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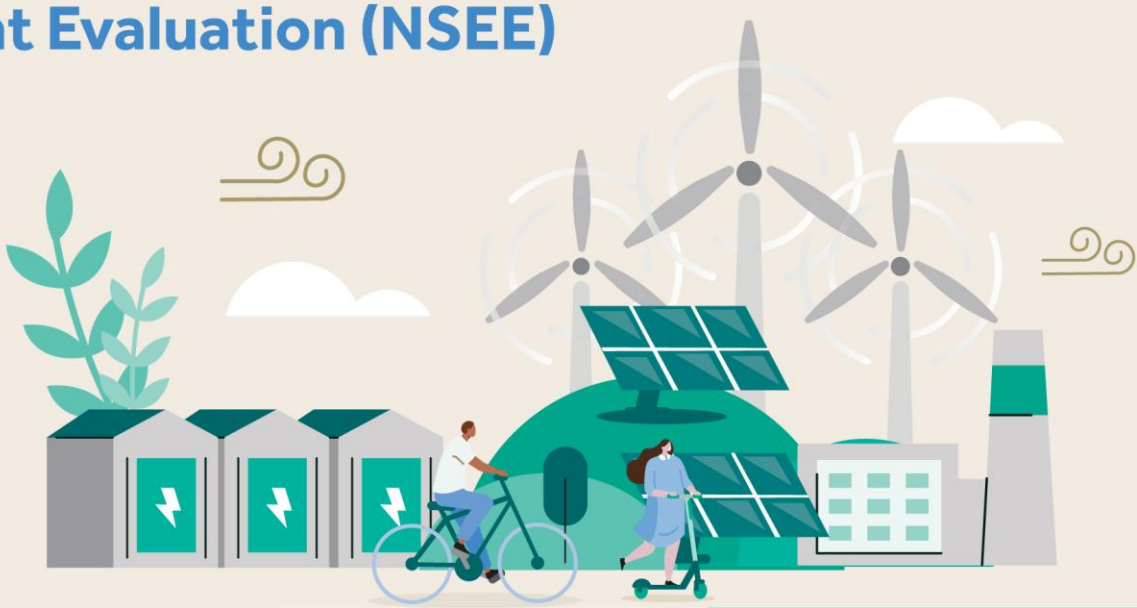
Stakeholder Engagement Report 2025



Networks Stakeholder Engagement Evaluation (NSEE)



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Please note, the timelines in this document refer to the calendar year:

Q1 = January - March

Q2 = April - June

Q3 = July - September

Q4 = October - December

1. Introduction

About this report

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.

This report details our stakeholder engagements throughout 2025 with a focus on the outcomes of these engagements. Effective engagement is pivotal to our work and by reflecting on the success of these engagements, we're able to further tailor our approach.

We will continue to be influenced by stakeholder feedback across industry, society and statutory bodies so that we can deliver positive change for all.

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 plan focuses on our engagement within our remit as a TSO and is a requirement under PR5 CRU/20/154, the CRU's Price Review 5 Regulatory Framework, Incentives and Reporting Decision Paper and will continue under the Price Review 6 (PR6) arrangements.

EirGrid's Corporate Strategy

EirGrid's current corporate strategy period of 2020-2025 is now coming to a close. EirGrid Group is currently finalising its Corporate Strategy 2026–2030. As part of the development of this strategy, EirGrid has been working closely with stakeholders to ensure that stakeholder needs and views are captured and taken into account as we develop our plans. The new corporate strategy will help to shape our work for the next five years and will highlight the key focus areas for the organisation for this period.

EirGrid's Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Over the course of 2024, EirGrid greatly enhanced our stakeholder engagement documentation to make it much more structured and detailed, and this was positively received by our stakeholders. In 2025, EirGrid continued to develop our stakeholder engagement strategy in line with the above-mentioned corporate strategy. This work is currently being finalised.

Foreword



I am pleased to present the EirGrid 2025 Stakeholder Engagement Report. This document captures our stakeholder engagement activity in 2025 as Ireland's transmission system operator.

The programme of work we are undertaking across networks, markets and operations has grown in both scale and complexity. It will only be delivered through effective engagement and collaboration with stakeholders across the sector.

In 2025, EirGrid progressed a number of significant infrastructure projects across our Network Delivery Portfolio, with particular focus on our highest priority infrastructure programmes and projects, which were identified as delivering the greatest benefits to the grid and our stakeholders.

Our Powering Up Dublin programme saw major progress with the handing over of four key projects to our delivery partner ESB Networks. We also launched public engagement activities for our Powering Up The North West and Powering Up Wicklow programmes, which will strengthen the grid, integrate more renewable energy, and meet rising electricity demand in the region, supporting economic growth and development.

Our engagement with key stakeholders across the South Coast throughout the year has been vital in allowing EirGrid to progress key offshore and interconnection projects including the Celtic Interconnector project and the Phase 2 Tonn Nua project. As part of this work, EirGrid's close collaboration with marine stakeholders has been crucial and has also enabled the co-creation of various solutions.

EirGrid also made a significant amount of progress on our Strategic Markets programme ahead of the reintegration of the SEM with the broader European electricity markets on completion of the Celtic Interconnector. Our Future Markets Industry Workshops are a key channel for collaboration with industry representatives and provide updates on the programme.

In addition to the above, a key focus for 2025 was the development of EirGrid's Group Corporate Strategy 2026-2030 (to be launched H1 2026). This process involved engagement with stakeholders across the sector to inform the development of the strategy and to ensure their needs and views are captured..

In addition to this, EirGrid also engaged closely with the CRU and other key stakeholders throughout the year regarding the PR6 process, the final determination for which was published in December 2025. PR6 funding will be vital in enabling EirGrid to deliver an unprecedented amount of new infrastructure over the coming years, supporting the delivery of Government policy in key areas such as housing, climate and industry.

By prioritising stakeholder engagement across all of our programmes of work, we aim to ensure that stakeholders have the opportunity to inform our decision making.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all of the valuable engagement throughout 2025 look forward to continued collaboration into the future.



Errol Close
Chief Corporate Services Officer at EirGrid Group

2. Our Network Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Who we are and what we do

EirGrid as Transmission System Operator develops, manages and operates the transmission grid in Ireland. The grid transports power from where it is generated to where it is needed. EirGrid is also leading the secure transition of the electricity grid to a sustainable low-carbon future.

The grid brings power to industry and businesses that use large amounts of electricity. It also powers the distribution network, run by ESB Networks, which supplies the electricity used in homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and farms.

We are regulated as a monopoly service provider. We perform our services for the benefit of every electricity user and to support the economy. We ensure that electricity is always available when and where it's needed, every second of every day, and for the decades to come. We do this cost effectively and in the interests of all electricity users.

EirGrid, as Market Operator in Ireland, jointly with SONI, as Market Operator in Northern Ireland, run the all-island wholesale electricity market (Single Electricity Market) through the contractual joint venture Single Electricity Market Operator (SEMO), ensuring electricity users always have reliable power at a competitive price. We do this in the most cost-effective way possible, in the interests of all electricity users. The Single Electricity Market Operator (SEMO), a joint venture between SONI and EirGrid, are responsible for administrating and settling the single electricity market.

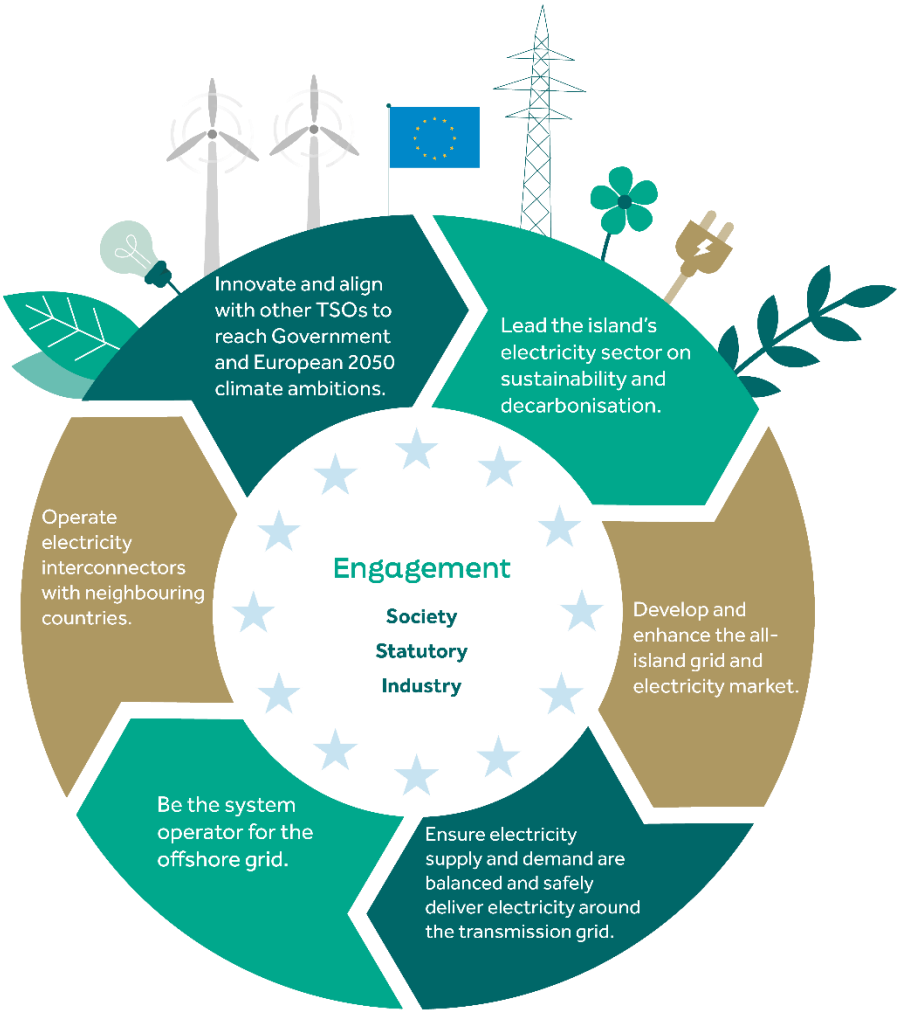
In October 2022, the Utility Regulator (UR) and the CRU respectively re-designated SONI and EirGrid as a Nominated Electricity Market Operator (NEMO) in Northern Ireland and Ireland respectively. The NEMOs, working together as SEMOpx, provide day-ahead auctions and intra-day coupling arrangement for trading in the Single Electricity Market.

The Irish Government's Climate Action Plan places offshore wind power at the centre of the State's commitment to producing 80% of our electricity from renewable sources in line with Government targets. EirGrid has been tasked to develop, operate and own the offshore transmission grid infrastructure that will bring the power generated by offshore windfarms into our national electricity grid.

EirGrid is responsible for developing and operating interconnections with neighbouring grids, such as with the National Grid in the UK via the East West Interconnector. We have future interconnections underway with Northern Ireland (via the North South Interconnector) and France (via the Celtic Interconnector). We also enable interconnections developed and operated by third parties, such as the Greenlink Interconnector. 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.

Connected for progress

At EirGrid, we proactively engage with society, industry and statutory stakeholders across Ireland and continental Europe. Collaboration is fundamental to allowing EirGrid to achieve our targets while driving positive change for all.



Our Corporate Strategy

Ireland needs more electricity, and it needs to be cleaner. EirGrid has a unique role to play in transforming the power system and making Ireland renewable ready.

Our 2020-25 strategy was informed by climate change goals and the necessary transition to a low carbon, renewable future. For the strategy to work and achieve these goals, we need a stronger, more flexible electricity grid.

This means more pylons, more overhead lines, more substations and more underground cables. To secure our electricity today and ensure a stable future for the generations to come.

EirGrid Group is currently finalising its Corporate Strategy 2026–2030. As part of the development of this strategy, EirGrid has been working closely with stakeholders to ensure that stakeholder needs and views are captured and taken into account as we develop our plans. The new corporate strategy will help to shape our work for the next five years and will highlight the key focus areas for the organisation for this period. Our new strategy will be published in H1 2026.



Our 2020-25 Corporate Strategy.

Our stakeholder engagement strategy

Effective stakeholder engagement is essential in allowing EirGrid to transform the power system for future generations and is built into our corporate strategy via the following supporting goals:

Working with stakeholders for positive change & engage for better outcomes for all

We recognise the need for collaboration and open dialogue with all of our stakeholders in order to achieve our goals. As well as engaging with those who are impacted by what we do, we work every day with those who own and build grid transmission assets. We are guided by Government and regulators, and work in partnership with them to realise Government policy.

Enhance the all-island grid and market

To ensure that power and market system operation and development is safe, secure and reliable, we engage on a day-to-day basis and collaborate regularly with our customers, industry representative bodies and other key stakeholders. Through regular, timely and effective stakeholder engagement, we aim to deliver our services in a way that embodies both efficiency and innovation.

Our values

Effective engagement is pivotal to each and every function across our organisation and is underpinned by the EirGrid values. These values embody our sentiment and approach when engaging with all of our stakeholders as well as each other.

We are transparent	We are collaborative	We are accountable	We are ambitious
We are open, honest and proactive in our communications.	**We work with our colleagues and our external partners to deliver for our stakeholders.**	**We are confident in our capabilities and are clear on our boundaries.**	**We stretch ourselves to accomplish our goals.**
Transparency builds **Trust**	Collaboration generates **Success**	Accountability enables **Empowerment**	Ambition delivers **Performance**

Our engagement principles

We developed the EirGrid engagement principles to inform better outcomes in our decision making.

These principles form the basis for all engagement with industry, customers, communities and members of the public.

Meaningful	Inclusive	Consistent	Collaborative	Reciprocal	Transparent
Involve stakeholders as early as possible.	**Provide information in plain English that is accessible.**	**Provide enough time for people to contribute their views.**	**Offer clear opportunities for engagement.**	**Explain decisions and factors that influence those decisions.**	**Communicate with everyone who has engaged with us and explain how feedback shaped our eventual decision.**

How do we engage?

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

Whilst there are often regulatory or other factors involved in decision-making, we are open to, and want to actively encourage, collaboration with our stakeholders to develop solutions and new approaches together.

The engagement spectrum

The engagement spectrum is a tool we commonly use to categorise the different approaches to engagement. It enables us to understand how a decision can be influenced and to select the best methods for effective stakeholder involvement. It is important that we are clear with our stakeholders about the level of influence that is possible on any topic to ensure we have a shared understanding of the purpose of our engagement and that engagements are always transparent.



The Engagement Spectrum.

EirGrid's approach to engagement is always tailored. We consider the varying levels of technical understanding of the stakeholders being engaged as well as the nature of the project or initiative.

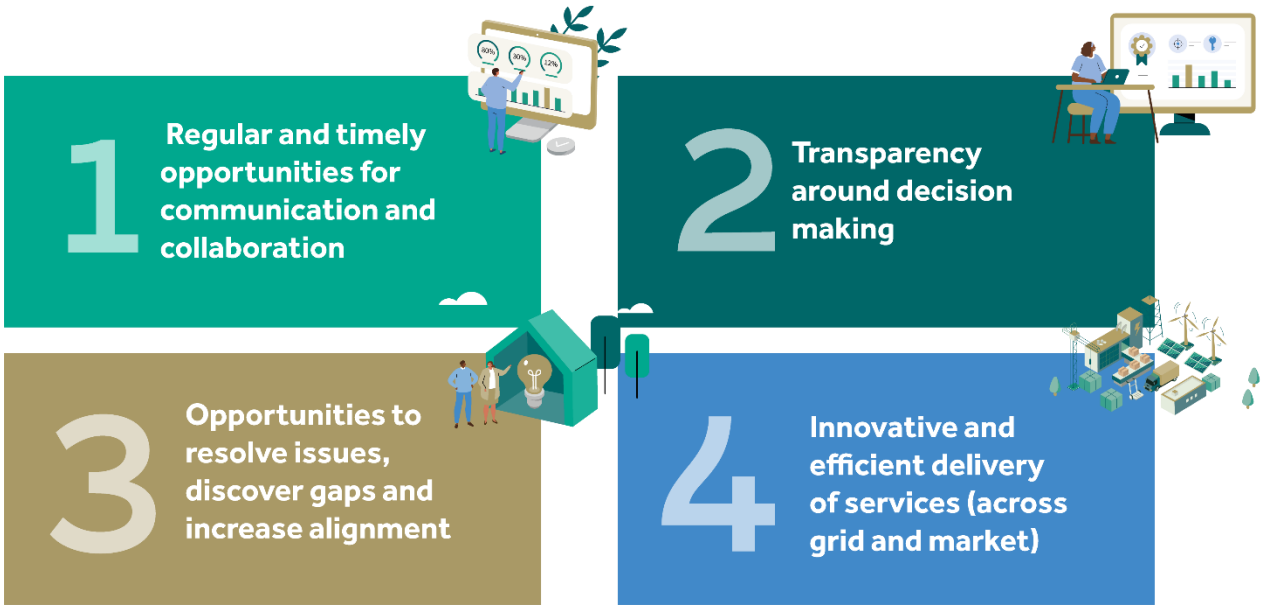
For each key project or initiative, we also use a bespoke engagement plan which identifies the channels we will use to provide information to our stakeholders. These can include:

- Direct contact to customers and stakeholders via email and phone
- Providing project brochures and updates via email, website and direct delivery
- Establishment of community forums for all major grid projects
- Active participation in industry / trade conferences engaging directly with developers and suppliers
- Hosting and participating in industry forums, working groups and workshops
- Advertising in local and national press
- Providing information via our website
- Advertising and amplification on EirGrid social media channels
- Advertising on other digital platforms
- Letters to landowners and statutory bodies
- Providing spokespeople for discussions on broadcast media (national and regional)
- Providing spokespeople for interview in print media (national and regional)
- Conducting webinars
- Customer surveys

Stakeholder engagement key focuses

Effective stakeholder engagement is centred around ensuring that those who are impacted by our work have the opportunity to influence an outcome before a decision is made, while understanding EirGrid's regulatory obligations.

By actively engaging with all of our stakeholders, EirGrid aims to provide the following:



Who are our stakeholders?

EirGrid's stakeholder environment is dynamic given the constant changes that occur in the energy ecosystem. Recognising and understanding our stakeholder's changing needs, demands and interests, allows us to improve our engagements by tailoring the activities to address specific stakeholder requirements. To promote inclusivity, we perform this mapping exercise at a granular level, which ensures we capture all our stakeholders. These stakeholders include:

Industry

Our customers include those directly connected to the transmission system. Some customers generate electricity from conventional or renewable sources. Other customers have a high demand for electricity, which only the transmission system can provide. Others provide the services necessary for operating the transmission system, such as demand side and storage units. Interconnector customers provide energy and system services to other electricity systems. We also engage with the electricity suppliers and stakeholders with an interest in the operation and enhancement of the transmission system.

EirGrid aims to deliver quality services to customers and other industry stakeholders within our regulatory constraints. We respond to a wide range of needs across the wholesale energy sector in Ireland. We recognise that many of our customers are key to achieving 80% of Ireland's electricity needs from renewable sources and a low carbon electricity system through:

- Electricity generation
- Electricity storage
- Electricity suppliers
- Interconnection
- Additional technologies
- The supply of necessary services to operate the system securely, especially at times with high penetration of generation from renewable sources.

The Maritime Area Planning Act and the Government's 'Policy Statement on the Framework for Ireland's Offshore Electricity Transmission System' has tasked EirGrid with the development and ownership of a new offshore electricity grid. This introduces an even more diverse range of stakeholders with whom EirGrid will be engaging over the coming years. EirGrid will build on existing relationships with offshore windfarm developers, supply chain organisations, engineering firms, specialist consultancies, Government agencies and the Seafood-ORE Working Group to develop and deliver a new offshore electricity grid. Engagement with customers and other industry stakeholders is important for us to shape how we meet the evolving needs of our customers, and how we plan, develop and operate the transmission system.

Statutory and other

We engage with:

- Businesses,
- Academia,
- Industry representative organisations,
- NGOs and not-for-profit organisations,
- Political authorities, and
- Statutory and other state bodies at all levels.

This helps us to get the insights of those with a specific interest in our plans or on a specific issue. It also ensures that we are engaging on the policy that affects our operations and therefore our customers.

We engage with many special interest groups across many areas such as environment, tourism and heritage. We also engage with relevant Government departments on a regular basis.

Society

EirGrid puts communities at the heart of our decision making when delivering grid infrastructure. When we consider grid development, we consult with local landowners, local communities that may be affected and the general public. This includes:

- Individual landowners or companies that own land,
- Members of local communities,
- Businesses and groups, and
- Local authorities and elected representatives.

The grid requires unprecedented change in the lead up to 2030 and beyond. To support this, we have proportionately increased our engagement with landowners and communities. Learning how best to grow and enhance our engagements is an ongoing key priority.

As we continue working towards Government targets, we will need to continue to develop new grid infrastructure — more than in the last ten years. It's important that we gain the support of individual landowners, their neighbours, and their wider communities in the areas where we are delivering strategic infrastructure. Early engagement is vital to ensure that people's concerns are listened to. We endeavour in all cases to work closely with stakeholders to ensure, where it is possible, that we optimise the most deliverable projects through engagement with local communities.

Stakeholder list

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

	Stakeholder Group	Including
INDUSTRY	Customers	Generators, interconnectors, large energy users, energy suppliers, demand-side aggregators, energy storage providers
INDUSTRY	Energy Industry	Distribution System Operator (DSO), Transmission Asset Owner (TAO) Gas Networks Ireland, Industry Representative Groups, Sectoral Representative Groups, Developers, Suppliers
INDUSTRY	Transmission System Operators (TSOs)	Réseau de Transport d'Électricité (RTE), National Energy System Operator (NESO) and others
INDUSTRY	Industry Bodies	Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC), American Chamber, Chambers Ireland, French Chamber, British-Irish Chambers, Business in the Community Ireland, Wind Energy Ireland (WEI), Irish Solar Energy Association (ISEA)
SOCIETY	Communities, landowners, Elected Representatives, Voluntary & Community Organisations	Communities with major infrastructure projects, elected representatives, and others
SOCIETY	Education Partners, Electricity Consumers, Energy Citizens, the Public	Broader societal engagements & partnerships
STATUTORY	Government and Government Agencies	Relevant departments and relevant agencies
STATUTORY	European Union (EU)	European Commission, European Parliament, European Council
STATUTORY	Government Advisory Boards	**Ireland:** Climate Change Advisory Council, National Competitiveness Council, National Economic and Social Council (NESC), Heritage Council. **UK:** Climate Change Committee (CCC,UK)
STATUTORY	Local authorities	Local councils, planning authorities, City and County Managers Association (CCMA)
STATUTORY	Public agencies	Relevant public agencies
STATUTORY	Infrastructure	Iarnród Éireann, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Uisce Éireann, Roads Management Office (RMO),
STATUTORY	Regulatory	Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), Single Electricity Market (SEM) Committee, Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM), French Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE), URNI (Utility Regulator Northern Ireland), Commissioners of Irish Lights

OTHER

Stakeholder Group	Including
Media	Print (regional & national), broadcast (regional & national), trade, financial, farming, marine, digital and social
NGOs	Friends of the Earth, Irish Farmers' Association (IFA), Irish Environmental Network, SciFest, Young Social Innovators (YSI), An Taisce Green Schools
Technology Partners	Third-party technology providers creating, maintaining, and supporting the hardware and software technology solutions and services that enable the existing and future grid and market operations
Think Tanks, Research and Policy Institutes	The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA), International Energy Agency (IEA), European Policy Centre (EPC), Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), Irish Research Council (IRC) CIGRE (International Council on Large Electric Systems)
Academia	Universities and research bodies
Chartered Institutions	Engineers Ireland, Chartered Accountants, Planning Institute, Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)
Non-Political - Europe	European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E), Coordination of Electricity System Operators (CORESO), Registered Gas Installers (RGI), European Investment Bank (EBI), Joint Allocation Office (JAO), European Subsea Cable Association, ACER



Improving our stakeholder engagement

EirGrid TSO's performance in relation to the Price Review 5 (PR5) Stakeholder Engagement Incentive[1] is assessed annually by the NSEE Panel.

In considering our approach to this plan we have taken into consideration the Network Stakeholder Engagement Evaluation (NSEE) Panel's feedback and recommendations for the TSO (as documented in the 2024 Close Out Report) as we continue to build and strengthen our stakeholder engagement strategy and activities.

We have highlighted some of the key initiatives that EirGrid is already working towards, relevant to these recommendations, below:

Developing our approach to stakeholder engagement

Further information regarding benchmarking would be useful to gather a greater perspective of the engagement work being completed by EirGrid. Internal benchmarking should be clearly conducted to compare performance and metrics and practices within the TSO to help identify best practices and areas for improvement. It would be beneficial for the report to document if engagement is in line with best practice. This would be helpful particularly in relation to international benchmarking and knowledge exchange.

As we continue to enhance the stakeholder experience, EirGrid has been proactively engaging with other TSOs, not just across Europe but on a global scale, to share insights regarding stakeholder engagement best practice. As we develop our new corporate strategy and corresponding stakeholder engagement approach, we will take these observations into account.

It was recommended for the TSO to be more specific about how mechanisms are used to keep stakeholders informed and how responses are monitored and reported within EirGrid. Furthermore, it would be useful to see how engagement mechanisms are monitored and reported within the company and across different workstreams, for example, if learnings in one area are utilised for other projects.

As we continue to develop the EirGrid stakeholder engagement strategy, one of our key focuses is to ensure consistency and clarity across all of our engagements. For example, EirGrid has continued to enhance the Future Power Market Workshops which has been positively received by participants. As a result, EirGrid is now reflecting many of these enhancements across other areas of the business including the Market Operations User Group (MOUG).

It was also recommended that EirGrid could conduct regular independent sentiment or trust assessments with stakeholder groups.

As our new corporate strategy is being developed and a corresponding stakeholder engagement approach, EirGrid notes this recommendation to conduct a regular independent sentiment or trust assessment.

In May 2025, Stakeholder Engagement team invited Market Participants to share their feedback through our first Market Operator User Group (MOUG) survey. We received positive feedback and valuable suggestions, many of which can be brought forward to future meetings. The results of the survey were shared at September's MOUG meeting here.

Going forward, we plan to issue further surveys to continue gathering participants' feedback and to ensure their suggestions are reflected in upcoming meetings. In turn, this will help strengthen our engagement with market participants and build strong, collaborative relationships.

[1] Section 7.7 of CRU/20/154, the CRU's PR5 Regulatory Framework, Incentives and Reporting Decision Paper sets out detail regarding EirGrid TSO's PR5 Stakeholder Engagement Incentive.

For more information on the MOUG participant survey and the outcomes, please see the Case Study section of this report.

EirGrid's public engagement

For public and community engagement, the TSO appears to be employing innovative approaches and is active across the country engaging with diverse communities including landowners, farmers and fisheries. There may be scope to draw on these communities to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of their engagement activities including community forums and community benefit funding.

In December 2021, to comprehensively evaluate the impact of community engagement activities on the construction of electricity infrastructure in Ireland and its effect on the acceleration of the wider energy transition, EirGrid launched a three-year research programme with the MaREI Centre research team. MaREI is the world-leading Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine, coordinated by the ERI at University College Cork.

The aim of the project was to explore EirGrid's evolving public engagement strategy through empirical and qualitative research, and to map and benchmark it against international trends and examples of public engagement with energy grid infrastructure. This included drawing multidisciplinary insights on public engagement with interconnectors, an area that has received limited attention worldwide. The project also sought to assess the impact of community benefit funding using a comparative analysis of three different case studies in Ireland.

The premise was that Ireland's energy transition demands more than just technical grid infrastructure upgrade but also calls for a deep societal shift in how communities engage with and benefit from energy systems. Through the STEPS project, researchers examined how EirGrid is placing public engagement at the heart of its infrastructure strategy to help achieve this change. They worked alongside, shadowed, attended, and critiqued the extensive engagement carried out by EirGrid, speaking directly with stakeholders and communities, comparing international approaches, and examining the impact of these actions through multi-disciplinary research methods.

Key findings included:

- Community Benefit Funds are seen as valuable tools for supporting affected communities and promoting grassroots climate action but require stronger capacity-building and alignment with long-term national sustainability goals.
- Effective engagement requires strong organisational support and alignment between strategic goals and local initiatives.
- EirGrid's six-step process and community forums offer inclusive spaces for dialogue, enabling communities to help inform EirGrid's work while supporting broader sustainable development goals.
- Interconnector research benefits from a multidisciplinary lens, incorporating cultural and heritage perspectives to deepen community engagement.

