EirGrid.ie

Stakeholder Engagement Report 2024

Networks Stakeholder Engagement Evaluation (NSEE)



EirGrid

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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

01

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 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; channels and initiatives for engaging with stakeholders, consistent with our strategy; and demonstrable positive impacts on stakeholders, stakeholder groups or the business.

This report details our stakeholder engagements throughout 2024 with a focus on how these have supported EirGrid's progress. We've also used the four key measures of success in our stakeholder engagement strategy to guide the metrics detailed in this report. 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 report focuses on our engagement within our remit as a TSO and is a requirement under PR5 CRU/20/154, the CRU's PR5 Regulatory Framework, Incentives and Reporting Decision Paper.



Errol Close
Chief Corporate Services Officer at EirGrid Group

I am pleased to present the EirGrid 2024 Stakeholder Engagement Report.

This document captures our stakeholder engagement from throughout 2024 as Ireland's Transmission System Operator.

Effective stakeholder engagement plays an essential role in enabling EirGrid to transform the power system for future generations. The positive impact of our continued collaboration can be seen across all strands of EirGrid's delivery.

In 2024, we have made significant progress in delivering on the milestones identified in the Shaping Our Electricity Future roadmap and many of these achievements have been secured by a supportive and collaborative approach with our stakeholders, customers, communities and industry partners.

We continue to make progress on the Celtic Interconnector with strong and impactful engagement, particularly with local fishing communities, playing a vital role in supporting project progress in 2024.

2024 also saw EirGrid continue to drive our extensive public engagement strategy with the continuation of the Energy Citizen Roadshows and Community Benefit Schemes with a total of €992,437 awarded to community groups in Laois, Kilkenny and East Cork in 2024.

Our progression towards further interconnection was underpinned by EirGrid's wider engagement with continental Europe and Great Britain, through integral bodies such as ENTSO-E, CIGRE and the Ostend group.

Finally, EirGrid continues to support the work being done on an international level to meet the energy demands of tomorrow through our continued contributions to innovation and research.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all of the valuable feedback that we have received to date and look forward to continued collaboration into the future.



Our Network Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

02

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 balance supply and demand every minute of the day, while also planning for Ireland's long-term electricity needs.

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 the national electricity grid.

EirGrid is responsible for developing and operating interconnections with neighbouring grids, such as the UK via the East West Interconnector. We have future interconnections underway with 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.

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.



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 is 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.



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.

01

We are transparent

We are open, honest and proactive in our communications.

Transparency builds **Trust**

02

We are collaborative

We work with our colleagues and our external partners to deliver for our stakeholders

Collaboration generates **Success**

03

We are accountable

We are confident in our capabilities and are clear on our boundaries

Accountability enables **Empowerment**

04

We are ambitious

We stretch ourselves to accomplish our goals

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
Involve stakeholders as early as possible

Inclusive
Provide information in plain English that is accessible

Consistent
Provide enough time for people to contribute their views

Collaborative
Offer clear opportunities for engagement

Reciprocal
Explain decisions and factors that influence those decisions

Transparent
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.

01 Inform

- Accessible information
- Public-awareness campaigns
- Media campaigns
- Letters and emails to stakeholders
- Project brochures and updates

02 Consult

- Formal consultations
- Surveys
- Focus Groups
- Events

03 Engage

- Bilateral meetings
- Community forums
- Business forums
- Industry workshops
- Public workshops
- Infrastructure forums
- Market Operator User Groups
- Conferences
- One-on-one meetings
- Participatory dialogue, e.g., open days/mobile information unit day

04 Collaborate

- Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council
- Steering groups, workshops and taskforces
- Joint programmes of work
- Significant collaboration with European entities and other TSOS
- Timely engagement with local authorities
- School and educational partnerships (including sponorships)
- Regular engagement with academia
- Bespoke account management

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
- 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)
- Providing phonelines
- Conducting webinars
- Customer surveys





Demonstrating effective stakeholder engagement

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:



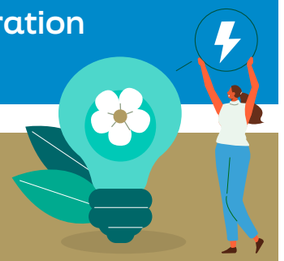
01

Regular and timely opportunities for communication and collaboration

02

Transparency around decision making





03

Opportunities to resolve issues, discover gaps and increase alignment

04

Innovative and efficient delivery of services (across grid and market)



Who are our stakeholders?

We believe that identifying our stakeholders is a dynamic activity we must complete regularly to capture the constant changes that occur in the energy ecosystem. Recognising 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 in line with government targets and a low carbon electricity system through:

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

The Government's 'Policy Statement on the Framework for Ireland's Offshore Electricity Transmission System' has tasked EirGrid with the development and ownership of a new offshore electricity grid. This introduces 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, marine and coastal communities, 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. To realise Government targets for Ireland to be powered by 80% renewable electricity, we have proportionately increased our engagement with landowners and communities. Learning how best to scale and optimise this engagement is an ongoing key priority for our engagement planning.

Leading up to 2030 and beyond, 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. This is a challenge and 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 while causing the least impact on 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
	Energy Industry	Distribution System Operator (DSO), Transmission Asset Owner (TAO) and other utilities, and other utilities, Industry Representative Groups, Sectoral Representative Groups, Developers, Suppliers
	Transmission System Operators (TSOs)	Réseau de Transport d'Électricité (RTE), National Grid Electricity System Operator (National Grid ESO) and others
	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, planning authorities and others
	Education Partners, Electricity Consumers, Energy Citizens, the Public	Broader societal engagements & partnerships
STATUTORY	**Government and Government Agencies**	Relevant departments and relevant agencies
	European Union (EU)	European Commission, European Parliament, European Council
	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)
	Local authorities	Local councils & elected representatives
	Public agencies	Relevant public agencies
	Infrastructure	Iarnród Éireann, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Uisce Éireann, Roads Management Office (RMO), City and County Managers Association (CCMA), Gas Networks Ireland
OTHER	**Regulatory**	Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), Single Electricity Market (SEM) Committee, Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM), French Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) URNI (Utility Regulator Northern Ireland)
	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), Access to the Workplace (Dublin City University), CIGRE (International Council on Large Electric Systems), Irish Lights
	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)
	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 report, in the absence of a final decision (The final 2023 NSEE Panel Close Out Report CRU2024121 was published in January 2025) we took into consideration, without prejudice, the draft 2023 Network Stakeholder Engagement Evaluation (NSEE) Panel's feedback and recommendations as shared by the CRU in September 2024. EirGrid has also maintained a strong focus on the initiatives highlighted in the panel's CRU202319 2022 Close Out Report (published November 2023).

Continued development of EirGrid's stakeholder engagement documentation

We have greatly enhanced this year's report to further detail EirGrid's stakeholder engagement strategy, demonstrating where it sits within our wider, corporate strategy along with our key measures for effective stakeholder engagement. Following feedback, this year's report also incorporates a much stronger focus on our strategic channels for engagements as well as the planned outcomes of our engagements, which link back to our measures for effective engagement. In response to stakeholder panel feedback, we have also included metrics tables for each chapter that aim to capture the success of EirGrid's stakeholder engagement.

In 2024, and in response to feedback in the NSEE 2022 Panel Close Out Report, we also ensured earlier publication of our 2025 Stakeholder Engagement Plan which was consulted on in October last year, with the Final 2025 Plan and respective Consultation Response Document both published before the end of the year (19th December 2024).



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.

Engagement with industry

We also continue to work on initiatives 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.

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, EirGrid conducts an annual customer survey to gather structured feedback on EirGrid customer experience. This feedback is very important and is a key enabler for identifying lessons learned which leads to process improvements.

For example, we have extended the rollout of our periodic engagements with key customers, since survey feedback has indicated that our customers want more timely and proactive engagements. As a result, we are looking to engage customers in advance of emerging issues through prompts and scheduling that create a more effective working relationship. We have done this in 2024 and will continue in 2025.

In 2024, EirGrid issued 10 lessons learned surveys which included specific questions to prompt feedback on possible project delivery improvement areas. This survey also included a review of various areas such as project management, design management, meeting management and scope during the full lifecycle of a project.

As part of the pre-engagement process, we also provide guidance to our customers on preparations for the connection process which are managed through our customer clinics. This support is continued through the application stage by working collaboratively to determine the best connection option for their projects.

In 2024, EirGrid conducted a total of 90 customer clinics (in comparison to 61 Clinics in 2023).

Finally, in 2024, EirGrid set up the Tri-Party Forum (made up of EirGrid, ESB Networks and industry representatives) which meets on a quarterly basis to discuss challenges, improvements, lessons learned and best practices. These engagements are already helping to streamline the customer connection delivery process, reducing delays and ensuring the timely delivery of new customer projects.

Our partnership with the DSO

In 2024, EirGrid and ESB Networks published our 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 under the following pillars: reducing dispatch down, secure future power system, facilitating new technology and whole of system solutions.

In 2024, activity has been progressed across all four workstreams, which will be outlined in detail in the TSO/DSO Incentive Outturn Report for 2024 (scheduled to be submitted to CRU in April 2025). Of note, significant work has been delivered by EirGrid and ESB Networks to finalise the TSO-DSO operating model high-level design and implementation plan.

This Operating Model aims to enable better management of the transmission and distribution systems and enhanced coordination between the system operators. This enhanced management and coordination are key to achieving the ambitious climate action targets.

Focus on onshore delivery

As a result of feedback from the NSEE Panel Close Out Report 2023, we have greatly expanded this year's report to detail EirGrid's commitments across all of the major areas of our organisation, including the key mechanisms for engagements for onshore delivery (such as the Accelerating Renewable Energy Taskforce) and the planned outcomes of these engagements.

Future planning

Following the panel's feedback, we included a new chapter in EirGrid's 2025 Stakeholder Engagement Plan entitled 'Strategic planning and future networks' which details our approach to engagement as we work towards our long-term decarbonisation goals.

In 2024, EirGrid also published our Transmission Development Plan (TDP). The TDP reports the planned transmission infrastructure projects that need to be built or upgraded over the ten years from 2024 to 2033. The timeline of the TDP aligns with the strategic planning horizons adopted by EirGrid. These are the medium-term planning, long-term scenario planning and strategic visions for the future.

In addition to the TDP, EirGrid also published the following documents in 2024:

- **2023 Grid Implementation Plan –** This was following an extensive consultation process which included Irish Environmental Authorities for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), the general public and a wide range of public authorities, as well as Government departments in Ireland, the UK and France.

- **Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios (TES) 2023 –** Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios looks at how the energy sector might evolve between 2035 and 2050. TES also informs our TES System Needs Assessment (TES SNA) document which examines the needs of the transmission grid over this same time period in greater detail. TES SNA will then feed into our Net Zero Network Planning document to further inform our planning across 2031-2050.

Consultations

We understand the importance of clear and timely communications with our stakeholders and have continued to enhance our approach to consultations in 2024 across our organisation.

For example, throughout the course of 2024, the Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS) programme delivered a number of consultations as set out in the Phased Implementation Roadmap.

To ensure successful delivery of a new set of arrangements for the procurement of systems services, EirGrid has been engaging with the Regulatory Authorities and industry stakeholders through numerous existing channels including our monthly Future Power Markets (FPM) Workshops and the System Services Future Arrangements (SSFA) Project Panel.

Following the Industry Readiness Survey, the insights gathered helped shape the High-Level Readiness Scope, which was published at the end of November. The feedback from industry was a request for early access to complex FASS concepts. A FASS spotlight in the FPM workshop was introduced to provide this access. This allowed real-time questions and feedback and received positive feedback.

Continued improvement of the EirGrid website

Following the launch of the new website in late 2023, we continued to enhance the EirGrid website throughout 2024. As part of this work, we added a TSO Regulatory Publications page to keep regularly accessed documents in one place. We also improved the layout of the Grid Code Modifications page.

We continue to actively monitor the most popular pages to identify focus areas when commissioning content. We've also added a 'Did You Know?' page that provides regular updates on renewable energy data. This is the first in a planned series of projects that aim to make our content more accessible to users.

Phase two of our website development project is taking place this year (2025). Key focuses will include an Irish language version of the site, and following stakeholder feedback, a microsite for the grid code for improved accessibility. 2025 will also see further improvements to the publications search categorisation.

Continued improvements on accessibility

As part of our focus on accessibility, EirGrid published a number of Plain English Summaries for our key reports last year, including a Plain English Summary of our Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios 2023 document.

In 2024, EirGrid also maintained regular engagement with An Coimisinéir Teanga to support our commitment to forefront the Irish language and ensure we fulfil our duties within this area.

We also increased Irish language content on our social media accounts and advertised job vacancies in both English and Irish for the first time. In 2024, EirGrid created 38 posts in Irish across our platforms (LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram & X) resulting in approximately 38,000 impressions altogether. This is compared to 14 posts in 2023, resulting in approximately 3,000 impressions. We also advertised 36 job vacancies bilingually across our website and LinkedIn, compared to 0 in 2023.

Consultation of this report

On the 18th February 2025, EirGrid published its Draft Stakeholder Engagement Report 2024 and it became available for viewing and consultation on the EirGrid website. Stakeholders were then invited to submit their consultation responses via the EirGrid Consultation Portal. The portal was open until the 19th of March 2025, when the consultation period ended. Consultee comments received were grouped into the following themes:

- **Offshore**
- **Enduring Connection Policy (ECP)**
- **EirGrid's stakeholder engagement strategy and approach**

Full details of EirGrid's response to consultation comments received via the consultation process can be found in our Consultation Response Paper.

2024 Highlights

Effective stakeholder engagement plays an essential role in enabling EirGrid to transform the power system for future generations. In 2024, we made significant progress across a range of workstreams.

Here are some of the highlights from the past 12 months:



Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF)

Following an invitation for membership earlier in 2024, the SOEF Advisory Council now has 30 members with invited guests from government, distribution system operators and regulatory authorities. This activity has supported a broader representation across the council to further enrich input from across a variety of sectors, including expertise from the gas industry.

> **"One of the main benefits of the community forum was to be able to talk directly with the technical team and to be able to understand the options they were considering so we could raise our concerns and make sure they could factor them into their decisions."**
>
> Clane resident, Community Forum, Kildare

Celtic Interconnector

Our engagements also supported the Celtic Interconnector project delivery as we continued to make progress. By the end of 2024, 28 km of the land route in Ireland was trenched and ducted, while 27 km of the underground High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) cable was installed.

Tonn Nua and Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP)

Following our engagements, the Final ORESS Tonn Nua (2.1) Terms and Conditions were successfully published by DECC on the 30th of October 2024 to facilitate an auction in early 2025.

In support, EirGrid held an informative webinar and also ran a ten-week consultation from 12th November 2024 to Friday 24th January 2025. This gave the public, communities, the maritime and seafood sector and businesses across Cork, Waterford and Wexford the opportunity to share their feedback on the proposed infrastructure required to deliver this transformational project.

Following our public campaign raising awareness of offshore and our support for the DECC-led consultation the ORESS (Offshore) Tonn Nua South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) and CRU Grid Pathways Decisions were all published at the end of 2024.

EirGrid Community Benefit Scheme

In 2024, EirGrid awarded a total of €992,437 to community projects in Laois, Kilkenny and East Cork across a total of 43 projects as part of our Community Benefit Scheme.

> **"The maps of the proposed routes were put in front of us and they were asking, do you want to go left or right? To us, the sensible solution was to go straight ahead through Leopardstown racecourse and that was the route that was chosen this year. We are very proud of that fact."**
>
> Leopardstown resident, Powering Up Dublin Community Forum

Landmark pact for engagement

In November 2024, EirGrid along with several other TSOs met at the PCI Energy Days policy conference in Brussels to sign a landmark pact for engagement. The pact included several examples of best practices from EirGrid, including EirGrid's establishment of advisory councils to support social acceptance of grid delivery projects, as well as extensive community consultations, educational programmes and innovative benefit-sharing models that directly reinvest in local communities.

> **"EirGrid has continued to change and drive for greater inclusion."**
>
> Industry Feedback

Our partnership with the DSO

In 2024, EirGrid and ESB Networks published our 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. EirGrid and ESB Networks (as Distribution System Operator) also finalised the TSO-DSO operating model high-level design and implementation plan in 2024 which is a significant milestone. This enhanced management and coordination are key to achieving the ambitious climate action targets.





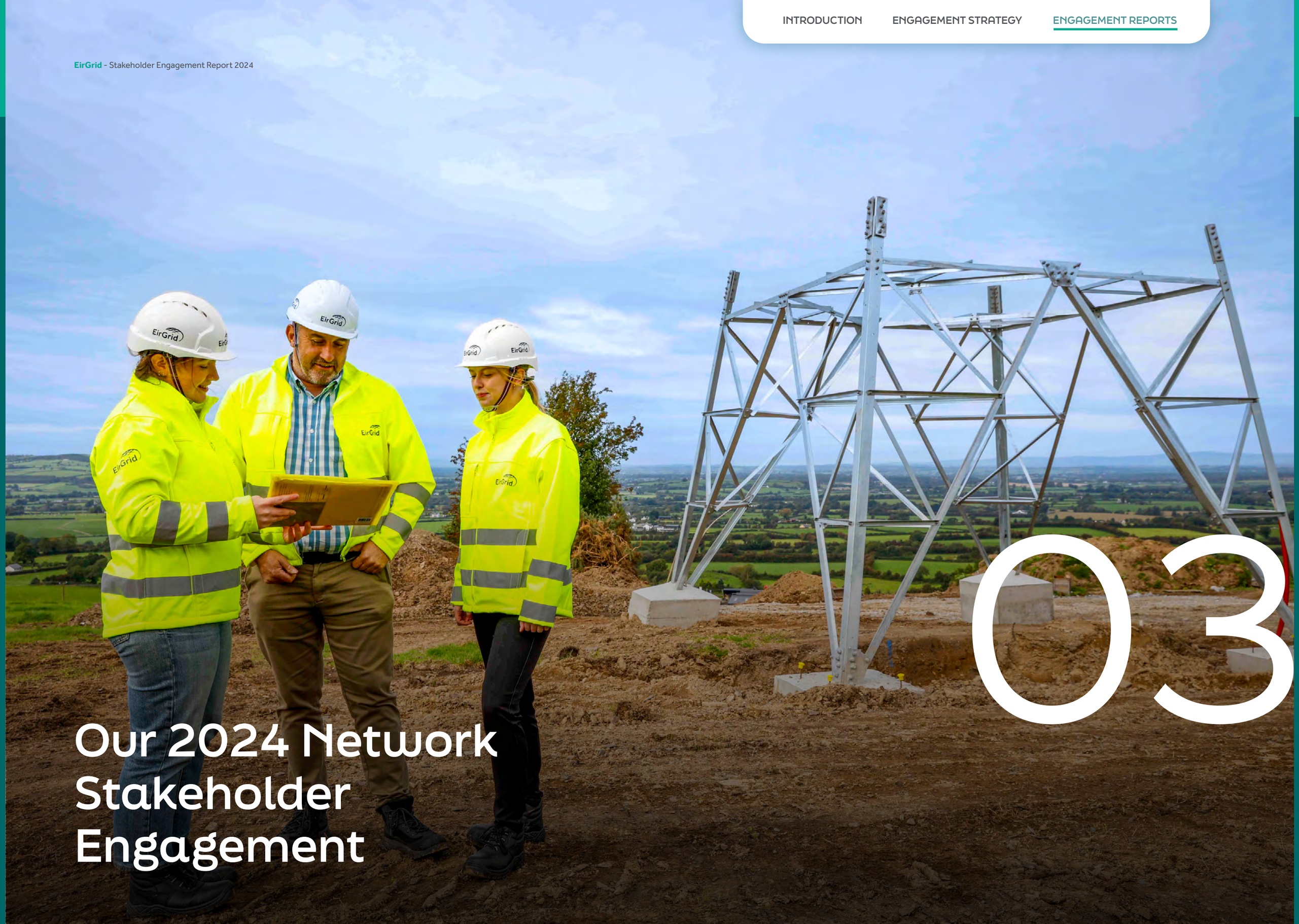
> **This year's Stakeholder Engagement Report "clearly demonstrates the breadth of activities by EirGrid which require well-planned and executed stakeholder engagement actions."**
>
> Industry Feedback

Future Arrangements for System Services

Through the course of 2024, EirGrid delivered a number of consultations which are of paramount importance in developing the design for the Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS).
As part of our engagement, EirGrid held 12 Future power markets industry workshops each with 100+ participants which have been positively received by industry.

REDIII Directive and Enduring Connection Policy

In December 2024, EirGrid met with industry representatives to get input on existing offer process from experienced customers and from industry representative groups with regard to the REDIII Directive and Enduring Connection Policy ('ECP 3'). Initial feedback and concerns were provided by industry stakeholders to help shape our new process which will accelerate offer process timelines and allow for earlier engagement.



03

Our 2024 Network Stakeholder Engagement

Grid upgrade projects and public engagement





Overview

Engaging with the public and other stakeholders – both Statutory and non-Statutory - 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 and 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 a variety of Statutory and non-Statutory stakeholders, including relevant local authorities, prescribed bodies, and also specialist environmentalist groups to help restore Ireland's biodiversity while limiting our impact.

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

Grid development projects

As part of our approach, we use a consistent, six-step process to explore options and make decisions. This means we follow the same steps for every project. The decision-making tools we use, and the amount of engagement we carry out at each step, depends on the scale and complexity of each project. Engagement with the public, local communities and landowners typically takes place during steps 3 and 4, and again at steps 5 and 6 on our Community Benefit funds. Engagement with our customers, the wider energy industry and statutory and other stakeholders can take place at every step. Similarly, engagement with relevant consenting authorities, and other Statutory and non-Statutory stakeholders takes place at every step, either specific to a project, or at a more strategic level.

Step 1 How do we identify needs of the electricity grid?

Step 2 What technologies can meet these needs?

Step 3 What's the best option and what area may be affected?

Step 4 Where exactly should we build?

Step 5 Appy for planning permission.

Step 6 Construct, energise (make live) and share benefits.

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 (in a public space or via EirGrid's Mobile Information Unit)
- 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) or our Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) for onshore and offshore grid development projects. Statutory and non-Statutory stakeholders will tend to engage with our Planning and Environmental team comprising specialists in planning and consenting, ecology and environmental matters. Customers can also engage directly with their customer account manager.

Grid planning

Engaging with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders (including prescribed bodies) is essential for our projects. EirGrid engages with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders in two main formats:

1) Project engagement

During the various stages of project development EirGrid will engage in pre-application consultation with the various consent authorities. This includes formal pre-application consultation with An Bord Pleanála 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 who will be making submissions to, or ultimately determining, a project proposal. It also allows us to explore alternatives as well as understand the strategic need and policy context for a proposed development. Finally, it ensures we identify any constraints and opportunities arising from a project.

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.

2) Strategic engagement

EirGrid's planning team prepares a Grid Implementation Plan every five years. This plan, which is subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment, mirrors the statutory development plan-making process followed by planning authorities. The Grid Implementation Plan 2023-2028 was published in September 2024.

EirGrid is in the process of preparing and publishing three regional plans, to integrate with the regional spatial and economic strategies prepared by the three Regional Assembles, and which must, by law, cascade to the local planning system.

EirGrid has engaged, and will continue to engage, with National, Regional and Local planning stakeholders on these plans and their content. Through these engagements, and the preparation of National and Regional grid infrastructure plans, EirGrid provides a comprehensive picture of planned grid development, and our approach to its design, consenting, environmental care, and delivery.

