements. Along with the TAO, EirGrid has been actively embracing new digital technologies and has jointly committed to the CRU that effective information exchange requirements will be achieved through enhanced digital collaboration. This work is progressing as part of the Joint TSO/TAO incentive and will continue in PR6.

Digital collaboration, developing and sharing necessary IT systems between separate organisations, is challenging. The Process, Systems, and Information (PSI) Charter signed by the TSO and the TAO in December 2023 outlines the principles to design, develop, deliver and embed an ecosystem integration approach which enables seamless collaboration and information exchange to deliver the required interfaces and functionality across multiple processes, datasets and workstreams in both the TSO and the TAO. Since January 2024, the TSO and the TAO have jointly designed, developed and embedded joint dashboards and reporting for the Transmission Outage Programme and the Integrated Transmission Programme. Work will continue in PR6 to advance these aims and objectives.

11.4 Working Groups/ Forums

11.4.1 TAO/TSO Joint Committees

There are a number of Joint TSO/TAO committees in operation which are outlined below. These committees provide channels of regular joint engagement and collaboration on project and programme development and delivery issues.

TAO/TSO Joint Committees							
Committee	Operational Services Committee	Network Delivery Committee	Maintenance Policy & Standards Committee	Procurement Strategy Committee	TSO-DSO Committee	Health & Safety Committee	External Engagement Committee

11.4.2 Infrastructure Delivery Charter

EirGrid and ESB Networks approved the Infrastructure Delivery Charter in January 2021. This Charter sets out the principles by which the two organisations engage with each other and underlines a shared commitment to working together with enhanced collaboration. To support the implementation of the Charter, a Network Delivery Committee (NDC) and a reconstituted Joint Project Management Office (JPMO) were established. These committees continue to operate effectively in PR6.

11.4.3 Network Delivery Committee (NDC)

The Network Delivery Committee (NDC) provides management oversight for end-to-end project delivery and improvements. Providing a channel of regular joint engagement and collaboration to ensure project delivery is operating effectively and address issues where necessary.

11.4.4 Joint Programme Management Office (JPMO)

The key purpose of the JPMO is to improve PR6 end-to end delivery, accelerate the delivery of the 2030 programme and ensure the timely delivery of all key milestones from the issuing of EirGrid's Indicative Programme to Project Energisation and Completion. The operation of a JPMO and other agreed processes are important aspects of TSO/TAO cooperation and collaboration to identify and implement improvements that assist in improving and increasing project delivery.

12 Our partnership with the DSO

12.1 Joint System Operator Programme (JSOP)

The Joint System Operator Programme (JSOP) was established in 2021 by the TSO and DSO to ensure that the system operators are working together in a collaborative and effective manner to jointly address system needs and deliver whole system solutions. The programme has a robust governance structure to ensure continuous engagement between the system operators. This includes weekly project management meetings, as well as monthly management meetings and quarterly executive meetings, as well as ad-hoc arrangements, as required.

12.2 TSO-DSO Operating Model Working Group

In order to advance progress on the TSO-DSO Operating Model, representatives will continue to meet regularly through the TSO-DSO Operating Model Working Group. The aim of this group is to progress core operating model design activities and design the required developments for implementation.

12.3 SOEF Advisory Council (new name TBC)

The DSO is represented on the Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF) Advisory Council and likewise EirGrid is represented on ESB Networks' Distribution Markets and System Operation (DMSO) Advisory Council.

12.4 Quarterly executive meeting

These quarterly executive meetings allow our continued alignment with ESB Networks as DSO across a number of strategic objectives. Together, the TSO and DSO use these engagements to share updates and address key issues.

12.5 Risk preparedness and emergency planning

Regular and timely communications, coordinated with ESB Networks (as DSO) and GNI, are vital for ensuring the response to incidents on the power system that could impact security of supply in the energy sector. EirGrid works closely with ESB Networks and GNI in enhancing crisis communications protocols and messaging for a variety of potential risks to security of supply.

EirGrid and ESB Networks also regularly update and test our joint crisis messaging plan, which supports the energy sector response to power system emergencies under the Power System Emergency Communications Plan.

(For more information on this, please see our chapter on security of supply.)

12.6 Infrastructure Agreement Operations Panel Meeting

EirGrid and ESB Networks engage regularly via the Infrastructure Agreement Operations Panel Meetings to coordinate operational aspects of the transmission and distribution systems including outages, emergency planning, procedures and number of other initiatives.

12.7 TSO-DSO ongoing engagement

EirGrid and ESB Networks (as the DSO) collaborate on an ongoing basis to plan and develop Ireland's power system. EirGrid is responsible for ensuring that electricity can flow from generation sources, via the high voltage transmission system, to the distribution system which connects domestic, commercial and industrial customers.

To connect new DSO generation, demand and / or transformers, EirGrid enters into specific System Operator Connection Agreements. Together, ESB Networks and EirGrid engage in joint cooperative studies to design solutions in order to meet the evolving needs of electricity users.