Critically, the project also produced recommendations for long term public engagement development, including impact evaluation guidance and strategies to foster energy citizenship.

In conclusion, the research highlights the importance of early, inclusive, and adaptive community engagement in the delivery of Ireland's energy transition. MaREI's research will help EirGrid refine its approach, ensuring that collaboration with communities continues to evolve robustly and strengthen as Ireland moves toward a more sustainable energy future.

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EirGrid's industry engagement

TSO to demonstrate more senior management support of the stakeholder engagement strategy, to review progress, unblock issues and commit resources. It would be beneficial if the TSO illustrated how stakeholder engagement is endorsed by the senior leadership team and how they are actively involved in supporting the strategy.

EirGrid's stakeholder engagement is fully endorsed by our executive team who meet regularly with industry stakeholders to ensure their insights and feedback continue to be captured at a senior level.

In addition to our regular engagement, members of the EirGrid executive team have also been engaging with customers and representative bodies to ensure industry stakeholders are actively involved in supporting the development of the 2026-2030 EirGrid Group Corporate Strategy.

The Panel recommended that the TSO should demonstrate clearer market participation and engagement in connection policy and process. The effort needs to be timelier and more transparent. This should be improved through the continued engagement with industry representatives to receive input on the existing connection offers process in regard to RED III Directive and Enduring Connection Policy. It was noted that the TSO should continue to improve collaboration and engagement for projects in all stages of the connection process.

Regarding the REDIII Directive, in December 2024 and in January 2025, EirGrid met with industry representatives seeking input on the existing offer process from experienced customers and from industry representative groups following the REDIII Directive and publication of the Enduring Connection Policy – Generator and System Services ('ECP-GSS') Direction. Initial feedback and concerns were provided by industry stakeholders to help shape our new process proposal that was submitted to the CRU on January 31st, 2025. This will introduce a new High Level Technical Assessment ('HLTA') process, to accelerate offer process timelines and allow for earlier engagement.

Through these engagements, EirGrid aims to better understand the requirements of our stakeholders as well as provide an opportunity to incorporate feedback where we can, whilst offering clarity regarding our regulatory obligations and objectives.

In respect of the connection offer process, changes are being introduced following the requirement to comply with RED III and the introduction of ECP-GSS that will see a two-stage clinic process to ensure that customers have sufficiently mature projects on application to the process. The two-stage clinic will allow for meaningful early engagement and the opportunity to identify issues earlier in the process. A new online application portal will also facilitate a smoother journey for customers.

A Panel member suggested that the TSO should consider creating a "Renewables Industry Liaison Group", for large scale-scale developers and offshore developers, to enable renewables to have an improved engagement with the TSO.

EirGrid agrees that continued collaboration is key. A working group was originally set up and facilitated by CRU and EirGrid attended with other key stakeholders. Should this forum be reinstated, EirGrid would be very willing to engage again. In the meantime, EirGrid continues to engage with customers and industry stakeholders across a number of different fora.

The TSO should provide a schedule of all upcoming consultations as far in advance as possible to enable stakeholders to plan effectively.

EirGrid understands the need for effective planning and preparation regarding consultations. As such, all known consultations for the year ahead are included at the end of each Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

EirGrid also endeavours to allow ample time for industry to respond to any additional consultations, while also ensuring the consultation is complete within the timeframe set.

EirGrid's innovation projects

It was noted that 22 research projects were supported in 2023 but there was no information provided on project numbers for 2024. It would be beneficial if the metrics could be provided for 2024 and previous years, with key findings from these projects.

In March 2025, EirGrid published our Annual Innovation Report which documented EirGrid's innovation and research progress made in 2024. This report covered 32 projects in detail, of which 9 were completed in 2024 (calendar year)[2]. Before publication, EirGrid conducted a consultation, where stakeholders were invited to review the draft report and respond to specific questions.

The 2025 Annual Innovation Report is due to be published in 2026 and will focus on 30 of these projects in detail.

In 2025, EirGrid also published 6 research papers and worked with over 20 external bodies, documenting 50 ideas for future exploration.

In response to stakeholder feedback, we've included a range of research outputs from our key innovation projects in 2025 in the Energy Research chapter of this report.

[2] For more detail, please see the following link: 2024 Annual Innovation Report.

2025 highlights

Effective stakeholder engagement plays an essential role in enabling EirGrid to transform the power system for future generations. In 2025, we made significant progress across a range of workstreams. Here are some of the highlights from the past 12 months:

Grid upgrade projects and public engagement

- In 2025, EirGrid drove extensive engagement with fisheries and marine stakeholders to support the first phase of marine and coastal surveys as part of the Powering Up Offshore South Coast project.
- EirGrid also facilitated significant collaboration and efficiencies regarding the delivery of key Dublin infrastructure projects via the Dublin Infrastructure Forum (see our 2025 Case Studies).
- EirGrid commenced expansive engagement in the North West as we continue to drive the delivery of vital grid infrastructure in this area.

Customer and connections

- In 2025, EirGrid increased the number of customer clinics to give customers more opportunities to consult EirGrid experts at an early stage in their projects.
- We also introduced an enhanced pre-engagement process for potential customers looking to apply via the new ECP-GSS policy.
- EirGrid's continued enhancement of our customer experience saw increased tailored and in-person engagements such as the above-mentioned pre-engagement process, but also the market intelligence exercise which involved a significant level of bespoke, in-person engagements with industry stakeholders (see our Case Studies section for more information).

Enduring Connection Policy (ECP)

- EirGrid drove significant engagement with industry representatives on a monthly basis to gather feedback as well as share insights and updates in relation to ECP.
- In 2025, EirGrid also modelled an additional 6 scenarios (15 scenarios in total) to support industry stakeholder needs.
- EirGrid's efforts to engage with industry while incorporating stakeholder feedback into our methodology and modelling process has been well received in 2025.

Operating and developing the grid and market

- In October 2025, EirGrid published the LDES Procurement mechanism consultation paper which is a key milestone in supporting Ireland's decarbonisation objectives.
- EirGrid also delivered the annual generator committed outage programme for 2026 to support continued coordination between EirGrid and industry stakeholders.
- EirGrid also completed our first annual MOUG participant survey to support our work to enhance these sessions while continuing to meet stakeholder needs.

European, Government and policy engagement

- EirGrid continues to liaise with Government stakeholders, including established key Taskforces and Working Groups, in particular the Accelerating Infrastructure Taskforce (established in 2025) 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.
- EirGrid also contributed strongly to the Accelerating Infrastructure Report and Action Plan, published in December 2025, to help drive the efficient delivery of infrastructure across Ireland.
- Work also commenced to support the Irish Presidency of the EU Council in 2026.

- In 2025, EirGrid increased our activity both at EU and global level. Key areas of focus included European Parliament, as well as our work to support the development of the ISON model where EirGrid has the opportunity to share knowledge and key learnings with our peers internationally.

Offshore

- In March 2025, following an extensive public consultation process, EirGrid published the Powering Up Offshore – South Coast Step 3 Engagement and Consultation Report.
- In March 2025, EirGrid along with IDA and Enterprise Ireland signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formally capture our commitment to ensure the economic impact of offshore wind development is best harnessed for Irish companies.
- In November 2025, EirGrid successfully completed the first phase of marine and coastal surveys supporting the development of the Tonn Nua area of the Irish Government's South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan (SC-DMAP).
- EirGrid also completed the ORESS Tonn Nua auction registration, qualification and auction which concluded in November 2025.

Our partnership with the Transmission Asset Owner (TAO)

- As of the end of 2025, nine of the eighteen interventions have successfully moved into business-as-usual operations within TSO and TAO, resulting in the Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP) reaching 50% completion.
- The Q3 2025 Network Delivery Portfolio contained a total of 391 projects that reported on the three key milestones of Capital Approval, Project Agreement and Energisation.
- In 2025, we completed early engagement on 14 projects, and we initiated early engagement on a further 6 new projects.

Our partnership with the Distribution Systems Operator (DSO)

- In 2025, significant work has been delivered by EirGrid and ESB Networks to continue development of the TSO-DSO operating model detailed conceptual design.
- In December 2025, EirGrid and ESB Networks engaged with industry stakeholders to update them on the progress of future TSO-DSO Operating Model, which included overviews of the 4 key concepts within the design and an update on plans for implementation.
- Through enhanced collaboration, EirGrid and ESB Networks have continued to drive progress across our joint workstreams.

Security of supply

- EirGrid published our Winter Outlook in October 2025, which shows the substantial mitigation of winter adequacy risk provided by non-market capacity procured under the CRU Security of Supply Programme.
- 7 Margin Warnings were communicated by EirGrid during 2025 when the system would have entered Alert State without the benefit of the available non-market Temporary Emergency Generation (TEG) Units and Retained Existing Units (REU) secured under the CRU's Security of Supply Programme.
- In 2025, EirGrid led an energy sector exercise with GNI, ESB Networks, DECC, CRU, and the National Oil Reserve Agency (NORA). A subject matter expert from Portugal joined the exercise as an observer, providing valuable insights into the response in Portugal to the Iberian Peninsula incident in April 2025.
- EirGrid published the All-island Resource Adequacy Assessment for the first time in March 2025 following a European-wide consultation which invited input from over 15 bodies across the energy sector.

Energy research

- In 2025, EirGrid published 6 research papers and worked with over 20 external bodies, documenting 50 ideas for future exploration.
- In March 2025, EirGrid published our Annual Innovation Report which detailed the progress made across 32 different innovation projects, 9 of which were completed in 2024.
- EirGrid's CleanerGrid competition continued to be a success in 2025 and facilitated our work in strengthening academic relationships while engaging future talent.
- A record number of EirGrid papers have been accepted by CIGRE for the 2026 Paris Conference which is the biggest of its kind in the world.

Sustainability

- In 2025, EirGrid achieved the Business Working Responsibly Mark, certifying our organisation for the next three years.
- EirGrid also retained the National Transport Authority Gold Smarter Travel Mark with 85% of EirGrid employees commuting via sustainable modes in 2025.
- In 2025, EirGrid continued our partnership with SciFest through sponsorship of The Cleaner Climate Award, actively engaging with students and educators to promote innovative solutions for a sustainable future.
- 2025 saw EirGrid's first academic year as sponsor of An Taisce Green-Schools Energy theme. As part of this initiative, EirGrid engaged with secondary and primary schools across the country to build awareness of our work as well as Ireland's climate objectives.

Strategic planning and future networks

- In 2025, EirGrid engaged with statutory and industry bodies exploring future energy demand, in particular relating to Large Energy Users (LEUs) as well as electrified transport and heating.
- EirGrid also supported the development of SEAI's Decarbonised Electricity System Strategy (DESS).
- Through close collaboration with key stakeholders, EirGrid progressed the development of the 2026 Transmission Development Plan.

3. 2025 Case Studies

2025 case studies

In response to the NSEE Panel's recommendation in the 2024 Close Out Report, we have included below a suite of case studies which are new for this year's report. These aim of these case studies is to capture a broad range of engagements along with the key focuses, channels and outcomes.

Topics covered include:

- Dublin Infrastructure Forum collaboration
- Fisheries engagement
- Joint System Operator Programme engagement
- Market Operator User Group survey
- Biodiversity project engagement
- Market Intelligence Exercise
- Celtic conversations

Case study one: Dublin Infrastructure Forum

Overview	**Strategic context / background information:** The Dublin Infrastructure Forum (DIF) was established by EirGrid in 2022 to support the coordination, planning, development and monitoring of key infrastructure projects, jointly with Government and state sponsored agencies. Since its inception, the forum has played a critical role in bringing together key infrastructure and utility stakeholders along with local authorities, to share ideas and information on planned infrastructure works across Dublin city. Through our regular engagements, the DIF facilitates: • The sharing of knowledge, plans, concerns, challenges and lessons learned. • An efficient, collaborative and innovative approach to solution design. • Problem solving and resolution at an early stage / before any work has commenced which is critical. • The identification of both issues and efficiencies to support the future proofing of projects while minimising disruption. • Close coordination, particularly across peers from different organisations. • A streamlined approach to Dublin's infrastructure development and delivery. • Greater awareness of planned public consultations and announcements.
Key focuses for our engagement (what we were looking to achieve)	**Communication and collaboration:** The Dublin Infrastructure Forum gives EirGrid the opportunity to work closely with other state agencies and statutory bodies to identify opportunities for collaboration and to share ideas and information on planned infrastructure works across the city. A key benefit of the forum is that it offers members the opportunity to coordinate and, in some cases, consolidate planned project delivery works, to minimise disruption while driving efficiencies. And by bringing together technical expertise from a range of sectors, it is also a forum for shared problem solving and innovation, to further support efficient planning and delivery.

	Delivery: A key focus for EirGrid in working with the DIF is to drive the Powering Up Dublin Programme in a way that's both efficient and collaborative, while aligning with Government targets. **Target stakeholder groups:** Industry, society and statutory.
Strategic channels for engagement (how we engaged)	**What groups did we leverage (for our engagement), how was feedback gathered, and engagement facilitated:** The DIF operates at two levels: • **Primary level** – the main forum brings together all members and meets quarterly. • **Project level** – targeted working groups bring together peers from different member organisations.
Feedback key themes	**What key themes emerged from the feedback received?** In 2025, the DIF focused a range of shared infrastructure challenges including: **Irish Rail** **Challenge:** As part of the Finglas–North Wall 220 kV cable project, a section of the route was initially planned to run close to Irish Rail's signalling circuits near the Royal Canal. Irish Rail raised concerns regarding this close proximity as it had the potential to cause electromagnetic interference (EMI), which could affect the reliability of their signalling system. **Royal Canal Greenway** **Challenge:** There were many challenges in finding the optimal route between Finglas and Northwall. The Royal Canal provided an excellent, less intrusive corridor to get eastward across the city centre, reducing inconvenience to residents and businesses while significantly lowering project costs. **BusConnects Infrastructure Dublin (Ballymun/Finglas to City Centre Core Bus Corridor Scheme) – Advanced Work package along Finglas Road (1.6km)** **Challenge:** Through the DIF, members identified a project conflict between EirGrid and BusConnects concerning the Finglas Northwall cable route and the Ballymun/Finglas to City Centre BusConnects Scheme. Without the forum, there was a real risk that these schemes would have been unaware of each other's routes and timelines. One of the key outcomes of this collaboration was the agreement to sequence the works. It was agreed that the Powering Up Dublin cable ducting works would commence first, followed by the BusConnects Ballymun/Finglas to City Centre Scheme, to eliminate delays, help minimise reinstatement requirements, prevent scheduling conflicts and reduce disruption to the public, whilst also seeking to avoid potential delays to the BusConnects Ballymun/Finglas Scheme.
Outcomes	**What were the outcomes of our engagements?** **Irish Rail – technical challenges resolved** **Outcome:** By working collaboratively via the DIF, EirGrid and Irish Rail were able to assess the risks and agree on a solution that worked for all stakeholders. Detailed analysis confirmed that normal operations posed no EMI risk, and rare fault scenarios can be managed with existing protections. This proactive engagement avoided delays, ensured safety, and strengthened cooperation between both organisations. **Royal Canal Greenway** **Outcome:** Through our engagements via the DIF, EirGrid worked closely with Dublin City Council and their Active Travel Scheme to incorporate 220 kV cable ducts within a new cycleway constructed on the banks of the Royal Canal from Cross Guns Bridge to North Strand Road. In this case, identifying collaborative

	opportunities to co-develop a solution proved very successful for everyone involved. **BusConnects – Advanced Work package along Finglas Road (1.6km)** **Outcome:** By working closely with DIF members, planned project works have now been brought together as part of an advanced work package to ensure project work is carefully sequenced, with the cable ducting work commencing in March 2026. Ongoing consultation between EirGrid and the National Transport Authority on the remaining Powering Up Dublin cable routes and future BusConnects Schemes aims to reduce the potential for negative impacts between these future projects. **Additional DIF outcome for 2025:** **Dublin Bay Working Group** In 2025, the DIF also established an additional stakeholder working group called the Dublin Bay Working Group which includes representation from, agencies, utilities, and the private sector. The aim of the group is to enable discussion, knowledge sharing, strategic project planning and collaboration to support a holistic and efficient approach to existing and planned works within Dublin Bay. The first meeting for this group has already taken place and was very positively received.

Case study two: Fisheries engagement

Overview	**Strategic context / background information:** In 2025, EirGrid together with Green Rebel and Fugro, conducted a series of marine and coastal surveys across Ireland's south coast, following the successful application of EirGrid's maritime usage licence from MARA, the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority. These surveys were a key milestone within EirGrid's Powering Up Offshore - South Coast project, which aims to deliver the grid transmission infrastructure needed to connect 900 MW of offshore wind generation to onshore grid connection points along Ireland's south coast. Across a period of approximately 12-weeks, comprehensive geophysical, geotechnical and environmental surveys were carried out on the potential export cable routing from the Tonn Nua site, of the Irish Government's South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan (SC-DMAP). Additional geophysical and environmental surveys were also carried out on land. Fishermen and women are a key stakeholder in the development of offshore energy and EirGrid's Fisheries Liaison Officer maintains regular and close communication with the marine community all year round. In the run up to the marine and coastal surveys, EirGrid ran a stakeholder engagement campaign which started in November 2024, with continued correspondence right up to the survey start date (July 2025) as well as throughout the survey period.
Key focuses for our engagement (what we were looking to achieve)	**Communication and collaboration:** The marine surveys required a significant amount of coordination with stakeholders in both the run up to the survey period as well as during. Focuses for our engagement included connecting with relevant stakeholders within the marine community, building relationships, creating channels for regular engagement, gathering feedback and concerns, providing updates and answering questions. **Transparency:** Fishing ground closures were a necessary project requirement. As a result, a key focus for our engagement was to facilitate timely and accurate updates between the survey vessels and the fishing communities. This was to allow both the survey vessels and fishermen/women to operate safely. In some cases, fishing grounds were closed completely while survey work was taking place, so EirGrid also developed readily accessible, evidence-based compensation packages as part of our approach. **Delivery:** The data gathered from these surveys is essential in shaping plans for the installation of transmission infrastructure for offshore wind while creating a cleaner energy future for Ireland by helping to inform our optioneering processes, technical and design elements and build on our understanding of the environment in the vicinity of our potential offshore cable routes and offshore substation locations. By raising awareness and gaining support for our work, we have also been able to ensure the right working relationships are in place to facilitate future acceptance, development and delivery. **Target stakeholder groups:** Industry, society, statutory.
Strategic channels for engagement (how we engaged)	**What engagement did EirGrid drive?** In the run up to the surveys, EirGrid held 12 consultation events across the south coast of Ireland. Through our engagements, we were able to build a portfolio of impacted stakeholders comprising 48 vessels in total. Before the surveys commenced, EirGrid held regular meetings with fishers (as well as mariners) and industry representatives, renewable energy developers and regulatory bodies through the Seafood/Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE)

	working group. These meetings focused on project updates and timelines, while addressing concerns about upcoming survey campaigns. We also initiated various port visits and community drop-ins to meet directly with fishers and local communities before any work began. Further engagement included regular project updates and mitigation strategies via weekly survey campaign updates. EirGrid also established a number of digital channels which were used as the main source of communications for project progress updates throughout 2025. Engagements via these groups were kept to project related communications but also included photos of fishing buoys in corridors and some interesting project photos of seabed/tuna for their knowledge and interest. By engaging regularly and directly with fishermen and women, we were able to build trust and strengthen relationships in and around the area. EirGrid also engaged the Local Lighthouse Authority as well as the Commissioner of Irish Lights, the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office and the Department of Transport as the main authorities responsible for navigational safety in Irish and UK waters. These updates consisted of MetOcean buoy co-ordinates, MetOcean buoy characteristics and deployment timelines.
Feedback key themes	**What key themes emerged from the feedback received?** During the consultation period, stakeholders had the opportunity to raise any concerns and/or requests. These included: • The request to limit survey vessel manoeuvres to the established exclusion zones. In response to this, the survey vessels adjusted their movements accordingly. This ensured fishing could continue right up to the border of the exclusion zones during the survey campaign. • Concerns were raised regarding fishing restrictions being imposed over potential export cable routing. In response to this, EirGrid ensured mitigation measures were put in place which allowed fisher men and women to retrieve their equipment when transiting between work sites, enabling fishing methods to continue as normal along these routes. • Concerns were also raised regarding the potential disruption of fish spawning grounds. However, EirGrid was able to allay these concerns as surveys would not take place during the spawning times, as detailed in the Maritime Usage Licence conditions.
Outcomes	**What were the outcomes of our engagement?** Through our engagements, EirGrid was able to ensure clear, consistent and regular communication as well as improved trust between the fishing industry and developers. Our engagements also provided fishermen and women, as well as marine users, with a platform to voice concerns and receive updates directly. In addition, EirGrid was also able to facilitate faster resolution of key issues. By working closely together with the fishing communities, we have also enabled the co-creation of various solutions including adjusted survey schedules to minimise disruption during peak fishing seasons, limiting exclusion zones and minimising fishing disruptions.

	Fishing industry stakeholders have already fed back that they have greatly appreciated EirGrid's regular updates as well as our collaborative approach to problem solving. Following on from these engagements, EirGrid will be continuing to build on our approach in 2026 while incorporating lessons learned for future stakeholder collaboration.

Case study three: Joint System Operator Programme (JSOP)

Overview	**Strategic context / background information** The Joint System Operator Programme (JSOP) is responsible for facilitating close, efficient collaboration between the system operators (EirGrid as Transmission System Operator and ESB Networks as Distribution System Operator) so that together, we can jointly address system needs and deliver whole system solutions. By working closely together via a number of different forums under the JSOP umbrella, members ensure the priorities and inputs of both organisations are reflected in programme outcomes, while adopting a holistic approach to delivery.
Key focuses for our engagement (what we were looking to achieve)	**Communication and collaboration:** To ensure alignment and mutual understanding of activities, JSOP members meet regularly in both formal and informal settings, including: • Weekly Project Delivery Forum. • Weekly Operating Model Working Group. • Monthly Management Liaison Board (MLB). • Monthly Leadership Update. • Quarterly Discussion Board. • Informal day-to-day interactions. **Increased alignment:** Our regular meetings have been bolstered through a focus on relationship building across the team. This has been supported by regular in-person meetings to help develop relationships as well as understand each other's priorities. **Transparency:** In order to foster a transparent and effective working environment, the JSOP encourages open and honest dialogue. In addition, discussions are constructive and solutions focused, further driving our focus on delivery. **Target stakeholder groups:** Industry, society, statutory and regulatory.
Strategic channels for engagement (how we engaged)	**What groups did we leverage (for our engagement), how was feedback gathered, and engagement facilitated** The JSOP ensures strong engagement across all key stakeholders via multiple channels. In addition to the groups listed above, members continually look for opportunities to gather feedback as well as ways on how we can improve our engagement. Flexibility is also a key part of our approach. This allows members to work in a way that's agile so that we continue to deliver what's needed.
Feedback key themes	**What key feedback themes have emerged from our engagements?** Focusing on building strong relationships JSOP has been key to the programme's success throughout 2025. By understanding each other's perspectives, and working together through shared challenges, we have been able to further facilitate progress and delivery of the programme's objectives.
Outcomes	**What are the outcomes of our engagements?** Close collaboration across the JSOP has been invaluable in supporting key workstreams throughout the year.

	A significant achievement in 2025 was the drafting of our conceptual, detailed design which is a 180+ page document outlining the principles underpinning how the Future Operating Model will work in practice. The draft document was the result of extensive input from both the TSO and DSO and included a comprehensive review from SMEs across both organisations which generated c. 1500 comments and queries, all of which have now been addressed. While this was a process which required considerable effort and engagement between EirGrid and ESB Networks, the strong relationship we had fostered stood to the programme throughout this process and ensured we were able to collaborate in an effective way, resulting in an outcome both organisations are supportive of.

Case study four: Market Operator User Group Survey

Overview	**Strategic context / background information:** The Market Operator User Group (MOUG) is a bi-monthly meeting which brings together the Single Electricity Market Operator (SEMO) and market participants, to provide updates on a wide range of topics such as settlements, trading, the market interface, IT releases and ex-ante markets. Each MOUG meeting welcomes between 100-200 participants making it a key strategic forum for sharing updates as well as providing the opportunity for open dialogue as well as answering any queries. In May 2025, EirGrid invited Market Participants to share their feedback via our first Market Operator User Group (MOUG) survey. The aim of this survey was to understand how EirGrid can further enhance these sessions to ensure they continue to meet stakeholder needs as best possible.
Key focuses for our engagement (what we were looking to achieve)	**Key focuses for our engagement:** **Increased alignment**: The introduction of yearly surveys has allowed us to better align with stakeholder priorities. By aligning MOUG content with stakeholder needs, EirGrid aims to ensure two-way dialogue regarding the Single Electricity Market (SEM) governance while facilitating a continued cycle of feedback gathering, processing, adjustment and transparency. **Communication and collaboration:** By ensuring two-way dialogue, EirGrid aims to foster trust and strengthen relationships between SEMO and market participants while promoting a collaborative approach. A core focus is to ensure that market participants are invited to give feedback, ask questions and feel heard. It is equally important that SEM gains early visibility of pain points so that they can be addressed. **Transparency:** A key element of this enhanced approach is about ensuring that feedback is not only gathered but that it is also actioned and any adjustments or decisions made off the back of stakeholder feedback, are communicated openly via the MOUG. In doing this, we aim to close the feedback loop while offering market participants the opportunity to see how their feedback is impacting our approach. **Delivery:** Through well-structured sessions, EirGrid aims to ensure that stakeholders receive clear and timely updates, so that they can respond accordingly and apply where relevant to their operational and strategic objectives. **Target stakeholder groups:** Industry stakeholders, market participants.
Strategic channels for engagement (how we engaged)	**How was feedback gathered, and engagement facilitated?** For the first MOUG survey in 2025, feedback was gathered through an online survey which was sent directly to stakeholders via email. The survey remained open for four weeks to allow participants sufficient time to respond. Questions focused on session content, engagement opportunities, and suggestions for improvement. Example survey questions included:

	1. Are there any specific topics or areas you would like to see covered more regularly in the MOUG? 2. How useful do you find the content presented during the MOUG? 3. Do you feel there are enough opportunities for questions and interaction during the MOUG? 4. Is there anything you would suggest that could make the MOUG more engaging? 5. How effective is the MOUG in helping your organisation prepare for upcoming market changes? 6. Are you satisfied with the MOUG currently being held virtually, or would you be interested in the MOUG being held in person? 7. Overall, how would you describe your current level of satisfaction with the MOUG?
Feedback key themes	**What key themes emerged from the feedback received?** Through the survey, EirGrid received positive feedback and valuable suggestions, many of which can be brought forward to future meetings. Feedback topics included: • Publishing presentation materials in advance of MOUG meetings. • Subject matter experts to be available during the MOUG meetings to support query resolution. • Introducing refresher sessions on market fundamentals. • Suggestion form for future topics to be included in upcoming meetings. • Question and answer sessions to be included as part of every MOUG with follow-up notes to be published for reference. • More in-person sessions to be held in addition to the online meetings. • 'Back to basic' sessions for participants who are less familiar with trading or technical subjects.
Outcomes	**Are there any improvements that EirGrid is working on off the back of this engagement?** EirGrid presented our findings from the survey via the September 2025 MOUG. This facilitated closing the feedback loop as well as enabling transparency as we continue to provide opportunities for stakeholders to support us in meeting their needs. Going forward, we plan to issue further surveys to continue gathering participant feedback and to ensure their suggestions are reflected in upcoming meetings. In turn, this will help strengthen our engagement with market participants while building strong, collaborative relationships.