Community engagement

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

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

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)
- **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 is a critical enabler to bringing together key stakeholders from the electricity and roads sectors. Number of members/ bodies: 8)

(*We have detailed more information on the HV Interface Forum and the Dublin Infrastructure Forum in 'Our partnership with the TAO' chapter.*)

Community benefit funds

We recognise the importance of local communities in supporting our grid development and want to put communities at the heart of our engagement. Through our Community Benefit Scheme, which is available for new infrastructure projects, we can give back to communities impacted by our work.

Our Community Forums are integral to the designing of our community benefit strategy for each new project and play a key role in identifying the needs of the area. Working with the forum members ensures the funding scheme will be designed for the local community by the local community and we are empowering our stakeholders during this process. The scheme helps communities transform their area and become more sustainable, with opportunities to support local community energy initiatives, town and village enhancement and biodiversity projects.

In 2024, a total of €992,437 was awarded to community groups in Laois, Kilkenny and East Cork in line with the progression of infrastructure projects in these areas. A total of 43 projects were funded as part of these funds.

The Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund was the first fund to follow EirGrid's new Community Benefit Policy. In line with this new policy, phase 1 of funding, issued to groups in early 2024, was divided evenly across three streams: community, sustainability and biodiversity. Of the total fund of €960,000, €320,000 was issued to community projects and an additional €320,000 was issued to sustainability projects. Biodiversity projects received €198,987 in funding, with the remaining €121,013 being carried over to phase 2, which will be issued in early 2025.

The Laois Kilkenny Community Benefit Policy entered its second phase in 2024 with a total of €153,450 being awarded to 14 community groups living along the project route. The delivery of projects from phase 1 of this fund continues to build acceptance with communities in the region.

Engagement with environmental groups

At EirGrid, restoring Ireland's natural biodiversity is just 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 Chartered Ecologist, leads on all of EirGrid's biodiversity initiatives and ensures biodiversity is made a key element across all of our work.

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

- The national forum on Appropriate Assessment.
- The Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature (OCEaN)
- The Renewable Grid Initiative – Integrated Vegetation Management Working Group
- The Irish industry working group on Biodiversity Net Gain.
- The Irish Section Ecology Conference of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).
- We are also a signatory to the Business for Nature pledge.

EirGrid is also considered a thought leader within the biodiversity space and as a result, engages with multiple strategic and project level biodiversity bodies including the national Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) forum which is chaired on a rotation basis by the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Department of Climate, Environment and Energy.

Engagement with fishing communities

EirGrid's dedicated Fisheries Liaison Officer engages with the fishing community on all projects where we interact with the marine environment. Current projects include the Celtic Interconnector project and Powering Up Offshore South Coast. The fishers are a key stakeholder as we progress 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.

Improving our engagement

For the past three years, EirGrid has been engaging with MaREI the research centre for energy, climate and marine research and innovation at University College Cork. The project's multiple research objectives include the analysis and assessment of interventions around community benefit with a view to informing policy and practice in this area and identifying pathways for increased community engagement.

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	2024 engagements	Outcomes
Deliver projects through the planning and consenting process	**Planning and consent:** In 2024, EirGrid engaged with An Bord Pleanála and a large number of planning authorities across the country as part of the planning application process, and at a more strategic non-project specific level. In 2024, we also submitted two Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIARs) to An Bord Pleanála – (East Meath-North Dublin and Kildare-Meath Grid Upgrade Projects). Both EIARs required substantial pre-application discussion with the Board, Local Authorities, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), heritage and environmental consultees to ensure the EIARs addressed any concerns the bodies may have and to streamline comments post-submission. A large number of other engagements occurred with these consenting authorities to ensure there was a clear understanding of the need for, and scope of the proposed developments, to determine and agree consenting pathways, and through pre-application engagement (where facilitated) to address any issues identified by those authorities in the scope and content of the subsequent planning applications.	**Planning and consent:** Through these engagements, EirGrid is able to support local authorities (and ABP for strategic infrastructure development projects) in providing a clear understanding of the project and share data at pre-application stage, as well as provide the opportunity for those consenting authorities to raise any concerns. By being proactive in our planning consultation, EirGrid is minimising uncertainty for all parties.
Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)	**Forum with Irish Planning Institute (IPI):** In 2024, EirGrid attended two meetings of this new forum to seek alignment on key matters of planning and ecology. EirGrid's Lead Planning Consultant presented to the IPI National Conference focused on sustainable planning, development and delivery of grid infrastructure.	**Forum with Irish Planning Institute (IPI):** Following on from this engagement, EirGrid has agreed to contribute to training events and joint publications with CIEEM and the IPI to advance compliance and sustainable practices of both organisations.
Industry Forum on Biodiversity Net Gain	**Biodiversity industry forum:** In 2024, EirGrid attended three meetings as part of this forum to discuss policy and practice regarding No Net Loss and No Net Biodiversity Gain with other public authorities and the wind energy sector.	**Biodiversity industry forum:** Through our engagements, EirGrid was, bilaterally with other members, able to share our insights on Biodiversity Net Gain.

Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
Engagement with ESB Networks and statutory bodies	**Planning and environment with ESB Networks:** We will continue to request pre-planning In 2024, EirGrid closely collaborated with the Planning and Environment teams from ESB Networks to discuss new legislation, guidelines and approaches. The purpose of these engagements is to share learnings from various project experiences, to identify collaborative opportunities – for example in terms of work processes, approach to specific matters of the wider planning and environmental processes, and to reflect on implications of consenting decisions and Case Law judgements as precedent for grid development planning. In 2024, this collaborative approach was extended to other state utility and infrastructure developers (e.g. Uisce Éireann and Gas Networks Ireland), including in making common submissions to the Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in respect of the emerging Planning and Development Act 2024, and associated legislation.	**Planning and environment with ESB Networks:** Through these regular engagements in 2024, we have been able to work closely with ESB Networks to share knowledge and ensure alignment as we work together towards our climate objectives. Over the course of the year, each planning application was extensively workshopped and discussed between EirGrid and ESB Networks, ensuring that when ESB Networks take ownership of the project post-planning, the programme is streamlined correctly. It also offered extensive benefits in terms of construction feedback and the incorporation of this feedback into the environmental mitigation in the planning application. This also allowed the project to be developed in line with best practice in terms of construction and environmental management during its construction.
Biodiversity engagements	**Biodiversity Strategy:** In 2024, EirGrid consulted with three key public authorities in order to scope our biodiversity strategy (Uisce Éireann, Waterways Ireland and ESB Networks). We plan to publish the strategy in 2025. **Wind Energy Ireland (WEI):** To inform EirGrid's integration of Nature Inclusive Designs (NID) into the offshore grid, EirGrid issued an online questionnaire in 2024 to Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) offshore environment members, including: • Tailte Éireann • Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management • Manufacturers and suppliers of Marine Nature Inclusive Design	**Biodiversity Strategy:** Through these engagements, EirGrid has been able to increase the transparency and compliance of our future strategy. **WEI:** The technical information gained via this engagement has helped EirGrid scope our Nature Inclusive Design contract while supporting planning and preparation.

Implementation: Delivery

Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
Celtic Interconnector project		
Celtic interconnector project engagements	**Celtic project engagements:** In 2024, we continued to engage via regular and timely communications with the public to ensure they were kept up to date with project developments. Project communications included: • Letters sent out advising of road closures. • Weekly project progress text alerts. • Weekly website progress updates. • Radio adverts, billboards and print and digital media used to inform the public. • Quarterly Celtic newsletter– previous copies of which are available on our website. • Regular emailed project updates to c. 600 residents, community organisations and local stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement and information events also allowed us to share progress and updates with those impacted by our work. These included: • 3 x Cable Construction Information Events • 1 x Community Biodiversity Webinar Engagement also included briefings as appropriate for local elected representatives to ensure transparency as well as sustained alignment. In addition: Participation as a corporate citizen in 2024 Climate Week activities in Youghal, including: • Learning Evening with EirGrid to explore the critical role of energy transition in climate action. • Sustainable Development Goals Workshop for local students and teachers. Phase 1 Community Benefit Fund 29 separate community groups received funding towards local projects in community, sustainability and biodiversity initiatives as part of the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund resulting in many supportive engagements. National and international academic forums in Paris and Cork allowed EirGrid to explore the impacts of the Celtic interconnector on a wider EU platform as part of the STEPS programme.	**Celtic project engagements:** In 2024, EirGrid ensured consistent communication and engagement with communities impacted by the Celtic interconnector project, enabling the project to progress smoothly and establish a good baseline for future project related engagements. EirGrid's international and academic engagement also allowed us to share our insights on an international level while creating opportunities for knowledge sharing. Our engagements also supported project delivery as we continued to make progress. By the end of 2024, 28 km of the land route in Ireland was trenched and ducted, while 27 km of the underground High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) cable was installed. A range of preparatory works were also progressed in advance of cable landfall works and submarine cable installation Community and stakeholder relationships in the project area continue to be strengthened in 2024 demonstrated by the level of local cooperation received during project works, commitment to attendance at Community Forums and cooperation and collaboration on a range of initiatives from local sponsorships to partnerships and project promotion.
	Finally, local sponsorships also formed part of our engagement strategy as we continue to support local initiatives in the relevant areas. In respect of engagement with Statutory stakeholders, EirGrid continued close and collaborative engagement with the Planning, Ecology and Roads teams of Cork County Council, across a range of matters including the ongoing discharge of Conditions of the Statutory Approval, obtaining Road Opening Licences and other authorisations, and alignment of construction programmes with other known Local Authority works in an area.	
Celtic marine activity	**Celtic marine activity:** In 2024, 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 mariners) and local communities in Youghal, Knockadoon and Ballycotton. Further engagement in 2024 included regular project updates and mitigation strategies via weekly survey campaign updates along with the establishment of direct communication lines (e.g., WhatsApp groups) to report concerns such as gear interactions or environmental issues.	**Celtic marine activity:** In 2024, EirGrid's consistent meetings and port visits reduced miscommunication and improved trust between the fishing industry and developers. Our engagements also provided fishers (and mariners) 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 and spawning seasons. 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.
Celtic community forum activity	**Celtic community forum activity:** In 2024, the Celtic Forum met four twice in 2024. and we published the minutes from these meetings on the EirGrid website. Issues raised and discussed included project construction, community concerns and mitigations, the Celtic community benefit fund strategy and any other business.	**Celtic community forum activity:** The purpose of the forum is to ensure that stakeholder and community views are understood and properly considered prior to and during project delivery. The group provides a forum for dialogue between stakeholders with interests in the project and the project team.

Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
Celtic community benefit fund activity	**Celtic community benefit fund activity:** Following the announcement of recipients of the Phase 1 of funding in December 2023, projects commenced in 2024 and EirGrid has maintained contact with the successful groups to track the progress of these projects. A total of €838,987 was issued to projects in 2024.	**Celtic community benefit fund activity:** As projects that received funding in Phase 1 come to fruition, communities in proximity to the cable can begin to see the benefits of the fund. A key proponent of EirGrid's Community Benefit Policy is that communities can realise the benefit of funding from the beginning and throughout the lifecycle of the project.
Offshore development		
Offshore development Powering Up Offshore South Coast	**Offshore development:** In 2024, EirGrid held 8 x public information events and 2 x public webinars as part of our offshore engagement strategy to ensure stakeholders were kept up to date with key project updates. At the outset of the Powering Up Offshore South Coast Public Consultation, EirGrid contacted key stakeholder groups and organisations via email and letter. This included County Councils, Port Authorities, Marine Stakeholders and Landowners. Alongside this consultation, EirGrid also launched a public information campaign to promote the consultation, promote engagement, sign-post project information and feedback, encourage responses to the consultation, and invite attendance at upcoming public information events, fisheries briefings and webinars.	**Offshore development:** Through these engagements, EirGrid has enabled the following: • The inclusion of previously unengaged groups in project discussions. • Opportunities for stakeholders to meet and engage directly with the project team so that they can learn more and get their questions answered. • Open discussions, fostering trust in decision-making. • Regular updates, providing landowners and community stakeholders with clarity and transparency regarding project development. • Gathering community input and submissions has been key in shaping socio-economic assessments, influencing project outcomes, zone selection, and technology preferences, ensuring that community voices are integrated into project development.

Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
Offshore marine activity	**Offshore marine activity:** In 2024, EirGrid held 6 coastal consultations as part of our offshore engagement. These were held at key fishing communities to introduce the project and gather initial feedback. Our focus for these engagements was to explain project objectives, potential impacts, and collate local knowledge from fishers and other stakeholders. In addition, EirGrid also engaged with new stakeholders including more specialised groups and coastal community representatives. Informal port visits provided the opportunity to have informal talks at local harbours where fishers (as well as harbour masters and mariners) could ask questions and share input on proposed plans. Regular, direct communication allowed us to establish direct communication channels such as email, phone and feedback forms to capture ongoing concerns or suggestions. Finally, as part of our engagement, EirGrid also shared our preliminary findings on potential landfalls and commitments through engagement briefings and follow-up Q&As to ensure stakeholders remained informed throughout the consultation process.	**Offshore marine activity:** Through these engagements, EirGrid has enabled the following: • Six consultations provided consistent and timely opportunities for stakeholders to learn about the project and voice their concerns. They also allowed for a structured and transparent stakeholder engagement process, ensuring regular communication as the project progresses. • The inclusion of previously unengaged groups in project discussions. • Open discussions, fostering trust in decision-making. • Regular updates, providing key stakeholders with clarity and transparency regarding project development. • Opportunities to better understand unique regional needs and concerns.
Offshore community forum activity	**Offshore community forum activity:** In 2024, EirGrid also launched an expression of interest form to invite community groups and stakeholders in the areas impacted by offshore development work, to express their interest in joining the Offshore South Coast Community Forum.	**Offshore community forum activity:** Communicating about the forum at this early stage in the project, and commencing recruitment of members, will facilitate relationships with key stakeholders in the project area. This will benefit long term in the dissemination of information as the project progresses and in seeking local knowledge which can shape the approach of the project team going forward.

Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
Offshore development Powering Up Offshore South Coast	**Offshore development:** In 2024, EirGrid held 8 x public information events and 2 x public webinars as part of our offshore engagement strategy to ensure stakeholders were kept up to date with key project updates. At the outset of the Powering Up Offshore South Coast Public Consultation, EirGrid contacted key stakeholder groups and organisations via email and letter. This included County Councils, Port Authorities, Marine Stakeholders and Landowners. Alongside this consultation, EirGrid also launched a public information campaign to promote the consultation, promote engagement, sign-post project information and feedback, encourage responses to the consultation, and invite attendance at upcoming public information events, fisheries briefings and webinars.	**Offshore development:** Through these engagements, EirGrid has enabled the following: • The inclusion of previously unengaged groups in project discussions. • Opportunities for stakeholders to meet and engage directly with the project team so that they can learn more and get their questions answered. • Open discussions, fostering trust in decision-making. • Regular updates, providing landowners and community stakeholders with clarity and transparency regarding project development. • Gathering community input and submissions has been key in shaping socio-economic assessments, influencing project outcomes, zone selection, and technology preferences, ensuring that community voices are integrated into project development.



Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
Kildare Meath grid development project		
Kildare Meath grid development project	**Kildare Meath project engagements:** In 2024 the following engagements were carried out: • 2 x project update meetings with Ratoath Municipal District • 2 x project update meetings with Ashbourne Municipal District • 2 x project update briefings with Meath County Council Management Team • EirGrid also issued emails (to Municipal Districts, County Council Management Teams and community forums) throughout the year on the following topics: • Planning submission information • Technical survey programme information In addition, the Kildare Meath grid development project and the East Meath North Dublin grid reinforcement project were assigned a specific working group as part of the HV Interface Forum. In 2024, EirGrid also (alongside ESB Networks) held face-to-face engagements with all landowners and land agents regularly throughout the year. Compensation packages were also issued to all landowners and following this step, EirGrid continued to engage to progress the project and continue to work towards gaining access by consent. In addition to the above, EirGrid met regularly (1-2 times a month) with ESB Networks and the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) to keep them updated regarding the project status as well as discuss compensation. The planning application is now with An Bord Pleanála for determination.	**Kildare Meath project engagement outcomes:** Key stakeholders, residents and communities welcomed all project updates – this promoted our willingness to inform, communicate and be transparent in our engagement approach. It has built trust and awareness of EirGrid's approach to public engagement. By setting up a working group within the HV Forum for this project, EirGrid has been able to liaise directly with key stakeholders to clarify the approach required with regard to construction and the nature of impacts to the road network. Finally, our landowner engagement has given landowners an opportunity to ask questions as well as give feedback. These engagements were also critical in helping EirGrid understand any issues that may arise from project development as well as alleviate any concerns landowners had by answering their questions.
Kildare Meath community forum activity	**Community forum engagement:** In 2024, the Kildare Meath community forum met 4 times to review the following: • County documents and policies linked to community benefit strategy and potential projects. • How to undertake community research/ consultation. • Sustainable development goals with a focus on equality, diversion and inclusion. • The community benefit fund policy.	**Community forum engagement:** We introduced third parties and enabled them to provide key information which showed the forums our intention behind supporting communities and residents who live along the routes. The result was more positive messaging about how we do business while enabling further engagement from the communities.

Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
Kildare Meath community benefit fund activity	**Kildare Meath community benefit fund activity:** EirGrid continued to drive awareness of the Kildare Meath community benefit fund to the community forum throughout 2024. Planning around the community benefit strategy will commence after planning permission has been granted.	**Kildare Meath community benefit fund activity:** Continued engagement with the community forum around the community benefit strategy is central to our community benefit policy in ensuring that the fund is developed and delivered with impacted communities at its centre.



Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
East Meath North Dublin grid reinforcement project		
East Meath North Dublin grid reinforcement project	**East Meath North Dublin project engagements:** In 2024 the following engagements were carried out: • 2 x project update meetings with Ratoath Municipal District • 2 x project update meetings with Ashbourne Municipal District • 2 x project update briefings with Meath County Council Management Team • EirGrid also issued emails (to Municipal Districts, County Council Management Teams and community forums) throughout the year on the following topics: • Planning submission information • Technical survey programme information In addition, the Kildare Meath grid development project and the East Meath North Dublin grid reinforcement project were assigned a specific working group as part of the HV Interface Forum. In 2024, EirGrid also (alongside ESB Networks) held face-to-face engagements with all landowners and land agents regularly throughout the year. Compensation packages were also issued to all landowners and following this step, EirGrid continued to engage to progress the project and continue to work towards gaining access by consent. In addition to the above, EirGrid met regularly (1-2 times a month) with ESB Networks and the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) to keep them updated regarding the project status as well as discuss compensation. The planning application is now with An Bord Pleanála for determination.	**East Meath North Dublin project engagement outcomes:** By ensuring stakeholders and communities were regularly updated, EirGrid was able to promote clarity and transparency on the project development journey. Key stakeholders, residents and communities welcomed all project updates – this promoted our willingness to inform, communicate and be transparent in our engagement approach. It has built trust and awareness of EirGrid's approach to public engagement. By setting up a working group within the HV Forum for this project, EirGrid has been able to liaise directly with key stakeholders to clarify the approach required with regard to construction and the nature of impacts to the road network – Jason Kenna will be able to elaborate on the key work and outcomes that the HV forum delivers. Finally, our landowner engagement has given landowners an opportunity to ask questions as well as give feedback. These engagements were critical in helping EirGrid understand any issues that may arise from project development as well as alleviate any concerns landowners had by answering their questions.
East Meath North Dublin community forum activity	**East Meath North Dublin community forum activity:** In 2024, the forum met 5 times to: • Provide project updates and plan activities for the year. • Hold various workshops and presentations.	**Community forum engagement:** We introduced third parties and enabled them to provide key information which showed the forums our intention behind supporting communities and residents who live along the routes. The result was more positive messaging about how we do business while enabling further engagement from the communities.

Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
East Meath North Dublin community benefit fund activity	**East Meath North Dublin community benefit fund activity:** In 2024, EirGrid continued to build awareness with regard to the East Meath North Dublin community benefit fund. Planning around the Community Benefit Strategy will commence once planning permission has been granted.	**East Meath North Dublin community benefit fund activity:** As we await the progression of the planning application for this project, the focus has been on informing the community forum of the community benefit process.
Laois Kilkenny grid development project		
Laois Kilkenny grid development project	**Laois Kilkenny project engagements:** In 2024, EirGrid (alongside ESB Networks) held face-to-face engagements with all landowners and land agents regularly throughout the year. Compensation packages were also issued to all landowners and following this step, EirGrid continued to engage to progress the project and continue to work towards gaining access by consent. In addition to the above, EirGrid met regularly (1-2 times a month) with ESB Networks and the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) to keep them updated regarding the project status as well as discuss compensation.	**Laois Kilkenny project engagements:** These engagements gave landowners an opportunity to ask questions as well as give feedback. These engagements were critical in helping EirGrid understand any issues that may arise from project development as well as alleviate any concerns landowners had by answering their questions.
Laois Kilkenny community forum activity	**Laois Kilkenny community forum activity:** In 2024, EirGrid's engagement included: • 3 community forum meetings to provide project updates and a plan of activities for the year. • A review of phase 1 of the community benefit fund. Regular updates to forum members with regard to key project developments and milestones.	**Laois Kilkenny community forum activity:** The forum has played a key role in progressing planning around the community benefit fund with a review of community benefit phase 1 and engagement with forum members around the launch of phase 2 of funding. Engagement with forum members is paramount in building trust and transparency for this project to reach energisation.

Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
Laois Kilkenny community benefit fund activity	**Laois Kilkenny community benefit fund activity:** In April 2024, EirGrid launched phase 2 of the Laois Kilkenny Community Benefit Fund and applications opened for €153,540 of funding. Following a rigorous evaluation process, overseen by the Independent Fund Administrator MCO, 14 community groups and voluntary organisations along the route were selected for funding for their projects. A full list of successful projects can be seen here. Key engagement with fund recipients took place throughout the year with site visits and the flagship sustainability project to heat an outdoor solar powered swimming pool can be seen here. This project originally received EirGrid funding in April 2022 and the works were completed across 2023-2024.	**Laois Kilkenny community benefit fund activity:** As this project progresses towards completion, the real impact of community benefit funds are being demonstrated along the route with projects from phase 1 coming to fruition and being utilised by communities in Laois and Kilkenny. This highlights the importance of the phased approach to funding which allows communities to see the benefit of this funding throughout the project development.



Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
North Connacht grid development project		
North Connacht grid development project	**North Connacht project engagements:** In 2024, preliminary works were performed in Swinford in partnership with Mayo County Council who were conducting works in the area. Those living along this portion of the route were engaged with throughout the year to provide updates on this work and address any issues. In 2024, EirGrid (alongside ESB Networks) held face-to-face engagements with all landowners and land agents regularly throughout the year. Compensation packages were also issued to all landowners and following this step, EirGrid continued to engage to progress the project and continue to work towards gaining access by consent. In addition to the above, EirGrid met regularly (1-2 times a month) with ESB Networks and the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) to keep them updated regarding the project status as well as discuss compensation.	**North Connacht project engagements:** EirGrid's collaboration with Mayo County Council means that further road closures will not be required on this portion of the route when construction commences late next year, minimising disruption to Swinford. Engagement with Stakeholders involved a collaborative door-to-door engagement along the affected route between members of ESB and EirGrid. Project works were discussed with stakeholders and communications regarding same, timelines, relevant contact no.s etc. were delivered to stakeholder on three separate occasions. Continued engagement in communities along the route throughout the year has maintained transparency between EirGrid and the communities impacted. Our landowner engagements have given landowners an opportunity to ask questions as well as give feedback. These engagements were critical in helping EirGrid understand any issues that may arise from project development as well as alleviate any concerns landowners had by answering their questions.
North Connacht community forum activity	**North Connacht community forum activity:** The North Connacht Community Forum met four times throughout 2024. Two of these meetings were focused on providing updates on the latest updates around the project, with the EirGrid Project Manager providing updates and addressing any issues. There were also two workshops held with the forum by the Independent Fund Administrator SECAD to progress the Community Benefit Strategy for the project. Membership of the forum was also reviewed in September 2024 following the local elections in the summer.	**North Connacht community forum activity:** Continued engagement with the forum throughout the year has facilitated the dissemination of information to communities along the project route on latest updates. The forum has played a key role in progressing planning around the Community Benefit Fund and in contributing to the Community Benefit Strategy, this is integral in building trust and transparency around the process.

Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
Fingal-East Meath grid development project		
Fingal-East Meath grid development project	**Fingal-East Meath project engagements:** In 2024, EirGrid's Fingal-East Meath project engagements were a strong focus. Activity included the following: • Information leaflets distributed to 25,000 homes to introduce the project. • 5-week public consultation campaign. • 3 information days and 1 webinar. • Stakeholder briefings with various county councils. • Project brochures in libraries and post offices. • Email communications to various stakeholders. There has been ongoing engagement with the relevant Planning Authorities and other prescribed bodies, as part of the overall consultation and engagement strategy, primarily providing update on project progress, and discussing various specific and/or technical matters of the project.	**Fingal-East Meath project engagements:** Through these engagements, EirGrid has enabled the following: • The inclusion of previously unengaged groups in project discussions. • Opportunities for stakeholders to meet and engage directly with the project team so that they can learn more and get their questions answered. • Open discussions, fostering trust in decision-making. • Regular updates, providing stakeholders with clarity and transparency regarding project development. • Gathering community input and submissions has been key in shaping socio-economic assessments, influencing project outcomes, zone selection, and technology preferences, ensuring that community voices are integrated into project development. • Greater understanding of how the project should develop in step 4.
Fingal-East Meath community forum	**Fingal-East Meath community forum activity:** Fingal-East Meath community forum is yet to be established. However, in 2024, EirGrid started to build awareness of our community forums and the benefits at our information days. A project information leaflet promoting the establishment of the forum was distributed to 25,000 homes in the study area.	**Fingal-East Meath community forum activity:** In 2024, EirGrid started to build awareness of our community forums to prepare for establishment of the forum in 2025.

Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
Kildare-Dublin grid development project		
Kildare-Dublin grid development project	**Kildare-Dublin project engagements:** In 2024, EirGrid held initial briefings with key stakeholders to introduce the proposed project and to identify opportunities and potential barriers. Briefings and meetings took place with: • Kildare County Council • South Dublin County Council • Dublin City Council • Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council • Transport Infrastructure Ireland • Waterways Ireland • Irish Rail There has been ongoing engagement with the relevant Planning Authorities as part of the overall consultation and engagement strategy, primarily providing update on project progress, and discussing various specific and/or technical matters of the project.	**Kildare-Dublin project engagements:** These engagement activities have informed step 3 work on the project, with the information gathered feeding into the design and confirming feasibility of zones, sites and routes for the required infrastructure. This engagement will continue in 2025 ahead of public consultation.
North South Interconnector		
North South Interconnector	**North South Interconnector:** EirGrid undertook extensive landowner engagement on the project to provide an update on the project and detailed landowner compensation packages. This engagement also included meeting residents living within close proximity to the proposed new overhead powerline. In total, the engagement team met with over 600 landowners and residents during the year.	**North South Interconnector:** These engagements have led to ongoing progress towards the delivery of the project.

Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
Powering up Dublin		
Powering up Dublin	**Powering up Dublin project engagements:** In February 2024, EirGrid launched our information campaign for the three Best Performing Options (BPOs). Following this campaign, we published the BPOs for Finglas to North Wall, North Wall to Poolbeg and Carrickmines to Poolbeg cables. Activities included: • Leaflet drop to residents and businesses within the engagement zones of each cable route. • Press release and social media campaign. • Digital media and advertising campaign. • Route video and promotional video shared on social media. • Community, business and industry forum meetings. • Oireachtas and public representative briefings. • 6 information events in high footfall locations across each cable route. EirGrid also issued an update letter to residents in the engagement zone of the two cable routes required to connect Inchicore to Poolbeg. This letter confirmed the discounting of Route K and an update on the surveys and ongoing work to establish a feasible route. In 2024, EirGrid also published the Best Performing Option for the new substation and supported this with an information campaign. A BPO was established following engagement with stakeholders in the area which resulted in only one feasible option, an ESB Networks owned car park on East Wall Road. This information campaign included: • Leaflet drop to residents. • Local councillor briefings. • Local TD briefings. • Dublin County Council briefing. • Social and digital media campaign. • Press release. • Dublin Infrastructure Forum meeting. • 3 public information events in the East Wall area.	**Powering up Dublin project engagements:** Through our engagements, EirGrid has been able to build awareness of our work across all key stakeholders impacted as well as gather vital feedback. Awareness and information campaigns for each aspect of Powering Up Dublin have functioned to both update the public and stakeholders, and to introduce the new substation. By gathering vital stakeholder feedback on the Central Dublin Substation, EirGrid has been able to improve the design of the project site, ensuring feedback has been taken into consideration as well as implemented as part of our work.

Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
	Following this information campaign, EirGrid distributed an additional information leaflet by hand to local residents to answer questions and provide further information in response to the feedback received. There has been ongoing engagement with a number of relevant Planning Authorities and other prescribed bodies, as part of the overall consultation and engagement strategy, primarily providing update on project progress, and discussing various specific and/or technical matters of the projects.	
Powering up Dublin community forum activity	**Powering up Dublin community forum activity:** Over the course of 2024, the Powering up Dublin community forum met 3 times in February, September and December. The Best Performing Option routes were reviewed, and feedback was gathered on all five cable routes.	**Powering up Dublin community forum activity:** As a result of our community forum engagement, we received a number of opportunities to present the programme to residents' association as well as Special Olympics Ireland (SOI) who were identified by EirGrid as a key stakeholder for this project. SOI have several hundred members who reside within the Powering Up Dublin engagement zones. The routes will have a huge impact on them from an accessibility point of view which is why we are keen to proactively gather their feedback and understand their views. Through our engagements, we identified new route opportunities, and these were successfully incorporated. In 2024, we also increased the number of members in the community forum supporting further feedback and engagement opportunities.
Powering Up Dublin stakeholder engagement forum activity	**Powering Up Dublin stakeholder engagement forum activity:** In 2024, EirGrid held two meetings with the Powering Up Dublin stakeholder engagement forum, in February and December.	**Powering Up Dublin stakeholder engagement forum activity:** 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. We also gained insights from An Post on the impacts of the proposed routes on An Post distribution centres.
Dublin Infrastructure Forum (DIF) activities	**Dublin Infrastructure Forum activities:** In 2024, the Dublin Infrastructure Forum met 3 times in January, June and November. Forum members were briefed on the Dublin cables programme and on the three grid reinforcement projects proposed across the greater Dublin region. Via this forum, EirGrid is ensuring a collaborative and informed approach on our projects.	**Dublin Infrastructure Forum activities:** Via this forum, EirGrid is ensuring a collaborative and informed approach on our projects. Some of the tangible benefits have included an opportunity for advanced ducting in Milltown through Dublin County Council Active Travel as well as opportunities for advanced ducting and collaboration with member organisations ahead of Fingal East Meath Grid Reinforcements and Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcements projects.
Powering Up Dublin business forum activities	**The Powering Up Dublin business forum engagement:** The Business forum met 3 times in February, September and December. Best Performing Option (BPO) routes were reviewed, and feedback was gathered on all five cable routes.	**Powering Up Dublin business forum engagement:** Through EirGrid's engagement via the Powering Up Dublin business forum, we have been able to gain insights on the impact of our Best Performing Options on local businesses while sharing learnings from other large infrastructure projects. In 2024, the reach of the forum increased due to the members sharing updates on their newsletters, emails and social media platforms including all members of Dublin Chamber of Commerce and IBEC. This demonstrates the opportunities that this forum presents for sharing information, problem solving as well as keeping all those impacted by our work, up to date.

Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
Other project engagements		
Powering Up Wicklow – Arklow Substation	**Substation project engagements:** In 2024, EirGrid held a number of information events in Arklow library and Bridgewater Shopping Centre, in relation to the redevelopment of Arklow Substation. Our engagements for this project included: • Leaflet drop to 6,000 homes. • A social media campaign promoting EirGrid information events. • Advertisement in local newspapers. • Press releases. • Website updates • Direct engagement with the local community. • A school workshop.	**Substation project engagements:** Engagement on these projects is important for EirGrid as it signifies our continued commitment to those communities hosting grid infrastructure beyond energisation when additional works are required. This engagement will assist in delivering these works which are essential to strengthening the grid.
Uprate projects	**Uprate projects engagement:** EirGrid has progressed landowner engagement on six uprate and refurbishment projects over the year in order. The objective of our engagement was to advise of the proposed works and to seek access for survey activities to support the development of planning applications for these projects.	**Uprate projects engagement:** In 2024, the Landowner Engagement Team met with approximately one thousand landowners across these uprate projects during the year, securing land access for survey works. This helped towards obtaining the necessary environmental information to support submission of planning applications.



Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2024:

Description of metric	Metric	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
Number of statutory stakeholders engaged with	Approximately 290	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. This is reflected in the number of observations made to EirGrid projects. As one example, the 53km 400 kV Kildare-Meath underground cable project received seven observations from statutory bodies, with no objections from these bodies.
Number of landowners engaged with in 2024	2,200 (approximately)	Throughout 2024, 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: 36 Number of Grants: 31 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 2024	12 (across Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare, Meath, Mayo, North Roscommon, East Cork, Waterford, South Wexford, Cavan, Monaghan)	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.

Description of metric	Metric	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
Number of regions where Energy Citizen Roadshows were held in 2024	5 (Limerick, Kerry, Roscommon, Clare, Wexford)	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.
Total amount awarded to community projects as part of the EirGrid Community Benefit Scheme	€992,437	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.

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

What we do

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 sources of renewable 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 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 and extensive account management service.

Continued improvement

We also continue to work on initiatives 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

Customer Vision

In 2024, EirGrid continued to progress our work identified under the Customer Vision initiative. After gathering customer insights and perspectives in 2023, EirGrid developed a roadmap for the development of tangible enhancements to the EirGrid Customer Experience. This work included changes to customer communications based on input from customers, increased proactive engagement and enhanced technological supports as specified by customers. The themes and areas of interest with respect to these improvements followed several work streams including:

Access to experts and expertise

To ensure we are engaging effectively with customers, the Customers and Connections team, alongside members of various technical disciplines within EirGrid, have continued to facilitate monthly customer clinic meetings. These engagements allow prospective and existing customers to engage with key EirGrid Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) before submission of a new connection application, or modification to a current connection agreement.

To assess these engagements, the Customer Team circulates post-customer-clinic feedback surveys to attendees, to obtain feedback on the effectiveness of customer clinic meetings. Following assessment of this feedback, some process improvements identified have been implemented.

For example, customers have stated that they would like more flexibility with clinics when required. As a result, we have scheduled some longer duration clinics to allow for discussion on multiple projects or to facilitate more in-depth discussion as required.

Feedback and Lessons Learned

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, the Customer and Connections team conduct an annual customer survey to gather structured feedback on EirGrid customer experience. This feedback is very important and is a key enabler for identifying lessons learned which leads to process improvements.

The survey identifies what went well and should be repeated, in addition to what could have been better and how that could be improved next time.

The 2024 annual customer survey took place in Q1 2024. The feedback received has been used to shape our plans for 2025 as detailed in the EirGrid 2025 Stakeholder Engagement Plan. We will also conduct a customer outage planning survey in Q2 2024.

Information on customer outage plans is very important as it allows for the outage planning team to input customers' planned outages into the wider development of the forthcoming Transmission Outage Programme. This approach enables a greater utilisation of the transmission outage programme.

As part of the Customer Vision in 2024, EirGrid drove further change following feedback from our customers. For example, we have extended the rollout of our periodic engagements with key customers, since survey feedback has indicated that our customers want more timely and predictive engagements. As a result, we are looking to engage customers in advance of emerging issues through prompts and scheduling that create a more effective working relationship. We have done this in 2024 and will continue in 2025.

Additional focuses

Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool

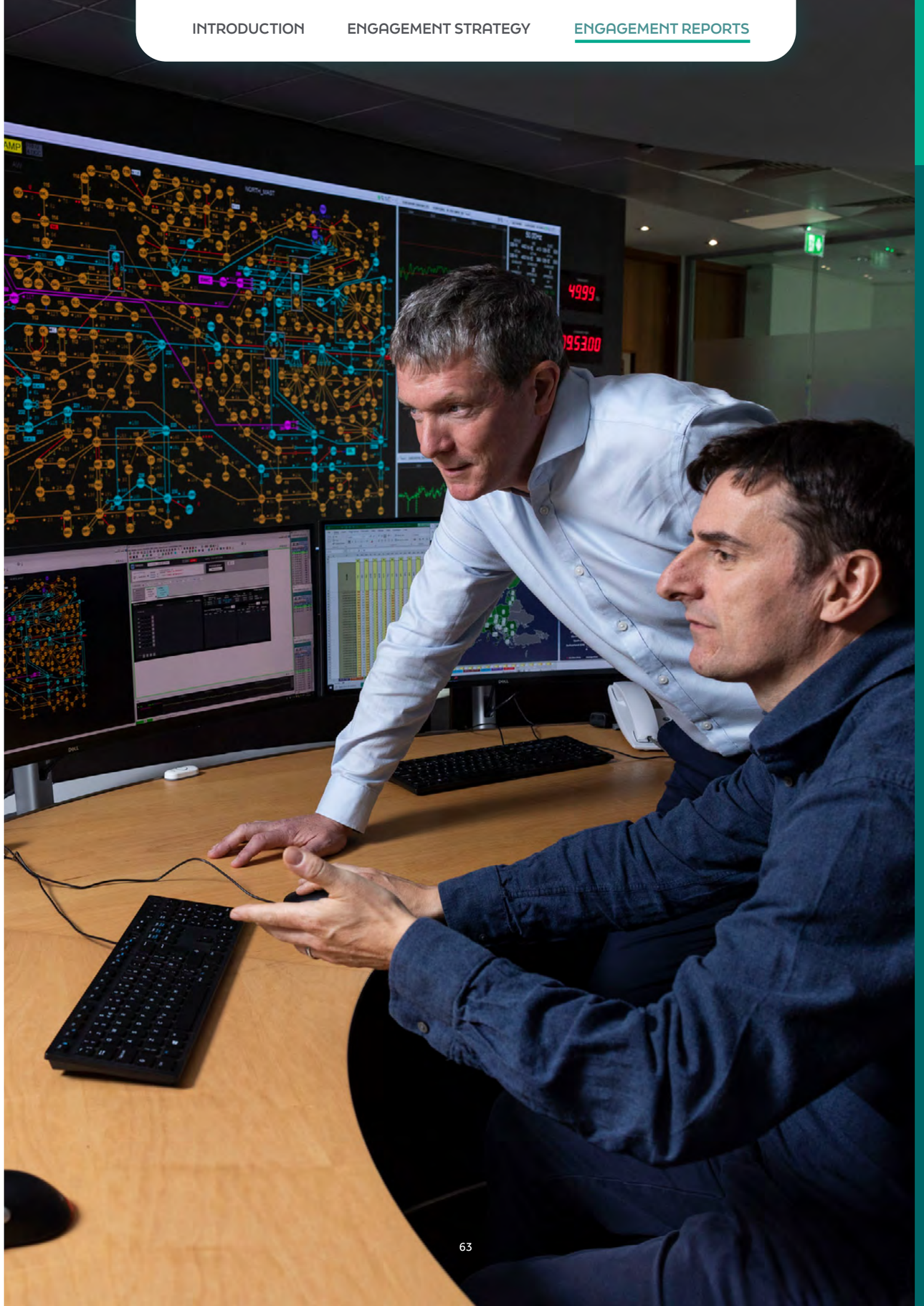
Fully utilising our Customer Relationship Management tool is imperative in providing a modern and enhanced customer experience. EirGrid's CRM tool enables EirGrid's Account Managers to manage customer queries more effectively and efficiently. It also provides an additional method of access and engagement across our internal customer facing teams. Following its initial roll out, the tool is already delivering greater structure to query management while facilitating faster response times. For example, customer queries are captured and triaged based on aspects such as date of receipt and query type, which allows EirGrid to track activities, identify trends and to address customer needs and respond more efficiently.

Transmission Outage Programme (TOP) 2024

The Transmission Outage Programme plans times when transmission infrastructure will be out of service for maintenance or capital works. Through the successful implementation of the programme in 2024, EirGrid was able to connect a large volume of new generation to the system. This includes both renewable and conventional plant generation. Throughout the network, a number of important grid reinforcement projects took place. The conclusion of these projects will facilitate increased demand and grid utilisation in the future. Late in 2024, a key milestone was achieved with the energisation of the Greenlink interconnector - providing further connectivity between Ireland and Great Britain and greater resilience and security of supply on the island of Ireland.

Tri-Party Forum

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



Implementation: Customer and Connections

Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
Customer Vision Initiative and Customer Onboarding	**Customer Vision initiative:** In 2024, EirGrid held eight Customer Vision sessions with key customers to identify opportunities for improving the EirGrid customer experience. This activity builds on the work done in the year previous as we continue to enhance and augment our approach with direct feedback from our customers. **Customer onboarding sessions:** New to 2024, we developed these sessions to bridge the gap for new customers moving from project stage to energisation. EirGrid hosted four sessions in 2024.	**Customer Vision initiative:** After gathering feedback, EirGrid implemented a number of improvements in 2024. These included more regular engagement and increased access to key EirGrid resources. Candid sessions with customers also helped to develop a deeper understanding of how EirGrid can continue to work together with our customers to support progress towards achieving our climate objectives. For example, in 2024, EirGrid met with industry representative bodies to discuss our plans for managing new connections while gathering vital feedback. These sessions are supporting a more transparent approach while offering a platform for open dialogue. **Customer onboarding sessions:** The customer onboarding sessions were specifically developed to ensure new customers were supported and provided with a thorough introduction to EirGrid as well as an opportunity for us exchange information such as outage management information. These were also an opportunity to introduce the customer to their new account manager so as to provide a direct point of contact for other functions.
Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool roll out	**CRM tool roll out:** In 2024, EirGrid continued the roll out of the CRM tool across the Customer and Connections Team, supporting wider use within EirGrid to help deliver quicker resolutions and greater transparency on customer issues.	**CRM tool roll out:** EirGrid's CRM tool is allowing us to capture and record data which is critical for enabling customer support and issue resolution. The tool is also supporting cross functional engagement, while ensuring accountability for individual projects. The CRM tool also enables knowledge sharing between teams so that EirGrid can identify trends in customer issues and enables us to be more proactive in our engagement to address issues and meet customer needs. By storing all customer information in one hub, we are able to track feedback and queries raised by customers so that these can be addressed in a timely manner. Over the course of 2024, we resolved 1,012 queries.

Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
Annual customer survey	**Annual customer survey:** In 2024, 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, preferences and expectations of our customers.	**Annual customer survey:** By gathering regular feedback from customers, EirGrid is able to continue our progress in tailoring our customer experience while improving customer project delivery. In response to the feedback received in 2024, we have enhanced our approach for 2025 (as detailed in the EirGrid 2025 Stakeholder Engagement Plan). Examples include more personalised engagement opportunities to effectively collaborate via channels such as workshops, in-person meetings and taskforce-led meetings.
Customer clinics	**Customer clinics:** In 2024, EirGrid conducted a total of 90 customer clinics.	**Customer clinics:** The EirGrid customer clinics are critical to facilitate direct engagement with customers to help determine early project feasibility at a pre-planning stage and/or advising whether further assessments are needed. They also offer access to Subject Matter Experts from a technical, regulatory and contractual insights to further guide and inform discussions.
Access to experts	**Access to experts:** In 2024, a key focus for EirGrid was to offer customers regular access to experts via a number of engagements including clinics, monthly, quarterly and ad hoc meetings, working groups and webinars.	**Access to experts:** Through these engagements, EirGrid is able to invite feedback and engagements on items which are key to industry such as dispatch down and Enduring Connection Policy (ECP) gates. These sessions also support project feasibility and financial certainty as well as building positive working relationships.
Annual outage planning	**Outage planning survey:** In 2024, EirGrid requested details of any customer outages via our annual outage planning survey, so that we could feed these details into the overall outage planning schedule.	**Outage planning survey:** The annual outage survey allows EirGrid to align our planning with customer needs while ensuring we manage voluntary outages as best possible.
Transmission Outage Programme (TOP) activity	**Transmission Outage Programme (TOP):** In 2024, EirGrid held annual and fortnightly communications with stakeholders to communicate and agree upon upcoming outages. This engagement allows us to ensure outages are managed with minimum disruption.	**Transmission Outage Programme (TOP):** Through these engagements EirGrid provides regular and clear communications, offering greater visibility as well as alignment to ensure the outage window is utilised in the most efficient way.

Implementation: Customer and industry working group engagements

Goals	2024 engagements	Outcomes
Tri-Party Forum activity	**Tri-Party Forum activity:** In 2024, EirGrid set up the Tri-Party Forum and held the first workshop in October where we discussed common issues identified at the commissioning phase of customer projects.	**Tri-Party Forum activity:** This engagement allowed EirGrid to collect industry feedback on improvements regarding the design, review and commissioning stages of projects. As well as supporting members with a greater awareness of each other's challenges, the Tri-Party Forum is also a space for collective problem solving that includes all relevant parties.
Improve customer and system operator programme alignment	**Customer and system operator programme alignment:** In April 2024, EirGrid formally requested and collected project and commissioning programmes from developers to better prepare EirGrid and ESB Networks for the next years TOP 2025 outage studies.	**Customer and system operator programme alignment:** Receipt of realistic customer programmes provided greater certainty on project activities and resource requirements, ensuring better alignment of customer and EirGrid project programmes needs for TOP 2025.
Quarterly customer and industry working group meetings	**Quarterly meetings:** To engage with Customers and Industry Bodies on a meaningful and regular basis, EirGrid facilitated quarterly and/or monthly meetings with key groups and customers. A total of 52 of these meetings were held during 2024.	**Quarterly meetings:** Through these meetings, EirGrid was able to drive more regular interaction in the delivery of customer projects to help identify collective challenges while supporting problem solving and collaboration.
Support grid connection and delivery	**Supporting connection and delivery:** In July 2024, EirGrid also issued our Getting Connected Document. The purpose of this document is to inform customers on the relevant requirements to complete a grid connection, to help inform their deliverables.	**Supporting connection and delivery:** This activity prompted feedback from industry on areas where EirGrid can better clarify certain areas of the delivery process, to further support our work in enhancing as well as tailoring the EirGrid customer experience.
Lessons learned	**Lessons learned:** A new initiative in 2024 was to conduct lessons learned surveys. In 2024, EirGrid issued 10 lessons learned surveys. These included specific questions to prompt feedback on possible project delivery improvement areas. This survey also included a review of various areas such as project management, design management, meeting management and scope during the full lifecycle of a project. EirGrid also held follow up workshops to discuss findings and collaborate on areas of improvement.	**Lessons learned:** This approach enabled EirGrid to learn and appreciate the challenges of all stakeholders while understanding where to focus improvements to support project delivery and invite efficiencies into the process. The findings from these surveys have been used to inform the 2025 targets for the Connection Projects team. Based on feedback from industry, sample improvements across project management and processes such as EON/ION checklists were identified, so that we can build these into our planning and initiatives for 2025.
REDIII Directive – redefining the existing offer process to comply with the EU Directive 2023/2413 ('RED III') as directed in the Electricity Connection Policy – Generation & System Services ('ECP GSS') decision and ruleset by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities ('CRU') in September 2024	**REDIII Directive:** In December 2024, EirGrid met with WEI / SEAI representatives to get input on proposed changes to the offer process from experienced customers and from industry representative groups. A follow-on session was organised in January 2025.	**REDIII Directive:** 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 introduces a new High Level Technical Assessment ("HLTA") process, to accelerate offer process timelines and allow for earlier engagement.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2024:

Customer and connections

Description of metric:	Metric:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
Measure of customer sentiment	In our 2024 analysis, we were rated 6.46 (out of 10) by customers.	In 2024, survey results indicated that EirGrid customer sentiment has improved in comparison to 2023 when the score was 5.9. We are continuing to work on initiatives focused on further improving our scores.
Number of customer clinics held	90 clinics 2024 (61 Clinics in 2023)	The increased number of clinics held by EirGrid demonstrates we have elevated 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.
Number of annual customer survey responses	In our 2024 analysis, we recorded 44 responses, compared to 23 responses received the previous year.	In 2024, EirGrid increased the scope of the customer survey to include a wider base of stakeholders, including customers who regularly engage with the project delivery and asset management teams. As a result, the number of responses approximately doubled demonstrating a greater reach to gather feedback and better our understanding of what needs to happen to further improve the EirGrid customer experience.