A key joint focus in our work is to minimise the overall costs of the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity to final customers.

The above engagements are in addition to all of the other regular engagements that EirGrid and ESB Networks undertake to ensure continued, close coordination of the planning and operation of the Transmission and Distribution Systems.

13 Grid upgrade projects and public engagement

Engaging with the public and other stakeholders is essential for our work. It is only with public and stakeholder support that we can achieve our climate action targets and secure a sustainable supply of electricity for future generations.

Our Public Engagement Strategy outlines how we develop relationships on-the-ground and get feedback on projects before they start so that we can achieve better outcomes for all.

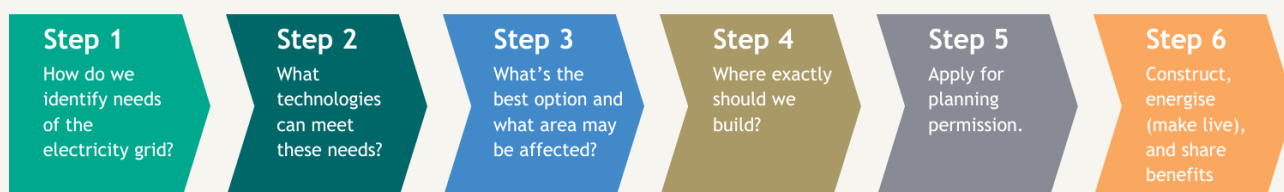
Before we develop or upgrade the grid, we engage with landowners, community representatives, interest groups, local stakeholders to better understand both their needs and the local area, while also sharing information in a timely and inclusive manner.

Finally, we are always looking to improve our stakeholder engagement and continue to work innovatively while incorporating feedback on the work that we do.

13.1 How we approach engagement

As part of our approach, we use a consistent, six-step process as a framework 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. Engagement with the public, local communities, landowners and other stakeholders typically takes place during steps 3 and 4, and again at steps 5 and 6 on our Community Benefit funds.

Engagement with our customers, the wider energy industry and statutory and other stakeholders can take place at every step.



Six-Step Grid Development Process.

For each key project or initiative, we also use a bespoke engagement plan which identifies the channels we will use to provide information to our stakeholders. In terms of public engagement, these can include:

- Establishment of community forums for all major grid projects.
- Emails to customers and stakeholders.
- Project brochures, newsletters and updates.
- Letters to landowners and statutory bodies.
- One on one meetings.
- Information days.
- Community events.
- Advertising in local and national press, on social media channels and other digital platforms.
- Providing information via our website.

For grid development projects, our stakeholder engagement also includes promotion in public locations and open days in the local area where members of the public can meet the project team and have their queries addressed. Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback in multiple formats including feedback forms online and at open days, through forums and webinars and by email or letter. Stakeholders can also engage directly with a dedicated Community Liaison Officer (CLO) or Agriculture Liaison Officer (ALO) for each grid development project. Customers can engage directly with their Customer Account Manager.

13.2 Community engagement

Through effective stakeholder engagement, we aim to achieve continued support of our work and ensure delivery is aligned with project timelines.

We also aim to build awareness about EirGrid's work and our mission to achieve better outcomes for all. A key part of this is to build knowledge in the community so that stakeholders have a strong understanding of how enhancing the grid is supporting our national climate ambitions.

Finally, building strong relationships across the regions where we are active is extremely important to us at EirGrid. Not only so that we can build trust but also so that we can ensure the right working relationships are in place to facilitate future acceptance, development and delivery.

13.3 Community and Dublin industry forums

Through our Community and Industry Forums, we help to ensure that those being impacted have regular opportunities to directly feed into the planning of the work proposed in their area.

Each community forum is independently chaired, and membership includes representatives of local community groups as well as local county councillors and chamber of commerce members. Our stakeholder forums include:

- **Community Forums** (various across all new grid development projects)
- **The Powering up Dublin Business Forum** (The Powering Up Dublin Business Forum provides a forum for dialogue between stakeholders and the EirGrid project team. Members represent the views of local businesses in relation to Powering Up Dublin and provide feedback and guidance on local needs and priorities. The reports for these meetings are published on the [Dublin Programme website](#) capturing the feedback from both forums making it publicly available. **Number of members: 10**)
- **Powering Up Dublin Stakeholder Engagement Forum** (This is a unique forum for Powering Up Dublin and brings together stakeholder managers from a number of different public bodies who operate in and around the city. **Number of members/bodies: 8**)
- **The Dublin Infrastructure Forum** (The Dublin Infrastructure Forum give us the opportunity to work closely with other state agencies and statutory bodies to share ideas and information on planned infrastructure works across the city. **Number of members: 45**)

(Please see our chapter on Consenting and Environment for more information on the Dublin industry forums).