Case study five: Biodiversity Community Benefit Funding

Overview	**Strategic context / background information:** Biodiversity has long been a core focus within EirGrid's grid development framework, ensuring biodiversity informs all routing and technology decisions. However, since the announcement of the national biodiversity and climate emergency in 2019, EirGrid has grown and accelerated our commitment to nature restoration in line with accelerating grid delivery. Since 2022, EirGrid's Community Benefit Policy has had a standalone biodiversity strand, with equal funding assigned to biodiversity, sustainability, and community focused projects. By making biodiversity a priority, we're not only protecting the area that is impacted by our work, but we are also leaving a lasting positive biodiversity legacy in affected communities. The first project to follow this funding structure was the Celtic Interconnector project for which €2.4m community benefit funding was secured. During the first phase of funding, EirGrid received a low number of qualifying biodiversity project applications which resulted in an underspend of the available funds. However, the underspend remained ring-fenced for biodiversity projects and therefore was rolled over to phase 2 of the fund. In advance of the Celtic Community Benefit phase 2 fund application phase, and to facilitate a higher number of applications, EirGrid executed a programme of community capacity building, in collaboration with the fund administrator, SECAD. This capacity-building exercise aimed to better inform and enable community groups to plan biodiversity projects for their community which were fully aligned with national policy and the latest scientific evidence base. As part of this work, for phase 2 we developed specific biodiversity requirements within the updated phase 2 guidelines. These guidelines were supplied to both SECAD and local communities.
Key focuses for our engagement (what we were looking to achieve)	**Knowledge sharing:** A key requirement in developing a biodiversity project plan is to establish the ecological baseline to identify what habitat and species already exist at a site. Such existing features may require protection during the Community Benefit Project, and/or should be integrated into project objectives. By providing on-hand ecological expertise, EirGrid was able to facilitate knowledge-sharing and project planning to not only support funding applications but also ensure ecological benefits were maximised. **Communication and collaboration:** By working closely with the communities, we were able to facilitate the submission of detailed biodiversity project applications, which incorporated ecological baselines, management plans and management of future developments. **Delivery:** EirGrid's requirements for the biodiversity stream are aligned with the Government's National Biodiversity Action Plan. At a more local level, EirGrid has also supported various engagements with local authorities and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, to assist with any local challenges arising during biodiversity project implementation. **Target stakeholder groups:** Society, statutory.
Strategic channels for engagement (how we engaged)	**What groups did we leverage:** SECAD Partnership is one of Ireland's leading community development organisations headquartered in east Cork. As the appointed Fund Administrator for the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund, EirGrid works closely with SECAD to ensure the effective management of the funds within the framework of EirGrid's Community Benefit Fund Policy and in line with the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund Strategy. EirGrid also works closely with SECAD on

	community engagement and capacity building with regard to optimising community benefits.
Feedback key themes	**What actions did EirGrid take?** Following on from our engagements with SECAD and the local communities, EirGrid supported the following initiatives: • **Biodiversity project specific webinar** – to share knowledge and answer questions. For this event, we also invited guest speakers from other community biodiversity projects to share their insight and experience along with new ideas, while offering encouragement to the other groups. • **Energising Biodiversity Solutions talk in Youghal (as part of Climate Action Week)** – as part of this event, Robert Fennelly, EirGrid lead senior ecologist, spoke about the biodiversity measures being implemented by EirGrid as part of our grid infrastructure development, including the sub-sea Celtic Interconnector. The talk facilitated the opportunity for community stakeholders to ask questions, while sharing local knowledge and feedback. • **Online and in-person biodiversity project application support** – the EirGrid and SECAD biodiversity teams provided fund applicants with specialist knowledge and support to help them develop their biodiversity project applications, along with follow up engagements. • **Wider engagement support** – EirGrid also supported fund applicants in their engagements with local authorities and bodies such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service. • **Solution ideation** – by working closely with SECAD and the local communities, we were able to support problem-resolution while offering on-hand expertise and focused collaboration.
Outcomes	**What were the outcomes of these engagements?** As a result of the capacity building undertaken after Phase 1 of the funding, phase 2 of the fund had double the number of applications: **Phase** | **Funding available** | **Biodiversity funding awarded** | **Number of projects funded** 1 | €320,000 | €198,987 | 16 2 | €361,013 | €344,828 | 36 EirGrid carried over the underspend of €121,013 from phase one to phase two. Below are just some of the biodiversity projects which are being funded and supported by EirGrid as part of the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund: **Youghal Blue and Green Network Pond Restoration (Amount: €33,819)** to revive and restore the pond along with the surrounding area, while cultivating the location's natural biodiversity. **Loughaderra Lake Weed Management Project (Amount: €79,677)** to remove weed species, restore oxygen levels and enhance the area's biodiversity. Supported by the Angling Council of Ireland and SSTRAI, it will help develop Loughaderra as a flagship fishery with improved disability access, specialized angling facilities, and biosecurity training.

	Invasive Species Removal in Glenbower Wood (Amount €44,986) to protect native woodland habitat and enhance biodiversity. The project plan has been developed through extensive consultation involving the Glenbower Wood & Lake Committee, local stakeholders, and ecological experts. **Irish Bee Conservation Project (Amount: €5,000)** to raise awareness of pollinators and empower communities to create pollinator friendly habitats. This project will raise awareness of the vital role of pollinators through workshops, hands-on activities. We will collaborate with local communities, schools, and environmental groups to promote biodiversity, create pollinator-friendly habitats, and empower individuals with practical conservation knowledge. **Cork Beekeepers teaching project (Amount: €2,924)** to support beekeepers in spotting and diagnosing disease using compound microscopes. EirGrid is continuing to support communities with their biodiversity focused actions and encourage those receiving support for technical assistance in phase 2, to deliver on biodiversity initiatives in phase 3.

Case study six: Market Intelligence Exercise

Overview	**Strategic context / background information:** On 18th February 2025, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) published its Large Energy Users Connection Policy Proposed Decision Paper. The purpose of the paper was to set out a pathway for grid connection applications from data centres, while minimising the potential impact on national renewable energy targets and carbon emissions. The paper set out a requirement for the electricity and gas system operators to conduct a Market Intelligence Exercise (MIE) to better understand the potential medium-term demand from prospective data centres, as well support the potential development of a plan-led approach. By engaging with key stakeholders, the aim was to understand the expectations for future data centre demand over the next 15 years including timelines, scale (MW size), ramp rates, demand profile (continuous demand or time varying), location preferences, proposed generation and the facility's ability to provide flexible demand. For existing data centre connections, the aim was to gain insights on where there is excess or unused (but contracted) capacity, and if can this capacity be returned to the system.
Key focuses for our engagement (what we were looking to achieve)	**Communication and collaboration:** In order to gather insights from key stakeholders and on the request of CRU, EirGrid worked collaboratively with ESB Networks and Gas Networks Ireland to conduct a Market Intelligence Exercise with the purpose of better understanding the potential future data centre demand expectations over the next 15 years. The engagement focuses for the Market Intelligence Exercise included: **Communication and collaboration:** In order to capture the key criteria set out by the CRU, the EirGrid and the other System Operators adopted a collaborative approach and jointly drafted the questionnaire while giving consideration to other industry relevant topics. EirGrid launched the questionnaire on our consultation portal and the consultation ran from 30th May to 1st August 2025, with additional interviews held with participants in September 2025. During the consultation period, EirGrid ran a targeted communications campaign, which included video content and website content. Emails were also sent directly to the relevant stakeholders including registered contacts as well as contracted DC customers (those with an executed connection agreement) to inform them of the scope of the exercise while offering the opportunity to share their future plans so they could be included in the subsequent data analysis which would be passed to CRU. **Transparency:** In order to encourage broad participation and to ensure the report was comprehensive as possible, confidentiality was paramount to the MIE. To support this approach, interviews with stakeholders were held individually and data results were aggregated and anonymised (as opposed to referring to individual developers / facilities). **Target stakeholder groups:** Industry (prospective and connected data centres)
Strategic channels for engagement (how we engaged)	**What groups did we leverage (for our engagement), how was feedback gathered, and engagement facilitated:** To ensure the greatest level of participation, EirGrid and the other System Operators ensured the Market Intelligence Exercise was tailored to meet the needs of the stakeholders involved. As a result, communication and collaboration occurred across multiple channels with individual interviews and direct communication playing key roles in gathering sensitive data while ensuring transparency along with the

	opportunity for meaningful discussion between key stakeholders and the System Operators.
Feedback key themes	**What key themes emerged from the feedback received?** While the specific findings of the MIE are confidential, there were a number of key points of feedback from participants and stakeholders. These included the volume of demand that each participant set out in their submission, where that demand was to be located, how far along in the process they were as well as how they planned to provide generation to the proposed facilities. Stakeholders also provided feedback during their individual meetings, with several noting that they welcomed the unique opportunity to discuss their plans in a joint forum with EirGrid, ESB Networks and Gas Networks Ireland. The collaborative approach embraced by the System Operators in undertaking what was a comprehensive task was also key to the success of the exercise.
Outcomes	**What was the outcome of the Market Intelligence Exercise?** Following the closure of the survey, EirGrid and the other System Operators scheduled a meeting with CRU to discuss our initial findings including the total level of demand indicated by the submissions, along with the regional breakdowns. We also discussed next steps. EirGrid also arranged calls with Government to provide a synopsis of the initial findings from the survey ahead of the report issuance. Responses to the Market Intelligence Exercise have supported policy development by the CRU while facilitating the potential development of a plan-led approach, directed by the CRU, in line with Government policy. CRU published its new Large Energy Users Connection Policy on 12 December 2025.

Case study seven: Celtic Conversations

Overview	**Strategic context / background information:** The Celtic interconnector is a major strategic infrastructure project that will enable the exchange of 700 megawatts of electricity across 575 kilometres between Ireland and France and become the first interconnector between Ireland and continental Europe. The connection will link the existing electricity substation located in Knockraha (in east Cork) to the substation in La Martyre (Finistère, France), contributing to a more secure and a more sustainable electricity supply by providing Ireland's only direct energy connection to an EU member state. The project is being developed by EirGrid, the electricity transmission system operator in Ireland, and its French counterpart Réseau de Transport d'Électricité (RTE). In June 2025, the Mayors representing the various French communes through which the Celtic interconnector project runs were welcomed to east Cork as part of a community cooperation event to foster relationships amongst communities and create opportunity for future collaboration. Over the course of two-days, they gained an in-depth look into various aspects of the project in Ireland, including a cable route drive, a tour of the converter station site, and a visit to the landfall point at Claycastle Beach, Youghal. In addition to the technical aspects of the project, the mayors also met with east Cork community representatives, participating in a community conversation regarding EirGrid and RTE's engagement approach in transitioning the electricity grid from fossil fuels to renewable energy and the challenges and opportunities posed for communities who host grid infrastructure.
Key focuses for our engagement	**Communication and collaboration:** In our role as Transmission System Operator, EirGrid has a pivotal role in decarbonising the electricity sector, supporting the roll-out of renewable generation and helping the Government achieve Ireland's climate ambitions, while also supporting the economic and social development of the state. The Celtic Interconnector project is of both national and EU importance and as part of our public engagement, a key focus is to build knowledge in the community so that stakeholders have a strong understanding of our work. In addition, a key focus is also to build trust and awareness, while ensuring the right working relationships are in place to facilitate future acceptance, development and delivery. **Target stakeholder groups:** Society, statutory.
Strategic channels for engagement (how we engaged)	**What groups did we leverage for our engagement:** By bringing the communities from both sides together, via the Celtic Community Forum, stakeholders were able to openly discuss their views as well as share ideas with the group.
Feedback key themes	**What key themes emerged from the feedback received?** Over the course of the two-day event, discussions between the two communities were held (facilitated by translators) and covered the following topics: • Impact of energy infrastructure on local wildlife and agriculture, along with solution ideation. • Impact on the local communities and ways to bring people together.

	• Ways to involve young people more in the development of their communities and grow their knowledge of the importance and benefits of robust energy infrastructure. • Leaning into Ireland and France's shared Celtic ties for collaborative community-themed events in the future.
Outcomes	**What were the benefits and outcomes of this engagement?** The Celtic Interconnector embodies real cooperation between both countries, bringing together diverse communities, to discuss civic and policy interests. Ireland and France are committed to further strengthening and deepening bilateral relations and this event reflected that at a community level. Through effective stakeholder engagement, we aim to achieve continued support of our work as we progress the Celtic Interconnector project. The project continues to be of great general and stakeholder interest, adding value to both project stakeholder and public engagement objectives, as well as the overall EirGrid objective of increasing public knowledge and awareness of the changing role of the power system.

4.2025 Network Stakeholder Engagement Reports

Grid upgrade projects and public engagement

Overview

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.

Additionally, we proactively work with specialist environmental groups, and other relevant statutory stakeholders such as Government departments and agencies, planning authorities and other prescribed bodies to ensure EirGrid's projects are consistent with national, regional and local planning policy. EirGrid also aims to leave a positive planning and environmental legacy. For example, enhancing Ireland's biodiversity while limiting any potential impact of critical strategic infrastructure development.

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

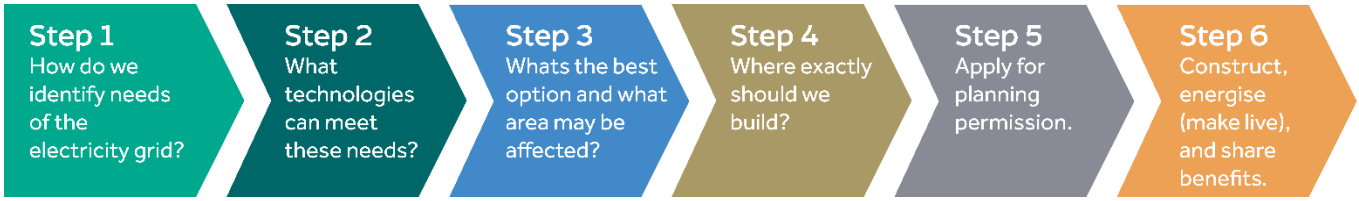
Strategy

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. However, the nature of the engagement is tailored to the project at each stage whilst considering the needs of the interested stakeholders. For instance, we will always seek to undertake formal consultation at a time when stakeholders are able to inform decision making but also when there is substantial information to present. This is to avoid the appearance of a 'check box exercise' and potentially delaying the delivery of key projects.

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 dedicated Community Liaison Officers (CLO), Agriculture Liaison Officers (ALO) and Fisheries Liaison Officers (FLO) for each grid development project. Customers can engage directly with their Customer Account Manager.

Grid planning

Engaging with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders (including prescribed bodies) is also essential for our projects. For Statutory stakeholder engagement on projects, (and indeed for other non-project activities) our Planning & Environmental team will reach out directly to relevant stakeholders, and will generally present the project in its wider strategic development context, relevant governing policy and plan context, and will discuss a variety of technical, environmental and ecological issues arising as part of agreeing the scope of a project proposal.

In addition to this, EirGrid engages with Statutory stakeholders in two other main formats:

1) Pre-Application Consultation and Engagement

During the various stages of project development, EirGrid will engage in specific pre-application consultation with the relevant consent authority, and other identified prescribed bodies. This includes formal pre-application consultation with An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and/or the relevant planning authorities, as well as outreach to environmental and other stakeholders such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, and the various relevant divisions of local authorities.

This allows us to build relationships with those prescribed bodies who will be making submissions to, or ultimately determining, a project proposal in a generally open and transparent manner – to present the evolving proposal and to obtain formal advice as to its scope and other relevant matters. It also allows us to present an outline of alternatives considered for a project, as well as presenting an overview of the strategic need and planning and policy context for a proposed development.

Finally, it ensures that any constraints and opportunities arising from those various statutory stakeholders can be considered and where appropriate incorporated into the eventual planning application proposal, which will ensure its robustness and is intended to ensure its efficient and timely progress through the consenting system – for example avoiding any significant Requests for Further Information (RFIs).

Working in this way allows EirGrid to understand any concerns or issues arising for those stakeholders from their specific perspective, so that they can be addressed as early as possible, thereby ensuring a planning application that is robust, and presents a proposal that is in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.

2) Planning engagement

EirGrid prepares a Grid Implementation Plan every five years. This is a national-level plan, which is subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and reflects the scope and planning approach taken for the National Planning Framework (NPF).

At a regional level, EirGrid is in the process of preparing and publishing three strategic frameworks for Grid Development, to reflect the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSESs) 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 care and delivery.

Finally, at a local level, EirGrid is also developing a number of project-specific framework documents.

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 our work.

In our role as Transmission System Operator, we have a pivotal role in decarbonising the electricity sector, supporting the roll-out of renewable generation, and helping the Government achieve Ireland's climate ambitions while also supporting the economic and social development of the State.

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.

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.

Community and 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) e.g. Celtic Community Forum, North Connacht and Kildare Meath.

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)

Shaping our Electricity Future (SOEF) Advisory Council Number of members: 30 plus invited guests *(Please see our chapter on the Shaping our Electricity Future (SOEF) Advisory Council for more information on the SOEF Advisory Council.)*

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**)

The HV Interface Forum (The HV Interface Forum was established by EirGrid in late 2022. With an independent Chair, it has been a critical enabler in bringing together key stakeholders from the electricity and roads sectors. Work under this specific forum has now concluded with a number of outputs and

recommendations which have now been taken forward into the Joint Electricity Transport working group, which reports into the Accelerating Renewables Electricity Taskforce.)

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.

In 2025, EirGrid awarded a total of €821,265 to community groups in East Cork, across 53 different projects, as part of this phase of funding. €240,000 was issued to community projects and €236,437 was issued to sustainability projects. Biodiversity projects received €344,828 in funding, following an underspend being carried over from Phase 1.

Engagement with environmental groups

At EirGrid, restoring Ireland's nature is as integral to our strategy as decarbonisation. And since the Irish government declared the biodiversity and climate emergency in 2019, we have greatly accelerated our biodiversity action to ensure our impact is both positive and progressive.

Our inhouse Ecological Team lead on all of EirGrid's biodiversity initiatives and our Development Framework ensures biodiversity is fully integrated into decision-making as a sub-criterion in our Multi Criteria Analyses.

EirGrid is an active member within the following biodiversity focus groups and fora:

- The Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature (OCEaN).
- The Renewable Grid Initiative's Integrated Vegetation Management Working Group
- The Renewable Grid Initiative's Integrated Vegetation Management Working Group
- The Renewable Grid Initiative's TSO Knowledge Exchange on BirdLife-related Issues
- The Irish industry working group on Biodiversity Net Gain.
- Business in the Community Ireland
- The Irish Section Ecology Conference of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).
- Business for Biodiversity.
- We are also a signatory to the Business for Nature pledge.

Engagement with fishing communities

EirGrid's dedicated Fisheries Liaison Officer engages with the fishing communities year-round which plays a vital role in the successful development of offshore wind infrastructure and interconnection projects. The fishermen and women are key stakeholders in the development of offshore infrastructure, working with them closely enables project progression while protecting traditional culture & marine heritage, livelihoods and eco-systems.

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.

Energy Citizen Roadshows

These events, in partnership with ESBN, 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 continued to host Energy Citizen Roadshows in 2025 and enhanced the format to allow for better engagement between attendees and panellists. Our new format facilitated engagements while allowing for more time to be dedicated to the audience Q&A. In 2025, EirGrid hosted four events in Leitrim,

Carlow, Tipperary and Donegal. These events facilitated early engagement with stakeholders in key project areas, particularly in the North West.

Implementation: planning

EirGrid has a significant portfolio of projects which all have their own engagement strategies. Due to the sheer volume of work taking place, the list below only contains the major engagements with regards to planning and delivery and is not exhaustive.

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Publication of Strategic Frameworks for the Regional Assembly Areas	**Strategic Framework engagements:** Following the publication of the Strategic Framework for the Eastern and Midland and Southern Regional Assembly areas in 2025, EirGrid held various engagements with relevant Assemblies and County Councils to discuss our plans.	**Strategic Framework engagements:** These engagements provide an early opportunity for communication of, and engagement on, our grid development requirements – including identifying grid projects planned for a particular region or administrative area, and our strategic approach to grid development. They also provide opportunities for us to incorporate our plans and policies into future statutory development plans.
Deliver projects through the planning and consenting process	**Pre-planning engagement:** In 2025, EirGrid attended two meetings with An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) to discuss the pipeline of planning applications. We also had two meetings with the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) to discuss approaches to applications. Finally, EirGrid held three pre-application engagements with local authorities on the following projects: • Dublin City Council – various dates – Central Bulk Supply and Kildare Dublin Project • Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council – various dates – Dublin Programme • Meath County Council – March 2025 – Fingal East Meath Project • South Dublin County Council – June 2025 - Kildare Dublin • Kildare County Council – June 2025 - Kildare Dublin • Wicklow County Council - July 2025 - Powering Up Wicklow • Meath County Council - Sept 2025 - Kinnegad 110 kV Station Works	**Planning and Consent:** This initiative provides us with the opportunity to advise ACP and/or relevant local authorities of upcoming projects which have known planning and/or other consent requirements. These meetings also enable us to share information, discuss any issues or opportunities arising, and establish ways of working to successfully deliver the projects through the consenting process. This also assists in accelerating applications through the planning process.

	• Carlow County Council - Dec 2025 - Blundelstown Mullingar 110 kV Line Uprate • Wicklow County Council - July 2025 - Powering Up Wicklow • Meath County Council - September 2025 - Kinnegad 110 kV Station Works • Carlow County Council - Dececember 2025 - Blundelstown Mullingar 110 kV Line Uprate These meetings were to introduce the project to the councils, discuss any relevant local specific issues, and to discuss the timeline for the submission of the planning application.	
Scoping update to evidence based environmental studies	**Evidence based environmental studies:** In Q3 2025, EirGrid engaged key stakeholders including Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National SEA Forum, to support environmental assessments of grid delivery projects.	**Evidence based environmental studies:** These engagements have helped to ensure our Evidence Based Environmental Studies target relevant up-to-date topics.
Engagement with ESB Networks and statutory bodies	**Engagement ESB Networks and statutory bodies:** Throughout 2025, EirGrid continued to meet with the planning and environmental teams in ESB Networks regarding both project-specific and strategic matters. EirGrid also meet with Galway City Council and ESB Networks to discuss the Cashla Galway project.	**Engagement ESB and statutory bodies:** EirGrid and ESB Networks continue to work closely to identify common issues, share information and identify opportunities to improve the delivery of transmission infrastructure through the planning, environment and consenting process. This shared approach also benefits An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and the local authorities.
Action for nature (Strategic) including EirGrid's Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2025-2035	**Key Strategic Nature Engagements (2025):** In 2025, EirGrid engaged with various key stakeholders including ESB Networks, Uisce Éireann and Waterways Ireland on various aspects of our Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2025-2035, including our approach to metrics, reporting and funding.	**Key Strategic Nature Engagements (2025):** These engagements helped to inform EirGrid's Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2025-2035 which was published December 2025.
Sharing of EirGrid's environmental data in support of the Government's Open Data Strategy	**Sharing of environmental data:** In 2025, EirGrid engaged with the following stakeholders to discuss how we could optimally share environmental data to support research and development by external parties: • ESB Networks	**Sharing of environmental data:** Following these engagements, EirGrid confirmed our data sharing commitments to Birdwatch as well as the data requirements of the Breeding Wader EIP and IWDG.

	• Breeding Waders Partnership • Birdwatch Ireland • Irish Whale and Dolphin Group • Friends of the Earth	EirGrid also shared the latest database of locations committed for bird flight diverter installations with ESB Networks.

Implementation: Delivery

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Kildare Meath grid development project		
Kildare Meath grid development project	**Kildare Meath project engagements:** Planning permission for this project was granted in March 2025 by An Coimisiún Pleanála. We are now at Step 6 of the project, construction, energisation and benefit sharing. We will continue to engage and collaborate with the Community Forum, local authorities, national road authorities and other stakeholders throughout this stage to ensure optimal project delivery solutions. We have also planned local sponsorships along the project route with the Chambers of Commerce, community groups as well as sport and cultural organisations, to help build awareness and strengthen our partnerships.	**Kildare Meath project engagement outcomes:** Effective engagement with stakeholders is key, particularly as we embark on this critical stage of the Kildare Meath project.
Kildare Meath community forum activity	**Community forum engagement:** The forum continued to meet quarterly in 2025, to progress the development of the community benefit strategy for this project.	**Community forum engagement:** Our community forums help to ensure community input is gathered regularly to help inform project decision-making as well as inform the community benefit fund strategy. They are also a key platform for sharing project updates while maintaining and strengthening stakeholder relationships, further supporting EirGrid's public engagement strategy.
Kildare Meath community benefit fund activity	**Community benefit fund:** In 2025, EirGrid launched a community benefit fund in the Kildare Meath Grid Development Project area. The fund has a total value of €4,610,000 and will go towards supporting a range of sustainability, community and biodiversity projects. EirGrid also hosted a number of information workshops and drop-in events in November 2025, so that local groups and organisations had the opportunity to learn more about the fund.	**Community benefit fund:** This process will ensure that the fund strategy is developed transparently, while gathering stakeholder feedback. These engagements will also ensure that the community forum and local elected representatives are kept up to date with the community benefit fund development plans as well as provide an opportunity for them to contribute and offer any strategic support with planning, potential considerations and implementation.

East Meath North Dublin grid reinforcement project		
East Meath North Dublin grid reinforcement project	**East Meath North Dublin project engagements:** Planning permission for this project was granted in February 2025 by An Coimisiún Pleanála (subject to 14 conditions). We are now at Step 6 of the project, construction, energisation and benefit sharing. We will continue to engage and collaborate with the community forum, local authorities, national road authorities and other stakeholders throughout this stage, to ensure optimal project delivery.	**East Meath North Dublin project engagement outcomes:** Effective engagement with stakeholders is key, particularly as we embark on this critical stage of the East Meath North Dublin project.
East Meath North Dublin community forum activity	**Community forum engagement:** The forum continued to meet quarterly in 2025, to progress the development of the community benefit strategy for this project.	**Community forum engagement:** Our community forums help to ensure community input is gathered regularly to help inform project decision-making as well as inform the community benefit fund strategy. They are also a key platform for sharing project updates while maintaining and strengthening stakeholder relationships, further supporting EirGrid's public engagement strategy.
East Meath North Dublin community benefit fund activity	**Community benefit fund:** In 2025, EirGrid launched a community benefit fund in the East Meath and North Dublin area. The fund has a total value of €3,478,300 and will go towards supporting a range of projects in local areas focusing on sustainability, community and biodiversity. In November 2025, EirGrid also hosted a number of information workshops and drop-in events in Kilbride, Batterstown and St. Margaret's, so that local groups and organisations can learn more about the fund.	**Community benefit fund:** This process will ensure that the fund strategy is developed transparently, while gathering stakeholder feedback. These engagements will also ensure that the community forum and local elected representatives are kept up to date with the community benefit fund development plans as well as provide an opportunity for them to contribute and offer any strategic support with planning, potential considerations and implementation.
Laois Kilkenny grid development project		
Laois Kilkenny grid development project	**Laois Kilkenny project engagements:** In 2025, we continued to engage with key stakeholders regarding the following project areas: • Construction of the Coolnabacky 400kV Substation • The 110 kV gas insulated station • The 110kV Athy to Portlaoise line • The 400 kV line loop into Coolnabacky station	**Laois Kilkenny project engagements:** Over the course of 2025, our engagement with stakeholders has been key, particularly during these critical stages of the Laois Kilkenny grid development project. By focusing on strengthening our relationships with the local communities, we are further supporting EirGrid's public engagement strategy which is

