EirGrid

EirGridNorthConnacht.ie

North Connacht 110kV Project



Summer Update 2023



Who are EirGrid and what do we do?

EirGrid develops, manages, and operates Ireland's electricity grid.

We are leading the secure transition of Ireland's electricity grid to a low carbon, renewable future. We are responsible for the safe, secure, and reliable supply of Ireland's electricity.

The grid brings power from where it is generated to where it is needed throughout Ireland. It supplies power directly to industry and businesses that use large amounts of electricity. The grid also brings power from generators to the domestic network that supplies the electricity you use every day in your home.

The electricity grid is a critical infrastructure underpinning and enabling our social and economic development. Work carried out now will help create a more sustainable future for the next generation.

What is the North Connacht 110 kV Project?

The North Connacht 110 kV Project will create a new circuit in the electricity transmission network in the north-west of Ireland. The new circuit will enhance the network in the area and increase capacity to meet the demands for electricity to support economic growth in the area. It will also connect new renewable energy sources, such as wind power, to help with meeting our Climate Action Plan targets.

The North Connacht 110 kV Project consists of the following elements:

- A new 110 kV underground electricity cable from Moy substation in Ballina, Co Mayo to the Tonroe substation in Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon.
- Upgrade and extension work to Moy and Tonroe substations.
- An upgrade of the existing 110 kV overhead line between the Tonroe and Flagford substations in Co Roscommon. The location of the line will not change.

What has happened so far?

- In 2017, we announced the need for the North Connacht Project.
- In 2018, we defined the study area and engaged with stakeholders.
- In 2019, we refined the study area and engaged with landowners and stakeholders on two technology options a) overhead line and b) underground cable
- In 2020, we engaged on seven (overhead line and underground cable) corridor options
- In 2021, we confirmed the Emerging Best Performing Option (EBPO) and later that year the Best Performing Option which was an underground cable.

In 2022, we finalised:

- the underground cable route from Ballaghaderreen Co. Roscommon to Ballina Co. Mayo
- the overhead line uprate from Ballaghaderreen Co. Roscommon to Flagford Co. Roscommon
- station redevelopment in Ballina and Ballaghaderreen
- We also submitted a planning application to An Bord Pleanála in June 2022




Moy Substation
Ballina
N59
N26
L1109
Ballina
Moy Substation
McDermott St
Mayo Sligo Mart
Stephenites GAA Club
Ardnaree GAA Club
Church Rd
Childers Heights
Hollister Inc.
L1122
SLIGO
Owenbeg
Mad
Owenaher
Swinford
Swinford GAA Club
Deerpark
N5
N17
Tobercurry
Bellanam
Foxford
N58
Moy
Trimoge
Kiltimagh
Cox's Line
Tonroe Substation
Ballaghaderreen
Cedar Grove
Legend
Underground On Road Cable
Underground Off Road Cable
National Roads
Substations

What Happens Next?

If planning consent is received, the project will move to Step 6, which is the final stage. During Step 6, the project will be constructed and delivered. This process should take about 3 years.

During the construction phase, we will continue to engage with the community to minimise disruption to road users, landowners and communities.



Step One	Step Two	Step Three	Step Four	Step Five	Step Six
How do we identify needs of the electricity grid?	What technologies can meet these needs?	What's the best option and what area may be affected.	Where exactly should we build?	**Apply for planning permission.**	Construct, energise (make live), and share benefits.

● **Current Step**

Benefits of the North Connacht Project Upgrade



Competition
This helps to keep electricity costs down



Sustainability
Help Ireland's transition to a low carbon energy future



Security of Supply
Improve the security of the electricity supply for Irish homes and businesses



Economic
Contribute to the regional economy and support increased investment in the area



Community
Deliver benefits to communities in the areas that facilitate the project infrastructure

Community Forum

The North Connacht Community Forum was established by EirGrid. This group aims to makes sure that the voices of the local communities, and those impacted most by our infrastructure, are listened to. The forum provides for open dialogue between the project team and those with interests in the project.

The North Connacht Community Forum offers advice to us on key project developments such as:

- how we communicate and engage with the public;
- what we need to consider in developing the project; and
- how we can deliver meaningful community benefit to the area where our infrastructure is hosted.

The forum acts as a consultative body and does not replace any other engagement and consultation we carry out.

The forum is chaired by an independent facilitator, Bobby Mc Cormack, CEO Development Perspectives.

The forum was set up in September 2021 and has met six times since.

The meetings are an effective way to:

- inform the group of the latest developments on the project,
- ensure two-way communication is ongoing, and
- highlight any new information from the community.

Community Benefit

We recognise the importance of local communities and businesses who facilitate the upgrading of the electricity transmission network and the Community Benefit Fund reflects this. While the North Connacht 110kV Project is being built, we will work to support communities as part of our community benefit policy.

A dedicated fund for North Connacht 110kV Project will be made available to provide direct benefits to communities who are closest to new transmission infrastructure. These funds, which are proportional to the scale of the project, support local good causes, help communities transform their area, and provide the opportunity for each community to become or remain a 'sustainable energy community'. The overall aim is to leave a positive legacy in the communities hosting electrical infrastructure. The community benefit scheme becomes live once a project receives planning permission.

The first step is the appointment of an independent administrator who will work with the North Connacht Community Forum and EirGrid to co-develop a community benefit strategy.

This fund will be released in 3 phases, which align with the development of the infrastructure

1: Construction 40%
2: Cable Installation 30%
3: Energisation 30%

[Energisation means to enable an electrical current to flow through an electricity transmission and distribution network]

These funds will provide support to local community groups, not-for-profit organisations and social enterprises that operate or service communities near the new infrastructure.

Examples of projects include:

- Heritage projects supporting a historical or archaeological association;
- Community projects such as creating walkways, or support for retrofitting of local community halls;
- Education initiatives such as providing IT equipment to enhance digital learning;
- Environmental initiatives – for example, installing beehives;
- Youth facilities such as a playground;
- Sports facilities such as providing equipment or a playing pitch, or supporting sporting groups to reduce energy consumption and become more sustainable.



Get in Touch

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www.eirgridnorthconnacht.ie and
www.eirgridgroup.com/the-grid/projects/north-connacht/the-project

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