13.4 Community benefit funds

- We recognise the importance of local communities in supporting our grid development projects and because of this, EirGrid set up the Community Benefit fund scheme. Through this scheme, we empower each Community Forum to fund various renovation and enhancement projects in their local area.
- Each Community Forum collectively decides on how the funding will be best spent with the money often going towards opportunities to support both the physical and mental wellbeing of the local community.
- Through this vital scheme, we're able to actively give back to the areas that are impacted by our work.
- In 2027, we foresee a number of major funds opening for applications including Kildare, Meath and Dublin (dependent on construction commencement).

13.5 Landowner engagement

Landowner engagement is key to overall acceptance and delivery of grid infrastructure. EirGrid has a Land Management Unit with a team of Agricultural Liaison Officers (ALOs) who engage with landowners on projects at the earliest stages of development. We engage with landowners when seeking to route or

place all infrastructure. The role of the ALO is to provide project information to landowners, and to understand the specific interests and constraints with regards to each individual landholding. By developing this knowledge, the ALOs are able to work closely with landowners to gather feedback and address any queries or concerns raised with regards to proposed transmission projects.

13.6 Engagement with fishing communities

EirGrid's dedicated Fisheries Liaison Officer engages with the fishing community specifically on future offshore projects. The fishers are a key stakeholder in the development of offshore energy. EirGrid is also part of the Seafood ORE Working Group - a group established by government to facilitate discussion on matters arising from the interaction of the seafood and offshore renewable energy industries, promoting best practice and encouraging liaison with other sectors in the marine environment.

13.7 Energy Citizen Roadshows

These events, in partnership with ESB, SEAI and supported by relevant local authorities, are aimed at informing local communities on how EirGrid plans to future-proof the electricity grid, while sharing information on microgeneration, home retrofitting, energy upgrades and regional energy development issue.

We will look to host a series of strategic Energy Citizen Roadshows in 2027 while further enhancing the format to allow for better engagement between attendees and panellists.

14 Consenting and environment

EirGrid proactively engages with relevant statutory stakeholders such as planning authorities and other prescribed bodies to ensure EirGrid's projects are consistent with national, regional and local planning policy. We do this via the following two formats:

1) Pre-Application consultation and engagement

EirGrid engages in specific pre-consultation with the relevant consent authority (An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and/or the relevant planning authorities) for all our planning applications. EirGrid also engages with prescribed bodies, environmental and other stakeholders such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Through our engagement, we work to ensure that any constraints or opportunities can be considered and incorporated into the final planning application proposal, which will ensure its robustness and is intended to ensure its efficient and timely progress through the consenting system.

2) Planning engagement

EirGrid's planning team prepares a Grid Implementation Plan (Grid IP), currently every five years. This is a national-level plan, which is subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Its preparation and timebound updating mirrors the statutory development plan-making process followed by planning authorities, including publishing a draft for public consultation, and ultimate adoption. However, it is by its nature a strategic plan that reflects the scope and planning approach taken for the National Planning Framework (NPF). Initial work on scoping the SEA of EirGrid's next Grid IP will commence in 2027.

At a regional level, EirGrid has prepared and published three Strategic Frameworks for Grid Development, to reflect the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) prepared by the three Regional Assemblies, and which must, by law, cascade to the local planning system. These plans provide a comprehensive picture of planned grid development at national and regional levels, along with our approach to design, consenting, environmental protection and restoration, and project delivery. We are in the process of

engaging with the regional assemblies as they are updating their RSEs. This early engagement provides the opportunity to ensure that future regional planning frameworks support the delivery of secure, sustainable and resilient electricity grid infrastructure, required to meet national climate and energy targets and promote coordinated planning across public bodies. Finally, at a more local level, EirGrid is also developing a number of project-specific framework documents.

14.1 Engagement with environmental groups

At EirGrid, restoration of Ireland's nature, and preservation of Ireland's cultural heritage is as integral to our strategy as decarbonisation. In pace with the acceleration of grid delivery, we are scaling up our action for environmental protection and restoration across all disciplines from ecology and landscape to natural heritage and noise.

We proactively work with specialist environmental groups on knowledge sharing, research partnerships and innovation to ensure we leave a positive planning and environmental legacy.

EirGrid's Biodiversity Strategic Plan (2025-2026) sets out EirGrid's ambitious ten-year policy vision to support Government objectives outlined in the Fourth National Biodiversity Action Plan.

14.2 Planning, Environment and Biodiversity Engagement

EirGrid engages regularly with international, national and regional forums on specific matters of planning and environmental practice, legislation and policy, and technical innovation. Key Stakeholders include the Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature, the Renewable Grid Initiative, the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage, and the Environmental Protection Agency. In response to the twinned and inter-dependent climate and biodiversity emergency, and enabled by EirGrid's inhouse Ecologists, biodiversity is a particular focus of these engagements. EirGrid's inhouse Planning team is active in collaboration with other State infrastructure developers and relevant stakeholders to ensure the timely and sustainable delivery of critical State infrastructure in the interest of the common good.