	Opportunities were provided for the community and landowners to give feedback and raise any concerns. In addition to our project engagements, EirGrid also engaged with the local communities which included the sponsorship of the Timahoe Male Choir's first CD. We were delighted to collaborate with the local community on this initiative and all proceeds from the launch of the CD sales went to local charities in the area.	instrumental in driving grid delivery.
Laois Kilkenny community forum activity	**Community forum:** In 2025, EirGrid continued to engage stakeholders while providing regular updates via the community forum. Together, we reviewed phase 1 of the community benefit fund while ensuring stakeholder feedback was captured in order to inform the final phase of funding.	**Community forum:** Continued engagement via our community forums ensures that stakeholders have the opportunity to inform decisions regarding the administering of funds in their area.
Laois Kilkenny community benefit fund activity	**Community benefit fund:** In 2025, EirGrid engaged with the community projects that were selected for phase 2 funding. This included tracking project progress as well as various engagements to create content to encourage applications for the final phase of funding.	**Community benefit fund:** Through continued engagement, we are able to administer funding to projects that were selected for phase 2, while reviewing the process for future fund rollouts. We have continued to monitor progress on phase 2 funded projects throughout the year, this has also ensured that we continue to build relationships with the local communities.
North Connacht grid development project		
North Connacht grid development project	**North Connacht project engagements:** In 2025, we continued to engage with stakeholders at both ends of the project (Ballina and Ballaghaderreen). This included engagement with the Local Authorities, Community Forum, Elected representatives, and the wider community on ongoing works. This engagement was used to inform stakeholders with regards to road resurfacing undertaken in early 2025. We also engaged with the municipal districts across the project area in late 2025 to inform them regarding next steps for the project as we move into construction in 2026.	**North Connacht project engagements:** These engagements helped to facilitate project awareness and also provided opportunities for the community to give feedback and raise any concerns in any given area of the project ahead of construction. Disruption and delays, especially on the narrower roads from Swinford through to Ballina, are likely to occur when construction commences. Therefore, continuing a high level of engagement will help to ensure the public are kept up to date.
North Connacht community forum	**Community forum:** EirGrid hosted three community forum meetings in 2025, to develop the project's community benefit strategy which was endorsed by the forum in May 2025. The	**Community forum:** Over the course of 2025, our engagement with stakeholders has been key in developing the funding strategy, while gathering

	forum was also a key platform for sharing project updates as we progress towards construction.	stakeholder feedback and insights.
Fingal-East Meath grid development project		
Fingal-East Meath grid development project	**Fingal-East Meath project engagements:** In Q1 2025, EirGrid announced the Emerging Best Performing Option for the substation zone, and we are now working to identify a specific site within the zone, before moving into the planning phase. EirGrid will continue to engage with key stakeholders, including local authorities, chambers of commerce and community groups.	**Fingal-East Meath project engagements:** Effective engagement with stakeholders is key, particularly as we embark on this critical stage of the Fingal-East Meath grid development project.
	Community forum: In 2025, EirGrid procured an independent forum facilitator for this project. Recruitment for the community forum will continue to progress in line with project development.	**Community forum:** The community forum for this project will be key in developing the funding strategy, as well as offering opportunities for community stakeholders to inform our decisions.
Kildare-Dublin grid development project		
Kildare-Dublin grid development project	**Kildare-Dublin project engagements:** In 2025, EirGrid ran a public consultation regarding the proposed project plans for Kildare-Dublin. The aim of the consultation was to gather feedback regarding the preferred technology for the two substations, and the proposed zones to locate them. During the consultation, EirGrid held three, all day drop-in information events. We also spoke to residents in the vicinity of each proposed zone and delivered detailed project brochures and leaflets. Key information and updates were also available to view and download on the project website.	**Kildare-Dublin project engagements:** Public consultation and engagement are key to ensuring that our decisions are informed by those who are impacted by our work. The consultation and associated engagements were also key in supporting our work to build strong relationships with the local communities as we progress project development and delivery. Consultation with the public on future aspects of the project will continue to guide the project as it moves through each phase.
Kildare-Dublin community forum	**Community forum:** EirGrid is currently working on a community forum strategy for this project, in line with project timelines.	**Community forum:** The community forum for this project will be key in developing the funding strategy, as well as offering opportunities for community stakeholders to inform our decisions.
Powering Up the North West		
Powering Up the North West (grid development projects)	**North West project engagements:** In 2025, EirGrid continued our engagement on this project. This included hosting a roadshow in Leitrim as well as engaging with	**North West project engagement outcomes:** This consultation allowed us to build and strengthen relationships in the region early

	Chambers of Commerce and other organisations across the region. We also hosted our first public consultation for this project between September and November 2025. This consultation involved expansive engagement across six information events, two webinars, four pop up stands and an additional Roadshow in Donegal Town. This community engagement occurred alongside ongoing landowner engagement in the project study areas.	on in the project, facilitating initial conversations about the proposed plans and allowing us to understand the primary concerns of the communities impacted. This consultation will feed into the wider project strategy and ensure we maintain strong relationships in the region as the project continues.
Powering Up the North West community forum	**North West community forum:** As part of our consultation in 2025, EirGrid set up an expression of interest form for the community forum for this programme. We will commence planning on establishing the forum(s) for this programme of works in 2026.	**North West community forum:** Through our engagements, we aim to ensure a transparent and fair process for the convening of a community forum which is representative of the project area.
Powering up Dublin		
Powering up Dublin	**Powering up Dublin project engagements:** In 2025, EirGrid delivered leaflets to homes across the Finglas-North Wall, and Carrickmines-Poolbeg study areas providing a progress update on both of the proposed cables. We also delivered leaflets to communities within the original engagement zones of the three proposed routes to connect two cables from Inchicore to Poolbeg. This leaflet outlined EirGrid's intention to build a micro tunnel to host these two cables, as studies have shown that an underground cable at road level is not feasible. This will be subject to public consultation in 2026. EirGrid also held a consultation on the Central Dublin Substation to gather feedback on the design features of the substation building and boundary walls. Input was sought on the materials used for the substation cladding and the design of the boundary wall, including the option for a community art project. In addition to the above, EirGrid delivered eight workshops to primary and secondary schools across Dublin, informing the teachers and students about our work.	**Powering up Dublin project engagements:** Through these engagements, EirGrid was able to share knowledge and increase awareness of our work across the Dublin area. Building these relationships will help us to keep open lines of communication with members of the public and communities that will ultimately host our infrastructure, allowing the team to keep them up to date on proposals, timelines and planned activities. Working with these community groups and schools will also help in the formulation of the Community Benefit Fund. The consultation on the Central Dublin Substation project provided valuable input into the final design of the development to ensure it met the community's needs and expectations.
Powering up Dublin community forum activity	**Community forum:** Over the course of 2025, the Powering up Dublin community forum met 3 times. The community forum discussed the planned route while exploring technology options for the Inchicore to Poolbeg routes.	**Community forum:** These engagements allowed for EirGrid to provide regular updates while maintaining open channels for communication and feedback.

Powering up Dublin community benefit fund activity	**Community benefit fund:** In 2025, EirGrid established the engagement strategy and structure for the community benefit fund for Powering Up Dublin. We will share the initial plans for the fund with the forum and key stakeholders to allow for feedback in 2026.	**Community benefit fund:** Effective engagement with stakeholders is key in allowing EirGrid to gather insights and feedback on our proposed community benefit funding plans.
Dublin Infrastructure Forum activities	**Dublin Infrastructure Forum:** The Dublin Infrastructure Forum (DIF) met 3 times in 2025 to share updates and lessons learned, as well as take a holistic approach to project delivery.	**The Dublin Infrastructure Forum:** The Dublin Infrastructure Forum gives EirGrid the opportunity to work closely with other state agencies and statutory bodies to identify opportunities for collaboration and to share ideas and information on planned infrastructure works across the city. *(Please refer to our DIF case study for more details.)*
Powering Up Dublin business forum activities	**The Powering Up Dublin business forum:** The Powering Up Dublin Business Forum met 3 times in 2025 to discuss planning as well as technology options for the Inchicore to Poolbeg cable route.	**The Powering Up Dublin business forum:** Through EirGrid's engagement via the Powering Up Dublin business forum, we have been able to gain insights on the impact of our plans on local businesses while sharing learnings from other large infrastructure projects.
Powering Up Dublin stakeholder engagement forum activities	**Powering Up Dublin stakeholder engagement forum:** The Powering Up Dublin Stakeholder Engagement Forum meet 3 times in 2025.	**Powering Up Dublin stakeholder engagement forum:** Our engagements via this forum allowed us to engage with a number of key bodies including the Land Development Agency, Dublin Bus and Dublin Port to share knowledge and inform our planning.
Powering Up Wicklow		
Powering Up Wicklow	**Powering Up Wicklow project engagements:** In 2025 we continued to engage with communities across Wicklow as we develop a number of key projects across the county. As part of our engagement, EirGrid has supported and attended a number of events to invite opportunities to raise awareness and build relationships. The team also delivered workshops to over 300 students across 6 different schools.	**Powering Up Wicklow project engagements:** EirGrid's engagement in this area continues to support the identification of the Best Performing Option for a number of key pieces of grid infrastructure. The strong relationships that have been built will support our public consultation in 2026.
Celtic interconnector project		
Celtic interconnector	**Celtic project engagements:** In 2025, we continued to engage via regular and timely communications with the public	**Celtic project engagements:** Through effective stakeholder engagement, we aim to achieve continued support of our work as

	to ensure they were kept up to date with project developments. Project communications included: • Text alerts • Weekly website progress updates • Information signs on sites • Radio adverts, billboards, print and digital media • In-person engagement • LinkedIn and social media posts marking milestone events • Quarterly Celtic newsletter • Regular emails with project updates to around 600 residents, community organisations and local stakeholders • Local radio interviews and updates EirGrid also maintained close engagement with local communities through numerous events and initiatives including school visits, climate and engineering focused events, biodiversity engagements and panel discussions. In addition to the above, EirGrid organised site visits and tours for a number of stakeholders including members of the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency CINEA, representatives from DCEE, members of the French Senate, the French Ambassador to Ireland as well as the Deputy Governor and staff from the Central Bank of Ireland. Finally, in 2025, EirGrid presented at the sixth National Climate Stakeholder Forum, held by DCEE, in conjunction with Cork City and County Councils. The event brought stakeholders from across the region together to focus on the climate action taking place in the area.	progress the Celtic interconnector project and ensure delivery is aligned with project timelines. *(Please see our Celtic and Biodiversity case studies for more details on these engagements.)*
Celtic marine activity	**Celtic marine surveys and engagement:** In 2025, the key focuses for our engagements included Irish landfall operations, pre-trenching and boulder clearance and also engagement with the marine community regarding the subsea surveys which commenced in July. We provided regular updates via the national and regional fisheries organisations as well as the Seafood/ORE working group.	**Celtic marine surveys and engagement:** Key outcomes for 2025 included the successful completion of the marine survey activities ahead of the planned marine cable laying planned for 2026. Through our close engagement with key stakeholders, EirGrid was able to ensure minimal disturbance to the fishing fleet during the survey period. *(Please see our Fisheries Case Study for more details on our fisheries engagement.)*

Celtic community forum activity	**Community forum engagement:** In 2025, EirGrid held community forums every quarter. These meetings allowed us to share updates with the communities impacted by our work and get their feedback. Through the Celtic Community Forum, EirGrid also invited the mayors of the French communes, through which the Celtic interconnector passes, to visit east Cork and meet with the Irish communities and public representatives in June of 2025. *(See our Celtic case study for more details on this.)*	**Community forum engagement:** Working with the Celtic community forum, we aim to maintain transparency and continue to build trust between EirGrid, and the communities impacted by project works which will enable project progression.
Celtic community benefit fund activity	**Community benefit fund activity:** Phase 2 of the community benefit fund opened in early 2025 and was awarded in September. 53 separate community groups received funding towards local projects across community, sustainability and biodiversity initiatives. Local sponsorships also formed part of our engagement strategy in 2025 as we continue to support local initiatives in the relevant areas.	**Community benefit fund activity:** Through these engagements, we aim to support the local communities who are impacted by our work while building and strengthening relationships in the area to support current and future grid delivery. In total, the Celtic community benefit fund has now supported 82 projects and awarded over €1.6 million.
Offshore development		
Offshore development Powering Up Offshore South Coast	**Offshore public engagement activities:** In January 2025, EirGrid held the final consultation webinar for Step 3 of the Powering Up Offshore South Coast project. This comprised significant engagement across technical and marine stakeholders, local authorities, elected representatives, community groups, landowners and the general public regarding the options for landfall and grid connection sub zones in Cork, Wexford and Waterford. Following this, EirGrid also commenced engagement with technical stakeholders such as Greenlink and Gas Networks Ireland to gather key information so that we can progress to Step 4. In terms of Environmental stakeholders, EirGrid initiated meetings with Birdwatch Ireland and the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG) to discuss environmental matters. These engagements will inform next steps and future consultation of cable route options.	**Offshore public engagement activities:** Through these engagements, EirGrid has been able to build awareness as well as share the associated benefits of the project along with next steps. By engaging with technical stakeholders, EirGrid has also been able to capture key insights that will contribute towards the project's progress as well as inform our decision making. Our engagement with Birdwatch Ireland yielded significant information on the new (non-statutory) Important Bird Areas designated for seabirds within the South Coast DMAP, and distinct from the existing European sites. Furthermore, our engagement with IWDG yielded detailed information regarding different survey techniques.

Offshore marine survey activity	**Offshore marine survey activity:** EirGrid was awarded a Maritime Usage Licence Application by MARA, to explore the suitability of the marine areas under consideration as part of this project. Survey activities commenced in July 2025 and comprised comprehensive geophysical, geotechnical, environmental and metocean surveys within the Tonn Nua area of the Irish Government's South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan (SC-DMAP). Additional surveys also included intertidal non-intrusive landfall investigations involving geophysical and environmental surveys. Surveys are also proposed along the cable route connecting Tonn Nua onshore.	**Offshore marine survey activity:** The first phase of marine and coastal surveys commenced in July 2025 are now completed. Two recently deployed MetOcean buoys will stay on site until late-2026. These will continue to collect valuable marine and weather data, including waves, water quality, wind and sunlight to support offshore planning and environmental monitoring. The acquired data will be assessed and further surveys including geophysical, geotechnical and unexploded ordnance (UXO) will take place in 2026.
Offshore marine engagements	**Offshore marine engagements:** In 2025, EirGrid maintained close collaboration with both existing and new fisheries and marine stakeholders impacted by the geophysical and environmental surveys that took place July-November.	**Offshore marine engagements:** Through successful engagements with marine users throughout 2025, in particular, the fishing industry and coastal communities, EirGrid completed the marine geophysical and environmental surveys. Feedback gathered during these interactions allowed us to implement mitigation measures that minimised disturbance, ensuring smooth offshore operations for both our survey vessels and the fishing fleet. This proactive approach ensured transparency, minimised operational disruptions, and fostered trust within coastal communities. *(See our Fisheries case study for more details on this.)*
Offshore community forum activity	**Offshore community forum activity:** In 2025, EirGrid collaborated closely with the relevant communities to establish a community forum.	**Offshore community forum activity:** EirGrid establishes community forums on all projects to ensure best in class communication and engagement with stakeholders and community organisations.
Offshore community benefit fund activity	**Community benefit fund activities:** In 2025, EirGrid raised awareness of the community benefit policy via the newly established forum.	**Community benefit fund activities:** Community benefit funds are established on all projects as a central part of our Public Engagement approach.

Other project engagements		
Substation project engagements	**Substation project engagements:** In 2025, there were a number of projects involving the redevelopment or extension of existing substations. EirGrid carried out targeted engagements including door-to-door engagements and leafleting to those living close by, to inform stakeholders of the latest project developments.	**Substation project engagements:** Engagement on these projects is important for EirGrid to ensure communities are informed of works taking place in their area. It also affords the opportunity to address any concerns or queries in relation to the proposed works.
Overhead line (OHL) uprates and refurbishments engagements	**Overhead line (OHL) uprates and refurbishments engagements:** These are very important projects to the grid, ensuring that we make the best use possible of our existing infrastructure. We do this by either refurbishment to maintain and extend the life of the assets and/or to uprate the asset, upgraded the infrastructure to allow greater power to be carried on the same structures. In 2025 we were engaged on a number of these projects, meeting the landowners hosting the infrastructure, advising of the proposed works and seeking access to carry out environmental surveys as necessary in support of a planning application.	**Overhead line (OHL) uprates and refurbishments engagements:** Through these engagements in 2025, we have been able to obtain landowner consent to undertake the required environmental surveys to support planning applications. We also addressed queries/concerns from landowners with regard to the nature of the works.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2025:

Description of metric:	Metric:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
Number of statutory stakeholders engaged with	Approximately 160	Through our extensive engagement with statutory stakeholders, EirGrid has gained key insights with regard to future planning. They have also allowed EirGrid to address potential concerns with statutory stakeholders before concerns become objections post-planning submission.
Number of landowners engaged with in 2025	1,500 (approximately)	Throughout 2025, EirGrid engaged with a significant number of landowners across our full programme of work including all of our key grid delivery projects as well as our uprate projects. Landowner engagement is key to overall acceptance and delivery of grid infrastructure.

Number of projects that have been granted planning permission/have progressed	**Number of Applications Lodged:** 11 **Number of Grants:** 13 **Number of Refusals:** 0 **Number of Appeals:** 4	The number of refusals and appeals in comparison to the number of lodgements and grants is a testament to the consultation approach of EirGrid and our partners. Central to this success is the pre-application consultation with landowners, public, and statutory bodies. By consulting widely and early on projects, there is a greater buy-in to each project. Additionally, it ensures that EirGrid can address concerns early before they become objections.
Number of communities engaged with in 2025	**Engaged on projects across 16 counties** (Dublin, Laois, Kilkenny, Wicklow, Kildare, Meath, Mayo, Roscommon, Cork, Waterford, Wexford, Cavan, Monaghan, Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim)	Through effective stakeholder engagement with the community, we aim to achieve continued support of our work, while offering opportunities to answer queries and gather feedback to drive positive outcomes for all.
Number of regions where Energy Citizen Roadshows were held in 2025	**4 Roadshows** (Leitrim, Tipperary, Carlow, Donegal)	The Energy Citizen Roadshows are vital in supporting our mission to enhance the understanding of communities with how they can support Ireland's progress towards a cleaner, more renewable future.
Increase in funding awarded to Biodiversity Projects under Phase 2 of Celtic Community Benefit Fund relative to Phase 1, following capacity building and activation of communities	Increase of 73% biodiversity project funding under Phase 2 (€344,828) compared to Phase 1 (€198,987)	Through an effective programme of engagement and capacity building, the Celtic Interconnector project saw a significant increase of funding issued to biodiversity projects in this phase. This has allowed us to maintain our commitment to dividing all community benefit funding equally between the three streams of community, sustainability, and biodiversity.
Total amount awarded to community projects as part of the EirGrid Community Benefit Scheme	€821,265	Through the EirGrid Community Benefit Scheme, we have been able to further deepen our relationships with communities while driving acceptance for our work, and future work in the region.
Number of schools and students to attend EirGrid Workshops	28 schools, 1,630 students	These workshop sessions are a key part of EirGrid's Schools Engagement Programme which aims to drive student interest in engineering while raising awareness of our work with students, teachers, school staff and parents.

For more information on our public engagement please get in touch via our contact page here (with 'Public Engagement' in the email subject).

Customer and connections and connections projects

Overview

Connecting new customers is an extremely important part of what we do at EirGrid and requires a significant level of close collaboration and regular communication, so that we can successfully connect new sources of renewable and conventional energy onto the grid.

Managing this process are the Customer and Connections team, and the Connection Projects team, who together, support EirGrid customers across the full customer journey. This includes being the single point of contact before they apply for a connection, managing the connection offer process and the delivery stage, and being the main point of contact after connection delivery when the customer is fully operational.

How we work

As part of the pre-engagement process, we provide guidance to our customers on preparations for the connection process (managed through our monthly customer clinics). This support is continued through the application stage by working collaboratively to determine the best connection option for their projects. We also support our customers in ensuring they meet the requirements for executing their connection offer and once energised, we will be the main point of contact, providing an extensive account management service through our dedicated customer account managers (CAMs).

Continued improvement

We also continue to work on initiatives such as the publication in September 2025 of the 'Getting Connected Document' on the EirGrid website to augment and improve our engagement with both industry and customer stakeholders. This includes frequent engagements with several representative bodies within the industry. Through these initiatives we aim to better understand and predict when customers may require additional support from EirGrid while providing consistency and clarity in our approach in response to the stakeholder panel feedback. There are many interactions between customers and EirGrid as part of the connection process, and a key focus for us is to ensure we resolve any emerging issues as quickly and efficiently as possible, which we do via the dedicated support provided by our account management team.

Strategy

EirGrid Customer Vision

The EirGrid Customer Vision has been running since 2023 and is focused on enhancing the proactive relationship between EirGrid and our customers. The objective is to ensure a continuously improving and evolving customer experience, as we continue to adapt to the rapid changes within the industry.

Throughout 2025, we worked closely with customers to continue to deliver key objectives under the Customer Vision programme, including:

- Proactive engagement such as through our new quarterly pulse check-ins with key customers, to obtain meaningful feedback.
- Access to experts, through customer clinics, webinars and scheduled ad-hoc engagements.
- Implementing lessons learned.

During 2025, we also kicked off scoping and defining of a customer information portal, which will allow for 'self-serve' access to critical EirGrid information, by customers and developers. Access to this information at an earlier stage, will allow for more informed decision making by industry. This is a critical first step and we will continue to work on this project throughout 2026, providing updates to industry as advances

are made via our stakeholder engagement documentation and also through our scheduled engagements with industry representative bodies and customers.

Customer clinics

The purpose of the EirGrid Customer Clinics is to facilitate meaningful engagement between customers and the relevant EirGrid Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), prior to submission of a connection application. Existing customers looking to expand or modify their sites can also request clinic meetings. The objective of the customer clinic is to facilitate early project interaction with EirGrid Subject Matter Expert (SMEs) before application, providing technical support.

A Customer Clinic Survey is completed after each clinic to ensure feedback is received from the customer with regard to the effectiveness of the clinic. These survey findings are used to continuously improve future clinics.

Measurement of Customer Sentiment

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, EirGrid conducts several customer surveys during the year to stay cognisant of customer sentiment towards various aspects of our business.

Most prominent of these surveys is the annual customer survey which is used to gather structured feedback on EirGrid's customer experience across a wide range of activities. This feedback is a key enabler for identifying lessons learned which leads to process improvements. The survey identifies what went well and should be repeated, as well as what could have been done better and how that could be improved next time. Survey results are circulated, tracked and presented on extensively internally within EirGrid.

The EirGrid customer team are currently revamping the existing customer survey to ensure it is fit for purpose and provides a more tailored and bespoke approach to obtaining meaningful feedback from our customers.

In Q4 2025, the EirGrid customer team implemented a new customer sentiment check, called the 'EirGrid Customer Pulse Check-in'. This pulse check-in will be circulated on a rolling quarterly basis. The intention of this survey is to afford an opportunity to our customers to provide meaningful feedback on their experience with the EirGrid customer team.

Account Management Engagements

EirGrid offers a variety of tailored engagement opportunities for our customers, including monthly meetings, webinars, and periodic interactions with industry bodies.

This alternative engagement route enables adaptability, which is essential for early issue management and helps drive efficiency. EirGrid's account managers deliver dedicated support and act as a single point of contact, allowing customers to raise specific concerns and discuss individual requirements directly.

Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool

Fully utilising our Customer Relationship Management tool is imperative in providing a modern and enhanced customer experience. EirGrid's CRM tool enables EirGrid to manage customer communications and queries effectively while resolving issues efficiently.

Transmission Outage Programme (TOP) 2025

The Transmission Outage Programme is the programme for all outages of transmission infrastructure which are planned to occur during the annual outage season. The TOP25 included planned outages for capital works such as plant upgrade/refurbishment, connection of new plants and customer connections, and all maintenance work outages.
There was a large volume of customer connections delivered in 2025, and the support and advocacy of customers during TOP25 was key. Also, any works impacting our customers, (for example, the offloading of customer plants for maintenance works) required extensive engagements and opportunity for the customer and EirGrid to schedule outages at a time which suited both.

Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP)

Outage management is a critical tool for the delivery of the Irish Government's Climate Action Plan (CAP). It is also an area that is very challenging for several reasons such as the exceptional scale and pace of change needed to deliver new infrastructure. EirGrid and ESB Networks have been working closely on this as a priority.

The JOTP is underway and delivering positive impacts. The JOTP consists of 7 workstreams with 18 interventions to increase outage availability, maximise utilisation and effectiveness of outages. These interventions will be developed and deployed as business as usual (BAU) processes to optimise outage management.

The JOTP aspires to provide additional outage availability and increase the utilisation of outages taken on the system.

As part of the JOTP, the Customer and Industry workstream has been identified as an efficient mechanism to engage with stakeholders on improvements in project delivery. Since the workstream formation in 2024, there have been 3 workshops held with EirGrid, ESB Networks and industry stakeholders. These workshops have enabled several new initiatives to be developed based on feedback from all stakeholders through our engagements.

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

Implementation: Customer and Connections

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Continued enhancement of the EirGrid customer experience	**Account management:** In 2025, EirGrid continued to strengthen customer relationships. This involved working closely with our customers to fully understand any issues while seeking feedback.	**Account management:** Over the course of 2025, EirGrid increased site visits with our customers to better understand their needs. This work has deepened EirGrid's understanding and offered key insights, critical for informing decisions on complex issues such as outage negotiations or operational issues.
	Customer Relationship Management tool rollout: In 2025, EirGrid continued the rollout of our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool, further supporting proactive and timely engagement between EirGrid and our customers.	**Customer Relationship Management tool rollout:** This has enabled better tracking of emerging issues and end-to-end management of these issues to resolution. Our CRM tool has allowed for a more proactive rather than reactive engagement through built-in AI intelligence that supports the streamlining of communications and processes.
	Customer Information Portal: In 2025, we initiated the scoping and design of a customer information portal aimed at providing key customers and developers with self-service access to essential EirGrid documentation.	**Customer Information Portal:** This marks an important first step, and we will continue developing the project throughout 2026, keeping customers informed as progress is made.

Increase the level of bespoke one on one interactions with our customers	**Customer feedback:** In 2025, we implemented more regular, predictive and structured engagements with customers, as requested by customers via our surveys. We also increased the number of in-person and bespoke engagements. **Increased engagement:** Throughout 2025, we rolled out 58 monthly and quarterly meetings (compared to 52 in 2024), with many of these being in-person. We also coordinated and attended more onsite visits to customer facilities to better understand project and site issues.	**Customer feedback:** Through these tailored engagements, EirGrid has been able to enhance our understanding and anticipate when customers may require support from EirGrid. We have engaged with key customers to gather actionable feedback regarding EirGrid activities that impact both customers and the wider industry. This approach has ensured that changes reflecting customer input are implemented. Where feasible, we keep customers informed of these updates, thereby closing the feedback loop and promoting greater transparency. The customer team have also implemented quarterly pulse check-ins, to connect with and obtain meaningful feedback from our most engaged customers. We received some excellent, constructive feedback via our first pulse check-in issued in December 2025. Going forwards, EirGrid is looking at addressing the concerns raised. **Increased engagement:** Through increased, more personalised engagements, we have increased collaboration with our customers. A key focus for these engagements was to ensure EirGrid is proactive in contacting customers when issues emerge, such as complex outage or operational issues. These engagements have also supported better planning and understanding of customer expectations. We are confident that these engagements will support improved consistency and reliability in EirGrid- customer interactions.
Continued improvement of our customer service with the roll out of the 2025 customer survey	**2025 customer surveys:** In 2025, EirGrid ran our annual customer survey to gather feedback on a range of areas across the customer experience. The purpose of the annual survey is to gain insights on customer specific issues to help EirGrid understand pain points,	**2025 customer surveys:** By gathering regular feedback from customers, EirGrid continues our progress in tailoring our customer experience, while improving customer project delivery.

	preferences and expectations of our customers. We also conducted a customer outage planning survey in Q2 2025, to maximise efficiency of the outage programme.	Key themes from feedback raised in 2025 include more access to experts and more in-person meetings. In response to the feedback received in 2025, EirGrid has continued to drive access to our subject matter experts (SMEs) through bespoke engagements with customers as needed. We have also hosted more in-person and tailored engagements for customers, as required.
Rollout of our new customer extranet portals	**Customer extranet portals:** In 2025, EirGrid introduced an enhanced pre-engagement process for potential customers looking to apply via the new ECP-GSS policy. An online application portal was also introduced in December 2025, which will be introduced to customers on a phased basis, to facilitate a smoother and more efficient journey throughout the process.	**Customer extranet portals:** 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 efficiently as possible.

Customer and industry working group engagements

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Enhance the delivery of customer connections	**Quarterly customer and industry working group meetings:** In 2025, we held quarterly engagements with industry bodies to discuss challenges, improvements, lessons learned and best practices.	**Quarterly customer and industry working group meetings:** These engagements aimed to engage with industry stakeholders to improve delivery. The topics raised as part of the engagement include programme reviews, joint plans, design reviews, the transmission outage programme, asset transfer and risk analysis. Within these engagements, breakout working groups have helped to streamline the customer connection delivery process, reducing delays and ensuring the timely delivery of new customer projects.
Increase quality assurance of contestable builds	**Connection delivery workshops:** Throughout 2025, EirGrid hosted several customer workshops focused on the connection delivery process, addressing commissioning snags, specifications, design review and asset transfer.	**Connection delivery workshops:** These workshops enhanced customers awareness of the critical path issues impacting project delivery. All stakeholders including ESB Networks engaged on the quality of contestable builds, reducing commissioning snags and

		minimising project delays. Through this process, EirGrid has been able to better inform mitigations to de-risk project delays going forward.
Improve Customer & System Operator programme alignment	**Review project programmes:** In 2025, EirGrid continued to formally request and collect project programmes from developers delivering TOP 26 projects and seeking TOP 2026 outages. Following receipt of these programmes, Eirgrid held customer reviews on a quarterly basis. This engagement helped identify potential conflicts, delays, opportunities and coordination needs.	**Review project programmes:** Regular receipt of customer programmes has provided greater certainty on project activities and resource requirements, ensuring better alignment of customer and EirGrid project programmes. This process has also been a key enabler to support planning for TOP26. EirGrid has also developed process documents to map out how engagements with customers are to be held. This will ultimately support the accelerated delivery of transmission infrastructure over the coming years.
Issue project lessons learned surveys	**Issue lessons learned surveys:** In 2025, EirGrid issued three lessons learned surveys to developers and system operator personnel who completed projects in 2024.	**Issue lessons learned surveys:** Through these surveys, all shared and common issues are documented to help review future project delivery. All learnings were presented at the tri-party forum to implement process efficiencies as a result of the feedback received. This helped inform all stakeholders on possible process improvements.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2025:

Customer and connections

Metric description:	Metric:	How this demonstrates effective engagement:
Number of customer clinics held	113 clinics 2025 (90 Clinics in 2024)	The increased number of clinics held by EirGrid demonstrates we have continued to elevate our approach, giving stakeholders the opportunity to consult EirGrid experts at an early stage in their projects. We can also see that customers are increasingly availing of this.