In addition to the above, EirGrid facilitated a total of 168 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.

In 2024, EirGrid also held a number of Customer Vision meetings and Customer Onboarding sessions. These were new initiatives which were positively received by customers and incorporated improvements including: More regular meetings for larger customers; Introductions to the dedicated customer account manager as well as a project engagement overview; Direct engagement to shared files via our extranet and an increased presence at industry events.

Below are the types and number of meetings facilitated in 2024:

In-person customer engagements:	Monthly/quarterly customer engagements:	Ad hoc customer meetings:	Industry meetings in-person:	Industry meetings online:
17	52	45	5	27

Industry events:	Site visits:	TSO engagement:	Customer Vision:	Onboarding:
7	2	1	8	4

Connections projects

Metric description:	Metric:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
Number of project energisations	11	The projects energised in 2024 include a variety of Security of Supply, RESS, capacity market and interconnection projects. Achieving these energisations would not be possible without the continued cross-functional engagement that occurs on a daily basis between EirGrid and industry.
Number of MWs connected to the system	Approx. 1.5 GW	Through our close collaboration with industry, EirGrid has been able to connect a large volume of new generation to the system in 2024, 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) Dispatch Down Analysis



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) is a decision paper from the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) and outlines the process for grid connection in Ireland. As part of our role, EirGrid provides information on constraints including a constraints analysis report to ECP customers. This report details the possible levels of dispatch down that solar and wind generation might experience in the future, including surplus, transmission curtailment and constraints.

The ECP application process runs annually 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 batch applicants/customers. However, in addition to the current batch applicants, associated developers or consultants, the CRU, DECC and ESB Networks, also get involved as stakeholders in each constraint analysis iteration. ECP customers rely on these reports to get vital updates on potential levels of dispatch down. EirGrid ensures these stakeholders are kept up to date via regular and timely communications.

Enhancing our stakeholder engagement

In 2024, EirGrid put forward a proposal for industry to elect a representative to support efficient industry engagement. This was particularly useful in supporting the clarification and agreement on the assumptions, sensitivities and scenarios.

Further to our regular engagement with industry, in 2024, EirGrid enhanced our engagement process by inviting stakeholder input on the study scenarios that are included in the dispatch down reports. In addition, multiple webinars have also been conducted to discuss the study assumptions with industry allowing these stakeholders to provide feedback on the constraint analysis process. These engagements help us to understand the requirements of our stakeholders as well as give us an opportunity to incorporate feedback where we can.

Continued collaboration is key and EirGrid plays a pivotal role in collating stakeholder insights so that all aspects are considered before the final direction is given by our regulators.

In addition, by creating these channels for open dialogue, we are also allowing for further opportunities to provide transparency following any decisions that have been made.

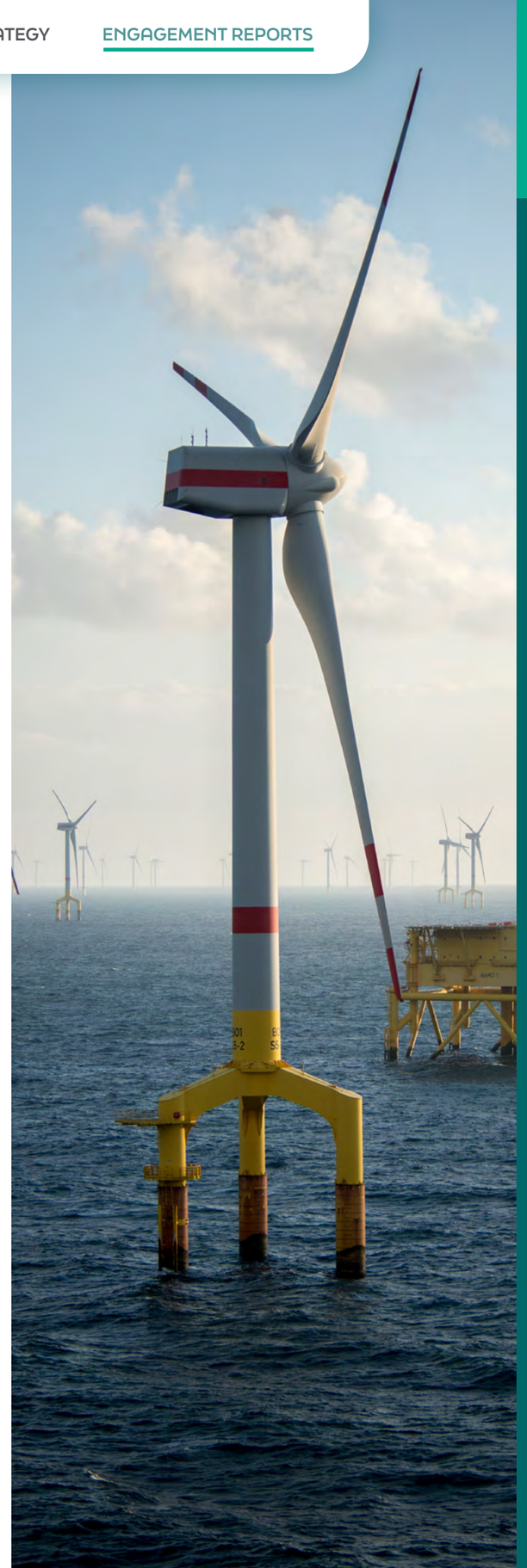
Strategy

Webinars

Throughout the year, we host a number of webinars to engage with ECP customers, industry stakeholders and statutory institutions such as CRU and DECC. 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 on the EirGrid website. The ECP Constraint Reports show the results of studies for a range of generation and network 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:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Enhance Engagement with ECP Customers and industry to keep customers at the heart of business planning	**ECP 2.3 Final Results presentation:** EirGrid presented the final results of the ECP constraint reports to ECP customers and industry members, along with details of the potential dispatch down levels on a geographical basis (Q1 2024).	**ECP 2.3 Final Results presentation:** Through this engagement, we ensured 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 the analysis, while also offering the opportunity to ask questions.
Enhance Engagement with ECP Customers and industry to keep customers at the heart of business planning	**ECP 2.4 Initial Assumptions Workshop:** EirGrid provided industry and CRU/DECC with information on the initial assumptions of the modelling process associated with the ECP constraint reports and invited feedback (Q3 2024). **ECP 2.4 Final Assumptions workshop:** EirGrid provided industry, CRU and DECC with information on the final assumptions of the modelling process associated with the ECP constraint reports and invited feedback (Q4 2024).	**ECP 2.4 Initial and Final Assumptions Workshops:** EirGrid liaised with CRU, DECC, ECP customers and industry, on relevant scenarios during the assumptions gathering phase as well as the timelines associated with the process. This ensured that we included all stakeholders in the modelling assumptions process as well as allowing to better understand their requirements, and ultimately provided robust assessments to help inform their understanding of the potential dispatch down relevant to their future projects. Through these engagements, we gained greater alignment while ensuring that the needs of our stakeholders were met as much as possible.
Publish 12 area constraint reports as per (CRU/20/060)	**ECP 2.3 reports publication:** EirGrid provided ECP customers and relevant stakeholders with information on possible levels of renewable generation output reduction in Ireland for a range of future scenarios (Q1 2024).	**ECP 2.3 reports publication:** EirGrid provided generation developers with timely communications on possible levels of renewable generation output reduction in Ireland for a range of future scenarios. This activity enhances development planning to support the transition to a decarbonised power system while meeting government targets.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2024:

Metric description:	Metric / key engagement:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
Number of webinars and participants	1 industry workshop, 2 industry webinars, 3 engagements with CRU and 3 engagements with DECC. In total over 55 participants across different institutions.	Through these engagements, EirGrid provided regular and timely opportunities for communication and collaboration. They were also an opportunity to resolve issues, discover gaps/opportunities and increase alignment while providing transparency around our decision-making.
Other engagement outside webinars and workshops	Regular and timely engagement with industry representatives	In 2024, an industry representative was elected (by industry) from Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) to support efficient industry engagement. This was particularly useful in supporting the clarification and agreement on the assumptions, sensitivities and scenarios with CRU. These engagements help us to understand the requirements of our stakeholders as well as give us an opportunity to incorporate feedback where we can. For continuity purposes, additional stand-in representatives were also elected as part of this process to maintain progress and avoid key-man dependencies.
Feedback received from industry	8 queries received from industry via email outside of the established ECP webinar engagement process, which were responded to via email. Further to this, we received requests for 18 modelling scenarios/sensitivities through the elected industry representative.	In 2024, EirGrid's efforts to engage with industry while incorporating their feedback into our methodology and modelling process was well received. We were initially looking to model 13 scenarios/sensitives but increased this number to 16 following industry feedback. As a result, we will be persisting with this collaborative approach in future ECP cycles.

Metric description:	Metric / key engagement:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
Post publication for ECP 2.3 requests for further information (achieved through the ECP 2.3 Area Report Webinar and Q&A)	13 questions from stakeholders were clarified and responded to in the Q&A publication.	EirGrid responded to feedback and requests for further clarification on the summary result presentation to industry and incorporated them in the ECP 2.3 Area Report Webinar. We followed this up with a Q&A document to clarify additional queries that arose from the Area Result Webinar. This engagement also improved transparency on the decisions that were taken in the result calculations.
Transparency – going through our decision making based on feedback	Achieved through all the workshops, particularly the ECP 2.4 Final Assumptions Webinar	EirGrid ensured all stakeholder feedback was considered and processed based on its context. As part of this process, we produce an FAQs document to capture the questions and answers from across industry and distribute these directly. These transparent processes have been the main motivation for the changes in the current iteration of constraint analysis (ECP 2.4) where we encouraged industry feedback regarding the determination of the sensitivities for the modelling.



In 2024, EirGrid engaged with industry, CRU, and DECC on the below themes:

Themes:	Industry:	Benefit:
ECP 2.3 Area Report Webinar 1 (Q1 2024)	Approximately 50 participants	This engagement allowed us to communicate the ECP dispatch down summary and area results to ECP customers, which they may use in their offer acceptance thought process. This webinar allowed the ECP customers to gain clarity on the analysis and also offered the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.
ECP 2.4 Initial Assumptions Webinar	51 participants	The Initial Assumptions Webinar allowed us the opportunity to liaise with CRU, DECC, ECP customers and industry, on the scenarios and sensitivities employed in the modelling as well as the timelines associated with the process. It also provided the opportunity to answer questions on the process and take feedback, including on other aspect of the process, such as modelling.
ECP 2.4 Final Assumptions Webinar	50 participants	The Final Assumptions Webinar allowed EirGrid to inform our stakeholders about the final decisions that have been taken on the assumptions and opened the opportunity for final clarification on the process. It also detailed the scenarios and sensitivities that were agreed with the industry representatives.

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

Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council



Overview

Published in 2022 and updated in 2023, Shaping Our Electricity Future (v1.1) provides a detailed Roadmap into the work required for EirGrid to meet the government's 2030 renewable ambitions as outlined in the Climate Action Plan.

In order to reach these targets, it's vital we work together with our stakeholders including Regulators and Government bodies, so that we can deliver and operate the appropriate resources on the system in a timely and efficient manner.

To allow for these key engagements to occur, EirGrid formed the Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council in 2022. The council members are 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. Following an invitation for membership earlier in 2024, the SOEF Advisory Council now has 30 members with invited guests from the Departments, DSOs (Distribution System Operators) and Regulatory Authorities in both jurisdictions.

The remit and purpose of the Advisory Council is to:

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

Shaping Our Electricity Future progress

Since its inception, significant progress has been made in delivering on the milestones included in the roadmap under the main workstreams of operations, markets, networks and engagement. There have been many achievements during this period, which have been secured by a supportive and collaborative approach with our stakeholders, customers, communities and industry partners.

The positive impact of this collaboration can be seen across all strands of delivery.

From a system operations perspective, a key highlight to date includes operating at system non-synchronous penetration (SNSP) levels up to 75%.

Earlier in 2024, EirGrid and SONI reduced the minimum number of large conventional fossil-fuelled generators that must operate on the Ireland and Northern Ireland electricity grid at any one time from 8 to 7. This will allow for a reduction in carbon emissions and create more opportunity for renewable generators to meet power requirements.

Other notable milestones to date include:

- The agreement of the high-level future TSO-DSO joint operating model with ESB Networks (in its role as the Distribution System Operator).
- Significant progress towards facilitating hybrid connections.
- Supporting the regulatory authorities on the Single Electricity Market and associated markets evolution. To support this transition, the markets workstream has been working with the industry participants and regulatory authorities to ensure the most effective and efficient solutions are designed and implemented for Ireland and Northern Ireland centred around the three large programmes of Scheduling and Dispatch (SDP), Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS) and Strategic Markets Programme (SMP).
- Progress has been made on candidate network reinforcements included in the SOEF Roadmap, many of which are in the Framework for Grid Development. Since 2021, we have made a significant step change, in our overall investment into the Grid, we have brought forward approximately €3 billion of new investments in Ireland with more to come.
- Working with the planning authorities we have achieved 35 planning permissions and 160 exempted developments in Ireland since 2021.
- The Dublin Infrastructure Forum is working very effectively and since its inception, has eliminated the need for an additional 22km of cable in the road networks. This was possible through collaborating with agencies and local authorities to minimise disruption to businesses and communities whilst expediting programme delivery.

The above progress can only be achieved by cross society and industry collaboration and support. For EirGrid, the SOEF Advisory Council is an essential component of this collaboration, as the council members provide invaluable insights, so progress on implementation can and is accelerated.

Implementation

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
The remit and purpose of the Advisory Council is to discuss, review and ultimately help facilitate the progress of the Shaping Our Energy Future (SOEF) Roadmap. These targets (as set out in the Government's Climate Action Plan) include the connection of: • **9GW of onshore wind** • **+ 2GW for hydrogen** • **5GW of offshore generation** • **8GW of solar** • **Storage: 3.825GW**	**Advisory Council meetings:** EirGrid held 3 x Advisory Council meetings across 2024: • 16th January 2024 • 21st May 2024 • 24th September 2024	**Advisory Council meetings:** The advisory council meetings offer key stakeholders a forum to advise, increase alignment, raise and resolve issues and ultimately support the delivery of the Shaping Our Electricity Future Roadmap. The SOEF Advisory Council is positioned to provide members the opportunity to give us guidance (based on their experience) on implementation of the roadmap. EirGrid greatly values the input and support provided by members of the Advisory Council. It is critical for stakeholders to play an active role as they continue to partake in the Advisory Council. In 2024, we updated our terms of reference for the Advisory Council meetings, stating that attendance in person is considered mandatory, to promote a greater level of interaction. We also expanded our membership to include expertise from the gas industry. Finally, the provision of a Q&A session at each Advisory Council meeting has allowed for greater collaboration to the benefit of all.
	Workshops: Following on from each Advisory Council meeting, experts from the Advisory Council facilitate workshops as and when required on particular topics.	**Workshops:** These are ad hoc engagements as required which allow stakeholders to tackle a specific issue. The aim is to support problem solving as well as delivery of the shaping programme. This could result in the establishment of Working Groups.
	Advisory Council meeting materials: Preparation and distribution of Advisory Council meeting materials in advance of each meeting.	**Advisory Council meeting materials:** Sharing information in advance of the Advisory Council meetings allows us to emphasise greater collaboration on the day, due to members arriving prepared and informed. It also better allows them to ask questions and provide greater input on the day.
	Meeting follow up: The provision of minutes and presentation materials following each meeting which include follow up actions. These are also published on the EirGrid website along with the presentations from the day.	**Meeting follow up:** This action allows members, including EirGrid, to remain accountable and offers a live and accessible record of each meeting so that all stakeholders can follow the council's progress.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2024:

Description of metric:	Metric:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
Membership renewed	30 members and invited guests	In 2024, EirGrid opened up the SOEF Advisory Council for renewed membership. This increased the membership from 26 to 30 members with invited guests from Departments, DSOs (Distribution System Operators) and Regulatory Authorities in both jurisdictions. Through this activity, EirGrid has supported a broader representation across the council to further enrich input from across a variety of sectors.
SOEF Advisory Council membership survey feedback	75%	In September 2024, advisory council members responded to a range of questions as part of our feedback survey which we send out after every meeting. In response to the question, 'The council provides me with an opportunity to provide input, and support on matters related to the programme and its implementation.' 75% members selected 'strongly agree'. This is a 1.8-fold increase in comparison to May 2024.

For more information on the Shaping Advisory Council please email SOEF@eirgrid.com

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 working groups, taskforces and meetings. EirGrid also actively engages with the UK and across continental Europe with bodies such as the European Network of Transmission System Operators (ENTSO-E) and the Ostend Forum as well as The North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC) and the International Energy Agency (IEA).

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 by 2030 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, SEAI, GNI and academia to determine the generation, storage and supply of renewable energy sources such as green hydrogen.

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.

Strategy

The Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI)

The Renewables Grid Initiative is a unique collaboration of NGOs, TSOs, and DSOs 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.

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 such as offshore resource development, market integration and maintaining system security. EirGrid Chief Innovation and Planning Officer, Liam Ryan, is a member of the ENTSO-E board and has previously served as the Vice-Chair.

ENTSO-E committees

ENTSO-E operates a number of committees that cover 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 with 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. (*Our ENTSO-E engagements are also highlighted in our Offshore chapter below.*)

European Agencies

As part of EirGrid's European engagement, we also work closely with agencies such as Coreso, to support the continued development of Ireland's grid and market. As Regional Coordination Centres (RCCs), Coreso supports Transmission System Operations (TSOs) to contribute objectives that are in line with recommendations made by the European Commission.

Ostend TSO group

The Ostend TSO group 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. As a member, EirGrid exchanges expertise and ensures the requirements of the Irish system are considered.

Collaboration with other 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.

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, which result in collaborative reporting input

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.

Renewable Energy Taskforces

EirGrid continues to liaise with Government key stakeholders via both the Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce and the Accelerating Renewable Energy Taskforce, in order to progress the delivery of offshore wind and related targets, as well as ensure continued alignment and messaging.

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. 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.

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's inhouse Ecologist, biodiversity is a particular focus of these engagements.

Engagement with An Coimisinéir Teanga

Working closely with An Coimisinéir Teanga allows EirGrid to stay up to date on legislation as well as ensure our continued compliance with the Official Languages Act.

EirGrid's Official Languages Officer maintains regular contact with An Coimisinéir to support our commitment to forefront the Irish language and ensure we fulfil our regulatory duties within this area.

Implementation

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Continue our progress in working towards obtaining 80% of our electricity from renewable sources and reach net-zero emissions no later than 2050, in line with Government targets	**Accelerating Renewable Energy Taskforce:** The Climate Action Plan 2024 called for the establishment of the Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce "to coordinate the fast-tracked and increased deployment of onshore renewable electricity generation". EirGrid has been actively involved in both the Taskforce and its relevant Working Groups throughout the year, including the development and delivery of its programme of work (*see also Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce below*). **Geographic Information System (GIS):** In 2024, EirGrid Planning and Environmental Unit completed the survey funded by the DECC Accelerated Programme for Renewable Energy to inform the specifications for a Common Online GIS Mapping Platform.	**Accelerating Renewable Energy Taskforce:** EirGrid reported on all actions assigned to us for 2024 via the various working groups we are part of under the Accelerating Renewable Energy Taskforce **Geographic Information System (GIS):** The GIS will be a key tool for optimising the shared use of environmental data in the development of offshore infrastructure.
Support Europe's energy transition	**Pact for engagement:** In November 2024, EirGrid along with several other TSOs met at the PCI Energy Days policy conference in Brussels to sign a landmark pact for engagement.	**Pact for engagement:** This pact establishes a collective commitment to enhance citizen and community engagement in energy infrastructure projects, promoting trust, transparency, and inclusiveness as key pillars to support Europe's energy transition and strengthen energy resilience. 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 forum. EirGrid is also represented on the EU Commission's Steering Group.

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Support Europe's energy transition continued	**Sharing data:** In 2024, EirGrid engaged with the open data unit within the Department of Public Expenditure (DPER) to understand a secure route to sharing environmental data.	**Sharing data:** Through these engagements, EirGrid is working to understand how we can share vital environmental data to support researchers, developers, academia and NGOs in reducing delivery costs for other developments and projects.
Continued engagement with other TSOs across Europe	**Explore interconnection opportunities:** In 2024, EirGrid engaged with various other TSOs across Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands, France and the UK via NESO (National Energy System Operator) with whom EirGrid also signed an MOU in 2024 on Future Electricity Markets. **Continued innovation:** EirGrid also continued engagement with a wider group of European TSOs through ENTSO-E and Ostend TSO Collaboration (OTC) fora.	**Explore interconnection opportunities:** Through these engagements, EirGrid continued assessment of interconnection opportunities with other TSOs in line with the Government interconnection policy. **Continued innovation:** Through continued inclusion in ENTSO-E, EirGrid engage with our fellow European TSOs to address the key challenges facing the European energy sector. Of specific focus during 2024 was the pan European development of our offshore resources, addressing the specific barriers to expanding offshore deployment. EirGrid's engagement through ENTSO-E will ensure Irish renewables and offshore generation contribute to European goals as supported by DECC. The Ostend TSO group is a collaboration of the TSOs of nine Northern Seas nations. The goal of the group is to cooperate on a fast-track development of offshore grid infrastructures (generation and transmission) within the common sea basin. Through continued inclusion within this group, EirGrid will further ensure Irish offshore resources form an integral part of the group's goals.