Transforming for clean energy

- Energy research
- Future networks
- Sustainability



15 Energy research

Through extensive engagement, EirGrid aims to cultivate innovation across our organisation and share insights on the latest research to support our progress. These channels include industry advisory boards as well as engagement with various academic institutions, forums and panels.

15.1 Innovation report

EirGrid's Annual Innovation Report provides a transparent overview of completed and ongoing projects, strategic priorities, and emerging initiatives.

The 2026 Annual Innovation Report (to be published in 2027) will detail projects from the year 2026. This report will outline completed projects, detail our work with external bodies, highlight publications of research papers while documenting research ideas for future exploration, as well as provide updates on ongoing projects.

15.1.1 Select Planned Research Activities for 2027:

Project Title	Details and outcomes
Trinity College Dublin Electrical Engineering Programme Research	This programme of research includes four master's research projects focused on transmission network optimisation, renewable energy hub design, offshore grid architecture and AI-driven contingency analysis. Expected outcomes include improved network utilisation methodologies, enhanced understanding of security-of-supply options for renewable energy hubs, insights into offshore grid development pathways, and evaluation of machine learning techniques for power system planning studies. Engagement will be in the form of supporting and guiding the students and providing relevant expertise and insights.
University College Dublin Energy Storage Master's Research	Master's research focusing on investigating battery energy storage operating envelopes and optimisation strategies for the Irish power system. Expected outcomes include recommendations on storage deployment, operational constraints and grid support opportunities for future renewable electricity systems. Engagement will be in the form of supporting and guiding the student and providing relevant expertise and insights.
University of Galway AI for Offshore Infrastructure Research	Undergraduate research exploring the use of AI and machine learning to analyse marine survey data relevant to offshore infrastructure. Expected outcomes include automated data interpretation methods and improved support for offshore planning and asset development decisions. Engagement will be in the form of supporting and guiding the student and providing relevant expertise and insights.
CRIE: Climate Adaptation and Extreme Weather Resilience of Highly Renewable Irish Electricity Networks	Active PhD/Postdoctoral programme with Trinity College Dublin focused on climate resilience, extreme weather impacts and AI-enabled planning and operations.
Rinn Energy	EirGrid is an industry partner in Rinn Energy, a major Research Ireland centre jointly coordinated by University College Dublin and University College Cork. This body of work includes PhD activity on energy-system decarbonisation, flexibility and renewables integration. EirGrid's engagement will be in the form of scoping and supporting EirGrid

	specific research projects and sitting on any relevant industry advisory boards.
LEGACY - Long Life High Voltage Subsea Cable Systems	This is a research project with the goal of increasing the electrical lifetime of lead-free wet design extruded cable, led by SINTEF Energi AS - a research organisation in Norway. This is an important project for EirGrid in building up our expertise in the ownership of offshore transmission assets and will deepen our understanding of innovative technologies to enhance the resilience of the Irish power system. EirGrid's engagement will be in the form of supporting the project with relevant knowledge and expertise and by attendance at regular meetings and discussions.
Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)	EirGrid has collaborated with EPRI on various projects and will continue doing the same in 2027. EirGrid is actively involved in the area of Bulk System Integration of Renewables and Distributed Energy Resources, which will allow EirGrid to learn from the experts across the world and use knowledge gained to help us in the transition to a cleaner energy future.

15.2 EirGrid Research Forum

The Research Forum is a cross-functional, internal knowledge-sharing platform that EirGrid holds on a monthly basis to support, coordinate and prioritise research and innovation across the organisation. It plays a central role in aligning research initiatives with EirGrid's Innovation and Research Strategy, ensuring strategic coherence and cross-departmental collaboration. The Forum membership includes subject matter experts and delegates from various business areas. While the forum is primarily an internal co-ordination platform, external stakeholders are invited to certain meetings to present relevant research, fostering broader engagement and knowledge exchange. The forum is responsible for the decisions relating to issuing Letters of Support to promising external research when they align with EirGrid's strategic goals.

15.3 Letters of Support

EirGrid has a long tradition of supporting research in HEIs, RPOs and industry. As part of this work, EirGrid regularly provides letters of support for their funding applications and will continue to do this throughout 2027. By assessing and signing letters of support for projects that are particularly relevant to the energy industry, we aim to support research in areas that will go on to support the development of the power system as we work towards to our climate ambitions.

15.4 CleanerGrid

CleanerGrid is EirGrid's annual competition for third level students. It engages undergraduate and Master's-level students across Ireland in addressing real-world challenges related to the clean energy transition. Participants are invited to submit technical proposals and compete for prizes awarded to both individuals and their institutions.

The competition culminates in a live finale at EirGrid's offices, where shortlisted teams present to a panel of judges that feature external experts. The event fosters dialogue between students, professionals, and EirGrid staff, and showcases innovative thinking aligned with national and EU energy goals. This initiative strives to raise awareness of the work we do at EirGrid, as well as increase the company's academic engagement while supporting our sustainable energy vision. In 2027, we expect to further deepen the academic relationships established through CleanerGrid, with some of the former academic supervisors of

CleanerGrid teams evolving into research partners and collaborating with EirGrid through the provision of letter of support for funding calls.