In addition to the above, EirGrid facilitated a total of 197 meetings with customers and industry to support regular engagement, effective issue management and clear communication at an individual level which we believe is critical to ensuring continued progress.

Below are the types and number of meetings facilitated in 2025:

In-person customer engagements	Monthly/quarterly customer engagements	Ad hoc customer meetings	Industry meetings in-person	Industry meetings online
41	58	42	6	20

Industry events	Site visits	Special requests	Onboarding
24	3	3	1

Connections projects

Metric description:	Metric:	How this demonstrates effective engagement:
Number of project energisations in 2025	8	The projects energised in 2025 include a variety of security of supply projects, Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) projects and capacity market projects. Achieving these energisations would not be possible without the continued cross-functional engagement that occurs daily between EirGrid and industry.
Number of MWs connected to the system	Approx. 600 MW	Through our close collaboration with industry, EirGrid has been able to connect a large volume of new generation to the system in 2025, to further support EirGrid's role in achieving Ireland's renewable energy objectives. And due to the large-scale projects being delivered, this figure demonstrates a significant increase over the past few years.

For more information on our customer and industry stakeholder engagement please get in touch via our contact page here (with 'Customer and Connections' in the email subject).

Enduring Connection Policy (ECP)

Overview

Connecting new generators and storage technologies to the grid is essential for meeting electricity demand and supporting the transition to a decarbonised power system in line with government targets. However, these connections are both technically and commercially complex.

The Enduring Connection Policy (ECP) outlines the process for grid connection in Ireland. As part of our role, we provide a constraints analysis report to ECP customers. This report details the levels of renewable generation that we might experience in the future, including surplus, transmission curtailment and constraints. Two batches will be processed per year going forward. The Constraints Forecast Studies for ECP are updated regularly to ensure security of supply, promote optimal use of existing grid infrastructure, and support the development of future sustainable infrastructure, all while delivering value to consumers. Our key stakeholders in this process are ECP customers (and any associated developers or consultants), the CRU, DCEE and ESB Networks. ECP customers rely on these reports to get vital updates on potential levels of dispatch down. EirGrid ensures they are kept up to date via regular and timely communications.

Strategy

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.

Constraint reports

Each year, we publish 12 area constraint reports and additional supporting documents on the EirGrid website. The Constraints Forecast Report for ECP 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.

Implementation

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
	ECP 2.5 Initial Assumptions Workshop: EirGrid provided stakeholders with key information on the initial assumptions of the modelling process associated with the Constraint Forecast Reports for ECP and seek feedback (Q2 and Q3 2025).	**ECP 2.5 Initial Assumptions Workshop:** EirGrid liaised with stakeholders on relevant sensitivities during the initial assumptions gathering phase. This helped to ensure that all stakeholders were included in the modelling assumptions process. Through these engagements, we are looking to gain greater alignment while ensuring as much as possible that the needs of our stakeholders are met.
Enhance Engagement with ECP Customers and industry to keep customers at the heart of business planning	**ECP 2.4 Final Results presentation:** EirGrid presented the final results of the Constraint Forecast Reports for ECP, with details of the potential dispatch down levels on a geographical basis (Q2 2025).	**ECP 2.4 Final Results presentation:** These engagements help to ensure the timely delivery of clear communications of the ECP dispatch down results while ensuring that all stakeholders fully comprehend the insights and analyses. This is extremely important because it helps to ensure our customers have a chance to gain clarity on the details of what we're proposing while also offering the opportunity to ask questions.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2025:

Metric description:	Metric:	How this demonstrates effective engagement:
ECP-focused engagements with industry representatives	5	Since August 2025, EirGrid has been engaging with industry representatives on a monthly basis to gather feedback as well as share insights and updates. 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.
ECP-related publications	5	In 2025, EirGrid published 5 ECP-related documents on our website including the assumptions document (initial and interim versions), the assumptions webinar slide pack, an FAQs document along with an initial generation list. These documents enhance the communication with customers and provide transparency regarding our ECP constraints modelling.

Feedback received from industry	**Total queries: 47** (36 queries regarding ECP-2.4 and 11 queries regarding ECP-2.5)	In 2025, we received 47 queries in total from industry. In ECP-2.4, EirGrid received 36 queries following the publication of our reports. All queries were addressed and published in our FAQs document. In ECP-2.5, EirGrid received 11 queries during our assumptions engagement. We were initially looking to model nine scenarios/sensitivities, but this was extended to 15 scenarios following industry feedback. EirGrid's efforts to engage with industry while incorporating stakeholder feedback into our methodology and modelling process was well received. As a result, we will be persisting with this collaborative decision-making approach in future ECP cycles.

For more information on enduring connection policy please get in touch via our contact page here (with 'Enduring Connection Policy' in the email subject).

Operating and developing the grid and market

Overview

EirGrid is responsible for developing and managing the electricity grid in Ireland and managing the flow of electricity from generators to end users. The Single Electricity Market Operator (SEMO), a joint venture between SONI and EirGrid, are responsible for administrating and settling the single electricity market.

The electricity market is where generators and suppliers trade electricity. A lot of work happens behind the scenes to balance supply and demand. Market trading helps to ensure we have a safe and reliable electricity supply.

To ensure that power and market system operation and development is safe, secure and reliable, we engage on a day-to-day basis and collaborate regularly with our customers, industry representative bodies and other key stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement is vital as the grid adopts, and adapts to, increased variable renewable sources coming on stream. Equally, the market needs to quickly adjust to support the investment needed to deliver unprecedented changes to the grid in the lead up to 2030 and beyond.

Strategy

Onshore and offshore Renewable Electricity 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.

RESS auction information sessions

The Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) is a Government of Ireland 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 an industry information session in advance of each annual auction (RESS and ORESS) to introduce industry applicants to key changes since the previous auction. We then present the key upcoming milestones in the published timetable and encourage early registration on our RESS Auction Platform. The most important item in the session is clearly highlighting the important documentation to be completed by who and when, during the application for qualification process. We also address previously submitted questions and explain the application for qualification clarification process.

Coordinating RESS auction design

As part of our continued collaboration, EirGrid works with DCEE and CRU to draft the RESS and ORESS terms and conditions to agree a final draft for consultation.

Regular meetings with 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.

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 the market. This is known as a T-4 auction because it secures capacity four years in advance, while additional auctions can also take place closer to the capacity year, if further capacity is required e.g. in the year prior to the capacity year start (T-1), or two years prior to the capacity year (T-2). The auctions are run jointly by EirGrid and SONI (the Electricity System Operator for Northern Ireland) on behalf of our Regulatory Authorities. As part of this work, we engage with both regulators on a weekly basis to organise these critical auctions for industry.

EirGrid and SONI are jointly responsible for the administration of the Capacity Market Code including the coordination of the modifications process.

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), the TSOs and market participants, to provide updates on a wide range of topics such as settlements, trading, the market interface, IT releases and ex-ante markets.

Future Power Market Industry workshops

The Future Power Market Industry workshops are an important forum for industry representatives and TSOs to get together to inform, discuss, listen and ask questions on aspects such as Energy Market Policy, the Scheduling and Dispatch Programme (SDP), Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS), EirGrid Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) and the Strategic Market Programme (SMP) and associated programmes.

These workshops facilitate discussions around the functional, technical and formal arrangement changes, stakeholder engagement and programme management updates. They also allow the TSOs to strengthen its relationships with industry participants, while providing clear and consistent communications as recommended by the stakeholder panel.

Future Power Markets Technical Liaison Group (TLG)

The Future Power Markets Technical Liaison Group (TLG) aims to assist with the delivery of the technical requirements of the respective major market programmes. The objective of the group is to provide information relevant to a specific interest group and a discussion forum whereby the views of Market Participants can be heard, including understanding the impacts on their own delivery plans.

Newsletters

EirGrid issues a regular Future Power Markets newsletter. These newsletters are an important communication channel to share updates on key programmes and workstreams and provide an ongoing update to supplement the workshops and signpost the reader to ongoing work, consultations and more.

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.

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.

Transmission Outage Programme (TOP) Lookback, Overview and Mid-Year Review

EirGrid meets industry via the TOP Overview and Lookback in at the end of the year when we look back on the TOP just finishing and provide an overview of the TOP for the following year. We also meet industry mid-year to provide an update on the progress in the current year and present the plan for the remainder of the year.

Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council

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.

Following an invitation for membership earlier in 2024, the SOEF Advisory Council now comprises 30 council members with 12 invited guests. Invited guests at the meetings include Government, the Distribution System Operators and the Regulatory Authorities from both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The meeting is chaired by EirGrid and SONI. The objective of these meetings is to engage with stakeholders on how best to achieve our SOEF goals across networks, markets, public engagement and operations.

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.

Implementation

Market engagement

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Work towards delivering Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)	**Future Arrangements for System Services:** Throughout 2025, our engagements in this area included the following: • Published 3 drafts of the Plain English System Services Code in January, June and December for industry review. • Issued Phased Implementation Roadmap V3.0 in June to provide clarity to industry on timelines. • Delivered 3 public consultations supported by 4 dedicated industry workshops. • Submitted 4 Recommendations Papers to the regulatory authorities. • Maintained ongoing engagement through the System Services Code Working group, monthly Future Power Markets workshops, newsletters, and FASS Project Panel. • Hosted a webinar in October and reviewed Grid Codes vs updated reserve product definitions (SEM-24-074) and proposed modifications.	**Future Arrangements for System Services:** Through our continued engagement in 2025, EirGrid supported the following key outcomes: • SEMC published 4 key decisions regarding the Day Ahead System Services Auction (DASSA) design. • Decisions aligned the System Services framework with EU legislation, including the European Balancing Guidelines and Clean Energy Package. • Consultations captured key stakeholder insights to inform TSO recommendations for SEMC decisions. • Strengthened transparency and collaboration between the TSOs, Regulatory

	• Submitted a draft consultation on Non-Reserve Services to the regulatory authorities in June.	Authorities, and industry stakeholders. • Established a clear pathway that supports future implementation work, contributing to Ireland's low-carbon transition.
Drive the procurement of Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)	**Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES):** In 2025, the following activities took place: • The LDES Procurement mechanism consultation paper was published in October 2025. • Following this, EirGrid held an industry webinar to enable stakeholders to ask questions. • EirGrid also published a Q&A on our website to address any further queries. • We continue to meet with the CRU on a bi-weekly basis on this topic.	**Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES):** Through these engagements, EirGrid has been able to support the development of an LDES Procurement Recommendations Paper. This work is not only in response to an action placed upon the TSO by DCEE in both the Climate Action Plans and the Department's recent Electricity Storage Policy Framework but also supports our mission to decarbonise the grid. Finally, the engagements held during the consultation period will ensure that the points made in the consultation responses are accurately captured, so that they can support the decision-making process and resulting recommendations paper that will be sent to CRU.
Monthly future power markets industry workshops	**Future power markets industry workshops:** Throughout 2025, EirGrid continued to hold our monthly future power markets industry workshops hosting sessions across the year. We also hosted one hybrid session in July as well as an in-person workshop in October.	**Future power markets industry workshops:** Through these workshops, EirGrid is able to inform, discuss, listen and ask questions to industry representatives on topics such as Energy Market Policy (EMP), the Scheduling and Dispatch Programme (SDP), Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS) and the Balancing Market Reform. The workshops facilitated discussions around the functional, technical and formal arrangement changes, stakeholder engagement and programme management updates. This forum helped to strengthen our relationships with industry participants, while providing clear and

		consistent communications as recommended by the stakeholder panel.
Monthly Future Power Markets Newsletter	**Future Power Markets Newsletter:** EirGrid continued to issue the Future Power Markets Newsletter every month in 2025. These were published on the EirGrid website and promoted via our social media channels.	**Future Power Markets Newsletter:** EirGrid's Future Power Markets newsletter was an important medium for us to update stakeholders on developments across FPM such as Energy Market Policy, Scheduling and Dispatch Programme, Future Arrangements for System Services and Balancing Market Reform. The newsletter complemented our monthly Future Power Market Industry Workshops by keeping stakeholders up to date on the most recent developments across our core project areas and workstreams.
Strengthen relationships with EU counterparts and contribute to relevant EU future markets policy developments	**EU engagement:** In 2025, EirGrid continued our participation in the ENTSO-E Market Committee and relevant working groups, engaging on policy and legislative developments at an EU level.	**EU engagement:** These engagements allowed EirGrid to contribute to relevant policy developments at an EU level through participation in the ENTSO-E Market Committee and Working Groups with the best interests of the electricity consumer and carbon targets in mind, along with ensuring that EirGrid's voice is heard.

Long-term auctions

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
RESS 5 finalisation of terms and conditions, industry briefings and auction completion	**RESS 5 terms and conditions:** In 2025, EirGrid continued to engage with DCEE regarding the consultation and publication of the RESS 5 terms and conditions. The RESS 5 auction successfully ran in September 2025.	**RESS 5 terms and conditions:** RESS 5 was the latest RESS auction allowed under the current European State Aid approved by the EU Director General for Competition. Through these engagements, EirGrid successfully ran the auction which is the last RESS auction containing milestones and delivery dates withing the 2023 CAP 24/25 Targets. EirGrid, as the Auction Administrator, published the RESS 5 timetable, qualification and auction information packs and chaired an Industry Auction Information Session.

Complete the Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS) Tonn Nua Auction	**Tonn Nua Auction:** In 2025, following the publication of the ORESS Tonn Nua Terms and Conditions, EirGrid completed the ORESS Tonn Nua industry briefings and information sessions with DCEE. EirGrid also completed the ORESS Tonn Nua auction registration, qualification and auction which concluded in November 2025.	**Tonn Nua Auction:** Through these engagements, and along with DCEE, we successfully identified the single winner of the 900 MW Tonn Nua Auction Capacity to allow for Maritime Area Consent (MAC) application and letter of offer from DCEE.
T-1 2025/2026 Capacity Auction to help secure electricity demand	**T-1 2025/2026 Capacity Auction:** EirGrid published Auction Information Packs for industry stakeholders. The auction took place in early 2025.	**T-1 2025/2026 Capacity Auction:** The aim of this auction was to ensure enough MWs are secured in order to meet demand for the 2025/2026 Capacity Year. Auction Results were approved by the regulatory authorities and were published on the SEMO website.
T-4 2029/2030 Capacity Auction to help secure electricity demand	**T-4 2029/2030 Capacity Auction:** In 2025, EirGrid published Auction Information Packs for industry stakeholders, with the auction to take place in March 2026. EirGrid also held an industry information session prior to the opening of qualification. Finally, in August 2025, EirGrid held a successful industry information session which included a demonstration of a new Online Qualification Platform.	**T-4 2029/2030 Capacity Auction:** These engagements have been crucial in supporting auction preparation in the run up to March 2026. In addition, the introduction of the Online Qualification Platform has been particularly useful for stakeholders, allowing applications to be submitted more easily and processed more efficiently. The platform also saves historical data, so participants only need to update necessary data for each auction.

SEM Market participants

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Market Operator User Group (MOUG) engagements	**Market Operator User Groups:** EirGrid hosted five Market Operator User Group engagements in 2025.	**Market Operator User Groups:** Through these engagements, EirGrid aims to provide updates relating to a wide range of topics such as settlements, trading, market interface, IT releases and ex-ante markets.
SEMO and SEMOpx helpdesk engagements	**SEMO and SEMOpx helpdesk engagements:** EirGrid provided daily market support via email and telephone, responding to general and settlement queries.	**SEMO and SEMOpx helpdesk engagements:** These engagements are an open channel that allow us to support participants directly

		with any queries they may have.
SEM registration support	**SEMO and SEMOpx registration support:** EirGrid continued to offer daily support to participants throughout 2025.	**SEMO and SEMOpx registration support:** These engagements are a vital step in allowing us to support participants during the market registration process.

System operations, system services and outage management

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
System Services Procurement Gate 12 & 13	**System Services Procurement:** In 2025, EirGrid held two DS3 information sessions in relation to Gate 12 and Gate 13 respectively. EirGrid also provided daily support via email and/or telephone on DS3 current and future participants queries.	**System Services Procurement:** Through our engagements, EirGrid facilitated the successful procurement of system services, while supporting industry stakeholders throughout the process.
Generator Outage Planning	**Outage Planning:** In 2025, EirGrid continued to engage with our generation customers to schedule outages and deliver the annual generator committed outage programme for 2026 as well as the management of the 2025 outage plan. We also continued to provide support for generator outages and queries.	**Outage Planning:** Through these engagements, EirGrid keeps customers up to date and informed with regard to generator outage scheduling. These engagements ensure transparency through the publication of the forward-looking committed outage programme.
Generator and Outturn Availability Forum	**Generator and Outturn Availability Forum:** In 2025, EirGrid met industry via the Generator and Outturn Availability Forum to provide updates on outturn availability reports and to address generator customer queries.	**Generator and Outturn Availability Forum:** These engagements offered a key opportunity for open dialogue regarding outturn availability for 2025 and on general generator queries.
Scheduling and Dispatch	**Scheduling and Dispatch:** In 2025, EirGrid continued to engage with stakeholders on the current scheduling and dispatch process including through: • The publication of Version 9.0 of The Balancing Market Principles Statement, following a consultation on proposed revisions. • The publication of Terms of Reference for the annual Scheduling and Dispatch Audit following a consultation on the scope and key dates. • Ongoing (weekly at minimum) reporting on operational constraints.	**Scheduling and Dispatch:** These engagements enable EirGrid to gather customer feedback and also provide transparency with regard to our decision making.

Dispatch Down Reporting	**Dispatch Down Reporting:** In 2025, EirGrid continued to analyse the dispatch down of renewable sources of electricity and published monthly and annual reports.	**Dispatch Down Reporting:** Through our analysis and reporting, EirGrid aims to ensure customers and the broader industry remain informed with regard to dispatch down levels while contextualising reported figures regionally and nationally.
Grid Code Review Panel	**Grid Code Review Panel:** In 2025, EirGrid continued to communicate with stakeholders on the evolution of the Grid Code through our Grid Code Review Panel meetings, as well as via the publication of associated materials and proposed modifications, along with publication of revised versions of the Grid Code.	**Grid Code Review Panel:** EirGrid's engagements through the Grid Code Review Panel are key to gathering stakeholder insights, ensuring that the relevant industry representatives are kept up to date as well as ensuring that the Grid Code is maintained and developed in the appropriate manner.
Transmission Outage Programme (TOP) Lookback, Overview and Mid-Year Review	**Transmission Outage Programme:** In 2025, EirGrid engaged with industry via the mid-year TOP Overview and Lookback to provide relevant updates.	**Transmission Outage Programme:** Through this engagement, EirGrid is able to provide transparency regarding the TOP and its progress as well as highlight the potential impacts on customers in terms of constraints.
Offshore Operational Readiness	**Offshore Operational Compliance Workshops:** In 2025, EirGrid held three in-person workshops with the Offshore Phase 1 Technical Working Group in July, September, and November, focusing on Operations Roles and Responsibilities, Energisation Instructions and Grid Code Testing respectively.	**Offshore Operational Compliance Workshops:** Through these workshops, EirGrid offers offshore developers a clear understanding of operational compliance requirements and provides a platform to clarify technical standards, operational principles, and offshore interfaces and boundaries. The sessions cover grid code obligations, compliance processes, testing protocols, and energisation procedures, while addressing operations-related milestones developers have identified as critical for EirGrid to achieve to enable their Final Investment Decision (FID).

Future operations

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Grid Code Evolution to 2030	**Grid Code Evolution to 2030:** In 2025, EirGrid held several virtual and	**Grid Code Evolution to 2030:** Through these engagements,

	in-person workshops with Large Energy Users regarding Fault Ride Through requirements.	EirGrid has developed proposed Grid Code modifications for Fault Ride Through requirements which were presented at the Joint Grid Code Review Panel (JGCRP) in December 2025.
Trialling of new technology providing system services	**Qualification Trial Process:** EirGrid issued a Qualification Trial Process in 2025 with a call for inputs from industry.	**Qualification Trial Process:** These engagements enabled EirGrid to publish the Qualification Trial Process 2025. Call for inputs while seeking feedback on the current QTP process allowed EirGrid to identify areas for improvement. These engagements will ultimately support our work towards achieving our system operational policy ambitions along with our climate ambitions.
Delivery of Low Carbon Inertia Services Phase 2	**Delivery of Low Carbon Inertia Services Phase 2:** In 2025, EirGrid engaged through a broad spectrum of methods, including formal engagement processes and panels, industry forums, consultation publications and workshops. EirGrid published the LCIS Phase 2 Consultation Paper in July 2025, with bilateral meetings held with OEMs and developers pre- and post-consultation to ensure that stakeholder feedback was included and considered ahead of the LCIS Phase 2 recommendation paper.	**Delivery of Low Carbon Inertia Services Phase 2:** The purpose of these engagements was to inform stakeholders of the procurement process for LCIS Phase 2 and publish the Low Carbon Inertia Services (LCIS) Phase 2 Consultation. The delivery of Low Carbon Inertia Services Phase 2 is required to securely operate the power system at higher System Non-Synchronous Penetration (SNSP) / renewable generation levels, supporting our climate ambitions while delivering significant cost savings to consumers.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2025:

Metric description:	Metric:	How this demonstrates effective engagement:
Public consultation responses and bilateral meetings for LCIS Phase 2	**14** consultation responses **5** bilateral meetings **1** webinar	High response rate and targeted follow-ups demonstrated strong industry interest and allowed for deeper technical and commercial input into LCIS Phase 2 design.

Quarterly reports submitted to CRU on LCIS Phase 1	**4** reports	Regular reporting ensured transparency and alignment with the regulator on LCIS Phase 1 milestones and grid connection process, helping to manage expectations and reduce delivery risk.
Workshops and monthly updates with Regulatory Authorities for LCIS Phase 2	**3** workshops **12** reports	Frequent and structured engagement supported collaborative development of LCIS Phase 2 procurement arrangements and enabled early resolution of regulatory concerns
Large Energy Users engaged with	**25** meetings with demand customers (approximately) **3** webinars	Through our engagements with Large Energy Users, EirGrid has been able to strengthen relationships as well as foster open communication in order to resolve issues as quickly and as efficiently as possible.
Annual T-1 & T-4 capacity auctions completed, approved and results published	**2**	By collaborating with the Regulators, GNI, ESBN and the System Operators, EirGrid has been able to facilitate the successful publication of both the capacity T-1 & T-4 Qualification and Auction results.
Annual Onshore (RESS) and Offshore (ORESS) Auctions complete, approved and results published	**2**	Publication of both the RESS Qualification and Auction results, is the end of a lengthy process of engagement process starting with DECC (Lessons Learned and T&Cs Consultation). This was followed by an industry information session and direct clarifications during the qualification application assessments. The process was completed with directed input and approvals from the CRU, DECC and EirGrid via the RESS Project Board.
Future Power Market industry workshops	**12**	The Future Power Market industry workshops are informative sessions and an opportunity for industry participants to discuss, and offer feedback on, core project areas and workstreams such as Future Arrangements for System Services, Scheduling and Dispatch (SDP), the Strategic Markets Programme (SMP) and Energy Market Policy (EMP).
Monthly Future Power Markets newsletter	**12**	The Future Power Markets monthly newsletter complements the monthly Future Power Market Industry Workshops by keeping stakeholders up to date on the most recent developments across our core project areas and workstreams.
Market Operator User Group (MOUG) sessions	**5**	These sessions allow EirGrid to communicate directly with market participants to provide updates in areas such as settlement, trading, future IT releases, ex-ante markets, SEMOpx and operations. It also gives participants the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

For more information about our operating the grid and market stakeholder engagement please get in touch via our contact page here (with 'Grid and Market' in the subject).

European, Government and policy engagement

Overview

EirGrid engages in active and ongoing consultation with Government and regulatory authorities on key policies and strategic issues as required by legislation. This is done through formal correspondence, bilateral engagement and participation in taskforces, working groups, and meetings.

Actively supporting policy development at international, national, regional and local levels is a key part of our role and EirGrid continues to seek opportunities to share relevant insights while ensuring policy makers are equipped with the appropriate insights and advice to support the policy making process. These engagements also ensure that EirGrid is aligned with Government and European policy.

EirGrid also actively engages with UK counterparts and across continental Europe with bodies such as the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E) and the Offshore TSO Collaboration (OTC) as well as The North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA).

In addition to the above, we are also heavily engaged with other Transmission System Operators (TSOs) across Europe, not only for interconnection purposes but also for sharing insights and fostering innovation.

EirGrid also engages with An Coimisinéir Teanga as we continue to promote the Irish language and fulfil our statutory and legal duties within this area.

Effective stakeholder engagement is critical for enabling EirGrid's continued alignment at a Government and regulatory level, as well as at a European level, to support continued progress towards our shared climate ambitions. These include obtaining 80% of our electricity from renewable sources in line with Government targets and achieving net-zero emissions no later than 2050. In practice, developing and operating a net-zero emissions system will entail significant stakeholder engagement with Government departments, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) and academia to determine the generation, storage and supply of renewable energy sources such as green hydrogen.

Strategy

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 workgroups. 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 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.

European Agencies

As part of EirGrid's European engagement, we also work closely with regulatory authorities 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

International Energy Agency (IEA)

EirGrid continues to engage with the IEA to help shape the successful integration of renewables. Building on active engagements and presentation to international expert audiences in the IEA, this engagement will continue in the coming year.

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.

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 Development Taskforce (DCEE)
- Accelerating Renewables Energy Taskforce (DCEE)
- Accelerating Infrastructure Taskforce (DPER)
- Cost of Business Advisory Forum (DETE)
- Housing Activation Office (DHLGH)
- National Energy Affordability Taskforce (DCEE)
- Hydrogen Taskforce (DCEE)

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.

Corporate communications and reporting

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

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.

The Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER)

EirGrid will continue 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. Activities in 2026 will also include our engagement with DG ENER on their EU Grids Package.

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 and has led engagement with the SCE.

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. EirGrid and SONI met NESO on a quarterly basis during 2025 which included in-person workshops in Belfast and Dublin.

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".

OCEaN (RGI)

OCEaN is a not-for-profit eNGO working at EU level, that brings together a diverse group of stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), transmission system operators (TSOs), and wind industry representatives from over 40 European bodies. The objective is to share insights and advance the deployment of sustainable development. The Renewable Grid Initiative is a founding member of OCEaN. EirGrid has been an OCEaN member since 2021. Through our engagement, EirGrid supports the promotion of nature-positive offshore development, while mutually sharing knowledge and best practices.

Planning, Environment and Biodiversity Engagement

EirGrid engages regularly with international, national, and regional forums on specific matters of planning, environmental, and biodiversity practice, legislation, policy, and technical innovation. Key stakeholders include the OCEaN, the RGI, the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage DCEE, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority. EirGrid also engages with other state infrastructure developers to ensure the timely and sustainable delivery of critical state infrastructure in the interest of the common good, and in support of the Government's acceleration plan.

Implementation

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Obtain 80% of our electricity from renewable sources in line with Government targets while supporting Government policy	**Climate ambitions:** Throughout 2025, EirGrid engaged with the Government and CRU on a range of matters, including the offshore transmission strategy, further interconnection, security of supply, future strategic grid development and the EU-led Electricity Market Redesign initiative. Work commenced to support the Irish Presidency of the EU Council in 2026. **Broadening our engagement:** In 2025, EirGrid also continued to identify opportunities to engage with broader stakeholder audiences across industry and society on developments we foresee as necessary to support Government climate and energy objectives. EirGrid also continued to proactively engage as members of ENTSO-E, Renewable Grid Initiative, Offshore Coalition for	**Climate ambitions:** Key objectives include alignment as we work together on the delivery of our shared climate ambitions as well as to ensure consistent messaging to the public and all stakeholders. **Broadening our engagement:** Through these engagements, EirGrid continued to ensure alignment with international best practice on key technical areas. These engagements also helped to ensure greater understanding at EU and global level, the achievements across the Irish electricity system on integrating high levels of renewable energy.