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Continue working towards our goal of achieving up to 95% System Non-Synchronous Penetration (SNSP)	**IEA workshop, Paris:** In May 2024, EirGrid's Chief Transformation & Technology Officer, Liam Ryan, and Principal Engineer, Emma Fagan, presented at the IEA Renewables Integration Workshop in Paris, on how Ireland continues to identify pathways for very high shares of instantaneous non-synchronous generation. **RGI Best Practice Webinar:** In January 2024, EirGrid Principal Engineer, Emma Fagan, also presented insights into EirGrid's award-winning achievement of doubling the maximum allowable Rate of Change of Frequency from 0.5 to 1 Hertz per second. The webinar was hosted by RGI and presented insights from both EirGrid and German TSO, Amprion, to a European audience.	**IEA workshop, Paris:** This event provided a valuable opportunity for EirGrid representatives to engage with industry experts and convened seasoned professionals from diverse corners of the industry, fostering the exchange of important insights, knowledge, and practical experience. **RGI Best Practice Webinar:** As both Ireland and Europe progress towards our climate objectives, it's vital that we share insights to support innovation on a global scale. Enabling this change made it possible to increase renewable energy penetration onto the grid, meaning that up to 75% of Ireland's electricity generation can now come from variable renewables, such as wind and solar, at any one time. By offering our insights, EirGrid is continuing to support other TSOs as they consider their route to net zero emissions.
Ensure compliance with the Official Languages Act	**Ensure compliance with the Official Languages Act:** In 2024, EirGrid maintained regular engagement with An Coimisinéir Teanga to support our commitment to forefront the Irish language and ensure we fulfil our duties within this area. As part of this work, we attended three Information Seminars held by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to obtain details of the updates being made to the current legislation. We also increased Irish language content on our social media accounts and advertised job vacancies in both English and Irish for the first time.	**Ensure compliance with the Official Languages Act:** Working closely with An Coimisinéir Teanga allows EirGrid to stay up to date on legislation as well as ensure our continued compliance with the Official Languages Act. By ensuring our public facing literature and key services are available in both the Irish and English languages, EirGrid can therefore ensure our engagement with the public is in each individual's language of choice. And in line with our public engagement objectives, EirGrid is also supporting continued awareness of the need for grid development, as we work to enhance and augment the transmission grid.
Lead the Island's electricity sector on sustainability	**Publication of Grid Implementation Plan:** In 2024, EirGrid published our 2023 Grid Implementation Plan. This was following an extensive consultation process which included Irish Environmental Authorities for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), the general public and a wide range of public authorities, as well as Government departments in Ireland, the UK and France.	**Publication of Grid Implementation Plan:** Through these engagements, EirGrid was able to maximise transparency around EirGrid's environmental impact and what we're doing to reduce this.

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Engage with European TSOs and energy industry on biodiversity mitigation and practice (onshore and offshore)	**Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature (OCEaN):** In 2024, EirGrid attended quarterly OCEaN meetings, the summer Members Assembly, and the Autumn conference. EirGrid also contributed to OCEaN requests for feedback on mitigation of environmental impacts from offshore wind and grid infrastructure.	**Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature (OCEaN):** Through these engagements, EirGrid was able to ensure emerging best practice from our European partners is integrated into how we work.
	Research project on electromagnetic fields (EMFs) on flat fish: In 2024, EirGrid attended quarterly meetings as consortium partner and part-funder of the 'Flat EMF' project to investigate the effects of EMFs on flatfish. This work involved close collaboration with Europa Cable (cable manufacturer) and two TSOs (Tennet, 50Hz).	**Research project on electromagnetic fields (EMFs) on flat fish:** Through these engagements, EirGrid has secured the inclusion of Alternating Current (AC) into the scope of EMFs to be tested on flatfish (noting all Phase 1 windfarms will be AC). [1] By carrying out research, EirGrid aims to address the concerns raised by European parliament and pan-European fisheries/bodies as well as support our offshore engagement by answering relevant queries raised by the fishing community while supporting delivery.
	Renewable Grid Initiative Integrated Vegetation Management IVM): In 2024, EirGrid attended a working group on IVM coordinated by RGI and engaged directly with TenneT on planting over High Voltage cables.	**Renewable Grid Initiative Integrated Vegetation Management IVM):** Through these engagements, EirGrid aims to enable sustainable development and share our lessons learned on integrating nature into our work.

1 https://www.offshore-energy.biz/industry-unites-to-bridge-knowledge-gap-on-effects-of-subsea-cables-on-marine-wildlife/



Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2024:

Metric description:	Metric / Engagement:	Why 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	41	We submitted a total of 41 consultation responses in 2024. 32 of these were Irish-based consultations; 6 were for EU-related bodies/organisation; and 3 were UK-based. 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	10 (approximately)	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 through development project.
Interconnection planning and engagement	Direct interconnection planning with other TSOs including weekly and monthly meetings ENTSOE-E shared issues on interconnection planning - three groups with weekly meetings Ostend Collaboration shared issues on interconnection planning - four groups with weekly meetings	Through 2024, EirGrid worked with other TSOs on interconnection planning focussing on: • Assessing the value of further interconnection between Ireland and other jurisdictions • Within ENTSO-E assessing shared issues impacting offshore development and interconnection • Within Ostend determining specific interconnection plans for our sea basin
Number of ENTSO-E committees EirGrid is part of	Markets: 31 groups with 29 attendees across these groups Network: 14 groups System operations: 5 groups Policy communications: 1 group	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. These include: • System Operations Committee (SOC) • Steering Group Resilient Operations (StG RO) – EirGrid Co-convener • Working Group Risk Preparedness (WGRP) – EirGrid Convener • Working Group Incident Classification Scale (WG ICS) – EirGrid Convener EirGrid also led the ENTSO-E's response to the European Commission's consultation on the energy security architecture in 2024. During 2024, EirGrid also acted as convenor, leading a cross committee working group under the Offshore Board Group of ENTSO-E, tasked with coordinating regulatory and policy amendments to facilitate offshore resource development.

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

Offshore



Overview

The Climate Action Plan 2023 commits to achieving at least 5GW of grid connected offshore wind capacity by 2030 with a further 2GW 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 owner and operator of the offshore transmission system.
- 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.

Strategy

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE) engagement

EirGrid recognises the considerable multifaceted economic opportunity which the development of offshore renewables presents to Ireland. As a result, EirGrid actively engaged with the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment in preparation of their Powering Prosperity publication from earlier this year (2024), and 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, to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure that the economic impact of offshore wind development is best harnessed for Irish companies.

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 committees

ENTSO-E operates a number of committees that cover 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 with 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. (*Our ENTSO-E engagements are also highlighted in our European, Government and Policy chapter above.*)

Ostend TSO group

The Ostend TSO group 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 Ostend TSO group in the European, Government and policy engagement chapter.*)

Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce (OWDT)

In 2022, the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications established a cross-departmental Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce (OWDT) 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 are 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 / Licensing of the OWEP in consultation with CRU and DECC.

Transmission Connection Agreement for offshore

In 2024, CRU directed EirGrid to develop the template legal contracts and related documentation between EirGrid and Phase 1 developers for connection and use of the transmission system. EirGrid conducted a public consultation on the template contracts in 2024. EirGrid (Proposed Offshore Connection Contract Template (POCCT) project team) holds regular engagement sessions with CRU and representatives from each of the six phase one developers to discuss contractual, technical and legal issues which have been received positively by industry. This feedback is gathered through meetings minutes, change logs and legal drafting proposals. The feedback is then used by EirGrid to refine the template legal contracts.

Phase 1 Coordination

EirGrid established the Phase 1 Coordination group in 2024. This Coordination group comprises five working groups attended by both EirGrid and the phase one developers namely, Operation and Maintenance, System Operations, Asset Management, Technical and Legal.

The aim of the Coordination group is to complete the key grid related actions and associated milestones required by the Phase 1 developers to inform their project development. This is building on the work done for the POCCT project team engagement.

South Coast Offshore Transmission Project ('Powering Up Offshore' Phase 2)

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 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 megawatts 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.*)

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.

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 provided feedback on SEAI's Offshore Renewable Energy Technology Roadmap which was published in July ORE-Technology-Roadmap.pdf (seai.ie).

In addition, we are now participating in EPRI's Offshore Wind Programme referred to as OSW P249. Under this arrangement, EirGrid along with other TSOs are funding EPRI work and will share the results.

Offshore and onshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) Auctions engagement

The RESS Auctions Team meets regularly with DECC, CRU, ESB Networks and EirGrid key stakeholders to agree the design, rules and eligibility of the Offshore and onshore 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.

(*For more information on our auction engagements, please see our chapter on operating and developing the grid and market.*)

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's inhouse Ecologist, biodiversity is a particular focus of these engagements.

Engagement with fishing communities

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

(*For more information this, please see our chapter on public engagement.*)



Implementation: Phase one

CRU and DECC Taskforce engagements

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
CRU and DECC Offshore Taskforce engagements	**CRU and DECC Taskforce engagements:** In 2024, our work included: • Monthly engagements with CRU and DECC. • Monthly representation at the Government Taskforce meeting. Provision of quarterly progress updates to DECC for publication on their website.	**CRU and DECC Taskforce engagements:** EirGrid completed and reported on all actions assigned to us for 2024 via the Offshore Wind Energy Programme (OWEP) Workstream 5.

Connection agreements

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Engage all relevant stakeholders in relation to development of the Proposed Offshore Connection Contract Templates (POCCT) and Asset Purchase Agreement (APA) documentation	**Regulation of POCCT and APA:** In 2024, EirGrid undertook a public consultation on the proposed Offshore Connection Contract Templates (POCCT) and Asset Purchase Agreement (APA) documentation.	**Regulation of POCCT and APA:** The information collected during the consultation has informed the development of the POCCT and APA documentation prior to submission to CRU for regulatory approval.
Connection offers to be issued to Phase 1 developers	**Connection offers:** In 2024, EirGrid engaged with the Phase 1 developers on project specific connection issues.	**Connection offers:** These engagements have improved EirGrid's understanding of the project specific requirements.

Phase 1 Coordination Group Engagement

Goals:	2024 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:** In 2024, EirGrid successfully conducted five Phase 1 developer engagement sessions and six technical working groups, amounting to over 70 hours of collaborative interaction with the Phase 1 Projects. These sessions have been instrumental in fostering communication and technical alignment among stakeholders.	**Developer working groups:** These engagement sessions and technical working groups have provided a platform for clarity on pivotal issues, significantly contributing to the drafting of the POCCT and APA. They also offered Phase 1 projects valuable insights where information was sought from EirGrid. We have successfully navigated and resolved a diverse array of topics through these collaborative efforts.

Offshore Asset Readiness Plan Engagements

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Develop a warehousing programme as part of the Offshore Asset Readiness Plan	**Develop a warehousing programme:** In 2024, EirGrid engaged with the Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO) who have been very supportive of EirGrid's engagement with the Irish ports to establish a storage facility for offshore cables. EirGrid also engaged with major ports to evaluate the existing facilities available and what plans each port has for future development.	**Develop a warehousing programme:** These engagements have been critical in ensuring that EirGrid is ready to store offshore export cables in order to support operations and maintenance as part of our offshore development plans.
Work with state entities to understand developments in the marine industries and build strong relationships	**Marine engagements:** In 2024, EirGrid engaged with the Commissioners of Irish Lights via quarterly meetings. These were held to enable each organisation to support each other as we work towards developing the offshore energy sector.	**Marine engagements:** Through these engagements, we have been able to discuss and understand changing regulation and legislation, so that we can support the safe and effective operation of offshore energy operations. These engagements have also been critical in building strong organisational relationships to support EirGrid's offshore operations.
Engage with remote monitoring and asset management centre facilities	**Remote monitoring centre facilities:** In 2024, EirGrid engaged with multiple European service providers in remote monitoring and control facilities to understand various technologies and working practices.	**Remote monitoring centre facilities:** As part of the offshore transmission asset owning role, the remote monitoring aspect of these installations will hold different challenges to the work carried out currently by the national control centre. As such, it is necessary to understand how other similar organisations have managed this work to support effective planning of EirGrid's asset management centre facility.



Supply chain, procurement and market engagement

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Market engagement with both domestic and international markets to generate interest from suppliers and contractors in the following CIO procurement competition	**Market engagement:** Throughout 2024, EirGrid actively engaged in a series of offshore market initiatives to strengthen our presence and collaboration within the renewable energy sector. These engagements included: • Attendance at Major international Expos and Conferences such as WindEurope Expo Bilbao & WindEnergy Expo in Hamburg. These events provided a platform for EirGrid to present its latest projects in offshore wind energy. • International Collaborations in an effort to generate interest from tier 1 suppliers and contractors. • EirGrid attended the Belgian Offshore Network and hosted the Dutch Trade delegation. These events helped to facilitating discussions on cross-border cooperation and market trends. EirGrid also presented at the following key industry events: • Power & Energy Conference • Wind Energy Ireland Trade Show • Enterprise Ireland Offshore Wind Forum	**Market engagement:** Developing a comprehensive market intelligence understanding will be vital to EirGrid in meeting our offshore goals. These engagements have given us a greater understanding of: • Recent technological advancements. • Market demand and trends • Cost. EirGrid's participation in these forums allowed us to discuss opportunities and challenges in the offshore wind industry. These engagements underscore EirGrid's dedication to driving the growth of offshore wind energy. Through these engagements, EirGrid also shared insights into our ongoing projects and future developments in the Irish offshore wind sector.

Phase 1 developer engagement

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Engage collaboratively with Phase 1 Offshore Developers through planned project communication channels	**Project engagements:** In 2024, EirGrid participated in monthly progress meetings with phase 1 developers to support progress across a wide scope of project deliverables.	**Project engagements:** 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.

Phase two

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Support DECC South Coast - Designated Maritime Area Plan (SC-DMAP)	**Supported DECC during consultation process of the Draft SC-DMAP:** In 2024, EirGrid attended 5 public engagement events along the South Coast in support of DECC. We also provided written feedback on the Draft SC-DMAP.	**Supported DECC during consultation process of the Draft SC-DMAP:** Through these engagements, EirGrid was able to support DECC in their public engagement while gaining vital insights to inform subsequent public consultation activities. The SC-DMAP was approved at the Oireachtas in October 2024.
Develop the Grid Connection Information Pack (GCI)	**Grid Connection Information Pack:** As part of the preparation for issuance of the GCI in 2025, EirGrid engaged regularly with DECC, CRU, WEI and industry in 2024. To produce this information pack, the following activities took place in 2024: • Two pre meetings with DECC, CRU and delegates from WEI. • Provision of Industry Engagement Plan on EirGrid Website. • In-person Industry Workshop with potential ORESS Tonn Tua bidders in December. • EirGrid also provided feedback on two CRU papers for Phase 2.	**Grid Connection Information Pack:** Through these engagements, EirGrid has been able to ensure alignment of expectations on GCI contents and timelines between DECC and CRU. We have also ensured the provision of clear timelines and plans for engagement with the successful developer to industry. Finally, we have also provided project updates to industry, DECC and CRU to enable transparent project delivery and set realistic expectations between all parties to support preparation works ahead of the Tonn Nua auction.
Attend industry focused conferences	**Industry focused conferences:** In 2024, EirGrid attended various important industry-focused conferences across Europe including WindEurope Annual Event in March, 'Wind Energy Hamburg' in September 2024, which we attended as part of a wider Irish delegation which included representatives from bodies such as DECC, DETE, WEI and MARA.	**Industry focused conferences:** Attending these conferences gave EirGrid vital opportunities to meet key potential suppliers as well as other TSOs and enabled us to provide updates on our plans on offshore and engage with the market. We are also working with Government and trade bodies to support Ireland's offshore ambitions.
Attend Wind Energy Ireland trade events	**Wind Energy Ireland trade events** In November 2024, EirGrid attended the Wind Energy Ireland conference. EirGrid representatives also spoke at various Enterprise Ireland events in October 2024.	**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.

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Apply for the South Coast Offshore Transmission Project to become a Project of Common Interest (PCI)	**Project of Common Interest:** As part of the 2024-2026 application cycle, EirGrid has applied for the **'Powering Up Ireland'** South Coast Offshore Transmission Project to be awarded Project of Common Interest in 2025. As part of this, EirGrid attended the 5th PCI Energy Days event in Brussels in November 2024.	**Project of Common Interest:** PCI projects are recognised as having a significant impact on the European electrical system, helping the EU to achieve critical energy policy and climate objectives of ensuring affordable, secure and sustainable energy for all citizens. Successful projects benefit from accelerated permitting procedures and potential EU funding through the Connecting Europe Facility, which will support EirGrid's role in offshore development.

Other working groups

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
ENTSO-E engagement	**ENTSO-E engagement:** In 2024, EirGrid maintained ongoing engagement with fellow European TSOs through ENTSO-E, addressing key challenges facing the European energy sector. Of specific focus during 2024 were: 1. Finalisation of the Offshore Network Development Plans (ONDPs) identifying the offshore infrastructure corridors required to deliver on the non-binding European offshore renewable energy goals. The first Offshore Network Development Plan (ONDP) was completed and published in January 2024. 2. Using the ONDP results, we have participated in workgroups to develop and apply a methodology to assess how the costs and benefits of offshore electricity transmission development might be shared. 3. Collectively develop regional investment plans to facilitate the infrastructure deployment associated with the ONDPs. 4. The development of an Offshore Roadmap aimed to identify and coordinate steps to address the regulatory and technological gaps that must be tackled to enable offshore development.	**ENTSO-E engagement:** EirGrid's continued engagement through ENTSO-E ensures Irish renewables and offshore generation capacities are considered in determining European resources and will ultimately contribute to European goals. The 2024 Offshore Network Development Plan (ONDP) has provided a first Pan-European view of offshore electricity transmission requirements including development between Ireland and neighbouring countries. A preferred methodology for cost and benefit sharing has been identified through the latter part of 2024 ahead of the application of this methodology to the ONDP results in early 2025. This work will support governments and regulatory agencies in assessing how offshore transmission projects should be implemented.

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Ostend TSO working groups	**Ostend engagement:** The goal of the Ostend TSO group and the focus of attention throughout 2024 was to cooperate on: 1. GridMap – An extensive economic study has been tendered and initiated by the Ostend TSOs in the latter part of 2024. The study compares the benefits of different offshore transmission topologies in the North Seas area to identify a preferred network topology and projects that might be taken forward. 2. Strengthening TSO-led cross boarder cooperation in connecting offshore wind energy. 3. Development of financing and cost benefit/sharing structures to facilitate offshore development.	**Ostend engagement:** Through continued inclusion within this group, EirGrid benefits from a knowledge sharing forum and we ensure Irish offshore resources form an integral part of the group's goals. In addition, the GridMap work has strengthened co-operation between European TSOs (including GB) to coordinate and identify more cost-effective offshore transmission solutions.
Bilateral work with other TSOs	**Bilateral work with other TSOs:** In 2024, EirGrid worked with other TSOs to assess the value of further interconnection between Ireland and other jurisdictions. For example, studies carried out during 2024 have shown potential value through hybrid interconnector development between Ireland and Great Britain.	**Bilateral work with other TSOs:** This work identifies potential projects that would provide routes to market for Irish offshore wind and increased security of supply to the Irish electricity system.
Supporting Irish Government in its offshore transmission strategy	**Supporting Irish government in its offshore transmission strategy:** Following the publication of its Policy Statement on Interconnection in 2023, the Government has continued to develop an Offshore Transmission Strategy through 2024. As part of this, EirGrid continued to support DECC including consideration of how the holistic development of the Irish transmission grid (onshore and offshore transmission) might be taken forward. In particular, we have sought to align our Net Zero Network work and outputs with DECC's wider offshore development processes.	**Supporting Irish government in its offshore transmission strategy:** This work will help ensure that offshore and onshore transmission systems needs are identified and taken forward in a way that is aligned with likely offshore renewable energy development.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2024:

Metric description:	Metric:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
Number of actions completed under the Offshore Wind Energy Programme (OWEP)	12	EirGrid manages the delivery of actions under Workstream 5 – Grid Development / Licencing of the OWEP in consultation with CRU and DECC. In addition, EirGrid continues to liaise with Government key stakeholders via both the Offshore Renewable Energy Taskforce and the Accelerating Renewable Energy Taskforce, in order to progress the delivery of offshore wind and related targets, as well as ensure continued alignment and messaging.
Number of Taskforce engagements	5 total Taskforce engagements (supported by additional regular meetings)	
Number of fisheries engagements	90 clinics 2024	By engaging closely with relevant marine and fisheries stakeholders, EirGrid looks to ensure a sustainable and environmentally viable route to offshore development.
Phase one developer meetings	10 work group meetings 6 one-to-one meetings per project	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.

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. ESB is the Transmission Asset Owner (TAO) and its business unit ESB Networks carries out the licenced onshore TAO functions. While EirGrid plans our infrastructure, 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 and Ireland's consumers. A selection of the engagement and collaboration channels, methods and activities undertaken in 2024 is outlined in the following sections.

Strategy

The principal engagement channels between EirGrid and ESB Networks in the grid infrastructure delivery area include joint committees, closely aligned teams, specialist working groups and digital workspaces to deliver on annual and multi-year programmes of work, such as the Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP), the Transmission Outage Programme (TOP) and the Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP). During calendar year 2024 regular meetings took place with ESB Networks teams across Executive, programme, project and process areas in furtherance of our joint infrastructure delivery objectives.

Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP)

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 to 2030, covering the regulatory Price Review 5 (PR5) and PR6 periods. The work is required to connect significant volumes of offshore and onshore wind, solar and conventional generation while also reinforcing the power system and implementing over 40 candidate solutions identified in Shaping Our Electricity Future to support the future economic and social development of our country.

The NDP provides a quarterly status update on the 3 key project milestones of EirGrid Capital Approval, Project Agreement with ESB Networks and Energisation for these projects. Our teams regularly engage with teams in ESB Networks to ensure that projects are developed, scoped, designed and constructed in a timely manner. The PR5 joint TSO/TAO incentive metrics are illustrative of the quantitative and qualitative metrics supporting the delivery of the NDP.

Transmission Outage Programme

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 80% renewable energy by 2030. The Transmission Outage Programme (TOP) 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 as a programme of work.

EirGrid's PR5 Investment Planning and Delivery incentive (TOP) metric reports on the annual outturn performance of the TOP programme. Outturn performance is reported in the annual Investment Planning and Delivery Report[1] which is a joint EirGrid/ESB Networks publication published on both company websites[2]. The TOP outturn performance for 2024 was a strong performance and represents effective collaboration and positive engagement between both organisations.

TSO/TAO Multi-Year Joint Incentive Plan 2024 – 2028

EirGrid and ESB Networks have developed the PR5 Joint Incentive Multi-Year Plan for 2024-2028 as required per CRU/20/154. The TSO/TAO have previously published Joint Incentive Multi-Year Plans for the periods 2021, 2022-2026 and 2023-2027. The aim of the Joint TSO/TAO incentive is to promote efficiencies through enhanced collaboration and innovation in delivery of transmission network improvements. The Joint TSO/TAO incentive multi-year plan contains four metric areas which are reported on annually:

1. Deployment of New Technology
2. Project Initiation to CPP Agreed
3. Joint Process Improvement
4. Asset and Programme Data Exchange/ Digital Collaboration

EirGrid and ESB Networks teams collaborate closely to deliver a strong Joint TSO/TAO incentive performance outcome on an annual basis. Further information on the TSO/TAO Joint Incentive outturn performance for 2024 will be included in the Annual Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2024. It is not included in this report as the final incentive outturn is subject to a joint independent audit which is expected to take place at the end of Q1 2025.

1 Investment, Planning and Delivery Report (IPD), 2023
2 Annual Performance Report, (APR) 2023

Working groups and forums

TAO/TSO Joint Committees

There are a range of Joint TSO/TAO committees in operation between the two companies. These committees provide channels of regular joint engagement and collaboration on project and programme development and delivery issues. These committees met regularly during the year and provided quarterly updates to a Joint TSO/TAO Executive Committee.

Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP)

Outage management is a critical issue 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.

The Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP) consists of seven workstreams with 18 interventions to increase outage availability and to maximise outage utilisation and effectiveness. EirGrid and ESB Networks have worked closely and effectively throughout 2024 to progress these workstreams. Some of the interventions are now business as usual (BAU) and delivering real positive impacts.

Effective application of JOTP interventions has enhanced the delivery of the work programme in 2024 and benefits will continue to be realised over time as the JOTP progresses. The cumulative impact of JOTP on delivery of the work programme is being evaluated with a view to providing additional outage availability and increasing the utilisation of outages taken on the system thereby contributing to a step change increase in the scale of transmission infrastructure delivery up to 2030. Further information on the benefits delivered or substantially advanced during 2024 and those planned to deliver benefit in 2025 and beyond will be included in the joint TSO/TAO incentive outturn report. This report will be published in 2025.

Dublin Infrastructure Forum

EirGrid established the Dublin Infrastructure Forum in May 2022. The forum brings state agencies and statutory bodies together to identify opportunities for collaboration, and to share ideas and information on planned infrastructure works across the city in order to minimise disruption to businesses and communities. We collaborate closely with ESB Networks as part of this forum. Forum membership is made up of local authorities, public bodies and infrastructure and utilities providers operating across Dublin. Members include Irish Water, Waterways Ireland, Irish Rail, the IDA, Gas Networks Ireland and all 4 Dublin area local authorities. Three sub-groups were established to allow for more detailed collaboration at a working level on Technical, Planning and Public consultation related issues. The organisations that attend the Dublin Infrastructure Forum are represented in each sub-group by their relevant teams and each sub-group meets on a regular basis.

HV Interface Forum

Following the establishment of the HV Interface Forum in 2023, both EirGrid and ESB Networks continued during 2024 to play leading roles in collaborating with the roads sector authorities with the aim of developing new ways of working. These stem from the direction given by Government within the Climate Action Plan which seeks to develop high voltage transmission infrastructure underground within the road network where this is the optimal solution.

(*More detail on the Dublin Infrastructure and HV Interface forums can be found in our grid delivery and public engagement chapter.*)

Implementation

During calendar year 2024 regular meetings took place with ESB Networks teams across Executive, programme, project and process area in furtherance of our joint infrastructure delivery objectives.

The outcomes of this engagement and these activities can be seen in the NDP delivery metrics achieved for 2024. These will be reported on in detail in the Investment Planning & Delivery (IPD) and Joint TSO/TAO incentive outturn reporting following completion of the relevant regulatory incentive audits Q1 2025. A number of the specific outcomes and benefits achieved in 2024 are outlined below.

Goals:	2024 Engagements:	Outcomes:
Infrastructure Delivery	**Infrastructure Delivery:** The effective and timely delivery of infrastructure requires significant coordination between project and programme teams, client engineers and outage management teams in EirGrid and ESB Networks.	**Infrastructure Delivery:** Strong performance in investment decisions approved and projects handed over to ESB Networks as part of NDP project delivery for calendar year 2024. TOP24 delivery of energisations for calendar year 2024 and completion of works for multi-year construction programmes in future years. Asset Management Benefits 2024. CAP24 Energisations (76% Outturn Performance).
Infrastructure Delivery **HV Interface Forum**	**HV Interface Forum:** In 2024, there were twenty formal meetings across the main Forum, Sector groups and Working Groups.	**HV Interface Forum:** This process is generating new protocols, engagement frameworks and codes of practice which have assisted three active pilot projects and will be implemented on future Transmission projects across the road network in 2025.
Infrastructure Delivery **Dublin Infrastructure Forum**	**Dublin Infrastructure Forum:** In 2024, the Dublin Infrastructure Forum met 3 times in January, June and November. Forum members were briefed on the Dublin cables programme and on the three grid reinforcement projects proposed across the greater Dublin region. Via this forum, EirGrid is ensuring a collaborative and informed approach on our projects.	**Dublin Infrastructure Forum:** Some of the tangible benefits have included an opportunity for advanced ducting in Milltown through Dublin County Council Active Travel as well as opportunities for advanced ducting and collaboration with member organisations ahead of the Fingal East Meath Grid Reinforcement and Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement projects.

Goals:	2024 Engagements:	Outcomes:
Infrastructure Delivery **Strategic Procurement Committee**	**Strategic Procurement Committee:** During 2024, the Strategic Procurement Committee (SPC) continued its role to facilitate discussion and decision making for strategic procurement practises between TSO and TAO. Meetings were held each quarter as mandated and described under the Infrastructure Agreement.	**Strategic Procurement Committee:** During 2024, the SPC met for review and agreement on: the transmission procurement strategy; supplier diversity policies; generic contract terms and conditions and the asset spares policy. This includes procurement specifications for materials, functional specifications and Generic Design Standards; bid lists for award of Works Contracts and contracts for supply of Materials.
Asset Management **Maintenance Policy and Standards Committee**	**The Maintenance Policy and Standards Committee (MPSC):** The Maintenance Policy and Standards Committee (MPSC), facilitates collaboration between ESB Networks and EirGrid on asset maintenance policies and standards. During 2024, five meetings were held.	**The Maintenance Policy and Standards Committee (MPSC):** The MPSC met to set and review Maintenance Policies and Standards for assets forming part of the Transmission System. Policies reviewed are with consideration of performance analysis of the system and different asset types. This includes planned replacement and refurbishment, the frequency of tests and services, asset Condition Assessments and maintenance prioritisation criteria.
Infrastructure Delivery **Joint Outage Transformation Programme**	**Joint Outage Transformation Programme:** The seven JOTP workstream lead teams meet monthly during 2024 as did the steering committee and JOTP Board.	**Joint Outage Transformation Programme:** Working with our customers and stakeholders such as WEI and ISEA in 2024 we have increased the awareness of the JOTP, of commissioning issues and new transmission standards and technical requirements through engagement workshops which will lead to overall delivery benefits. This is in addition to programme, technology and regulation enhancements that are being developed and implemented.

Goals:	2024 Engagements:	Outcomes:
Infrastructure Delivery **Monthly meetings for the Joint Programme Management Office**	**Joint Programme Management Office:** As part of the Joint Programme Management Office (JPMO), programme development meetings are held monthly. This facilitates regular discussion between TAO and TSO to ensure the pipeline of projects is progressed and optimised.	**Joint Programme Management Office:** During 2024, monthly programme development meetings were held as part of the JPMO. The TAO and TSO met to review the pipeline of projects, provide updates on project delivery and ensure processes for delivery were optimised. The outputs of this process are reported in the IP-CPP metric as part of the joint TSO/TAO incentive audit. 2024 performance was strong in this area.
Infrastructure Delivery **Technology Toolbox**	**Technology Toolbox:** Three joint working groups have been established to progress the identified innovative technologies and methods through the agreed process and into the technology toolbox. The workgroups cover the three technology sectors, namely Substations, Overhead Lines and Underground Cables. A Technology Toolbox meeting is held once a month at which the three working groups report to management on progress against the agreed annual targets and agree on any future actions.	**Technology Toolbox:** The working groups are collaborating effectively and are encouraged to continue doing so during the monthly meetings. Significant progress has been made toward achieving the 2024 annual targets. Additionally, new innovative technologies and methods were identified, and it was agreed during the monthly meetings to include these in the list for development and integration into the toolbox.



Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2024:

Goals:	2024 Engagements: Outcomes:
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 Q4 2024 NDP contained a total of 381 projects that reported on the three key milestones of EirGrid Capital Approval, Project Agreement with ESB Networks and Energisation. In 2024, 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 in line with plans ensuring that projects are moving through the project lifecycle steps to final energisation as effectively as possible.
NDP Process Improvement - Milestone Date Changes	In Q3 2024, the NDP was updated to included clear identification of changes to milestone dates since the previous publication. This process improvement was implemented in response to stakeholder feedback and will be maintained in future publications to provide enhanced transparency with our stakeholders. We will continue to develop the mechanisms by which we update stakeholders on the progress and performance of the transmission programme and infrastructure delivery portfolio as we transition from PR5 to PR6.
Early Engagement Programme	In 2023, ESB Networks and EirGrid developed a framework and a programme for early engagement on project delivery. This programme integrates earlier interaction in the project lifecycle with ESB Networks, industry and stakeholders. During 2024, we completed early engagement on 22 projects from 2023 and we initiated early engagement on a further 11 new projects. 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.
Climate Action Plan (CAP) 24 Outturn Performance	In 2024, 22 of 29 committed project energisations were completed showcasing a strong outturn performance of 76% for this CAP24 metric.
Process Improvement - Joint Transmission Outage Plan (TOP) Dashboard	In 2024, a Joint EirGrid/ ESB Networks TOP Dashboard was implemented, integrating near real-time outage reporting between TAO and TSO. This integration of digital collaboration, which replaced communication through manual data consolidation saw efficiency gains for the teams involved in the detailed TOP change control and reporting of this major delivery process.

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).

In 2024, EirGrid and ESB Networks published our 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 under the following pillars: reducing dispatch down, secure future power system, facilitating new technology and whole of system solutions.

In 2024, activity has been progressed across all four workstreams, which will be outlined in detail in the Outturn Report for 2024 (scheduled to be submitted to CRU in April 2025). Of note, significant work has been delivered by EirGrid and ESB Networks to finalise the TSO-DSO operating model high-level design and implementation plan.

This Operating Model aims to enable better management of the transmission and distribution systems and enhanced coordination between the system operators. This enhanced management and coordination are key to achieving the ambitious climate action targets.

In 2024, the system operators also continued our coordination on Distributed Energy Resources (DER) visibility, forecasting, controllability, and modelling.

Strategy

TSO-DSO ongoing engagement

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

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

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

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 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.

Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council

EirGrid formed the Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council in 2022. Its key purpose is to provide a forum to discuss stakeholder views and concerns on issues that impact the implementation of the SOEF Roadmap as well as to offer the opportunity to stakeholders to provide input, advice and assistance on matters related to the SOEF Roadmap and its implementation.

As part of these collaborative sessions, EirGrid and ESB Networks will communicate any key developments with regards to the above TSO-DSO Operating Model Working Group at this forum.

(For more information on this, please see our chapter on the SOEF 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

At EirGrid, we plan and implement a multi-year risk preparedness and emergency planning programme, working closely with our key stakeholders, namely DECC, CRU, Energy Sector agencies (GNI, ESB Networks, and NORA), the Office of Emergency Planning, customers, market participants, and Government Sector Departments.

(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:	2024 Engagements:	Outcomes:
Joint System Operator Programme (JSOP) collaboration to jointly address system needs and deliver whole of system solutions	**Joint System Operator Programme (JSOP) collaboration:** In 2024, EirGrid and ESB Networks collaborated via the following engagements: • 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.	**Joint System Operator Programme (JSOP) collaboration:** Through our engagements with the DSO, we have been able to jointly plan, align and actively manage actions. With regard to our progress on the Joint System Operator Programme (JSOP), in 2024, we agreed the following: Ways of working, timelines, scope of work, key activities, and required areas of expertise.
Develop future TSO-DSO Operating Model	**Develop future TSO-DSO Operating Model:** In 2024, EirGrid and ESB Networks held fortnightly workshops to progress the core operating model design activities while scoping the required activities for implementation. Five workshops have been held to date.	**Develop future TSO-DSO Operating Model:** Through our close collaboration, EirGrid and ESB Networks finalised the TSO-DSO operating model high-level design and implementation plan in 2024 which is a significant milestone. We have now commenced work on the detailed design.
Re-engage industry on the future TSO-DSO Operating Model	**Re-engage industry on the future TSO-DSO Operating Model:** In 2024, EirGrid and ESB Networks held two Industry Briefing Webinars on the future TSO-DSO Operating Model.	**Re-engage industry on the future TSO-DSO Operating Model:** Through these engagements, EirGrid and ESB Networks are able to jointly ensure industry feedback is invited and considered, so that we can build the best possible model while driving positive outcomes for all.
Continued engagement with Government and CRU	**Continued engagement with Government and CRU:** In 2024, EirGrid and ESB Networks held separate briefings on our progress with both CRU and DECC.	**Continued engagement with Government and CRU:** These engagements gave the TSO and DSO an opportunity to update Government and CRU on the following: **CRU:** • Future plans for industry engagement and feedback from previous webinar. • Providing opportunity for feedback. **DECC:** • Background to the topic and relevance of the TSO/DSO Operating Model. • Overview of proposed operating model high level design and worked examples.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2024:

Description of metric:	Metric/Milestone:	Why 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.	In 2024, significant work has been delivered by EirGrid and ESB Networks to finalise the TSO-DSO operating model high-level design and implementation plan – a major milestone. Both system operators continue to work in partnership through our robust governance structure.
2025-2029 Multi-Year Plan call for input consultation – responses received	5	In June 2024, ESB Networks and EirGrid published a joint Call for Input Consultation on the DSO/TSO Multi-Year Plan 2025–2029. The purpose of the Call for Input Consultation was to give stakeholders an opportunity to provide input and feedback on the planned activities for the next five years. EirGrid and ESB Networks received 5 responses in total and where relevant, we ensured the 2025–2029 Multi-Year Plan captured the suggested changes and constructive feedback received from stakeholders.
Number of meetings/ workshops held between ESB Networks, CRU and DECC	JSOP workshops: 5 CRU: 1 DECC:1 Industry: 2	Through these regular engagements, EirGrid and ESB Networks are able to jointly address CRU, DECC and industry 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 a safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity – 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.

In 2024, EirGrid continued to focus on ensuring a secure supply and play an active role in the CRU's Security of Supply Programme of Work. This has resulted in significant improvements to security of supply, as evidenced by the reduced loss of load expectation and expected energy not supplied in the Winter Outlook, published in October 2024

While the balance between supply and demand remains tight at times, the new capacity procured under the SEM, as well as the availability of c.500 MW of temporary emergency generation (TEG) for the winter reduces the risk of System Alerts. Two System Alerts were issued in 2024; both were due to red weather storm warnings and not adequacy concerns. All four periods of tight margins in 2024 were addressed by issuing a Margin Warning; an indication to the market that market-based resources may not be adequate to avoid a System Alert and that EirGrid may need to call on TEG units if margins deteriorate further.

Demand Initiatives (demand management and reduction)

EirGrid and CRU continue to engage with Large Energy Users (LEUs) on requirements for demand flexibility and emergency demand reduction.

Temporary emergency generation, retention of existing units, capacity market auctions

EirGrid has led the procurement of two tranches of temporary emergency generation; a total of 650 Megawatts which will operate outside of the market arrangements. EirGrid has also led a programme of work to extend the operation of some older generators for security of supply, through engagements with DECC, the CRU, and the operator of these units.

EirGrid is closely monitoring and supporting the delivery of successful capacity market auction projects through engagements with the developers.

Risk preparedness

At EirGrid, we plan for major system emergencies, working closely with our key stakeholders, namely DECC, CRU, Energy Sector agencies (Gas Networks Ireland, ESB Networks, and National Oil Reserves Agency (NORA), the Office of Emergency Planning, customers, market participants, and Government Sector Departments. A particular focus in 2024 was emergency planning related to an extreme gas emergency, which is called out in the 2023 National Risk Assessment for Ireland.

The risk preparedness initiatives include supporting CRU in developing the Risk Preparedness Plan (RPP) for Ireland every 4 years, 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 includes participation with the CRU in the identification of regional electricity crisis scenarios under Regulation (EU) 941/2019.

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.

EirGrid also participates in the Energy Security Group convened by DECC, together with the CRU and other energy sector agencies.

System Operations and emergency preparedness

EirGrid is continuing to enhance emergency preparedness and embed the initiatives developed under the Security of Supply programme in normal business processes.

A programme of emergency simulation exercises is outlined in the Risk Preparedness Plan for Ireland. This programme addresses both operational and multi-stakeholder exercises. EirGrid plays a leading role in developing and executing multi-stakeholder exercises involving the Energy Sector and the National Emergency Coordination Centre. The energy sector response, led by the Joint Energy Emergency Response Team (JEERT) is outlined in the EirGrid Power System Emergency Communications Plan (PSECP). 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.

Since 2021, we have successfully led annual multi-stakeholder exercises involving DECC, CRU, Gas Networks Ireland (GNI), the National Oil Reserves Agency (NORA) and ESB Networks. Lessons learned and stakeholder feedback from previous exercises are incorporated into our processes.

Crisis communications

EirGrid and ESB Networks regularly update and test their joint crisis messaging plan. EirGrid has worked with DECC and the Government Information Service to establish and exercise an Energy Emergency Communications sub-group, which is activated under the National Emergency Coordination Group (NECG) in the event of a national emergency. This was again tested in an NECG exercise in 2024.

Communication to key stakeholders

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.

In 2024, EirGrid also initiated reporting on Net Transfer Capacity reductions implemented on the East West Interconnector (EWIC) exports at times when the day-ahead margins have been tight.

Strategy

In 2024, our key channels for engagement included the following:

Collaboration with DECC

In 2024, EirGrid worked with DECC to:

- Enhance planning for a major gas emergency – including engagements with NORA and the oil sector on the replenishment of secondary fuel.
- Undertake an exercise with government sector departments for a major gas emergency.
- Establish and exercise an Energy Emergency Communications sub-group, which is activated under the National Emergency Coordination Group (NECG) in the event of a national emergency. This structure was exercised for its response to a major gas emergency.

Collaboration with CRU

In 2024, EirGrid worked with CRU to:

- Develop national electricity crisis scenarios and consult on these with the energy sector, market participants, and Northern Ireland (SONI and DfE)
- Clarify the emission constraints under which Mandatory Demand Curtailment is applied to LEUs under a system emergency.

Collaboration with ESB Networks

Regular and timely communications with ESB Networks are vital for ensuring the response to incidents on the power system that could impact security of supply. EirGrid works closely with ESB Networks in enhancing 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.

Collaboration with Gas Networks Ireland (GNI)

EirGrid also worked closely with GNI in enhancing emergency planning in the event of a major natural gas emergency, in support of the Energy Security Package published by DECC, and further to work undertaken with DECC and NORA to develop secondary fuel replenishment plans in 2024.

Implementation

Goals:	2024 Engagements:	Outcomes:
Communication of anticipated tight system margins (when stakeholders may be called on to take specific measures)	**System margins:** EirGrid publishes the System Margin Outlook twice weekly (Mondays and Fridays) on the EirGrid and SEMO websites. **Margin warnings:** Margin Warnings provide transparency to the market when the System Operator is relying on the Temporary Emergency Generation units to maintain adequate margins on the system (i.e. when market measures are expected to be inadequate). **System alerts:** In 2024, two System Alerts were issued for weather warnings related Storm Isha (21 Jan) and Storm Darragh (6-7 Dec) to indicate an increased risk of forced transmission outages. No System Alerts were issued in 2024 for adequacy reasons (tight margins), due to the availability of the TEG units.	**System margins:** Through these documents, EirGrid keeps stakeholders informed with regard to how tight margins are expected to be in the coming days. This information is particularly helpful to LEUs who would need to prepare for Voluntary Demand Reduction under a potential System Alert, or Mandatory Demand Curtailment during a potential System Emergency. **Margin warnings:** Margin Warnings provide transparency to the market when the System Operator is relying on the Temporary Emergency Generation units to maintain adequate margins on the system (i.e. when market measures are expected to be inadequate). **System alerts:** System Alerts are issued when the loss of the largest single infeed would result in the need for emergency demand reduction, or under conditions where there is a material increased risk of load loss. 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.

Goals:	2024 Engagements:	Outcomes:
Managing tight system margins by restricting exports to Great Britain	**Managing tight system margins:** In June 2024, EirGrid published its updated 'Day-Ahead Interconnector Net Transfer Capacity Procedure' to communicate the procedure applied when restricting exports to Great Britain over the East West Interconnector (EWIC) due to tight margins in Ireland. In May 2024, EirGrid began publishing reports for days on which a reduction in Net Transfer Capacity (NTC) on the EWIC was implemented due to anticipated tight margins in Ireland. In August 2024, EirGrid began publishing a 3-month summary report on NTC Reduction.	**Managing tight system margins:** Through these activities, EirGrid is increasing transparency to market participants on how decisions related to interconnector transfer capacity reductions are taken (i.e. the dates, times, and reasons for reductions).
National Emergency Coordination Group and sector department coordination of weather events	**Coordination of weather events:** EirGrid participates in weather briefings with members of the National Emergency Coordination Centre. These briefings are coordinated by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.	**Coordination of weather events:** In 2024, EirGrid provided updates on our readiness and response to two major storms in 2024 Storm Isha (January) and Storm Darragh (December).
New Capacity	**New capacity:** EirGrid closely monitored and supported the delivery of Capacity Market auction projects.	**New capacity:** All planned capacity was delivered for the Winter.
Temporary Emergency Generation (TEG)	**Temporary Emergency Generation:** EirGrid updated market participants on TEG dispatch protocols at two Market Operator User Group (MOUG) meetings in 2024. EirGrid also worked with TEG Operators to deliver capacity.	**Temporary Emergency Generation:** TEG units at Huntstown and Shannonbridge were successfully delivered for Winter 2024.
Retained existing generation	**Retained existing generation:** EirGrid has been leading a programme of work while working closely with ESB Networks, to extend the retention of older generators, which will operate outside of the market arrangements.	**Retained existing generation:** The three Moneypoint Units will exit the capacity market at the end of June 2025. EirGrid has, under direction from the CRU, worked with the operator to retain these units as out-of-market units to be used to prevent or mitigate electricity crises.

Goals:	2024 Engagements:	Outcomes:
Demand initiatives (demand management and reduction)	**Demand initiatives:** In 2024, EirGrid did the following: • Implemented new flexible demand contracts with LEUs. • Engaged with LEUs ahead of periods when system margins were expected to be tight (as required). • Led annual engagements with LEUs to verify contact details and demand reduction available, followed by a test of the protocols for implementing Mandatory Demand Reduction. • Reviewed our crisis communications and public appeal messaging.	**Demand initiatives:** LEUs are able to increase their Maximum Import Capacity (MIC) while providing flexibility to the system operator (reduction in demand at short notice) when an instruction is issued by EirGrid as the System Operator. Flexible demand is implemented before the TEG units are dispatched, thereby helping to manage run hours on the TEG units. LEUs participating in the market as Demand Side Units, as well as LEUs that have indicated they might support the system by Voluntary Demand Reduction, are better prepared should they be called on.
Emergency Preparedness Exercises	**Emergency Preparedness Exercises:** In 2024, EirGrid led two Power System Emergency Communication Plan (PSECP) exercises and participated in one National Emergency Coordination Group (NECG) exercise which was led by DECC.	**Emergency Preparedness Exercises:** The Energy Sector extended its exercise programme to a cyber emergency and real-time extreme gas emergency responses. Government sector departments were exercised in response to an extreme gas emergency. All of these exercises were vital in supporting Ireland's risk preparedness and emergency planning.
Natural Gas Emergency contingency planning	**Natural Gas Emergency contingency planning:** In 2024, EirGrid worked with DECC, GNI, ESB Networks, and NORA to advance energy sector contingency planning in the event of a natural gas emergency. This was in support of the Energy Security Package published by DECC.	**Natural Gas Emergency contingency planning:** The National Emergency Coordination Group exercise coordinated by DECC was well received by government sector departments who also used the scenario prepared by the Energy Sector to enhance their planning. Through these engagements, EirGrid has been able to further develop our crisis communications collateral.