EirGrid will launch the fourth iteration of the CleanerGrid competition in Q4 2026. The theme for CleanerGrid 2027 is “Powering Up the Energy Citizen”. EirGrid will host the finale of the fourth CleanerGrid competition in Q1 2027.

15.5 Supporting undergraduate and master’s students

Supporting and collaborating with undergraduate and Master’s students through student placements and research projects, builds awareness of EirGrid’s role by providing students and supervisors with an opportunity to engage with challenging and topical research questions. This provides significant value to EirGrid by building early rapport with prospective employees. It helps to support EirGrid graduate and internship programmes by creating potential employment routes for talented students.

In 2027, 11 Masters-level research projects are planned with 8 different academics across 5 third level institutions.

15.6 Thesis Showcase

EirGrid hosts in-person Thesis Showcase events, inviting students and researchers whose projects have received support from EirGrid (e.g. via letters of Support, funding or collaboration). These events present the outcomes of externally supported research and foster direct dialogue between researchers and EirGrid.

15.7 Surveys and feedback mechanisms

Feedback is a critical component of EirGrid’s Innovation and Research strategy.

In 2027, insights gathered from participants in the CleanerGrid competition and academic partners will be systematically reviewed to inform and improve future initiatives.

Post-event surveys, informal feedback sessions, and structured debriefs will also be used to assess the effectiveness of engagement activities, identify areas for enhancement, and capture emerging needs from the academic and early-career communities. This feedback loop ensures that EirGrid’s innovation and research programmes remain responsive, inclusive, and aligned with stakeholder expectations. By embedding continuous improvement into our engagement processes, we aim to strengthen relationships, increase participation, and deliver greater value to all stakeholders.

15.8 PhD open day and networking event

EirGrid periodically hosts PhD networking events to promote our innovation activities, research priorities, and career pathways. This channel supports open dialogue, knowledge sharing and future collaboration.

15.9 Network of European TSO Trainees

In 2027, EirGrid will continue our active participation in the Network of European TSO Trainees (NETT) which is a collaborative initiative that connects early-career professionals across European Transmission System Operators (TSOs).

NETT represents a strategic channel for fostering cross-border knowledge exchange, cultivating future leadership, and strengthening EirGrid’s visibility within the European innovation ecosystem. Each year,

EirGrid nominates two graduate representatives to join the NETT Board, contributing to initiatives such as NETT Talks (online events featuring energy leaders), the annual NETT Conference, and inter-TSO exchange programmes.

These engagements not only support the professional development of EirGrid’s graduates but also ensure that Irish perspectives are represented in shaping the future of energy collaboration in Europe. These engagements allow EirGrid to reinforce our commitment to innovation, diversity, and European collaboration.

15.10 Research Papers and Publications

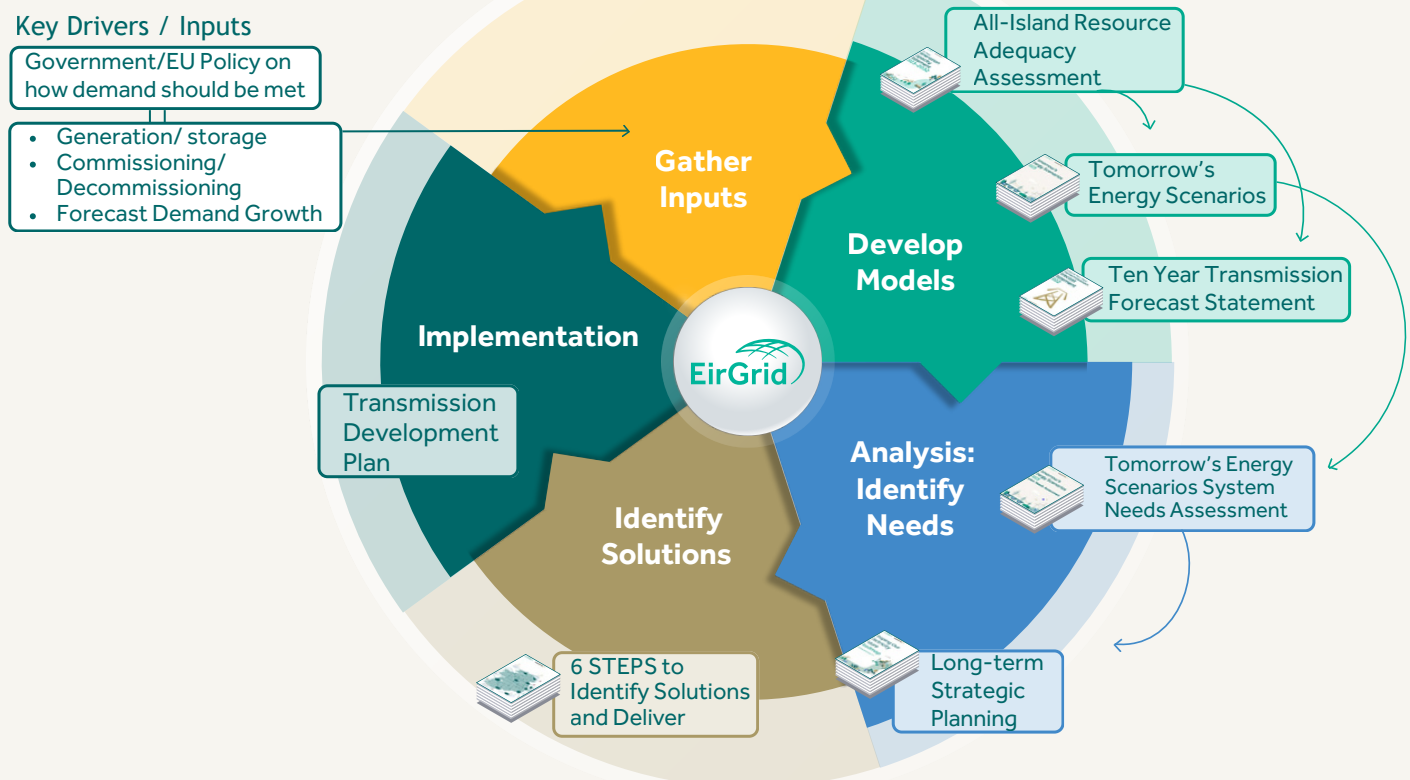
The publication of research papers authored by our staff, and our academic partners, provides an external, peer-reviewed assessment of research activities and outputs, which is very valuable.