	Energy and Nature and CIGRE to help deliver on our targets as soon as possible. **IEA engagement:** In 2025, EirGrid supported IEA with the development of its 'Powering Ireland's Energy Future - Approaches for a secure, renewables-led electricity system to 2035' report through the provision of data and information.	**IEA engagement:** This report assesses the outlook for Ireland's energy security to 2035 and draws on international experience and detailed power system modelling. EirGrid also continued to engage with IEA at a wider level, to demonstrate how Ireland has achieved high levels of renewable penetration.
Support policy development	**Support policy development:** In 2025, EirGrid continued to proactively seek opportunities to support policy development across Government and the EU including the following: • EirGrid continued to liaise with Government stakeholders via key Taskforces and Working Groups in order to progress the delivery of renewable energy, key grid infrastructure and the future energy landscape. We also discussed matters relating to energy affordability, while providing key insights into the challenges and opportunities in the electricity sector. • We have also supported Government work on the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive and RED III. • A member of the EirGrid staff was seconded to contribute to the Accelerating Infrastructure Report and Action Plan, published in December 2025, to help drive the efficient delivery of infrastructure across Ireland. • We contributed to a number on ENTSO-E consultation responses to the European Commission such as the Electrification Action Plan, the Strategic Roadmap for AI and Digitalisation and the European Grids Package. • We also provided insights to the development of the European Grids Package through an EirGrid response to the European Commission's call for evidence.	**Support policy development:** EirGrid actively supports policy development and continues to seek opportunities to share relevant insights while ensuring policy makers are equipped with the appropriate insights and advice to support the policy making process. These engagements are key for sharing insights, increasing alignment and helping to solve shared challenges. Our work at a European level is particularly important given Ireland's forthcoming Presidency of the European Council in the second part of 2026, in which many of the EU policy developments in 2025 will be relevant to the Presidency Programme and Priorities.

Continued engagement with other TSOs across Europe **Progress EirGrid's interconnection strategy**	**Engagement with other TSOs:** Through extensive and regular engagement across a wide range of European entities, like ENTSO-E and OTC, EirGrid shares and gains insights regarding technological innovations, as well as influencing policy outcomes to ensure Ireland's specific needs are recognised and represented in the development of European policy and standards. These engagements also help to ensure EirGrid remains aligned with other European TSOs as we work together towards our shared climate objectives. EirGrid also continued to engage with NSEC in 2025 at a working group level as well as CEO attendance at the NSEC ministerial meeting in Ostend. **Interconnection engagement:** In 2025, EirGrid continued to assess opportunities to develop further interconnection with other jurisdictions.	**Engagement with other TSOs:** Throughout 2025, EirGrid continued to engage actively within the OTC. In particular, EirGrid's focus included collaborating with the group to develop an expert paper which was published in April 2025 at the Wind Europe conference in Copenhagen. This paper gave a credible regionally planned view anchoring Ireland's position in offshore and hybrid interconnector discussions helping to shape the 2026 TYNDP. **Interconnection engagement:** As part of this work, assessing the opportunities to develop further interconnection, EirGrid submitted a project for further examination to the Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) in collaboration with National Grid Ventures (UK), with the aim of it being considered as a Project of Mutual Interest (PMI).
Reach our target of 95% System Non-Synchronous Penetration (SNSP)	**ISON engagement:** In 2025, EirGrid continued to participate in the newly formed International System Operator Network (ISON), with the goal of sharing insights and discussing practical solutions to the challenges of operating highly renewable power systems. This work supports EirGrid's objective of reaching 95% SNSP on the power system, through information sharing and lessons learned.	**ISON engagement:** Our engagement with ISON allows EirGrid to access technical sessions and documentation from other TSOs we would otherwise not have access to. The TSOs involved also have high levels of non-synchronous generation Some of the topics discussed this year include Inverter Based Resources (IBR) blackstart, system event analysis, oscillation mitigation and detection, planning methodologies and large load trip policies.

Ensure compliance with the Official Languages Act	**Official Languages Act:** In 2025, EirGrid maintained regular engagement with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and An Coimisinéir Teanga. In 2025, EirGrid also engaged with the Cumann na nOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge, the national network of Irish Language Officers across the public sector. This engagement serves as a strategic channel for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and alignment with best practices in Irish Language policy and implementation.	**Official Languages Act:** EirGrid's Official Languages Officer ensures EirGrid continues to promote the Irish language (as Ireland's first official language), and that we fulfil our duties within this area. Through EirGrid's regular attendance at the Cumann na nOifigeach Forbartha Gaeilge meetings, workshops, and forums, we also contribute to the collective efforts aimed at enhancing the visibility and use of the Irish Language in public services. Our involvement ensures that our internal practices remain consistent with best practice and legislative obligations, including the Official Languages Act (and related legislation).
Support the development of offshore	**Support the development of offshore:** In 2025, EirGrid examined opportunities via the EU funding streams to see what support the South Coast project could receive. This work included numerous engagements across DG ENER and relevant committees in ENTSOE. *(Please see our chapter on Offshore for more information on our engagement in this area).*	**Support the development of offshore:** The initial application was unsuccessful, and work is ongoing to better understand on how the impacts from Brexit on the manner of calculating benefits to EU are measured.
Increase presence at a European level to build awareness and inform strategy	**Increase presence at a European level:** In 2025, EirGrid increased our activity both at EU and global level. Key areas of focus included European Parliament, as well as our work to support the development of the ISON model where EirGrid has the opportunity to share knowledge and key learnings with our peers internationally.	**Increase presence at a European level:** Through these engagements, EirGrid has been able to enhance our reputation at an EU level with a variety of organisations such as RGI and ENTSO-E. EirGrid also spoke at a number of EU level events to provide an Irish perspective on the future development of the electricity grid and market in the context of growing levels of renewable penetration. This includes speaking at an EU Parliament event with a senior representative from DG ENER.

	Pact for engagement: In October 2025, EirGrid attended 'The Power of Participation - Advancing Public Engagement in Grid Planning' event in Brussels. Organised by the Renewables Grid Initiative, the European Commission and the EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, the event aimed to expand on the landmark 'Pact for Engagement' which was signed by EirGrid and several other leading electricity transmission grid operators across Europe in 2023.	**Pact for engagement:** Under this Pact for Engagement, European grid operators, including TenneT from the Netherlands and Amprion from Germany established a set of guiding principles, including early involvement, education and awareness, transparency, meaningful engagement and local benefit sharing. The pact includes several examples of best practices from EirGrid including EirGrid's establishment of advisory councils and community fora. At the event in October, EirGrid joined a panel discussion on how to measure and understand what makes public engagement effective, highlighting key learnings and practical methods for assessing engagement effectiveness in practice.
Engage with Government and MARA on strategic environmental matters relevant to grid consenting	**South Coast DMAP:** EirGrid engaged with DCEE on strategic environmental matters of relevance to renewable development within the South coast and future DMAPs. **MARA:** In 2025, EirGrid engaged with The Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) on consenting matters regarding licence applications. **DHLGH:** EirGrid was invited to the Marine Ecosystems Leaders' Forum chaired by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) in September 2025.	**South Coast DMAP** DCEE accepted EirGrid's request to be consulted as a key stakeholder by the Marine Ecosystems and Ornithology Working Group responsible for coordinating reginal surveys in the Celtic Sea. **MARA:** EirGrid clarified the status of, and available guidance on material vs non-material licence amendments to inform ongoing decisions relating to potential future scope changes across projects. **DHLGH:** EirGrid reviewed the challenges to and risks from the Government's forthcoming Nature Restoration Plan (est. Q3 2026) in the summary report for the September Leaders event.
Engage with TSOs on scoping the Environmental	**Offshore Asset Readiness Programme:** EirGrid engaged with Interconnector and	**Offshore Asset Readiness Programme:**

Management System of the Offshore Asset Readiness Programme (OARP)	grid operators including Greenlink, Tennet, and National Grid to benchmark the Offshore Asset Readiness Programme Environmental Management System. *(Please see our chapter on Offshore for more information on our engagement in this area).*	Through these engagements, we were able to gather key insights to further support future planning.
Engage with European TSOs and energy industry on biodiversity mitigation and practice (onshore and offshore)	**Renewable Grid Initiative and OCEaN engagement:** • In July 2025, EirGrid attended the RGI sub-group 'TSO exchange on bird protection along the grid'. • In September 2025, EirGrid led an updated technical workshop on European practice and innovation around planting over HV cables. • In August 2025, EirGrid contributed to the RGI steering group meeting concluding the successful research study on the impact of electromagnetic fields on flatfish. • In December 2025, EirGrid also contributed to OCEaN's Member Assembly to scope the environmental monitoring work activity for 2026.	**Renewable Grid Initiative and OCEaN engagement:** The TSO exchange on bird protection identified a suite of scientific studies on bird diverter effectiveness from Portugal, which are being integrated into ongoing discussions with ESB Networks on revisions to our joint criteria for selection of different diverter types. The RGI technical workshop on planting over HV cables clarified technical details to support the ongoing development of the Draft Cable Planting Strategy with ESB Networks. The RGI Flatfish project provided EirGrid with concluding project information (including peer reviewed scientific paper) which was shared with DCEE and other relevant stakeholders. EirGrid integrated key aspects of OCEaN's shared 'guiding document on Environmental Monitoring and data' into maturing EirGrid legal and process documents on this topic. Through all of these engagements, we are better able to align the EirGrid biodiversity strategy and other policy with European best practice, latest policy and legislation. We will also identify innovations to increase efficiency in delivering EirGrid biodiversity strategy targets.
Monitoring EirGrid's Grid Implementation Plan:	**Monitoring Grid implementation Plan 2023-2028:**	**Monitoring Grid implementation Plan 2023-**

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	2025 was year 3 of the 5-year Grid IP plan cycle. EirGrid engaged to inform SEA monitoring of plan implementation. • National SEA Forum – two meetings (Q1 and Q4) • National SEA Forum – Monitoring Sub-group (Q4)	**2028:** A key outcome for these engagements was to incorporate feedback into EirGrid's publication of the SEA monitoring dashboard (Years 1 and 2) (published 2025) and future detailed reporting.
Comply with legal requirements for, and deliver best practice in Appropriate Assessment	**National Appropriate Assessment Forum:** In April and October 2025, EirGrid contributed to the quarterly national forum for Appropriate Assessment chaired by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and attended by other Government departments, agencies, and other public authorities.	**National Appropriate Assessment Forum:** EirGrid applied key updates on law and policy in the area of Appropriate Assessment across its project portfolio to de-risk EirGrid project consents. EirGrid also heard from and engaged with An Coimisiún Pleanála at this event, in relation to consenting implications of projects prioritised under the Renewable Energy Directive III.
Support the Government's Open Data Strategy	**Open Data Strategy:** In 2025, EirGrid engaged with MARA's geospatial team regarding the sharing of environmental data. EirGrid also engaged with DCEE on this matter.	**Open Data Strategy:** Through these engagements, we aim to define a best practice approach to the collection of geospatial data and metadata structure, so that we can share high quality environmental data.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2025:

Metric description:	Metric:	How this demonstrates effective engagement:
Number of other TSOs we have engaged with	**7**	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.
Number of policy consultations we've contributed to	**7**	We submitted a total of 7 consultation responses in 2025. 6 of these were Irish-based consultations; and 1 was for EU-related bodies/organisation. We have also provided feedback to collaborative responses, such as those conducted by ENTSO-E. These engagements allow us to assimilate the aims and ambitions of other organisations as well as ensure that we contribute early on in the policy making process. This means that if there are later discussions on a policy or regulatory point with

		other organisations, we already have a basis of information sharing to work from.
Number of steering and working groups we are part of	**7**	Our participation on Government-led, multi-stakeholder working and steering groups helps us to: • Engage at an early stage on project or policy development. • Share learnings with other bodies. • Provide expert knowledge to enhance the policy making process. • Ensure timely engagement.
Interconnection planning and engagement	**Direct interconnection planning with other TSOs:** Weekly and monthly meetings **ENTSOE-E shared issues on interconnection planning:** 3 groups with weekly meetings **Ostend Collaboration shared issues on interconnection planning:** 4 groups with weekly meetings	Through 2025, EirGrid worked with other TSOs on interconnection planning, focusing on: • Assessing the value of further interconnection between Ireland and other jurisdictions. • Assessing shared issues impacting offshore development and interconnection (within ENTSO-E). • Determining specific interconnection plans for our sea basin (within OTC).
Number of ENTSO-E committees we're part of	**Markets:** 38 **Network:** 14 **System operations:** 5 **Policy communications:** 1	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. EirGrid participates actively at a leadership level in the following ENTSO-E committees related to System Operations and System Development. These include: • System Operations Committee (SOC). • Steering Group Resilient Operations (StG RO) – EirGrid Co-convener. • Working Group Risk Preparedness (WH RP) – EirGrid Convener. • Working Group Incident Classification Scale (WG ICS) – EirGrid Convener.

		• Regional Group Northern Seas (RGNS) - EirGrid Convener. • Working Group Offshore Development Core Group (ODCG) - EirGrid Co-convener.

For more information on our European, Government and policy stakeholder engagement, email strategy@eirgrid.com

Offshore

Overview

The Climate Action Plan 2024 commits to achieving at least 5 GW of grid connected offshore wind capacity in line with Government targets, with a further 2 GW earmarked for the production of green hydrogen and other non-grid uses. It also includes a suite of actions to realise Ireland's offshore renewable energy (ORE) potential.

EirGrid strongly supports the Government's ambition through our collaboration with key stakeholders and industry, and through work being undertaken in the organisation.

The key objectives of our offshore stakeholder engagement are as follows:

- To support the offshore wind farm developers in progressing the grid related aspects of their projects.
- To gather information to support EirGrid's readiness for our role as transmission asset owner.
- To ensure consistent messaging to the offshore wind farm developers, public and all stakeholders on what is happening regarding offshore transmission system development and the benefits that will be delivered.
- To ensure alignment of offshore transmission system development with other offshore related work being progressed by other Government agencies, for example, the protection of marine biodiversity and health and safety.

Strategy

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.

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.

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.)

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.*

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.)

Department of Enterprise, Trade 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.

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 includes further engagement with ports to establish a storage location for spare subsea cables 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.

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 operating and developing the grid and market.)

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.

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.

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 public engagement.)

Implementation

Phase one

DCEE Taskforce engagements

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Complete and report on all actions assigned to EirGrid for 2025 in Offshore Wind Energy Programme (OWEP) Workstream 5	**Offshore Wind Energy Programme (OWEP):** In 2025, our work included: • Monthly engagements with CRU and DCEE. • Monthly representation at Government Taskforce meetings. • Quarterly representation at the Government Taskforce / Industry meetings. Provision of quarterly progress updates to DCEE for publication on their website. *(Please see our chapter on Government, European and Policy for more information on our engagement in this area.)*	**Offshore Wind Energy Programme (OWEP):** This workstream plays a key role in the development of the grid-related aspects (offshore grid development and delivery including licencing and regulatory aspects) required for the delivery of offshore wind energy targets. The workstream also monitors the delivery of the required onshore grid upgrades. As a key contributor, EirGrid plays a vital role within the OWEP taskforce. Our mission is to achieve not only the objectives of the taskforce but to maintain effective stakeholder engagement throughout to ensure continued alignment, clear and consistent communications, problem solving, transparency and timely delivery. We are also working collaboratively to ensure we identify any changes, risks and issues relating to the workstream and report back on these as early as possible.
Ongoing engagement to support Government targets	**Clearing House engagements:** Members of the EirGrid Executive team, including EirGrid's CE, attended two Offshore Clearing House meetings, chaired by the Taoiseach in 2025 (in July and December).	**Clearing House engagements:** These engagements bring together key offshore stakeholders and industry to ensure progress is achieved to reach Government targets.

Connection agreements

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Engage with CRU in relation to regulation of the Connection Agreement and Asset Purchase Agreement (APA) documentation	**Regulation of Transmission Connection Agreement and Asset Purchase Agreement:** In 2025, EirGrid attended biweekly engagements with CRU to determine the process as well as identify any risks and issues with regards to the regulation of Transmission Connection Agreement and Asset Purchase Agreement documentation.	**Regulation of Transmission Connection Agreement and Asset Purchase Agreement:** These engagements are vital for the regulation of both the Transmission Connection Agreement and Asset Purchase Agreement documentation as we work towards achieving our offshore targets.

		Transmission Connection Agreement and Asset Purchase Agreement were submitted to the CRU for their review in February 2025 and April 2025 respectively.
Delivery of Offshore Phase 1	**Phase 1 connections:** EirGrid held monthly engagements with Phase 1 developers to provide updates. Respond to queries in relation to the transmission connections.	**Phase 1 connections:** Through these engagements, The Phase 1 developers produced concept designs for each of the transmission connection.

Phase 1 Coordination Group Engagement

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Establish and run five separate working groups with the Phase 1 developers (Technical, regulatory, asset readiness, legal contracts and operational compliance)	**Developer working groups:** EirGrid held monthly meetings with Phase 1 developers in relation to milestones, timelines set out in the Phase 1 coordination plan and as relevant to each of the five working groups.	**Developer working groups:** Through these engagements, we continue to meet all the requirements, actions and milestones set out in the Phase 1 coordination plan. We also support the Phase 1 developers' progress under each of the working group headings with a focus on consistent collaboration as well as building stronger relationships. EirGrid and Phase 1 Projects have completed 13 (16%) of Phase 1 Coordination deliverables (on track).

Offshore Asset Readiness Plan Engagements

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Develop a warehousing programme as part of the Offshore Asset Readiness Plan	**Develop a warehousing programme:** In 2025, EirGrid engaged with the Irish Marine Development Office (IMDO) who facilitated a discussion with Irish ports where EirGrid outlined its cable storage requirements. Ports have been subsequently engaged to enable an evaluation of suitability of potential cable storage solutions.	**Provision of a storage location for subsea cable spares:** This work has facilitated the selection of technically suitable ports and the discussion is now moving to a commercial discussion.
Work with state entities to understand developments in the marine industries and build strong relationships	**Marine engagements:** In 2025, EirGrid continued to engage the Marine Institute regarding training.	**Marine engagements:** Through these engagements, EirGrid aims to provide maritime relevant safety certification for workers in upcoming developments.

Supply chain, procurement and market engagement

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Market engagement with both domestic and international markets to generate interest from	**Market engagement:** In 2025, our engagements within this area included:	**Market engagement:** Through these engagements, EirGrid has been able to develop

suppliers and contractors in the following CIO procurement competition	• Wind Europe Copenhagen, April 2025 (engaging with 30+ suppliers during the event) • Global Offshore Wind London, June 2025 (engaging with 20+ suppliers during the event) • Wind Energy Ireland Expo Dublin, October 2025 (engaging with 5 suppliers during the event) We also engaged via numerous 1:1 meetings with various suppliers (domestic, European and international). With specific focus on the operations and maintenance package requirements.	a more comprehensive understanding of the following: • Technological advancements. • Market demands and trends. • Approaches to tendering and contracting. • Market capacity and capabilities (within the Domestic, European and International supply chain).
Operations and Maintenance market consultation	**Operations and Maintenance market consultation:** In 2025, EirGrid engaged with suppliers and other TSOs via our operations and maintenance market consultation works.	**Operations and Maintenance market consultation:** Through our engagements, EirGrid has gained a good understanding of the current contracting arrangements for operations and maintenance regimes from peer TSO organisations across Europe. This work supports our scoping and lotting strategies for enduring operations and maintenance arrangements.

Phase two

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
ORESS Tonn Nua (2.1) Offshore Wind Auction	**ORESS TONN NUA (2.1):** In 2025, we continued our engagement with DCEE as well as key industry stakeholders to provide relevant technical information ahead of the auction which took place in 2025. This included the provision of a Grid Connection Information (GCI) Pack as well as various industry workshops to support.	**ORESS TONN NUA (2.1):** Through these engagements, EirGrid provided relevant information to developers and DCEE in advance of the auction process to ensure successful auction process and outcomes in line CRU policy guidelines (CRU2024124). *(Please see our chapter on operating and developing the grid and market for more information on this.)*
Offshore Windfarm (OWF) Developer engagement post-ORESS TONN NUA (2.1) auction	**OWF Developer engagement:** The successful ORESS TONN NUA (2.1) developer was announced in December 2025. (Follow-up engagements commenced January 2026).	**OWF Developer engagement:** Through our continued engagements, EirGrid aims to support project alignment as well as agree communication channels

		and exchange important information.
Engage with local authorities and other statutory bodies	**Engage with local authorities:** In 2025, EirGrid has continued to engage with local authorities and other statutory bodies as and when required to support the project development process. This includes engagement with Cork, Waterford and Wexford County Councils, and statutory bodies such as Gas Networks Ireland, Uisce Éireann, Irish Rail and others. We also engaged with the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA), the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and the National Monuments Service in relation to Marine Usage Licence (MUL) compliance and other marine survey licence requirements.	**Engage with local authorities:** Collaboration is vital for ensuring the smooth delivery of offshore infrastructure. As part of this focus, EirGrid has provided clear and timely updates to relevant agencies while adhering to all licencing requirements.
Attend industry focused conferences	**Industry focused conferences:** In 2025, EirGrid attended important industry-focused conferences across Europe. These included the WindEurope event in Copenhagen, the European Maritime Conference in Cork and the sixth Project of Common Interest (PCI) Energy Day in Brussels.	**Industry focused conferences:** Attending these conferences gives EirGrid vital opportunities to meet industry representatives, alongside other TSOs, so we can provide updates on our plans on offshore and engage with the market. Furthermore, it enables us to engage with Governmental and trade bodies to support Ireland's offshore ambitions.
Attend Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) trade events	**Wind Energy Ireland trade events:** EirGrid attended and presented at various Wind Energy Ireland events throughout 2025, including the annual Conference in January, Offshore Wind Conference in May and the Expo at the RDS in October.	**Wind Energy Ireland trade events:** In line with our conference attendances, Wind Energy Ireland's trade events have allowed us to meet suppliers and engage with the market, to support our role in connecting electricity generation infrastructure.

Other working groups

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Engage with ENTSO-E on offshore related matters	**European engagement:** In 2025, EirGrid engaged with ENTSO-E on various offshore matters including: • Power system specific engagements. • Offshore policy. • System development and planning.	**European engagement:** ENTSO-E engagement supports alignment between Irish offshore development needs and wider European frameworks and strengthens the quality and consistency of our planning assumptions.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2025:

Metric description:	Metric:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
Number of actions completed under the Offshore Wind Energy Programme (OWEP)	**12** actions completed	EirGrid manages the delivery of actions under Workstream 5 – Grid Development / Licencing of the OWEP in consultation with CRU and DCEE. EirGrid completed 12 actions in 2025. In addition, EirGrid continued to liaise with Government key stakeholders via both the Offshore Renewable Energy Taskforce and the Accelerating Renewable Energy Taskforce to progress the delivery of offshore wind and related targets, as well as ensure continued alignment and messaging.
Number of Taskforce engagements	**12** workstream level meetings, **10** pillar level meetings **4** ministerial level meetings	
Number of fisheries engagements	**381** messages exchanged between EirGrid and members of the fishing community where queries were made and answered and EirGrid's updates, news and photos were shared.	The fishing community are a key stakeholder in the development of offshore energy. By engaging closely with relevant marine and fisheries stakeholders, EirGrid was able to keep stakeholders updated regularly to ensure they remain informed. Engagements via these groups were kept to project related communications but also included photos of fishing buoys in corridors and some interesting project photos of seabed/tuna for their knowledge and interest. In total, 221 messages were sent from EirGrid and 160 from fishermen and women. By engaging regularly and directly with stakeholders, we were able to build trust and strengthen relationships in and around the area.
Phase 1 developer meetings	**28** working group meetings **4** Management meetings **3** Director meetings EirGrid also met bilaterally with Phase 1 developers, with a total of 28 meetings in 2025.	Through close, timely and regular collaboration with the Phase 1 developers, we're working to ensure Offshore Phase 1 Infrastructure is designed and planned so as to have a smooth and compliant integration with the Irish Transmission System. Engagement with developers is carried out on both a bilateral and multilateral basis. EirGrid and Phase 1 Projects have completed 13 of the Phase 1 Coordination deliverables (16%) (on track).

For more information on our Phase 1 offshore stakeholder engagement please get in touch via our contact page here (Put 'Phase 1 Offshore' in the subject'. For information on Phase 2 offshore engagement, email southcoastoffshore@eirgrid.ie

Our partnership with the Transmission Asset Owner (TAO)

Overview

EirGrid and ESB Networks have clearly defined roles and responsibilities in relation to the transmission network, as set out in the Infrastructure Agreement.

EirGrid in its role as Transmission System Operator (TSO) is responsible for operating and ensuring the maintenance and development of a safe, secure and reliable electricity transmission system now and in the future. To achieve this, EirGrid continues to develop, manage and operate the electricity transmission grid. Additionally, EirGrid now has a mandate to operate, develop and own Ireland's offshore grid.

ESB is the Transmission Asset Owner (TAO) and its business unit ESB Networks carries out the licensed onshore TAO functions. ESB Networks is responsible for delivering the detailed design, construction and maintenance of the onshore transmission network, as identified by EirGrid.

We work closely to ensure that all steps in the operation, development and construction of grid infrastructure are carried out as safely, securely, efficiently and cost effectively as possible. We're always working to further enhance collaboration and cooperation between EirGrid and ESB Networks to the benefit of all our customers.

Strategy

The principal engagement channels between EirGrid and ESB Networks in the Transmission 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 Outage Programme (TOP) and the Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP). This also includes close collaboration on the implementation of Joint PR5 Incentives.

Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP)

Currently, the NDP provides stakeholders and industry with an up-to-date programmatic view of the ongoing and pipeline transmission capital projects which span the period 2023-2030. The NDP provides a quarterly status update on the 3 key milestones of EirGrid Capital Approval, Project Agreement with ESB Networks and Energisation for these projects. As we approached the Price Review period, PR6, we did so in the knowledge that the NDP will evolve and resemble a wider integrated transmission programme.

Transmission Outage Programme (TOP)

Successful outage management is a key enabler for the delivery of transmission infrastructure at pace and is a critical issue for the delivery of the Irish Government's Climate Action Plan (CAP), to operate at up to 80% renewable energy, in line with Government targets.

The Transmission Outage Programme is a joint programme between EirGrid and ESB Networks for all outages of transmission infrastructure planned for the upcoming year. The goal of our outage planning programme is to maximise the amount of capital and maintenance work achievable within a given year while ensuring the transmission system is operated economically and within operational security standards. There are ongoing engagements, processes and programmes of work between the two companies to ensure that the annual TOP programme is effectively developed and delivered.

During the PR5 period, the TOP programme was measured annually through the TOP metric in the TSO's investment planning and delivery incentive.

Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP)

Outage management is a critical tool for the delivery of the Irish government's Climate Action Plan (CAP). It is also an area that is very challenging for several reasons such as the exceptional scale and pace of change needed to deliver new infrastructure.

EirGrid and ESB Networks have been working closely on this as a priority. Our Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP) is underway and delivering positive impacts. The JOTP consists of 7 workstreams with 18 interventions to increase outage availability, maximise utilisation and effectiveness of outages. These interventions are being developed and deployed as business as usual (BAU) processes to optimise outage management. Joint TSO and TAO workstream leads have been responsible for and collaborate on each workstream. The JOTP aspires to provide additional outage availability and increase the utilisation of outages taken on the system.

TSO/TAO Multi-Year Joint Incentive Plan

During PR5, EirGrid and ESB Networks developed the Joint Incentive Multi-Year Plans in line with CRU/20/154. Published plans covered the periods 2021, 2022–2026, 2023–2027, 2024–2028, and 2025–2029.

The purpose of the Joint TSO/TAO incentive is to drive efficiencies through greater collaboration and innovation in delivering transmission network improvements.

CRU's PR6 Final Determination, issued in December 2025, outlined its expectations for the PR6 incentive framework. EirGrid and ESB Networks are now working together to define the detailed processes, assessment metrics, and the development of specific incentive plans for the first year of PR6 (2026).

Working groups / Fora

TAO/TSO Joint Committees

There are a number of formal Joint TSO/TAO committees in operation which are outlined below. These committees provide channels of regular joint Governance, 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

Infrastructure Delivery Charter

The senior leadership of 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.

Network Delivery Committee (NDC)

The Network Delivery Committee (NDC) provides joint strategic management oversight and governance 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 where necessary influencing and implementing strategic direction at Programme level.