Goals:	2024 Engagements:	Outcomes:
Risk Preparedness	**Risk Preparedness:** In 2024, EirGrid worked on the following activities: • EirGrid led the ENTSO-E work in updating the methodology for the identification of regional electricity crisis scenarios as required under Regulation (EU) 2019/941 - approved by ACER in March 2024. • EirGrid also led the ENTSO-E work on the identification of regional electricity crisis scenarios as required under Regulation (EU) 2019/941, and which was submitted to all stakeholders (Member States, National Regulatory Authorities, and the European Commission) in September 2024. • EirGrid supported the CRU in the identification of national electricity crisis scenarios, for inclusion in the Risk Preparedness Plan to be submitted by the CRU to the European Commission in April 2025. This including engagements with energy sector agencies and market participants.	**Risk Preparedness:** Through these engagements, regional electricity crisis scenarios were delivered to Member States for inclusion in their Risk Preparedness Plans. Learnings from these activities will also be applied in 2025 to assist CRU in enhancing the Risk Preparedness Plan for Ireland.
Gas and Electricity Emergency Planning forum (GEEP)	**Gas and Electricity Emergency Planning:** In 2024, EirGrid participated in two bi-annual stakeholder meetings on emergency planning, organised by the CRU.	**Gas and Electricity Emergency Planning:** The CRU Commissioners and energy sector participants were provided with updates on emergency planning and Winter readiness. For the first time in 2024, the DECC team responsible for oil participated in these engagements, providing updates on secondary fuel replenishment in the event of a major gas emergency.
UK / Ireland Gas and Electricity Security of Supply forum	**Gas and Electricity Security of Supply forum:** In 2024, EirGrid participated in two bi-annual stakeholder meetings on emergency planning which were organised by Government sectors (DECC in the case of Ireland).	**Gas and Electricity Security of Supply forum:** The participants were provided with updates on emergency planning and Winter readiness.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2024:

Metric description:	Metric:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
Energy Sector Exercises	3	In 2024, EirGrid led two energy sector exercises with GNI, ESB Networks, DECC, CRU, and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). For one of these exercises, the Power System Emergency Communication Plan was applied for the first time to a cyber-attack, with participation of the NCSC and EirGrid cyber security experts. The other exercise involved the energy sector (including the National Oil Reserve Agency) in exercising its response to an extreme gas emergency. In addition, EirGrid supported DECC in the planning and design of a National Emergency Coordination Group (NECG) exercise (along with all government sector departments) in November 2024.. 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.
Margin Warnings	4	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 2024, EirGrid issued four margin warnings. Margin Warnings 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 increased awareness of TEG unit operators that they may be called on at very short notice.
System Alerts for weather warnings	2	Two System Alerts were issued for weather warnings related to Storm Isha (January) and Storm Darragh (December) 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 2024 for adequacy reasons (tight margins), due to the availability of the TEG 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).

Operating and developing the grid and market



Overview

EirGrid is responsible for the electricity grid and market in Ireland. The grid transports electricity from where it is generated to where it is used.

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. This is across areas including scheduling and dispatch, generator testing, performance monitoring and more.

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

As well as significant ongoing day to day interactions with our customers and key stakeholders including ESB Networks, Gas Networks Ireland and CRU across a range of topics including energisation, generator testing, outages, real time system and market operations, performance monitoring and more, we also have also highlighted below some key areas of focus:

Onshore and offshore Renewable Support Scheme (RESS and ORESS) Auctions engagement

The RESS Auctions Team meets regularly with DECC, 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

RESS is a Government of Ireland initiative. The scheme supports renewable electricity projects in Ireland. RESS auctions are delivered by the DECC, 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 & 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 with DECC and the regulators

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

Regular meetings with DECC and CRU

To ensure our continued alignment with Government policy, we regularly engage with DECC and other Government departments, as well as CRU, who all play an important role in connection, asset and charging policy and ensuring auction competition.

We work closely with CRU to ensure we remain compliant and support our work in achieving our climate ambitions.

We also engage regularly with DECC and the regulator on our progress with regards to the Shaping Our Electricity Future programme of work.

Coordinating capacity market operations

Capacity auctions are a key element of the all-island wholesale electricity market and are designed to deliver a reliable electricity supply at the least possible cost. The auctions also aim to encourage new and efficient power plants into market. The auctions are operated by the system operators (EirGrid and SONI the Electricity System Operator for Northern Ireland). As part of this work, EirGrid and SONI engage with our respective regulators on a weekly basis to organise these critical auctions for the industry. The team also hold industry sessions to support the qualification process prior to each auction.

Market Operator User Group (MOUG) meetings

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

Weekly market participant calls

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

Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS) and the Scheduling and Dispatch Programme (SDP)

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

Monthly Industry Workshops

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

Monthly newsletters

EirGrid issues a monthly 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 monthly Future Power Market industry 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.

Following these meetings, there is also a Joint Grid Code Review Panel with both regulators and relevant stakeholders, including SONI, to review all-island grid code changes impacting areas of common governance.

Large Energy User Taskforce

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

Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council

EirGrid formed the Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council in 2022. Its key purpose is to provide a forum to discuss stakeholder views and concerns on issues that impact the implementation of the roadmap as well as to offer the opportunity to stakeholders to provide input, advice and assistance on matters related to the SOEF Roadmap and its implementation.

(Please see our chapter on the Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council for more information.)

Generator and Outturn Availability Forum

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

Annual customer survey

In 2024, EirGrid continued to engage with our customers via our customer survey, asking for feedback on their experience and opportunities to improve. The feedback received helps to shape our approach for developing and operating the grid and market.

(For more information on this, please see our customer and connections chapter).

Implementation

Markets

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Work towards delivering Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS)	**Future Arrangements for System Services:** Through the course of 2024, the FASS Programme delivered a number of consultations as set out in the Phased Implementation Roadmap. These included: • Day-Ahead System Services Auction Design (DASSA) • DASSA Product Review and Locational Methodology • DASSA Volume Forecasting Methodology (VFM) • FASS System Services Charge The consultations resulted in the publication of a number of TSO Recommendations Papers on the DASSA Design and DASSA Product Review and Locational Methodology. A High-level Readiness Scope, setting out the FASS Programme's candidate scope of readiness activities for impacted stakeholders was also published.	**Future Arrangements for System Services:** Industry feedback acquired through the FASS consultations held during 2024 are of paramount importance in developing the design for the Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS). This engagement provides critical input to the TSO's Recommendations Papers submitted to The Single Electricity Market Committee (SEMC) for decision. Working with and seeking feedback from stakeholders is a key success factor in delivering the FASS programme.
Drive the procurement of Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)	**Long Duration Energy Storage:** Work continues to drive the procurement of Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) with the Department for Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) and the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU). During 2024, EirGrid provided an overview on responses received to the previously held (October 2023) Call for Evidence on LDES.	**Long Duration Energy Storage:** Analysing the feedback received from stakeholders during the 'Call for Evidence' phase helps support our work in driving the procurement of LDES. We continue to engage and work with DECC, CRU, industry and interested stakeholders to bring forward potential procurement options and recommendations for LDES.

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Monthly Future Power markets industry workshops	**Future power markets industry workshops:** Over time, the scope of the monthly Scheduling and Dispatch workshops has widened to cover Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS), Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES), Energy Market Policy and the Balancing Market Reform and was therefore renamed to 'Future Power Markets industry workshop'. These workshops are an important forum for industry representatives and EirGrid to get together to inform, discuss, listen and ask questions. The workshops facilitate discussions around the functional, technical and formal arrangement changes, stakeholder engagement and programme management updates. During 2024, we held three Scheduling and Dispatch workshops (January – March) and nine Future Power Market industry workshops (April – December). Slides presented at these workshops are available on the EirGrid website.	**Future power markets industry workshops:** The Future Power Market Industry workshops strengthen our relationships with industry participants, while providing clear and consistent communications as recommended by the stakeholder panel. Altogether, 12 workshops took place in 2024. We regularly had over 100 participants in attendance. Initially, workshops are facilitated online and in person. In recent months, the workshops moved fully online given higher numbers attending virtually and feedback received. In addition to the dedicated Future Power Market workshops, numerous bilateral meetings have been facilitated with market participants. We also have a dedicated email addresses where we aim to turn around all participant queries.
Monthly Future Power Markets newsletter	**Monthly Future Power Markets Newsletter:** EirGrid publishes a monthly Future Power Markets Newsletter, which is published on the EirGrid website and promoted via social media channels. During the course of 2024, 12 newsletters were published documenting progress and updates across Energy Market Policy, the Scheduling and Dispatch Programme (SDP), Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS), Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) and the Balancing Market Reform.	**Monthly Future Power Markets Newsletter:** During 2024, 12 Future Power Markets newsletters were published, one for each month of the year. The monthly Future Power Markets newsletter complements 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.

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Energy Market Policy	**Energy Market Policy:** In 2024, work took place around understanding the changes to EU and UK trading arrangements post-Brexit, net zero markets and forthcoming changes to the capacity market post 2027. During the course of the year, we continued to engage with other TSOs through our involvement in the European Network of Transmission System Operators (ENTSO-E) and also through a number of workshops with the National Energy System Operator (NESO) formally the Electricity System Operator (ESO) for Great Britain.	**Energy Market Policy:** We continue to work with DECC, CRU, industry and other TSOs to better understand current and future changes to energy market policy.
Market Operator User Group (MOUG) engagements	**Market Operator User Groups:** In 2024, EirGrid hosted six Market Operator User Group engagements.	**Market Operator User Groups:** Through these engagements, EirGrid provided updates relating to a wide range of topics such as settlements, trading, market interface, IT releases and ex-ante markets. These meetings give attendees direct access to key people in EirGrid including SMEs while allowing them the opportunity to give feedback. EirGrid also gives full updates with regards the previous few months as well as upcoming changes.
Weekly market participant calls	**Weekly participant calls:** EirGrid hosted weekly market participant calls on a weekly basis throughout 2024.	**Weekly participant calls:** These calls were vital in providing market participants with weekly updates on Operations, Trading and Settlements. These engagements also allow us to provide details with regards to any outages for transparency. Market participants can also use these engagements to ask questions and give feedback.
SEMO and SEMOpx helpdesk engagements	**SEMO and SEMOpx helpdesk engagements:** In 2024, EirGrid provided daily market support via email and telephone.	**SEMO and SEMOpx helpdesk engagements:** These engagements are an open channel that allow us to support market participants directly with any queries they may have.
SEM registration support	**SEM registration support:** In 2024, EirGrid provided daily support to market participants, to guide them through the registration process.	**SEM registration support:** These engagements are a vital step in allowing us to support market participants during the market registration process.

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
T-1 Capacity Auction	**T-1 Capacity Auction:** Qualification for the T-1 24/25 took place in December 2023 and January 2024. The Auction for T-1 24/25 was held in April 2024. T-1 24/25 Capacity Auction Final Qualification Results and Final Auction Information Pack were published in April 2024, Provisional Capacity Auction Results were published in May 2024 and Final Capacity Auction Results were published in June 2024.	**T-1 Capacity Auction:** The T-1 24/25 Auction successfully completed in April 2024. A total of 784.971 MW of de-rated capacity was offered into the auction and the total successful de-rated capacity in the auction was 784.971 MW. Through these auctions, EirGrid aims to ensure enough MWs are secured in order to meet demand.
T-4 Capacity Auction	**T-4 Capacity Auction:** In May 2024, EirGrid held a participant information session for the T-4 28/29 capacity auction. Qualification for this auction took place during June and July 2024. The Auction for T-4 28/29 T-4 took place in November 2024. In addition to the above, EirGrid published the Initial T-4 28/29 Capacity Auction Final Qualification Results and Final Auction Information Pack in November 2024. The Capacity T-4 2028/29 Auction completed successfully on the 17th of December 2024.	**T-4 Capacity Auction:** Through these engagements, EirGrid is able to assist market participants with the application process while answering any queries they may have. As well as offering a high level of transparency, EirGrid also aims to achieve the following through our engagements: • Increase industry knowledge on the qualification / auction process. • Explain the rules as well as the eligibility criteria being considered. Our engagement is integral to a successful auction with high participation (increase in qualified capacity) to ensure capacity targets are secured for the future. As a result, 149 units (a total of 6279.305 MW), were offered into the auction, and 142 Units (5,942.494 MW) were successful. Of this successful capacity figure, 609.196 was new capacity.
DECC RESS 4 Terms & Conditions Design and Consultation Support	**RESS 4 Terms & Conditions:** In 2024, EirGrid supported the drafting of RESS 4 Terms and Conditions with DECC prior to consultation publication. EirGrid and DECC jointly presented on the RESS 4 T&Cs consultation at the DECC Onshore RESS 4 Industry Forum in February 2024.	**RESS 4 Terms & Conditions:** Consultation completed successfully by DECC and final engagement with EirGrid facilitated the publication of the Final RESS 4 Terms and Conditions on the 1st of May 2024 on the same day as the RESS 4 Qualification Information Pack publication. The auction Information Pack was also successfully published prior to the auction in September 2024.

Goals:	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
RESS 4 Auction	**RESS 4 Auction:** The RESS 4 auction registration information sessions, qualification and auction all successfully completed in September 2024 with both the provisional and final RESS 4 auction results published by EirGrid.	**RESS 4 Auction:** Through these engagements, (including our platform user guides, frequently asked questions documents and query management), EirGrid is able to assist market participants with the qualification application process while answering any queries they may have. As well as offering a high level of transparency, EirGrid also aims to achieve the following through our engagements: • Increase industry knowledge on the RESS qualification / auction process. • Explain the rules as well as the eligibility criteria being considered. The RESS 4 auction was highly successful with over 1.3 GW of RES-E Capacity secured from 27 solar and wind projects. This reflects a substantial increase in RESS Auction participation and ultimately the number of renewable projects and more than 2 GWh cleared energy.
ORESS Tonn Nua (2.1) Terms and Conditions Design, Consultation Support and ORESS Project Board signoff	**Tonn Nua (2.1) Terms and Conditions:** In 2024, EirGrid's engagement comprised the following: • Workshops with DECC, CRU and WEI. Bilateral meetings / correspondence with the DECC Offshore Team and EirGrid's offshore delivery and auctions team.	**Tonn Nua (2.1) Terms and Conditions:** Following our engagements, the Final ORESS Tonn Nua (2.1) Terms and Conditions were successfully published by DECC on the 30th of October 2024 to facilitate an auction in early 2025. In addition, the ORESS (Offshore) Tonn Nua South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP) and CRU Grid Pathways Decisions were all published at the end of 2024.

System operations and outage management

Goals	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Generator outage scheduling	**Generator outage scheduling:** In 2024, EirGrid continued to engage with our generation customers to schedule outages and deliver the annual generator committed outage programme for 2025 as well as management of the 2024 outage plan. We continued to provide support for generator outages and queries.	**Generator outage scheduling:** Through these engagements, EirGrid was able to keep customers up to date and informed with regard to generator outage scheduling. These engagements ensured transparency through the successful delivery of the generator outage programme for 2024 and the publication of the 2025 committed outage programme.
Generator and Outturn Availability Forum	**Generator and Outturn Availability Forum:** In 2024, EirGrid met industry via the Generator Outturn Availability Forum to provide updates on transmission outages, outturn availability reports and to address generator customer queries.	**Generator and Outturn Availability Forum:** These engagements enabled dialogue on Outturn Availability for 2023 as well as an overview of the transmission outages planned in 2024 to understand impacts, provide transparency and support queries.
Scheduling and dispatch	**Scheduling and dispatch:** In 2024, EirGrid continued to engage with stakeholders in relation to scheduling and dispatch via the provision of clear documentation including: • The Balancing Market Principles Statement. • Our consultation on the Terms of Reference and key dates for the annual audit. • The publication of the 2023 audit report and up to date operational constraints information.	**Scheduling and dispatch:** These engagements enabled EirGrid to gather customer feedback and also provided an opportunity to offer transparency with regard to our decision making.
Dispatch down reporting	**Dispatch down reporting:** In 2024, EirGrid continued to analyse curtailment and constraint of renewable sources of electricity and to publish monthly, quarterly and annual reports.	**Dispatch down reporting:** Through our analysis and reporting, EirGrid was able to keep customers and the broader industry, informed with regard to dispatch down levels while contextualising reported figures regionally and nationally.
Grid Code Review Panel	**Grid Code Review Panel:** During 2024, EirGrid continued the dialogue with stakeholders on the evolution of the Grid Code through meetings (three in 2024), as well as via the publication of associated materials and proposed modifications.	**Grid Code Review Panel:** EirGrid's engagements on the Grid Code were key in keeping stakeholders updated and also resulted in the timely publication of four new versions of the Grid Code in 2024.

Future operations

Goals	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Delivery of Low Carbon Inertia Services (LCIS)	**Delivery of LCIS:** In 2024, EirGrid concluded the LCIS Phase 1 Tender process and continued to engage bilaterally with the contracted parties via the connection offer process.	**Delivery of LCIS:** In 2024, EirGrid engaged with the successful tenderers and awarded contracts for the provision of 6,963 MVA.s (Megavolt Ampere Seconds) of synchronous inertia. EirGrid also kept CRU updated on the overall project progress on a monthly basis
Develop potential solutions and standards for Fault Ride Through requirements	**Fault Ride Through requirements:** In 2024, EirGrid engaged with the Regulatory Authorities (CRU/UR) as well as our largest customers and the wider industry, to develop potential solutions and standards for Fault Ride Through requirements. Following this, EirGrid presented the identified performance issues to stakeholders and formed a task force to address them collaboratively. EirGrid then developed and shared proposals for relevant Grid Code modifications to manage the response of Large Energy Users (data centres in Ireland) to system faults.	**Fault Ride Through requirements:** In 2024, EirGrid hosted approximately 25 meetings including: • 3 industry webinars. • 2 Task Force meetings. These engagements have significantly informed the development of the proposed Grid Code Modifications to manage the response of Large Energy Users (data centres in Ireland) to system faults.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2024:

Description of metric:	Metric:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
Large Energy User engagements on Fault Ride Through	25	Through our engagements with Large Energy Users, EirGrid has been able to foster open communication in order to consider the challenges and potential mitigations to resolve issues.
Annual T-1 & T-4 capacity auctions completed, approved and results published	2	By collaborating with the Regulators, GNI 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.
Monthly 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 and Scheduling and Dispatch (SDP).
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	6	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.
Weekly participant calls	44	Weekly settlement and trading updates are given to market participants to help SEMO provide stronger customer service by answering any queries raised during these calls.

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).



Energy research



Overview

Meeting the energy demands of tomorrow presents many complex challenges and moving towards a more sustainable future requires significant transformation. In order to meet the energy demands of tomorrow, we will need to work innovatively to identify solutions that are effective while embracing a broad range of new technologies.

Our innovation and research engagement strategy details a framework that:

- Identifies research bodies to partner with who are experts in areas in which EirGrid and SONI are not experts.
- Identifies Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) that are creating a talent pool of graduates and researchers, to support our work and long-term objectives.
- Supports shaping the direction of research across the island of Ireland and Europe.
- Observes research and innovation developments in industry and academia.
- Ensures that our staff are kept up to date with developments.
- Keeps stakeholders informed and fosters innovation across our organisation.

Strategy

Innovation and research engagement channels

As part of our work, we engage across multiple channels to support our work in cultivating innovation across our organisation as well as ensure we share and gain insights into the latest research to support our progress. These channels include industry advisory boards, various forums and panels and letters of support. We also engage with universities and technological universities in Ireland.

Innovation and research board

The Innovation and Research Management Board is an internal Board which oversees innovation and research related activities across the business whilst ensuring alignment within the company strategy is maintained.

Research forum

The EirGrid research forum is a cross-functional group that is made up of representatives from across the organisation. Although this is an internal knowledge sharing forum, external stakeholders are occasionally invited to present relevant research.

Implementation

Goals	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Enhance data-driven decision-making using artificial intelligence capabilities	**Enhance data-driven decision-making:** In 2024, EirGrid established our membership with CeADAR, Ireland's centre for AI. As part of our engagement, in 2024 we did the following: • Scoped project with CeADAR. • Supported AI Masters projects with Trinity College Dublin. • Continued development of Control Centre Tools.	**Enhance data-driven decision-making:** Our engagement with CeADAR is supporting our work to investigate the capability of artificial intelligence and identify areas where it can be used to support our work. In addition, EirGrid engaged with Trinity College Dublin's School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering on two Masters-level projects in 2024. Both are aimed at exploring the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) methods power system engineering applications. As a result, the Transmission Power System Planning team has proposed two use cases representing challenges associated with the planning of real-world network, storage, and generation projects. These projects will be analysed by Trinity College with a view to develop insights-producing AI and Machine Learning (ML) models as a proof-of-concept for EirGrid's needs. Positive results from these studies may, in-turn, lead to further research projects leading to practical tools to support EirGrid's needs.
Champion the emergence of the Energy Citizen	**Champion the emergence of the Energy Citizen:** In 2024, EirGrid held our first CleanerGrid Award Ceremony as well as planned, promoted and launched our second CleanerGrid competition.	**Champion the emergence of the Energy Citizen:** CleanerGrid is a competition run by EirGrid for third level students. 2024 was the year we launched this initiative with the intention 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. Due to the competition's success, we have since initiated the new cycle of the competition and are in a great place for a successful competition conclusion in 2025.
Understanding pathways to 100% System Non-Synchronous Penetration (SNSP).	**Understanding pathways to 100% SNSP:** In 2024, EirGrid ramped up our engagement with the NexSys project which focuses on the Mitigation of Extreme Weather Events on a High-RES Dependent Network.	**Understanding pathways to 100% SNSP:** Collaboration with UCD on this project has led to great progress in the project with useful outcomes that are very timely for us as we prepare to operate the system with more weather dependent generation.

Goals	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Plan for a net zero carbon, customer focused, export capable power system	**Plan for a net zero carbon, customer focused, export capable power system:** In 2024, EirGrid continued our interaction and engagement with the HyLIGHT project.	**Plan for a net zero carbon, customer focused, export capable power system:** Through our engagements in 2024, EirGrid has achieved the following: • Updates on the latest developments in the hydrogen sector in Ireland. • Insights on the future potential of hydrogen across a range of sectors. • A greater ability to influence direction of research to help achieve EirGrid aims. • Development of network of contacts across hydrogen space in Ireland.
Build new academic relationships to further develop our nine Strategic Innovation Programmes within our innovation and research strategy	**Strategic Innovation Programmes engagements:** In 2024, we continued to engage across a number of research performing organisations, academic bodies and industry to continue the progression of our Strategic Innovation Programmes as well as to support our broader objectives spearheading EirGrid's innovation and research strategy.	**Strategic Innovation Programmes engagements:** 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 following: • Enhance data-driven decision-making using AI • Develop a flexible Network Strategy • Champion the emergence of the energy citizen through our CleanerGrid project (see above) • Understand the routes to SNSP (System Non-Synchronous Penetration) • Set the course for the control centre of the future with a continued focus on improving our security posture. • Lead the island's electricity sector on sustainability. • Prepare for a multi-purpose offshore HVDC (High Voltage Direct Current) grid. • Grow EirGrid TSO capabilities for developing and operating the new offshore grid. • Plan for a net zero carbon, customer focused, export capable power system.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2024:

Description of metric:	Metric:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
Research and driving innovation	Research papers: 18	The research from EirGrid staff seeks to address the various challenges Ireland's electricity grid faces, as we work towards the Government's climate action targets. In 2024, EirGrid's research has explored topics such as: • Tackling solar energy integration to our grid • Assessing how to enable 100% renewable power systems • A data-driven approach to system non-synchronous penetration • Maximising renewable integration using dynamic line rating Through our contributions, EirGrid is working to support the shared challenges faced by TSOs on an international scale.
Number of collaborative projects aligned to our strategic innovation programmes	22 projects (2023 Annual Innovation Report)	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 as set out in our Annual Innovation Report are supporting our work towards achieving our climate objectives.
Number of individual bodies we have active projects with	22 projects (2023 Annual Innovation Report)	EirGrid's ability to engage with multiple different individual bodies allows us to extend our involvement across a number of different research areas, to further support our progress across both our innovation and research priorities. Through our engagement, we are also able to gather different views which further inform our work.