Publishing papers allows key messages and topics to be accessible to a wide audience and has the potential to support discussion and debate and inform policymaking.

16 Future networks

As the Transmission System Operator (TSO) for Ireland, EirGrid has a unique role to play in transforming our power system to meet the needs of today as well as the future. As we continue working towards obtaining 80% of our energy from renewable sources in line with Government targets, we are also working towards meeting the national climate objectives in the run up to 2050. Meeting these decarbonisation targets, while providing a secure electricity supply will be very challenging. And continued collaboration with all of our stakeholders is vital for allowing EirGrid to transform the power system for future generations.

Our planning documentation



EirGrid's high-level planning cycle showing key inputs and drivers as well as associated planning documentation outlined as outputs from their associated stage

As part of our work, EirGrid carries out a series of planning activities. This process facilitates a range of key documentation as outputs.

Each of these documents captures different aspects of our work, at different stages of the planning process.

This process is cyclical and uses a continuous stream of up-to-date data as input which allows us to accurately plan and adjust according to the latest relevant insights and policy.

The aim of this process is to guide and inform EirGrid's infrastructure planning from Government policy, all the way to project implementation.

Engagement across our planning documentation varies in line with the aim of each document. Engagement can include consultations, information sharing, bilateral meetings and calls for input.

We also engage DCEE and CRU at regular intervals to share updates and published documents.

16.1 Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios (TES) Engagement Process

EirGrid is exploring scenarios of what Ireland's future power demand and generation portfolio could look like. With growing demand for electricity and increasing penetration of variable renewables on the system, it is clear that Ireland will need significant expansion of network capacity and system flexibility.

As part of this work, EirGrid will be developing our next Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios publication. In 2027, EirGrid will engage and consult with stakeholders, for example, on key inputs and options for consideration. We propose to run a series of targeted calls for evidence covering the key inputs and modelling assumptions.

The calls for evidence will be followed by a final consultation on the draft TES document. Each of the calls for evidence will be focused on a specific subject area, with the objective of rapidly gaining feedback and concluding model inputs.

16.2 Green hydrogen and energy storage development

In 2027, EirGrid plans to continue to engage with key stakeholders examining the potential for green hydrogen and energy storage in Ireland. This will explore the future interaction of hydrogen with the electricity system, its potential to provide a fuel for peaking generators, as well as the wider development of the hydrogen economy.

Engagement will include EirGrid's crucial role on the National Hydrogen Programme Taskforce. EirGrid will continue to collaborate with various stakeholders within the taskforce and work towards the implementation of the National Hydrogen Strategy.

Further engagement will likely include meetings and workshops with Government, Gas Networks Ireland, SEAI and academic institutions, to understand the potential future demands and opportunities for production, transmission storage and supply of green hydrogen, associated renewable fuels and other options for energy storage. These engagements will also complement and inform the development of EirGrid's long-term planning.

16.3 International collaboration

In 2027, EirGrid will continue to engage with the IEA to help support the successful integration of renewables while continuing to ensure power system security. Building on active engagements and presentation to international expert audiences in the IEA, this engagement will continue in the coming year.