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 EirGrid's Indicative Programme to Project Energisation. The operation of a Joint Programme Management Office (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.

Implementation

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP)	**Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP):** EirGrid published quarterly NDP updates on the Customer and Industry section of our website[3], as set out in CRU/20/154.	**Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP):** Ensures transparency with our stakeholders by providing a regular status updates on the three milestones of EirGrid Capital Approval, Project Agreement with ESB Networks and energisation for these projects. EirGrid teams regularly engage with teams in ESB Networks to ensure that projects are developed, scoped, designed and constructed in a timely manner.
Transmission Outage Programme (TOP)	**Transmission Outage Programme (TOP):** In 2025, EirGrid published annual updates on the Customer and Industry section of EirGrid's website[4].	**Transmission Outage Programme (TOP):** By doing this, EirGrid provides a channel to communicate and engage with all stakeholders, as well as a transparent programme of outage works for the upcoming year.
Transmission Outage Programme (TOP)	**TSO/TAO Engagement:** Collaboration took place to develop Joint TSO/TAO programme for all planned outages of transmission infrastructure planned for the upcoming year.	**TSO/TAO Engagement:** Ensures effective stakeholder engagement and communications, which raise awareness of our planned outage programme for the upcoming year.

[3] Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP) | Grid Information | EirGrid
[4] Outages | Customer Information | EirGrid

Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP)	**TSO/TAO Engagements:** Formal Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP) governance arrangements are in place with representatives from the TSO and TAO routinely engaging in weekly, monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and annual cycles. These governance forums include Executive level oversight, Steering Group and Workstream level groups. Joint TSO/TAO engagement on a day-to-day basis throughout JOTP. Continued communications and engagements with stakeholders on all elements of the plan and actively seeking support in resourcing and implementing all the measures. **Project Delivery Workstream:** Focused on enhancing work practices, introducing new technology and optimising working hours and resource deployment across the project lifecycle, to offer significant opportunities to maximise work delivery within the available outage window (s). Progress in this workstream enabled work on projects outside the TOP25 and is expected to reduce outage requirements. **Transmission System Workstream:** Working across the TSO/TAO to adopt a revised risk-based approach to system studies and operation of the power system when circuit outage requests are planned and during the outage periods. Conduct a review of operating security standards to maximise the number of outages available in a calendar year. We updated the Operational Security Standards, which received CRU approval in 2025, enabling a risk-based approach that increases outage availability. **Programme Workstream:** We are working towards implementing a transmission delivery plan which is sequenced and prioritised to allow for all required programmes of work to be developed and delivered in an efficient and timely manner. Early TSO/TAO engagement is in place, and a common programmatic and nodal methodology	**TSO/TAO Engagements:** The JOTP workstream engagements aim to deliver the aims and objectives of the JOTP for 2025-2029 which will be tracked and reported on as part of the Joint TSO/TAO Incentives and the Joint Annual Performance Report. This ensures effective stakeholder engagement and communications on the JOTP which is a key delivery enabler for Transmission Projects and Outcomes in the Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP). This ensures transparency with our stakeholders by providing regular status updates on the progress of the JOTP. As of the end of 2025, nine of the eighteen interventions have successfully moved into business-as-usual operations within TSO and TAO, resulting in the JOTP reaching 50% completion.

	has been trialled and being formalised to BAU. **Regulatory Workstream:** This group is examining TSO and TAO existing infrastructure delivery and outage related incentive frameworks and proposing revised incentive arrangements to enhance TSO and TAO alignment and to drive collaboration and performance outcomes. As well as further developing early engagement and information sharing between TSO and TAO for pipeline projects to enhance collaboration in implementation of JOTP interventions and the optimisation of outages and project delivery at an earlier stage in the project life cycle. **Policy Workstream:** Through this workstream, a risk-based management approach to maintenance is being adopted, supported by new standards to enhance operational efficiency. By implementing these standards, significant improvements in outage planning and the overall effectiveness of grid delivery are expected to be achieved within the policy workstream. **Information & Technology Workstream:** Digital transformation is being delivered to realise and maximise outage based and joint data driven decisions spanning from the upstream activities of EirGrid to the downstream activities managed by ESB Networks. Over the past year, the Information and Technology workstream has developed joint dashboards, centralised data inputs, and shared access platforms. Reporting processes and dashboard iterations have been refined based on internal user feedback.	

	Customer and Industry Workstream: Regular customer project focused delivery engagements were delivered by the TSO/TAO throughout the year. Representatives from Wind Energy Ireland (WEI), Solar Ireland (formerly ISEA) Energy Association and Customer & Industry representatives (including designers, contractors and other project delivery specialists). These key engagements were held to strengthen collaboration across the TSO/TAO, customers and industry helping to raise awareness of the importance of on-time delivery to meet the annual outage programme to maximise the effective use of the TOP.	The JOTP Customer and Industry Working Group provides a channel to raise customer awareness, improve the quality of contestable builds, and ensure program ownership by all stakeholders. The working group enhances awareness to customers of how project delays during outages impact the overall transmission programme. Additionally, it seeks to improve customer readiness, programme accuracy, adherence, and coordination among all stakeholders to ensure successful project delivery. The introduction of customer developed TOP readiness documentation is a new initiative to provide clear visibility on customer project readiness which is expected to provide better outage certainty in 2026.
	Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) engagements: We provided updates on the programme process to CRU on a bi-annual and annual basis. **Department of Climate, Energy & the Environment (DCEE):** We provided updates on the programme process to DCEE on a bi- annual basis.	**Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) engagements:** Regular communications with ESB Networks, CRU and DCEE ensure the successful delivery of joint TSO/TAO incentives in PR5 to deliver our ambitious programme for grid delivery and transformation, including new connections and asset management.
TSO and TAO Joint Incentive	**TSO and TAO Joint Incentive:** The TSO and TAO consulted on and submitted the Multi Year Plan (2025-2029) to CRU, focusing on network project delivery targets in four separate areas: • Deployment of New Technology • Project Initiation to Committed Programme Parameter (CPP) Agreed Phase • Asset and Programme Data Exchange • Joint Process Improvements	**TSO and TAO Joint Incentive:** Successful TSO/TAO engagement leading to on track implementation of a jointly developed programme of work, increased and accelerated project delivery outputs and joint process improvements. This enhanced collaboration facilitates the deployment of new technologies, to meet renewable energy targets. These activities are supporting the delivery of the PR5 joint incentives around the delivery of our programme for grid delivery including new

		connections and asset management.
Digital Collaboration	**TSO/TAO Engagements:** TSO/TAO are committed to optimising collaboration arrangements for information exchange to support the delivery of transmission network investment under PR5.	**TSO/TAO Engagements:** Enables increased knowledge sharing which aids the delivery of projects and programmes, accelerating our ability to deliver infrastructure at pace. Progression towards a fully co-ordinated joint digital information exchange project which delivers on the Asset and Programme Data exchange metric as set by CRU under the PR5 joint TSO/TAO incentive plan. Increased ability to ensure alignment with stakeholder targets, increasing stakeholder confidence.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2025:

Metric description:	Impact of our engagement:
Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP)	A TSO/TAO working group jointly develops the full pipeline of projects out to 2030 as published in the quarterly Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP). The Q3 2025 NDP contained a total of 391 projects that reported on the three key milestones of EirGrid Capital Approval, Project Agreement with ESB Networks and Energisation. In 2025, EirGrid continued to perform strongly in the approval of new investment decisions. We jointly performed strongly in the handing over of projects to ESB Networks at the Project Agreement stage ensuring that projects are moving through the project lifecycle steps to final energisation as effectively as possible.
Early Engagement Programme	Through engaging with ESB Networks teams earlier than during the traditional Committed Project Parameters (CPP) phase, the project teams were able to benefit from input and advice in the following areas: programme validation, constructability, outages, site investigations and procurement strategy/supply chain. This interaction greatly enhances all aspects of project management and leads to benefits in the project development and delivery phases. In 2025, this process became a business-as-usual process incorporated into the TSO and TAO's project lifecycle and engagement processes. During 2025, we completed early engagement on 14 projects, and we initiated early engagement on a further 6 new projects.

Climate Action Plan (CAP) 25 Outturn Performance	In 2025, 23 of 31 committed project energisations were completed showcasing a strong outturn performance of 74% for this CAP25 metric.

For more information on our engagement with ESB Networks please get in touch via our contact page here (with 'ESB Networks engagement' in the subject).

Our partnership with the Distribution System Operator (DSO)

Overview

ESB Networks holds the licence as the electricity Distribution System Operator (DSO) in Ireland. In order to effectively manage the energy transition, the DSO requires continuous and effective engagement from EirGrid, in our role as Transmission System Operator (TSO).

Our collaboration with ESB Networks for 2025 to 2029, is detailed in the DSO-TSO Multi Year Plan 2025-2029. This multi-year plan details the key tasks and milestones that both system operators will be working towards. Planning for PR6 period is currently underway and will be published in 2026.

As outlined in the multi-year plan, EirGrid and ESB Networks are working together to further progress the future TSO/DSO Operating Model. This Operating Model aims to enable better management of the system and enhanced coordination between the system operators. This enhanced management and coordination are key to achieving Government climate objectives.

Strategy

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.

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.

SOEF Advisory Council

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.

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.

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.)

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.

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.

Implementation

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Joint System Operator Programme (JSOP) collaboration to jointly address system needs and deliver whole of system solutions	**Joint System Operator Programme (JSOP):** In 2025, EirGrid engaged regularly with stakeholders via weekly joint project management meetings, monthly joint management meetings and quarterly meetings with the programme executives.	**Joint System Operator Programme (JSOP):** The outcome of these engagements was to successfully deliver across our four key programme workstreams, including: • Whole of System Approach. • Facilitating New Technology. • Secure Future Power System. • Reducing wind and solar dispatch down.
Develop future TSO-DSO Operating Model progressing core operating model design activities and scoping the required activities for implementation	**TSO-DSO Operating Model:** Throughout 2025, EirGrid and ESB Networks came together via weekly meetings, with a leadership group also engaging on a monthly basis. Regular meetings were facilitated with SMEs from both organisations to ensure alignment as design activities progressed. Ad hoc meetings were arranged as required. Regular meetings were also held with the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) and the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) throughout the year to keep them updated on our progress and gather feedback as the project progressed.	**TSO-DSO Operating Model:** Through continued collaboration, EirGrid and ESB Networks have continued to develop the TSO-DSO Operating Model, resulting in the production of a detailed draft at the end of 2025.
Engage industry on the future TSO-DSO Operating Model	**Engage industry on the future TSO-DSO Operating Model:** In December 2025, EirGrid and ESB Networks provided an update to industry on the progress of future TSO-DSO Operating Model, which included overviews of the 4 key concepts within the design and an update on plans for implementation.	**Engage industry on the future TSO-DSO Operating Model:** Around 110 participants joined our industry webinar on the future TSO-DSO Operating Model. This engagement is key because it helps industry stakeholders understand key concepts that will impact the

		way they interact with the grid, this ranges from Procurement and Registration, our Aggregation Model and how we will manage scheduled and unscheduled services.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2025:

Description of metric:	Metric:	How this demonstrates effective engagement:
Operating Model delivery	High Level Operating Model agreed, including ways of working, timelines, scope of work, key activities, and required areas of expertise. Through continued collaboration, EirGrid and ESB Networks have continued to develop the TSO-DSO Operating Model, with detailed conceptual design in a very mature draft at the end of 2025.	In 2025, significant work has been delivered by EirGrid and ESB Networks to continue development of the TSO-DSO operating model detailed conceptual design. Both system operators continue to work in partnership through our robust governance structure.
Number of meetings/workshops held between ESB Networks, CRU and DECC	JSOP workshops: 6 CRU: 2 DCEE: 1 Industry: 1	Through these regular engagements, EirGrid and ESB Networks jointly address the Commission for Regulation of Utilities' (CRU) objectives for DSO/TSO coordination, while supporting societal and economic growth along with the delivery of Ireland's longer-term climate and energy policy objectives.

For more information on our engagement with ESB Networks please get in touch via our contact page here (with 'ESB Networks engagement' in the subject).

Security of supply

Overview

EirGrid is responsible for operating and developing a safe, secure and reliable transmission system – now and in the future. We operate, develop and enhance the electricity grid and market, leading Ireland's transition to a low carbon renewable energy future.

Ireland's energy demands are monitored by EirGrid's National Control Centre which carefully balances supply and demand at all times. EirGrid will continue to meet the needs of electricity demand growth in Ireland as it manages a complex and evolving supply-demand dynamic. While the system adequacy situation has improved with the addition of new capacity and the introduction of non-market emergency generation, maintaining the balance between supply and demand may at times remain tight.

Having embedded initiatives developed under the CRU Security of Supply Programme in normal business processes, EirGrid will in 2026 continue to focus on ensuring a secure supply and pursuing continual improvements in its risk preparedness and emergency response processes.

This programme includes proactive communication on the system outlook over various time frames (real-time, week-ahead, seasonally, and for a 10-year horizon).

We plan and implement a multi-year risk preparedness and emergency planning programme, working closely with our key stakeholders, namely DCEE, CRU, Energy Sector agencies (GNI, ESBN, and NORA), as well as the Office of Emergency Planning, customers, market participants, and government Sector Departments. The schedule of these exercises is outlined in the Risk Preparedness Plan for Ireland, issued by the CRU.

Strategy

System adequacy and capacity market auctions

EirGrid closely monitors and supports the delivery of successful capacity market auction projects (see our chapter on Operating and developing the grid and market for more details on these). 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.

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 653 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 to extend the operation of older generators for security of supply. From 1 July 2025, three units at Moneypoint (totalling 750 MW) operate outside of the market arrangements in line with the requirements of the Regulation.

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.

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. and participation 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.

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.

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 ESB Networks, as well as emergency instructions and engagements with Large Energy Users (LEUs) and generators.

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.

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.

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.

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 would be issued in real-time in the event of security of supply concerns. A ‘Margin Warning’ will also be 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.

Implementation

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Engage with Large Energy Users (LEUs) on requirements for demand flexibility and emergency demand reduction	Demand flexibility and emergency demand reduction: In 2025, EirGrid and the CRU continued to engage with Large Energy Users (LEUs) on requirements for demand flexibility and emergency demand reduction. **LEU performance:** In 2025, these engagements included specific discussions to address technical performance characteristics of some Large Demand Facilities during significant system faults.	**Demand flexibility and emergency demand reduction:** These engagements have allowed continuous and timely communications with Large Energy Users (LEUs) and the potential need for both voluntary and mandatory demand curtailment as we continue to balance supply and demand. **LEU performance:** Technical engagements in 2025 with Large Demand Facilities culminated in the proposals by EirGrid in November 2025.
Risk preparedness and emergency planning	**Risk preparedness and emergency planning:** At EirGrid, we plan and implement a multi-year risk preparedness and emergency planning programme, working closely with our key stakeholders, namely DCEE, CRU, Energy Sector agencies (GNI, ESBN, and NORA), the Office of Emergency Planning, customers, market participants, and Government sector departments. Engagements include operational exercises such as inter-control room emergency engagements between EirGrid and ESB Networks, as well as emergency instructions and engagements with Large Energy Users (LEUs) and generators.	**Risk preparedness and emergency planning:** In 2025, we continued to support CRU in the development of the updated Risk Preparedness Plan as detailed in our Risk preparedness and emergency planning section above. This plan was consulted on by the CRU in 2025 and published in January 2026. These engagements have helped to ensure clear protocols are in place for a smooth response in the event of a national emergency impacting security of supply. Of particular note in the latest revision of the RPP is the inclusion of protocols related to calling on Retained Existing Units to avoid an electricity crisis.
Collaboration with ESB Networks to ensure our capability in responding to incidents on the power	**Collaboration with ESB Networks:** Throughout the year, EirGrid works closely with ESB Networks in enhancing	**Collaboration with ESB Networks:** Regular and timely communications with ESB

system that could impact security of supply	emergency protocols for a variety of potential risks to security of supply. EirGrid and ESB Networks also regularly update and test their joint crisis messaging plan.	Networks are vital for ensuring the response to incidents on the power system that could impact security of supply. Our work in 2025 included the continued development of our joint crisis messaging plan to ensure the delivery of consistent messaging to a wider audience including the media and general public. The joint messaging plan was reviewed and updated for a Blackout Scenario and was exercised in September 2025.
Timely publishing of the weekly Systems Margins Outlook report	**Systems Margins Outlook report:** This is a twice weekly report that provides an early warning signal of system tightness for demand customers.	**Systems Margins Outlook report:** EirGrid developed this initiative in response to customer feedback to provide a warning when the system is tight; Demand Side Units (DSU) are likely to be dispatched; and Mandatory Demand Curtailment (MDC) may be invoked. We understand clear and consistent communications are vital and the Systems Margins Outlook report is just one of the ways we endeavour to provide this.
Timely publication of the new All-island Resource Adequacy Assessment (AIRAA)	**All-island Resource Adequacy Assessment (AIRAA):** The AIRAA, specified under Article 24 of Regulation (EU) 2019/943, has replaced the annual Generation Capacity Statement (GCS) which forecasts the generation adequacy outlook over the next 10 years. As part of this process, we engage with stakeholders to consult on the inputs and assumptions we use for the assessment and share the results with them once the analysis is completed. The report includes a Plain English Summary to increase the accessibility of the information for our stakeholders, following the positive reception and feedback from our stakeholders on this for the GCS.	**All-island Resource Adequacy Assessment (AIRAA):** The AIRAA was published for the first time in March 2025, replacing the Generation Capacity Statement. This report allows industry, Government, regulators and other stakeholders to facilitate the transition to renewable energy, supporting social and economic growth into the future, whilst ensuring the secure and resilient operation of the electricity system. Outputs from this assessment are also used to inform the Single Electricity Market (SEM) Capacity Auctions, a mechanism to ensure that the electricity supply in Ireland and Northern Ireland continues to meet demand into the future. The report also provides an assessment of the impact of non-market generation in addressing potential capacity shortfalls.

Timely publishing of the annual Winter Outlook report	**Winter Outlook:** The Winter Outlook provides an analysis for the security of supply outlook for the coming winter. The 2025 Winter Outlook was published on 16 October 2025.	**Winter Outlook:** The Winter Outlook helps to inform the electricity industry on the upcoming balance between supply and demand while supporting joint preparation for the coming months. Importantly, it shows the substantial mitigation impact of non-market capacity procured under the CRU Security of Supply Programme – notably, bringing the system Winter adequacy situation within standard.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2025:

Metric description:	Metric:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
Energy Sector Exercises	1	In 2025, EirGrid led an energy sector exercise with GNI, ESB Networks, DECC, CRU, and the National Oil Reserve Agency (NORA). In this exercise, the Power System Emergency Communication Plan was applied to a Blackout Scenario (similar to that experienced on the Iberian Peninsula on 28 April 2025). The Risk Preparedness Plan requires one of these exercises to be undertaken a year. A subject matter expert from Portugal joined the exercise in EirGrid and the National Emergency Coordination Centre as an observer, providing valuable insight into the response in Portugal in April 2025. The outcome of this energy sector exercise is planned to be used as input to the design of a National Emergency Coordination Group (NECG) exercise by DCEE (along with all Government sector departments) in 2026. These exercises are vital in supporting Ireland's risk preparedness and emergency planning.
System Margin Outlook reports	104	As part of its emergency planning, 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. The aim of these is to enhance pro-active communications on power system conditions. This report was enhanced in 2025 to include both TEG and REU in the outlook, providing valuable insights into the potential system risks particularly during periods of low RES, when these non-market units would need to be called on to address potential capacity shortfalls.
Margin Warnings & Margin Shortfall Risk notices	7 Margin Warnings 1 Margin Shortfall	Margin warnings are issued under tight system conditions when the system would otherwise have entered an Alert State without the Temporary Emergency Generation (TEG) units. In 2025, EirGrid issued seven margin warnings (4 in 2024).

	Risk Warning	On 1st July 2025 EirGrid also introduced communication on significant margin shortfalls several days ahead (Margin Shortfall Risk notices), in advance of very tight system conditions when retained existing units may be called on. One of these was issued on 22nd November and cancelled on 25th November. Margin Warnings and Margin Shortfall Risk notices provide transparency to the market when the System Operator is relying on the Temporary Emergency Generation units to maintain adequate margins on the system. Margin Warnings also ensure the increased awareness of TEG unit operators that they may be called on at very short notice. Margin Shortfall Risk notices also inform the market well in advance of tight periods that available system capacity may be inadequate, to encourage more market capacity to be made available (thereby avoiding the need to connect the Retained Existing Units to meet the shortfall).
System Alerts for weather warnings	1	One System Alert was issued for a severe weather warning related to Storm Éowyn on 24th January 2025 - to communicate an increased risk of forced transmission outages. System Alerts are issued to market participants to ensure their availability and readiness in the event of an incident given the increased risk to transmission infrastructure. These alerts also inform Large Energy Users (LEUs) of increased risk on the power system. These LEUs may be called on to reduce demand if required, should conditions deteriorate. No System Alerts were issued in 2025 for adequacy reasons (tight margins), due to the availability of the TEG and REU units.

For more information on our security of supply stakeholder engagement please get in touch via our contact page here (put 'Security of Supply' in the email subject).

Energy research

Overview

Meeting the energy demands of tomorrow presents many complex challenges and moving towards a more sustainable future requires significant transformation. In 2025, EirGrid continued to work to identify effective solutions while embracing a broad range of new technologies. Our Innovation and Research Engagement Strategy provided a clear framework to guide this effort by:

- Partnering with expert research bodies to advance grid innovation.
- Engaging with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) to build a strong talent pipeline of graduates and researchers.
- Supporting the direction of research across the island of Ireland and Europe to align with our strategic goals.
- Monitoring developments in research and innovation across industry and academia.
- Sharing insights and emerging trends with EirGrid staff to facilitate knowledge exchange.
- Keeping stakeholders informed and fostering innovation across the organisation.

Strategy

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

ENTSO-E

EirGrid is an active member of the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E). Our 2025 engagement focused on two key committees:

- **Research, Development and Innovation Committee (RDIC)**
- **System Development Committee (SDC)**

These structures ensure Ireland's needs and perspectives are represented in European innovation and long-term system planning.

Research, Development and Innovation Committee (RDIC)

The RDIC coordinates the innovation priorities of European TSOs. Through RDIC, EirGrid works with other European TSOs on the development of the RDI Roadmap, knowledge sharing, standardisation efforts, and joint project development. In 2025, EirGrid engaged with fellow TSOs via the following working groups and taskforces:

Research Development & Innovation Planning EirGrid continued to support the development of the Technopedia platform, a shared technology assessment tool for Transmission System Operators (TSOs) and Distribution System Operators (DSOs).

EirGrid's engagement occurs via the Technopedia Task Force to help ensure the platform remains accurate and comprehensive in evaluating emerging solutions across the European grid.

Security and Operations of Tomorrow Working Group

In 2025, EirGrid engaged with other European System Operators to co-develop ENTSO-E's roadmap for secure and resilient system operation, ensuring alignment with European best practices.

Future Energy Systems Working Group

EirGrid worked collaboratively with Future Energy Systems stakeholders to review and prioritise proposals for five new 2026 taskforces, directly shaping ENTSO-E's continued innovation agenda.
EirGrid also contributed in exploring satellite-based solutions for grid monitoring and planning.

Digital and Communication Working Group

In 2025, EirGrid engaged in the Taskforce on Artificial Intelligence under the Digital and Communications Working Group, contributing expertise to co-develop a roadmap for TSO-wide adoption of AI technologies to improve grid operations.

System Development Committee

The System Development Committee (SDC) coordinates planning and development of a secure, sustainable, and economic European electricity transmission system. Its mission is to ensure interoperability, reliability, and security while enabling a well-functioning electricity market. The SDC oversees key planning activities such as Ten-Year Network Development Plan, European Resource Adequacy Assessment, scenario building, and network codes to ensure a secure, sustainable, and interoperable European grid.

In 2025 EirGrid participated in the SDC via a number of initiatives including:

- **European Resource Adequacy Assessment -** Providing Irish system data, expert input and feedback on adequacy methodologies to support Europe-wide assessments.
- **Ten-Year Network Development Plan -** Participating in scenario development, cost-benefit analysis methodologies, and data harmonisation initiatives (including the Strategic Data and Models WG and the Data Catalogue Task Force).

These engagements ensured consistent representation of Irish system needs in European planning processes.

Annual Innovation Report

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

In March 2025, EirGrid published our Annual Innovation Report which documented EirGrid's innovation and research progress made in 2024. This report covered 32 projects in detail, of which 9 were completed 2024 (calendar year)[5]. Before publication, EirGrid conducted a consultation, where stakeholders were invited to review the draft report and respond to specific questions.

In 2025, EirGrid published 6 research papers and worked with over 20 external bodies, documenting 50 ideas for future exploration.

The 2025 Annual Innovation Report (to be published in 2026) will focus on 30 of these projects in detail.

[5] For more detail, please see the following link: 2024 Annual Innovation Report.

Select research projects and outcomes

In response to stakeholder feedback, we've included some example research outputs from the projects noted above.

Project title:	Details and outcomes:
Checking if AI/ML can Help Determine Strategic Storage, Demand or Generation Projects (with Trinity College Dublin)	**Project:** Investigated whether artificial intelligence and machine learning could support decision-making for strategic investments in storage, demand flexibility, and generation, considering technology type, capacity, and duration. **Outcomes:** Delivered a proof-of-concept analysis showing AI/ML can accelerate option screening and improve accuracy of techno-economic assessments, informing future planning tools.
HyLIGHT (MaREI the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine, UCC, DCU & NUIG)	**Project:** A collaborative study to evaluate low-carbon hydrogen pathways and enabling technologies for a net-zero power system. **Outcomes:** Produced policy and operations-oriented insights on hydrogen supply chains, system integration options, and priority research gaps to inform future studies.
Temporary SCADA over 4G Private APN	**Project:** Piloted secure SCADA connectivity in accelerated substation testing and commissioning using private 4G networks for temporarily installed grid assets. **Outcomes:** Validated a cost-effective, resilient communications solution for short-term or emergency deployments.
Virtual Dynamic Line Rating Sensors	**Project:** Data-driven AI modelling of dynamic line ratings using weather and system context to avoid deploying physical sensors. **Outcomes:** Demonstrated potential congestion relief and increased transfer capability, supporting targeted trials and investment decisions.
Volume Forecast Methodology Prediction Tool Using Machine Learning	**Project:** Developed a machine learning-based forecasting tool to predict largest single infeed and largest single outfeed volumes for system security and planning. **Outcomes:** Delivered a prediction approach method that improves accuracy and foresight for contingency sizing, supporting operational risk management and planning studies.

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.

Letters of Support

EirGrid has a long tradition of supporting research in Higher Education Institutes (HEIs), Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) and industry. As part of this work, EirGrid routinely provides letters of support for their funding applications. By assessing and signing letters of support for projects that are particularly relevant to the energy industry, we aim to facilitate research in innovative areas that will go on to support the development of the power system as we work towards to our climate ambitions.

In 2025, EirGrid issued 12 Letters of Support and one Letter of Intent to Higher Education Institutions, Research Performing Organisations, and industry partners. The supported projects spanned critical areas including offshore renewable energy, energy storage, grid resilience, power system modelling, AI-driven outage defence, climate risk assessment, and demand-side flexibility.

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. 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. Participants are invited to submit technical proposals and compete for prizes awarded to both individuals and their institutions.

The 2025 CleanerGrid prompt challenged students to present their vision of what the growing energy sector would need to look like in 2050 to have sustainably achieved net-zero emissions. The competition culminated in a live finale at EirGrid's office on the 25th March 2025. Five finalist teams presented to a panel of judges that feature external experts. The event fostered dialogue between students, professionals, and EirGrid staff, and showcased innovative thinking aligned with national and EU energy goals. In recognition of its impact, CleanerGrid was named runner-up for the Renewables Grid Initiative's Good Practice Award 2025.

Preparations for the 2026 CleanerGrid competition started in September 2025 with the award ceremony planned for Q1 2026.

PhD level research

In 2025, EirGrid hosted two PhD networking events to promote our innovation activities, research priorities, and career pathways. These events facilitated dialogue between EirGrid experts and doctoral researchers, supporting collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Bachelor's and master's level research

In 2025, EirGrid continued to support academic research aligned with our innovation priorities, including the following projects:

1. Investigation on Strategies to Improve Power System Inertia in High Penetration of Renewable Energy Sources.
2. Exploring AI/ML for Strategic Storage, Demand, or Generation Projects in the Transmission System, including technology options, import/export capacities, and storage duration.