16.4 Power system research and studies

In 2027, EirGrid will continue to engage with academia and bodies undertaking research relevant to strategic planning for Ireland's transmission networks and energy systems. This will include engagements with national, regional and local authorities and development bodies, industry associations and academic institutions.

EirGrid will continue to contribute to technical reviews of offshore capability and readiness in collaboration with SEAI, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and specialist High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) equipment manufacturers. In collaboration with SEAI and other stakeholders, EirGrid will support the development of SEAI's Decarbonised Electricity System Strategy (DESS).

Studies have shown that electricity demand is anticipated to grow throughout the energy transition. EirGrid will engage with statutory and industry bodies exploring future energy demand, in particular relating to Large Energy Users (LEUs) such as data centres, electrified transport and heating.

16.5 European Network Planning - Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP)

In 2027, EirGrid will continue to work alongside other European TSOs to identify future system needs and assess the development of the European transmission system via ENTSO-E's TYNDP development process.

This engagement will help ensure that Irish long-term network needs, including increased interconnection and offshore renewable development, are appropriately reflected in European planning and support Ireland's energy transition objectives.

17 Sustainability

A just transition to a decarbonised world requires specialist skills, developed across society. Collaboration with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) focused partners to support opportunities for students can enable the workforce of the future to develop the critical skills needed. For EirGrid, this means focusing on strategic partnerships and collaborating on research, as detailed below:

17.1 Partnerships and key stakeholders

We engage with our sustainability partners, including Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) and SciFest, to promote collaboration that leads to impactful environmental, social, and governance (ESG) initiatives. Through these strategic partnerships, we aim to create meaningful change by supporting communities, advancing sustainable education initiatives, and promoting responsible business practices. Our goal is to leverage these collaborations to enhance our ESG impact, create shared value, and contribute to a more sustainable and equitable society.

Additionally, EirGrid collaborates with a variety of stakeholders and industry peer groups to exchange knowledge and share key learnings related to our sustainability strategy and other sustainability matters including sustainability reporting and our obligations under the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive. EirGrid is a member of the Ibec Sustainability Leaders Forum Group, which meets regularly to share insights and benefit from a network of sustainability leaders. We also maintain regular engagement with other Commercial Semi-State bodies, with a particular focus on the Commercial Semi State Climate Action Framework with NewEra.

17.2 Business in The Community Ireland (BITCI)

EirGrid is proud to partner with Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI). Through our membership and participation in a range of BITCI initiatives, including the Business Working Responsibly Mark, the Elevate Pledge, and community and education programmes, we demonstrate our commitment to responsible business practices and community engagement. We engage regularly with BITCI through quarterly updates and programme-specific activities and reporting requirements.

17.3 Education partners

EirGrid engages with a broad range of education stakeholders to support programmes across the full education lifecycle, from Primary Level with Green Schools to Secondary Level with SciFest, BITCI, and Third Level with Cleaner Grid and DCU Access.

17.4 SciFest

The SciFest STEM programme promotes science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) education and provides a platform for students to present their scientific investigations at local, regional and national levels. EirGrid is a Project Partner with SciFest which sees the EirGrid Cleaner Climate Award presented at the SciFest@School, SciFest@College and the SciFest National Final.



Unlocking New Frontiers: Offshore and Interconnection

- Offshore



18 Offshore

18.1 Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce (OWDT)

In 2022, a cross-departmental Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce (OWDT) was established to accelerate and drive delivery and capture the wider and longer term economic and business opportunities associated with the development of offshore renewables in Ireland. EirGrid is a member organisation of this Taskforce.

The Taskforce has developed the Offshore Wind Energy Programme (OWEP) to coordinate activities ongoing across Government in relation to offshore wind and to identify all aspects of work on the critical path, gaps, areas of duplication, opportunities and risks.

EirGrid manages the delivery of actions under Workstream 5 - Grid Development / Licencing of the OWEP in consultation with CRU and DCEE.

18.2 European Network of Transmission System Operators (ENTSO-E)

ENTSO-E plays a key role in developing the pan-European electricity grid and cross-border markets to achieve the ambitious European decarbonisation goals by 2050. Through ENTSO-E, EirGrid engages actively with TSOs across Europe to tackle the key challenges brought about through decarbonisation, in particular, offshore resource development as well as market integration and maintaining system security.

ENTSO-E operates many committees covering a wide range of relevant areas including markets, research and innovation, system development, system operations and technology. Despite being relatively small compared to many European TSOs, EirGrid contributes to several of these committees, and to the supporting workgroups. This is to ensure that the issues that are most important to Ireland such as the development of offshore transmission infrastructure, or the market arrangements within the UK, are taken forward in way that supports wider Irish goals. For the development of offshore grid infrastructure in particular, EirGrid's interaction with other TSOs through ENTSO-E will help enable renewable resources in Ireland to contribute to wider European goals.

18.3 Offshore TSO Collaboration (OTC)

The OTC is a collaborative forum of nine member states in the North Seas region, focused on accelerating the development and implementation of an offshore grid to support the realisation of our national goals.

(Find out more about our engagement with ENTSO-E and the Offshore TSO Collaboration in the European, Government and Policy Engagement chapter.)

18.4 Phase 1 Coordination

EirGrid established the Phase 1 Coordination group in 2024. This coordination group comprises five subject matter working groups attended by both EirGrid and the *Phase 1 projects namely, Operation and Maintenance, System Operations, Asset Transfer, Technical and Legal. Each of these subject matter working groups have a list of deliverables. Oversight and progress tracking of these deliverables is undertaken monthly with the phase 1 projects and EirGrid, these meetings started in June 2025.

The aim of the coordination group is to complete the key grid related actions and associated milestones required by the Phase 1 Projects to meet their Final Investment Decision.

**Phase 1 relates to the developer-led approach to the development and construction of offshore transmission assets. These will be completed by developers before they are transferred to EirGrid*

ownership. Therefore, it's important to note that EirGrid does not participate in the stakeholder management and in particular the public consultations by the developers.

18.5 Powering Up Offshore South Coast (Phase 2 Tonn Nua)

In March 2023, the Irish Government published their Statement on the Framework for Phase Two Offshore Wind, identifying EirGrid as the developer of new offshore grid transmission infrastructure.

As a result, EirGrid initiated The South Coast Offshore Transmission Project ([‘Powering Up Offshore South Coast’](#)) which is the first state-led offshore renewable electricity connection in Ireland.

As part of the South Coast Offshore Transmission Project, EirGrid plans to develop offshore electricity substations and associated undersea electricity cables. This new infrastructure will bring the power generated by offshore windfarms into our national electricity grid. This will help deliver up to 900 MWs of additional electricity generated by offshore wind farms off Ireland’s south coast.

(For more information on the planned engagements with regards to this project please see our chapter on public engagement.)

18.6 Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment (DETE) engagement

EirGrid recognises the considerable multifaceted economic opportunity which the development of offshore renewables presents to Ireland and as such we remain active members of the DETE Offshore Wind Industry Forum.

In addition, as part of the commitments made under Powering Prosperity, EirGrid is working with other state agencies, Enterprise Ireland and the IDA. A Memorandum of Understanding was agreed with IDA and Enterprise Ireland in March 2025 to formalise this co-operation and to mutually ensure that the economic impact of offshore wind development is best harnessed for Irish companies.

18.7 Wider stakeholder engagement

EirGrid continues to engage with stakeholders across Ireland to discuss the potential for offshore development and listen to stakeholder views. This includes engagements with national, regional and local authorities and development bodies, industry associations and academia. Our activities in the coming business year also include further engagement with operations and maintenance service providers to support future offshore operations.

EirGrid also works with stakeholders such as the Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI), the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and specialist HVDC (High Voltage Direct Current) equipment manufacturers in carrying out technical reviews of offshore requirements, and to help identify and develop solutions that might be used to enable Irish offshore generation development.

For example, we are working closely with SEAI on its Decarbonised Electricity System Study (DESS) to model future network requirements.

18.8 Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS) Auctions engagement

The ORESS Auctions Team meets regularly with DCEE, CRU and EirGrid key stakeholders to agree the design, rules and eligibility of the Offshore Renewable Support Scheme Auction. Regular engagements like these are vital to ensure the pipeline and delivery of RES-E as per the Government Climate Action Plan and EirGrid's Shaping our Electricity Future roadmap.

(For more information on our auction engagements, please see our chapter on long-term auctions and market participant engagement.)

18.9 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Enterprise Ireland and the IDA

As outlined in the Government's 'Powering Prosperity - Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy', this MOU aims to deepen cooperation and collaboration between the three agencies, to support the development of the Irish offshore wind sector, with a focus on attracting inwards investments, enhancing opportunities for companies in the offshore wind sector, including training in the area of public procurement tendering, and building the supply chain required for the delivery of Ireland's target of 37 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind energy by 2050.

18.10 Environment and biodiversity engagement

EirGrid engages regularly with international, national, and regional forums on specific matters of environmental practice, legislation and policy, and technical innovation. Key stakeholders include the Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature, the Renewable Grid Initiative, the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage, and the Environmental Protection Agency. In response to the twinned climate and biodiversity emergency, and enabled by EirGrid, biodiversity is a particular focus for these engagements.

18.11 Engagement with fishing communities

EirGrid's dedicated Fisheries Liaison Officer engages with the fishing and marine community specifically on future offshore projects. Fisher men and women, along with the marine community, are key stakeholders in the development of offshore energy. EirGrid is also part of the Seafood ORE Working Group - a group established by Government to facilitate discussion on matters arising from the interaction of the seafood and offshore renewable energy industries, promoting best practice and encouraging liaison with other sectors in the marine environment.

(For more information this, please see our chapter on grid upgrade projects and public engagement.)