These projects reflect EirGrid's commitment to fostering research that addresses critical challenges in the clean energy transition and supports the development of a secure, sustainable power system.

Network of European TSO Trainees

In 2025, EirGrid completed its first full year of 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).

EirGrid nominated 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.

A key milestone was EirGrid's attendance at its first NETT Conference in Denmark, hosted by Energinet in March 2025. The event brought together 140 trainees from 13 TSOs across Europe and featured technical workshops, networking sessions, and a site visit to explore key grid infrastructure.

These engagements supported graduate development, facilitated cross-border knowledge exchange, and strengthened EirGrid's visibility within the European innovation ecosystem, ensuring that Irish perspectives were represented in shaping the future of energy collaboration in Europe.

Knowledge Leadership in Energy Utilities programme

In early 2025, EirGrid, alongside Technological University Dublin, began work on the potential co-design of accredited talent-development solutions to support us in further developing EirGrid's capability to meet emerging and future targets. This work culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in June 2025, followed by a Collaboration Agreement in December 2025. These agreements directly enabled a pilot initiative that led to the co-development of the accredited Knowledge Leadership in Energy Utilities programme, which commenced in January 2026.

Surveys and feedback mechanisms

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

Insights gathered from participants in the CleanerGrid competition, NETT representatives and academic partners were systematically reviewed to inform and improve future initiatives.

Post-event surveys, informal feedback sessions, and structured debriefs were also used to assess the effectiveness of the 2025 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.

Implementation

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Champion the emergence of the energy citizen through CleanerGrid	**CleanerGrid engagement:** In 2025, EirGrid engaged lecturers, students, and student societies across Irish universities and institutes of technology through email campaigns, social media outreach and direct campus engagement. We also hosted an awards presentation at EirGrid's offices with external judges and academic representatives.	**CleanerGrid engagement:** Five finalist teams from four universities attended the finale. EirGrid awarded cash prizes to the top three teams as well as matching funds to their institutions. In addition to the above, CleanerGrid was also named a runner-up for the Renewables Grid Initiative Good Practice Award in 2025. Through these engagements, EirGrid aims to strengthen our academic relationships across multiple institutions.
Support innovation and research aligned with EirGrid's strategy	**Letters of support:** In 2025, EirGrid continued to support Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) and industry partners with proposal reviews and consultations. We also provided letters of support for funding applications.	**Letters of support:** In 2025, EirGrid issued 12 letters of support and one letter of intent. Key areas of focus included offshore renewables, energy storage, grid resilience, AI-driven outage defence, and climate risk assessment.
Advance Strategic Innovation Programmes	**Strategic Innovation Programmes engagements:** In 2025, EirGrid engaged with over 20 external bodies including academic institutions, industry forums, and ENTSO-E committees. We also participated in various research collaborations and knowledge-sharing events.	**Strategic Innovation Programmes engagements:** In 2025, EirGrid published 6 research papers and progressed initiatives on AI, System Non-Synchronous Penetration (SNSP), offshore, HVDC, and network flexibility.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2025:

Description of metric:	Metric:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
CleanerGrid Finalists at March 2025 Event	€20,000 in prize money awarded 14 students across 5 finalist teams from 4 universities	In 2025, CleanerGrid continued to foster awareness of the clean energy transition and facilitated our work in strengthening academic relationships while engaging future talent through a structured competition.
Research papers published	6	The research from EirGrid staff seeks to address the various challenges Ireland's electricity grid faces, as we continue to support the Government's climate action targets. Through our research, EirGrid continues to drive key insights to support the resolution of shared challenges on an international scale.
Number of collaborative projects aligned to our strategic innovation programmes	31 projects	To help better ensure both progress and success towards EirGrid's targets, we are committed to engaging across multiple academic, industry and research bodies to achieve the objectives set out in our nine Strategic Innovation Programmes. The 22 projects set out in our Annual Innovation Report are supporting the delivery of Ireland's climate objectives.
Number of individual bodies we have active projects with	20+	In 2025, EirGrid extended our involvement across a number of different research areas, as well as gather insights, to further support our progress across our innovation and research priorities.
Student Research Projects Completed	2	In 2025, EirGrid supported the delivery of tangible academic outputs addressing system inertia and AI/ML applications for strategic planning, reinforcing EirGrid's commitment to applied research.

For more information on our innovation and research stakeholder engagement, please get in touch via our contact page here (with 'Innovation and Research' in the subject).

Sustainability

Overview

Part of our mission at EirGrid is to lead the island's electricity sector on sustainability and decarbonisation. And we do this through our Group Sustainability Strategy.

EirGrid's sustainability activities are captured across three broad pillars: Environmental, Social and Governance. And our stakeholder engagement activities support the following three objectives:

1) Driving climate action and transformation of the electricity system

Our aims under this pillar are:

- Deliver the secure transition to a low carbon electricity system.
- Support and embed the critical thinking required to deliver the electricity system transformation.
- Ensure climate change adaptation is factored into our asset management forward planning.

2) Committing to a sustainable society

Our aims under this pillar are:

- Create and inform societal awareness of the challenges we face and the role we can all play.
- Support learning and skills development across society to achieve the transition
- Support and promote diversity and inclusion.
- Promote a culture of health and safety.

3) Being a responsible organisation

Our aims under this pillar are:

- Further embed sustainability into governance, decisions, and delivery across the business.
- Manage and reduce our own carbon footprint.
- Achieve the highest ethical standards.
- Increase transparency on our non-financial performance.

Strategy

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 footprint, 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 for example. 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.

Business in The Community Ireland (BITCI)

EirGrid is proud to partner with Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI). Through our membership and participation in various BITCI initiatives such as the Business Working Responsible Mark, Elevate Pledge and Action on Education Programme, we demonstrate our commitment to responsible business operations and community engagement. We have regular engagement with BITCI through quarterly updates and various programme specific requirements.

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.

Implementation

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Committed to a sustainable society	**SciFest:** In 2025, EirGrid continued our partnership with SciFest through sponsorship of The Cleaner Climate Award, actively engaging with students and educators to promote innovative solutions for a sustainable future.	**SciFest:** In 2025, EirGrid strengthened its partnership with SciFest to promote science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) education across Ireland. SciFest provides an inclusive platform for second-level students to present and display their scientific investigations at local, regional, and national levels. Through this collaboration, EirGrid continues to inspire young innovators to explore solutions that contribute to a sustainable and cleaner energy future. As part of this partnership, the EirGrid Cleaner Climate Award was delivered at SciFest@School, SciFest@College, and the SciFest National Final. This award encourages students to develop projects that address climate challenges and support Ireland's transition to a low-carbon energy system. By recognising and rewarding these efforts, EirGrid helps foster creativity and awareness among the next generation of scientists and engineers. Beyond supporting STEM education, these engagements play a vital role in raising awareness of EirGrid's work and

		building trust within communities. By sharing knowledge and engaging directly with students, educators, and families, EirGrid strengthens relationships that are essential for public acceptance and successful delivery of future energy projects. This collaboration demonstrates EirGrid's commitment to sustainability, education, and community engagement, ensuring that the benefits of the energy transition are understood and embraced nationwide.
Committed to a sustainable society	**DCU Access to the Workplace Programme:** Regular engagement continued throughout 2025 along with a summer intern.	**DCU Access to the Workplace Programme:** Our partnership with the DCU Educational Trust on their Access to the Workplace Programme aims to make education accessible and achievable to young people from under-represented backgrounds. As part of our partnership, a student from the DCU Access to the Workplace Programme undertook an internship in EirGrid during the summer 2025, providing invaluable professional experience and developing important skills which can be applied as they return to complete their final year of studies. We are looking to work with DCU through this programme again in 2026.
Committed to a Sustainable Society	**STEM Teacher Internship programme:** EirGrid committed to participating in the STEM Teacher Internship (STInt) programme in 2025. Our roles were advertised in early 2025 through the STInt Portal.	**STEM Teacher Internship programme:** The STInt Programme is a national programme by DCU to provide primary and post primary teachers with paid summer internships in STEM roles. In 2025, we recruited two teachers who started with us in June 2025 and successfully completed their internships. We are looking to work with the STEM Teacher Internship Programme again in 2026.

Committed to a sustainable society	**Ellenfield Community College Dublin:** In 2025, we continued our mentoring programme, World of Work, with second-year students through the Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) Action on Education Programme. Engagement included hybrid group mentoring sessions on a range of topics, including career opportunities, personal effectiveness, and the development of important life skills. These sessions provided students with practical insights into the world of work and helped prepare them for future career paths, reinforcing our commitment to education and community engagement.	**Ellenfield Community College Dublin:** Through these engagements, we helped students gain exposure to new and different perspectives while improving communication, self-confidence, and self-awareness. These initiatives also strengthened our partnerships with local communities and empowered young people from under-represented backgrounds, ensuring that opportunities for growth and development are accessible to all.
Committed to a sustainable Society	**Marian College (BITCI):** 2025 was the first year that EirGrid piloted our mentoring programme (called 'World of Work') with second year students through the Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) Action on Education Programme. Engagement included workshop sessions on a variety of topics including a 'Day in the Life' session in EirGrid Offices, workshops on renewable energy and sustainable practices as well as important life skills development.	**Marian College (BITCI):** Through these engagements, we help students gain exposure to new and different perspectives while improving communication, self-confidence and igniting their interest in STEM. These engagements also help us enhance our partnerships with local communities in the Powering Up Dublin area.
Committed to a sustainable society	Young Social Innovators (YSI): In 2022, EirGrid became the new Climate Action and Energy partner with the non-profit organisation Young Social Innovators (YSI), for a three-year period (concluding in 2025). In 2025, EirGrid joined a panel of judges for 'The Den', a social impact fund that provides support to teams who successfully pitch for assistance to develop an idea, product, or enterprise.	**Young Social Innovators (YSI):** Through our YSI partnership, we recognise the importance to involve young people in dialogue surrounding climate action efforts.
Committed to a Sustainable Society	**Engagement with Foróige:** In 2025, we began working with Foróige on a range of targeted projects for young people around Dublin.	**Engagement with Foróige:** Through these engagements, EirGrid aims to make a difference by supporting young people across Dublin City to engage in programmes and interventions that promote leadership, civic engagement, community development, and develop skills in problem solving.
Committed to a Sustainable Society	**Green Schools Energy Theme:** 2025 saw EirGrid's first academic year as sponsor of An Taisce Green-Schools Energy theme. As part of this initiative,	**Green Schools Energy Theme:** The aim of Green-Schools is to raise awareness of environmental issues through

	EirGrid engaged with secondary and primary schools across the country. There were 40 schools working on energy this academic year and this will increase to 100 in 2025-26 academic year. **Regional energy workshops (24-25 academic year)** EirGrid representatives presented at regional workshops throughout the year, informing students about EirGrid's role in managing and operating the grid, while transforming the grid for future generations. Three primary school regional workshops were delivered, with a fourth for secondary schools. In total 11 schools around the country attended the regional energy workshops, which amounted to 70 students and 18 teachers taking part. In addition, EirGrid facilitated an energy workshop as Gaeilge at Scoil Éinne An Spidéal, Co. na Gaillimhe and attended the flag raising ceremony at the school. **Online Energy Festival** 2025 also saw the very first dedicated Green-Schools Energy theme week launched with the Green-Schools online Festival of Energy. The festival included live interactive webinars aimed at senior primary school students. EirGrid representatives took part in a number of webinars, including careers talk, with videos still available on the Green-Schools' YouTube channel.	classroom and outdoor studies and to transfer this knowledge into positive environmental action in the school and in the wider community. Through these engagements, we aim to build awareness regarding EirGrid's role in managing and operating Ireland's electricity grid as well as strengthen relationships where we are developing or planning to develop the grid.
Committed to a sustainable society	**Elevate Pledge (BITCI):** EirGrid's engagement with Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) regarding the Elevate Pledge continued in 2025, culminating in the submission of our data in February and the publication of the report later in the year.	**Elevate Pledge (BITCI):** The Elevate Pledge is BITCI's Pledge to support businesses to build a more inclusive workplace. As a signatory to this pledge, we continued to support the Elevate Pledge in 2025.
Committed to a sustainable society	**Friends of the Earth /Renewable Grid Initiative:** In 2025, we continued our collaborative project 'Our energy future' with Friends of the Earth and the Renewable Grid Initiative to engage communities and groups on Ireland's energy transition. The core activity of the project was focused on inclusive discussions and reflections with communities, civil	**Friends of the Earth /Renewable Grid Initiative:** This project concluded in 2025 with a final workshop, and the publication of a joint declaration on accelerating renewable energy while ensuring environmental protection. The declaration in summary identified five key areas to deliver sustainable and socially equitable Offshore

	society organisations, local groups, and other stakeholders.	Renewable Energy, namely: nature-inclusive acceleration of renewable infrastructure, transparent, up-to-date and accessible environmental data, stakeholder engagement, permitting and planning as well as investment in environmental education.
Committed to a Sustainable Society	**Electric Aid:** Electric Aid is a social justice and development fund between EirGrid and ESB employees. ElectricAid supports 76 projects in six continents. All funded projects are linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.	**Electric Aid:** ElectricAid's focus of support is on development, and it supports communities through self-help and, when needed, emergency relief.
Driving climate action and transformation of the electricity grid	**Carbon footprint assessment:** In 2025, we continued our carbon footprint assessment aligned with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi).	**Carbon footprint assessment:** Continuing our carbon footprint assessment in 2025 enabled us to track progress on emissions targets. This work supports our ongoing efforts to reduce our overall carbon footprint.
Being a responsible business	**The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Monitoring and Reporting (M&R):** In 2025, EirGrid continued to align with SEAI M&R 2030 targets by running energy management measures in consultation with SEAI.	**The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Monitoring and Reporting:** The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Monitoring and Reporting system allows public bodies to report energy, emissions and related data to SEAI each year so that they can track each organisation's progress towards energy and climate policy targets.
Being a Responsible Business	**Business Working Responsibly (BWR) mark:** Since 2010, EirGrid has been accredited with the Business Working Responsibly (BWR) Mark, which is an independent external accreditation of how EirGrid interacts with the marketplace, the workplace, the environment, and the communities we engage with and as an assessment of our sustainability strategic approach. Our engagement continued throughout 2025 as we worked to renew our Mark accreditation.	**Business Working Responsibly (BWR) mark:** EirGrid was successfully certified to the BWR Mark in 2025. Achieving the BWR Mark enhances our brand and reputation, in addition to positioning us as an employer of choice in the marketplace.
Being a responsible business	**Commercial Semi-State Climate Action Framework (CSS-CAF) (NewERA):** In 2025, EirGrid continued engaging	**Commercial Semi-State Climate Action Framework (CSS-CAF) (NewERA):** In August 2022, the

	with NewERA and completed the CSS-CAF submission.	Government approved a Climate Action Framework for the commercial semi-state sector. The framework will apply to every commercial semi-state company and covers five commitments: • Governance of climate action objectives • Emissions measurement and reduction target • Emissions valuation in investment appraisal • Circular economy and green procurement • Climate-related disclosures To capture and monitor the implementation status of the Framework, inputs are requested by NewERA on a bi-annual basis. These responses are then collated into an implementation report which provides an overview of the performance of the commercial semi states against the five commitments.
Being a responsible business	**Smarter Travel Mark National Transport Authority (NTA):** As a Workplace Partner under the TFI Smarter Travel Programme, we collaborated closely with the NTA throughout 2025 to advance sustainable commuting initiatives. This partnership focused on developing and implementing our Workplace Travel Plan, which included: - Conducting employee travel surveys to understand commuting patterns. - Promoting sustainable transport options across our organisation. - Dedicating financial and non-financial resources to supporting initiatives. - Retained the Gold Smarter Travel Mark.	**Smarter Travel Mark National Transport Authority (NTA):** Our engagement with the NTA resulted in the successful retention of the Smarter Travel Mark at Gold level, reflecting our continued leadership in sustainable travel practices. We strengthened organisational commitment by allocating resources and promoting active and public transport, supporting our goal of reducing car dependency. In 2025, we continued working on improvements in our infrastructure to encourage employees to commute sustainably, such as the addition of a dedicated drying room to support active travel.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2025:

Description of metric:	Metric/Milestone:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
SciFest engagement	The breakdown of the EirGrid awards for 2025 is as follows: • Third year of EirGrid Cleaner Climate Grand Award presented at the SciFest National Final. • SciFest@School: 87 EirGrid Cleaner Climate Award Winners (for 177 students) across 80 schools. • SciFest@College: 19 EirGrid Cleaner Climate Awards (for 31 students) across the 15 regional venues.	Our engagement with our sustainability partners such as SciFest aims to foster collaboration that drives impactful environmental, social and governance (ESG) initiatives. Through these strategic alliances, we strive to create meaningful change by supporting communities, driving sustainable initiatives in education and promoting sustainable business practices.
Partnership with Ellenfield Community College	2025 marked 12 years of our partnership with Ellenfield. In 2025, we engaged with 23 second year students as part of this initiative.	2025 marks the 12th year of EirGrid's exceptional partnership with Ellenfield Community College, and we are thrilled to see this collaboration continue to thrive and evolve, fuelling growth and success for years to come.
Partnership with Marian College	2025 marks the first year of our partnership with Marian College. In 2025, we engaged with 47 students as part of this initiative.	This year, we were delighted to launch our partnership with Marian College as well as expand the programme to a new school.
Sustainable travel	• In 2025, EirGrid Retained the National Transport Authority Gold Smarter Travel Mark. • 85% of EirGrid employees commuted via sustainable modes in 2025. • Participation in our NTA Marchathon and Walktober initiatives saw a strong uplift this year, increasing from 45 teams to 66 teams, a 46.7% rise in engagement. Each team consisted of between three and six participants, meaning the growth in team numbers represents a significant expansion in overall staff involvement.	Part of our mission at EirGrid is to lead the island's electricity sector on sustainability and decarbonisation. A key element of this commitment is driving sustainability within our own organisation. Retaining the Gold Smarter Travel Mark reflects the success of our internal initiatives and our ongoing engagement with the National Transport Authority.

BWR Mark	In 2025, EirGrid had our Business Working Responsibly (BWR) Mark successfully renewed for the next three years.	In 2025, EirGrid achieved the Business Working Responsibly Mark, certifying our organisation for the next three years. This demonstrates our commitment to embedding sustainability and responsible business practices across all aspects of our operations.

For more information on sustainability engagement, email sustainability@eirgrid.com

Strategic planning and future networks

Overview

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.

In 2025, our objectives with regards to strategic planning and future networks included the following:

Strategic Network Study (formerly Net zero network planning)

Following on from Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios 2023, and building on Shaping Our Electricity Future, EirGrid has explored 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.

In 2025, we built on our preceding analysis to develop this further at a regional and network level, both onshore and offshore, domestically and interconnected with our neighbours.

Working with stakeholders, EirGrid has helped key internal and external stakeholders gain a better awareness of the need for, and potential scale of, the future transmission network required for a fully decarbonised power system in Ireland. Engagement has primarily been with the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE). Other key stakeholders have included ESB Networks (DSO) and Gas Networks Ireland. EirGrid has also been engaging with relevant industry representative bodies.

Engagement is also underway with DCEE to review the approach to planning the future energy system.

Green hydrogen and energy storage development

In 2025, EirGrid engaged in dialogue with key stakeholders exploring the potential for green hydrogen and energy storage in Ireland. We explored the potential interaction of hydrogen with the electricity system, its role in the fuel mix for generation, as well as the wider development of the hydrogen economy.

Engagement included meetings with 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 strategic planning noted above.

International collaboration

In 2025, EirGrid continued to play an active role within ENTSO-E, coordinating with TSOs across Europe on cross-border system needs and developing the next Ten-Year Network Development Plan (2026).

EirGrid also worked closely within the Offshore TSO Collaboration (OTC), coordinating on offshore network planning in the Northern Seas region.

Our participation in these organisations helps ensure Ireland's emerging project opportunities are understood and incorporated into regional offshore development strategies.

Alongside our ENTSO-E and OTC activities, throughout 2025, EirGrid engaged bilaterally with neighbouring TSOs to exchange system insights and explore the feasibility of future interconnection projects. This helps ensure Ireland remains well positioned within the evolving European energy system.

In addition, EirGrid will continue engaging with DCEE and the International Energy Agency (IEA) to consider strategic planning and scenario analysis for future development and operation of power systems. This is anticipated to include consideration of energy markets and security of supply considerations for decarbonised power systems.

(See our chapter on European, Government and Policy engagement for more details on our engagement with these bodies.)

Power system research and studies

In 2025, EirGrid continued to engage with academia and bodies undertaking research relevant to strategic planning for Ireland's transmission networks and energy systems. This included engagements with national, regional and local authorities and development bodies, industry associations and academic institutions.

EirGrid also contributed 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 supported the development of SEAI's Decarbonised Electricity System Strategy (DESS).

EirGrid also engaged with statutory and industry bodies exploring future energy demand, in particular relating to Large Energy Users (LEUs) as well as electrified transport and heating.

Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement 2025

EirGrid worked with CRU, SONI and UR to develop and publish the Ten-Year Transmission Forecast Statement 2024 (published August 2025).

Grid Code Compliance Studies (GCCS)

Grid Code Compliance Studies are the part of the process to connect generators to the transmission system. Engagement is a key part of this process and through our close collaboration with industry stakeholders in 2025, EirGrid connected approximately 20 users.

Strategy

EirGrid leveraged a range of channels to deliver stakeholder engagement including the Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council, the Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce and the National Spatial Strategy for Offshore Renewable Energy.

For key stakeholders, such as DCEE, CRU and industry bodies, regular meetings have been established to provide progress updates and seek feedback.

Implementation

Goals:	2025 engagements:	Outcomes:
Commence development of Transmission Development Plan 2026	**Transmission Development Plan 2026:** EirGrid engaged with CRU and consulted industry, regarding the revised content and structure for the Transmission Development Plan 2026.	**Transmission Development Plan 2026:** Through effective engagement, we aim to publish the newly structured Transmission Development Plan 2026.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2025:

Description of metric:	Metric:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
Consultation on content and structure of future Transmission	10	We received feedback from a range of industry stakeholders, representative groups and individuals. A summary of the feedback received was published in the consultation report and

Development Plan – responses received		will be used to inform the revised content and structure of the TDP in 2026.

For more information on strategic planning and future networks, please get in touch via our contact page here (with 'Future Networks' in the email subject).

Appendices: 2025 Consultations

Please note, all items are listed by audience and then by calendar year:

Q1 = January – March

Q2 = April – June

Q3 = July – September

Q4 = October – December

2025 Consultations

Consultation:	Date:	Overview:
Draft EirGrid Annual Innovation Report 2024	Q1 2025	To communicate the progress on the innovation and research programmes that have taken place throughout the year, as well as our ambition for future programmes and initiatives.
Draft stakeholder engagement report 2024	Q1 2025	The Stakeholder Engagement Report is consulted upon as part of the CRU NSEE incentive. The aim of the consultation is to gather feedback on EirGrid's stakeholder engagement activities.
FASS The Gap consultation	Q1 2025	The DS3 Regulated Arrangements are set to expire several months prior go-live of the enduring Day Ahead System Services Auction (DASSA) and the future arrangements to procure non-reserve services. The TSOs therefore required a mechanism to continue to procure the correct volume and quantity of services to ensure that the system can be securely managed with a high level of renewables during this gap period. The Gap Consultation explored several options and recommended extension of the current DS3 Regulated Arrangements.
EirGrid Biodiversity Strategy	Q1 and Q2 2025	EirGrid engaged with the public over a 12-week period to gather insights and feedback on the new EirGrid Biodiversity Strategic Plan.
FASS-DASSA Top up mechanism	Q1 and Q2 2025	In March 2025, the TSOs conducted a consultation on the DASSA Top-Up Mechanism, inviting feedback on the proposed Residual Availability Determination (RAD) mechanism. The RAD proposals intended to address any gap between the outcomes of the DASSA, real-time system requirements, and the actual real-time availability of DASSA Order Holders net of other market commitments.
All island resource adequacy assessment 2026-2035 Methodology and Inputs & Assumptions Consultation	Q2 2025	The aim of this consultation was to consult on the methodology, inputs and assumptions for the AIRAA 2026-2035.

Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project- Substation zones	Q2 2025	This consultation aimed to seek feedback on the zones identified within the study area for the location of two Gas-Insulated Substations (GIS), one in the Steelstown area and one in the Hynestown area.
FASS: DASSA Parameters and scalars	Q2 2025	In September 2024, the SEM Committee (SEMC) published its decision with respect to the recommended design for the Day-Ahead System Services Auction (DASSA) , that was submitted by the Transmission System Operators (TSOs) to the SEMC in July 2024. The TSOs have been progressing the development of the DASSA in response to the SEMC decision. The SEMC decision further directed the TSOs to consult on elements of the daily auction design, a number of which are covered in this paper.
Harmonised Other system charges (OSC) Consultation paper for 2025/26	Q2 2025	The purpose of this consultation was to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to share their views on how the current 'Other System Charges' operate and whether they continue to function effectively. Through this consultation, EirGrid sought feedback on the design, application, and overall suitability of the charges to ensure they remain aligned with system needs, support efficient operation, and reflect stakeholder experience.
Structure and content of the Transmission Development Plan	Q2 2025	The Transmission Development Plan (TDP) is a statutory requirement as set out in EirGrid's TSO licence and also Irish and EU legislation, which is produced within a two-year cycle. The TDP reports the planned transmission infrastructure projects due to be built or upgraded over a ten-year horizon. The aim of this consultation was to seek feedback from industry and stakeholders on how the TDP can better serve its audience going forwards while continuing to fulfil its statutory obligations. The insights we received will help contribute towards the revised structure and content for future editions of the TDP.
Proposed TLAFS 2025/26	Q2 2025	EirGrid published its proposed set of Transmission Loss Adjustment Factors (TLAF) for 2024/25 for consultation. Transmission Loss Adjustment Factors are how we allocate transmission losses to generators/interconnectors.

LCIS Procurement Phase 2- Requirements, contractual and procurement arrangements	Q3 2025	The aim of this consultation was to gather insights regarding LCIS requirements, including contractual and procurement arrangements. To support this consultation, a webinar was held on 19 August to present the proposed LCIS Procurement Phase 2 approach and engage participants via a Q&A session.
DS3 System Services Temporal Scarcity Scalar Consultation	Q3 2025	Under the framework of decisions governing DS3 System Services, the TSOs are required to continue to monitor the effectiveness and costs of the tariff arrangements and report quarterly to the RAs, as per SEM-23-103 and, if appropriate, recommend revisions to current tariff rates and/or associated scalars. This aim of this consultation was to gather industry stakeholder input and feedback on the above.
Draft Annual Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2024 and the Draft Investment Planning and Delivery Report 2024 Consultation	Q3 2025	The Draft Annual Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2024 and Draft Investment Planning and Delivery Report 2024, published for consultation from 20 August to 17 September 2025, are jointly prepared with ESB Networks as TAO. These reports outline annual performance in operating and developing the Transmission System and provide stakeholders with a clear, comprehensive, non-technical overview of performance during the calendar year.
Eirgrid Draft 2026 Stakeholder Engagement Plan	Q4 2025	The Stakeholder Engagement Plan is consulted upon as part of the CRU NSEE incentive. The aim of the consultation is to gather feedback on EirGrid's planned stakeholder engagement activities.
Proposed Testing Tariff Rates Paper for Calendar Year 2026	Q4 2025	Testing tariffs are applied to Units Under Test (UUT) in the Single Electricity Market (SEM) based on the MW capacity of the generator unit. The tariffs are dependent upon the type of test being carried out and the impact on system security. There are several costs that the Transmission System Operators (TSOs) consider are appropriate for inclusion in the testing tariffs. These costs relate to section F.13 of the Trading and Settlement Code. The aim of this consultation was to invite comments from industry on EirGrid's proposals detailed in our consultation documentation.
Powering Up the North West Step 3 Consultation	Q3 2025	EirGrid’s Powering Up the North West consultation invited communities across Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon to provide input on two new proposed 220 kV overhead lines designed to meet rising electricity demand and support renewable integration in the region.

Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) Procurement Mechanism Consultation	Q3 2025	LDES Procurement Approach Consultation - EirGrid issued a public consultation outlining the proposed Procurement Approach for Long Duration Energy Storage, in response to the Irish Government's Electricity Storage Policy Framework , specifically Action 6, which calls for the immediate procurement of up to 500 MW of 4-hour duration energy storage technologies that can import, store and export electricity to the transmission system. The consultation was open for 6 weeks and was supported by an industry webinar and presented on at the Future Power Markets in-person workshop in October 2025.