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

Future networks strategic planning



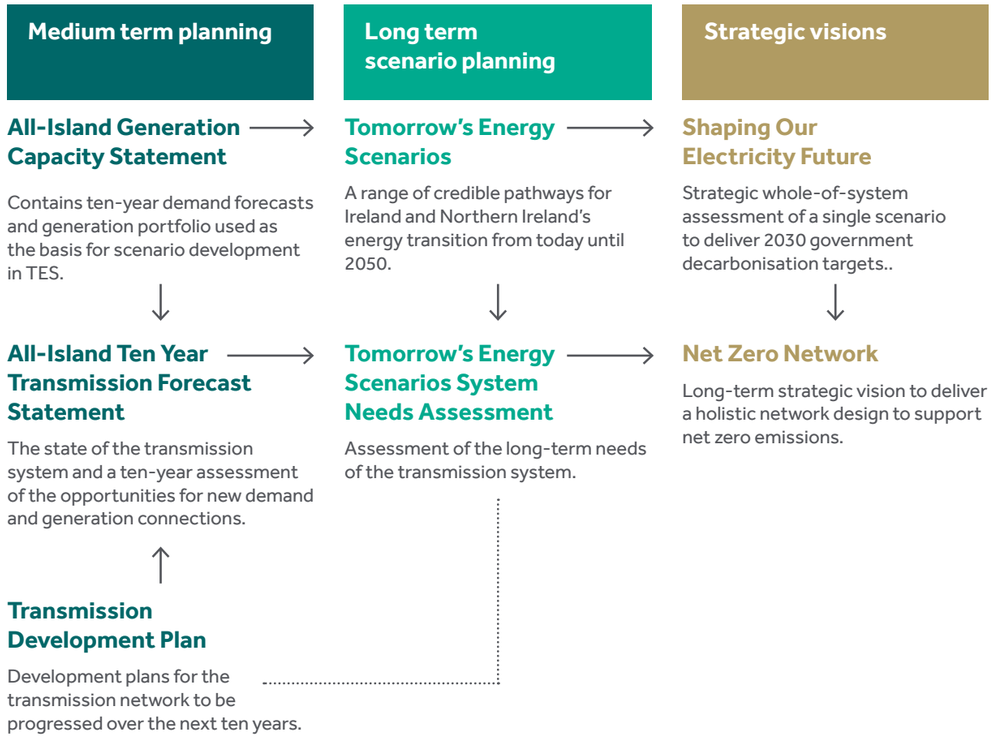
Overview

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 electricity 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.

Strategy

In the energy sector, we are exploring how we best meet society's needs for energy security while taking positive action to help decarbonise our power supply. Meeting the energy demands of tomorrow presents many complex challenges and moving towards a more sustainable future, requires significant transformation, that goes beyond the grid. To support our progress in solving these complex challenges, EirGrid published Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios (TES) 2023 in May 2024. In this report, we presented what EirGrid sees as plausible routes for how the energy sector may evolve based on in-depth research, investigation, modelling and analysis.

Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios is a significant step within EirGrid's suite of planning documents. Following its publication, TES 2023 is being used to inform our TES System Needs Assessment (TES SNA) document. TES SNA will then feed into our Net Zero Network Planning document to further inform our planning across 2035-2050.



One of the principal reasons EirGrid carries out TES is to trigger discussions on the future of the energy sector in Ireland and what the system could look like beyond 2030. In doing so, we can help to inform the decisions that need to be made in the short and medium term to deliver this long-term system vision. As such, direct engagement with the stakeholders (industry, academia, regulators, Government) who, alongside us, can deliver this change, is a critical part of the TES process. In 2024, our engagements included the following:

Industry developers and representative bodies

Engagement with industry developers and representative bodies has been critical as these are the groups who will develop and ultimately deliver the key generation and storage projects required to support the decarbonation of the power system. As part of our consultation process, EirGrid engaged extensively with industry and also presented our findings post-consultation to various bodies including ESB Networks, Wind Energy Ireland, University of Galway, Gas Networks Ireland and Dublin City University. We also presented our findings to an international audience at the Energy Exemplar Xcelerate 2024 conference in Athens, Greece.



Key feedback that we received included the need to focus on developing our modelling capabilities to greater understand the link between the electricity and gas/hydrogen systems. This is something we have taken into our ongoing work on our Net Zero Network plan, and we have been working more closely with Gas Networks Ireland on this along with other collaborations.

Government

Part of EirGrid's role is to continue to support Governments and Regulatory Authorities in the development of energy policy and market design development required to decarbonise the power system. In 2024, EirGrid engaged with both the Irish and Northern Irish Governments to present our findings. Among the topics we discussed was understanding the role of storage in the future energy system and the challenges of delivering reliable energy supply in a system based primarily on wind and solar.

Academia

Engagement with academia is vital in helping to highlight potential areas that require further research so that we can continue to support the energy sector's progress in decarbonising the power system. As part of our TES engagement, EirGrid spoke with numerous academic bodies including Cork University (UCC) and the University of Galway (UG) to highlight our findings. As a result, a number of projects are now in progress to further our develop our understanding with regard to new and innovative technologies such as green hydrogen.

Implementation

Goals	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Publication of TES	**Publication of TES:** In May 2024, EirGrid published both TES 2023 along with the TES Plain English Summary following extensive consultation. During this 6-week consultation, we received 23 responses from a wide range of stakeholders. We then reviewed and responded to these comments (which are all documented at the end of the Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios report) and we also highlighted what amends we had made to the report following stakeholder feedback in the body of the report.	**Publication of TES:** As part of this process, EirGrid made detailed reports and modelling data available for stakeholders to use. This has allowed TES to be an important input into other energy system studies in industry and academia. For example, through our engagement with Gas Networks Ireland we have been able to share modelling data and information to improve our respective planning studies.
Prompting research activity following the publication of TES	**Engagement with academia:** In 2024, EirGrid engaged extensively with academic bodies such as UCC and UG to inform our key insights as well as prompt further research into the areas highlighted in the TES report.	**Engagement with academia:** Following the publication of TES, EirGrid held multiple workshops with academia to discuss our findings and agree appropriate data sharing and collaboration. As a result, we have been able to improve our own plans for future versions of TES based on this engagement. For example, we received some feedback from the HyLight academic research programme that led to a change in how we will model hydrogen for future versions of TES.
Present our findings to industry and Government	**Prompting activity following TES:** Following the publication of TES, EirGrid held a number of meetings and workshops with both industry, regulatory and Government stakeholders to discuss our findings with regard to the overall decarbonisation pathways for Ireland and Northern Ireland.	**Prompting activity following TES:** TES has become an important input into energy policy analysis due to the breadth of our engagement to help industry and government understand what the findings of the report are. For example, DECC used the TES scenarios as an input into their policy on interconnection for Ireland.
Wider engagement to present our TES findings	**Wider engagement:** In 2024, EirGrid also presented our TES findings at various events on both a national and international scale.	**Wider engagement:** We received lots of positive feedback from our presentations about the work. For example, in response to our presentation at Xcelerate in Athens, we received a request from a major energy developer previously not engaged in the Irish market, to meet with us to discuss how they may be able to help develop projects to solve some of the challenges outlined in TES.

Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2024:

Description of metric:	Metric:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
Consultation responses received	23	We received feedback from a range of industry stakeholders, representative groups and individuals. We took their feedback onboard and implemented it into the final TES publication. This included a key change to a model as well as two additional scenarios which considered Ireland achieving a net zero power system by 2035. Our full consideration of the feedback received was included in the appendix of our final TES report.
Workshops with stakeholders	20	To further inform our planning, EirGrid held more than 20 pre-consultation briefings and workshops with a range of industry stakeholders in 2024.

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

Our engagement with our sustainability partners such as Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI), and 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. Our objective is to leverage these partnerships to enhance our ESG footprint, create shared value, and contribute to a more sustainable and equitable society. Our engagement with our key partners is outlined in the table below.

In addition, EirGrid has a number of other stakeholders and industry peer groups who we interact with and share knowledge and key learnings in terms of our work relating to our sustainability strategy as well as that relating to 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 knowledge and leverage the benefit of this network of sustainability leaders. We also regularly engage with other Commercial Semi-State bodies on sustainability matters as well as NewEra with particular focus on the Commercial Semi State Climate Action Framework.

Business Working Responsibly Mark

The Business Working Responsible Mark ("The Mark") is Ireland's Environmental, Economic, Social and Governance (EESG) standard. Third-party verified by the National Standards Authority of Ireland, it is the standard for sustainability that fosters a culture of continuous improvement, ongoing accountability, and leadership. Since 2010, EirGrid has been accredited with the Mark, which highlights 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. Achieving the BWR Mark enhances our brand and reputation, in addition to positioning us as an employer of choice in the marketplace.

To achieve The Mark, EirGrid goes through a rigorous audit-based process that embeds a strategic management system which comprises of a suite of indicators straddling all four pillars of EESG. Within each indicator, companies demonstrate their performance using both an environmental and social lens.

Our recertification of The Mark further evidences our primary goal and notes our position amongst leading companies committed to sustainability.

Implementation

Goals	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Committed to a sustainable society	**SciFest:** In 2024, EirGrid's continued our partnership with SciFest and we continued to sponsor The Cleaner Climate Award.	**SciFest:** The SciFest programme promotes science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) education through the provision of a forum for students at local, regional, and national level to present and display their scientific investigations. EirGrid is a Project Partner with SciFest which sees the EirGrid Cleaner Climate Award awarded at the SciFest@School, SciFest@College and the SciFest National Final. Through our engagements, we are continuing to support second level students to explore and develop their ideas relating to a cleaner energy future, as we work to transition the power system.
Committed to a sustainable society	**Ellenfield Community College:** EirGrid continued our two-year mentoring programme with Leaving Certificate students to the end of the school term in June 2024. In September 2024, we launched the first cycle of a mentoring programme with second year students through the Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) Action on Education Programme, called 'World of Work'.	**Ellenfield Community College:** Through these engagements, EirGrid is giving students the opportunity to learn about the World of Work. It facilitates conversations with volunteers from EirGrid and provides insights to the many roles in the workplace. This inspires and encourages young minds to stay in education, make informed career choices and improves their confidence and self-esteem. These engagements also help us enhance our partnerships with local communities and empower young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. 2024 marks the 11th year of EirGrid's exceptional partnership with Ellenfield Community College, and we are thrilled to see this collaboration continue to thrive and evolve. With a new group of dedicated second-year students, we're proud to carry forward the legacy of this impactful programme, fuelling growth and success for years to come.
Committed to a sustainable society	**Young Social Innovators (YSI):** Since 2022, we have been in a partnership with the not-for-profit organisation Young Social Innovators (YSI). The partnership saw EirGrid become the new Climate Action and Energy partner to YSI for a three-year period and also involved the launch of a new Climate Action and Energy Award. As part of EirGrid's partnership with YSI, in January 2024 EirGrid invited approximately 70 YSI programme participants from across Ireland to our 'Powering Up Event', held in the Aviva Stadium. At the event, EirGrid provided hands on support and insight to the YSI teams for their projects in the EirGrid Sponsored 'Energy and Climate' category of the programme.	**Young Social Innovators (YSI):** Through this partnership in 2024 and since 2022, we recognise the importance to involve young people in dialogue surrounding climate action efforts. Participants this year were also able to discuss topics such as climate justice and biodiversity, giving their views as to how the associated challenges could be addressed.
Committed to a sustainable society	**Elevate Pledge (BITCI):** EirGrid's engagement with Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) regarding the Elevate Pledge continued in 2024, which resulted in our submission of data in February.	**Elevate Pledge (BITCI):** EirGrid continues to be a signatory to the Elevate Pledge which is BITCI's pledge to support businesses in building a more inclusive workplace.
Committed to a sustainable society	**Friends of the Earth /Renewable Grid Initiative:** In 2024, EirGrid sustained our collaborative project with Friends of the Earth and the Renewable Grid Initiative to engage communities in Ireland's energy transition.	**Friends of the Earth /Renewable Grid Initiative:** This project focuses on inclusive conversations with communities, civil society organisations, and stakeholders, fostering open dialogue on the challenges and opportunities in Ireland's energy transformation journey.
Committed to a sustainable society	**Electric Aid:** Electric Aid is a social justice and development fund between EirGrid and ESB employees. In 2024, Electric Aid funded approximately €940,000 to 86 projects all over the world. Of these 86 projects, 7 were in Europe, 66 in Africa, 7 in Asia, 4 in Central America, 1 in South America and 1 in Oceania.	**Electric Aid:** The key driver for Electric Aid is to focus on the UN sustainable development goals, and of these, many of the projects across the world have had a significant impact on development goals such as clean water and sanitation, quality education, zero hunger and affordable, clean energy.
Committed to a sustainable society	**STEM Teacher Internship programme (STInt):** EirGrid participated in the STEM Teacher Internship (STInt) programme in 2024. Our roles were advertised in early 2024 through the STInt portal.	**STEM Teacher Internship programme (STInt):** The STInt Programme is a national programme run by DCU to provide primary and post primary teachers with paid summer internships in STEM roles. We successful recruited one teacher to start with us in June 2024.

Goals	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
Committed to a sustainable society	**DCU Access to the Workplace Programme:** EirGrid had regular engagement throughout 2024, and our summer intern was placed in the organisation.	**DCU Access to the Workplace Programme:** Aligning with our focus on education, our partnership with the DCU Educational Trust on their Access to the Workplace Programme helped to make education accessible and achievable to young people from under-represented backgrounds. As part of our partnership, our successful student from the DCU Access to the Workplace Programme undertook an internship in EirGrid during the summer in 2024, providing invaluable professional experience and developed important skills which they could apply when they returned to complete their final year of studies.
Driving climate action and transformation of the electricity grid	**Science Based Targets initiative:** In 2024, EirGrid completed our carbon footprint assessment for FY23, aligning with the Science Based Targets Initiative.	**Science Based Targets initiative:** Continuing our carbon footprint assessment help us set emissions reduction targets as we continue our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint.
Driving climate action and transformation of the electricity grid	**Low Carbon Pledge:** Business in the Community Ireland's (BITCI's) Low Carbon Pledge is the first dedicated pledge generated by Irish businesses to set industry standards on sustainability and reduce carbon emissions. In 2024, EirGrid made a submission to the pledge which was the last year of the low carbon pledge.	**Low Carbon Pledge:** As a signatory to the Low Carbon Pledge, EirGrid is committed to reducing our Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 50% by 2030.
Being a responsible business	**The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Monitoring and Reporting:** In 2024, 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.

Goals	2024 engagements:	Outcomes:
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.	**Business Working Responsibly (BWR) Mark:** Achieving the BWR Mark enhances our brand and reputation, in addition to positioning us as an employer of choice in the marketplace. EirGrid is accredited to the BWR Mark for a three-year period up to the end of 2025. In 2024, EirGrid had a successful interim check-in.
Being a responsible business	**Commercial Semi-State Climate Action Framework (CSS-CAF) (NewERA):** In 2024, EirGrid completed two CSS-CAF submissions in April and September.	**Commercial Semi-State Climate Action Framework (CSS-CAF) (NewERA):** The framework 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 in 2024 were requested by NewERA on a bi-annual basis. These responses were 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):** The Smarter Travel Mark is a three-tier certification that recognises and celebrates organisations that support active and sustainable travel on the commute and beyond for their workforce. In 2024, EirGrid introduced new initiatives which resulted in us achieving the Gold Smarter Travel Mark.	**Smarter Travel Mark National Transport Authority (NTA):** This accomplishment reflects EirGrid's dedication to upgrading our current commuting facilities and initiatives. EirGrid is continuing its commitment to our Sustainability Strategy pillars by embedding responsible business practices to improve the commuting environment in the office, now and in the future.



Measures of success

In the tables below, we have highlighted a selection of metrics to demonstrate the effectiveness of our engagement in 2024:

Description of metric:	Metric/Milestone:	Why this demonstrates effective engagement:
SciFest engagement	The breakdown of the EirGrid awards for 2024 is as follows: • Second year of EirGrid Cleaner Climate Grand Award presented at the SciFest National Final. • SciFest@School: 160 EirGrid Cleaner Climate Award Winners across 70 schools. • SciFest@College: 18 EirGrid Cleaner Climate Awards (for 32 students) across the 16 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	2024 marked 11 years of our partnership with Ellenfield. In 2024, we engaged with 25 second year students as part of this initiative.	2024 marks the 11th 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.
Sustainable travel	**Prompting activity following TES:** Following the publication of TES, EirGrid held a number of meetings and workshops with both industry, regulatory and Government stakeholders to discuss our findings with regard to the overall decarbonisation pathways for Ireland and Northern Ireland.	**Prompting activity following TES:** TES has become an important input into energy policy analysis due to the breadth of our engagement to help industry and government understand what the findings of the report are. For example, DECC used the TES scenarios as an input into their policy on interconnection for Ireland.
Wider engagement to present our TES findings	Achievement of the National Transport Authority Gold Smarter Travel Mark. 83% of EirGrid employees commuted via sustainable modes in 2024.	Part of our mission at EirGrid is to lead the island's electricity sector on sustainability and decarbonisation. Part of our work towards this is driving sustainability across our own organisation and this award represents our own initiatives as well as our engagement with the National Transport Authority.

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

Appendices

2024 engagements

04

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

Consultations

Consultation	Audience	When	Engagement method	Objective
Annual Innovation Report Consultation	All	Q1 2024	EirGrid consultation portal	Seek feedback on Annual Innovation Report Consultation.
Draft Stakeholder Engagement Report 2023	All	Q2 2024	EirGrid consultation portal	Feedback on our stakeholder engagement throughout 2023 to allow for more meaningful and effective stakeholder engagement.
Offshore Connection Contracts Consultation	All	Q2 2024	EirGrid consultation portal	Seek feedback on the draft offshore Transmission Connection Agreement to inform the final drafting of the document suite which will subsequently be issued to the CRU for approval.
Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2024	All	Q3 2024	CRU consultation	Seek feedback on the TDP 2024. The final version will be published on the EirGrid website subsequent to completion of the consultation process and CRU approval.
Joint TSO & TAO Annual Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2023	All	Q3 2024	EirGrid and ESB Networks consultation	Seek feedback on Annual Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2023.
PR5 TSO/DSO Joint Incentive Multi-Year Plan 2025-2029 Call for Input	Industry	Q3 2024	EirGrid and ESB Networks consultation	Seek stakeholder feedback on the proposed TSO/DSO multi-year plan 2025-2029.
PR5 TSO/TAO Joint Incentive Multi-Year Plan 2025-2029 Call for Input	All	Q3 2024	EirGrid and ESB Networks consultation	Seek stakeholder feedback on the proposed TSO/TAO multi-year plan 2025-2029.
Joint TSO & TAO Investment Planning and Delivery Report 2023	All	Q3 2024	EirGrid and ESB Networks consultation	Seek stakeholder feedback for the Investment Planning and Delivery Report 2023.

Consultation	Audience	When	Engagement method	Objective
Update to the Load-Frequency Control (LFC) Block Operational Agreement	All	Q4 2024	EirGrid and SONI consultation	Seek feedback on the proposed changes to the Load-Frequency Control Block Operational Agreement (LFCBOA), with respect to the revised all-island ramp rate limit.
2025 Stakeholder Engagement Plan	All	Q4 2024	EirGrid consultation portal	To consult on the 2025 Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which summarises our engagement strategy and 2025 engagement planned activities.
Customer workshops on Registration / Qualification /Auction processes	Industry	Ongoing	MS Teams workshop	To inform participants on the Registration / Qualification / Auction Process and allow them to ask questions.
All-island Resource Adequacy Assessment Methodology Consultation	Industry	Q1 2024	EirGrid consultation portal	Gain feedback on the proposed methodology that is being developed which needs to be consistent with Article 24 of REGULATION (EU) 2019/943.
Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios (TES) 2023 report consultation	Industry	Q2 2024	EirGrid consultation portal	Latest thinking on long term energy scenarios for Ireland and Northern Ireland.
Day-Ahead System Services Auction (DASSA) Design Consultation Paper	Industry	Q1 2024	EirGrid consultation portal and notification to stakeholders mailing list	Seek feedback on proposed FASS daily auction arrangements for system services.
Customer Survey	Customers	Q1 2024	Online survey	To seek customer feedback on engagement with EirGrid. This will shape our approach for the upcoming year.
Scheduling & Dispatch Key Date Consultation Audit 2023	Industry	Q1 2024	EirGrid and SONI public consultation	To allow industry to provide feedback on key dates of interest to be considered in the audit.
All-island Resource Adequacy Assessment Input Assumptions Consultation	Industry	Q2 2024	EirGrid consultation portal	Gain feedback on the input assumptions that are to be used in the process.
Customer Outage Planning Survey	Customers	Q2 2024	Online survey	To gather information that will input into the wider development of the Transmission Outage Programme for the forthcoming year.
Offshore 2040 Vision	Industry	Q3 2024	EirGrid portal and associated industry forums	To consult on the draft Offshore 2040 Vision ahead of publication in 2025.

Consultation	Audience	When	Engagement method	Objective
Scheduling & Dispatch (S&D) Audit Terms of Reference (ToR)	Industry	Q3 2024	EirGrid and SONI public consultation	To gain industry feedback on the proposed S&D audit ToR.
DASSA Product Review and Locational Methodology Consultation Paper	Industry	Q2 2024	EirGrid and SONI consultation / Publication for comment	Seek feedback on the DASSA product review and locational methodology.
DASSA Volume Forecasting Methodology (VFM) Consultation Paper	Industry	Q3 2024	EirGrid and SONI consultation portals, notification to stakeholders mailing list and workshop	EirGrid and SONI consultation portals, notification to stakeholders mailing list and workshop
FASS System Services Charge Consultation Paper	Industry	Q3 2024	EirGrid and SONI consultation portals, notification to stakeholders mailing list and workshop	Seek feedback on the design of the FASS system services charge.
Volume Forecasting Methodology consultation Paper including volumes requirements reporting	Industry	Q3 2024	EirGrid and SONI consultation / Publication for comment	Seek feedback on Enduring FASS Volume Forecasting Methodology.
PR5 TSO Incentive Multi Year Plan 2025-2029 Call for Input	Industry	Q3 2024	EirGrid consultation portal	Seek stakeholder feedback on the proposed multi-year plan 2025-2029.
Proposed 2024/25 Transmission Loss Adjustment Factors (TLAFs)	Relevant stakeholder group	Q3 2024	EirGrid and SONI consultation	Publication for Comment. Publish Proposed 2023/24 TLAF for comment.
Proposed 2024/2024 Generator Transmission Use of System (GTUoS) Tariffs	Relevant stakeholder group	Q3 2024	EirGrid and SONI consultation	Publication for Comment Publish proposed 2024/2025 GTUoS tariffs for comment.
Proposed 2025 Generator Unit Under Test (GUUT) Tariffs	Relevant stakeholder group	Q4 2024	EirGrid and SONI consultation / Publication for Comment	Publish Proposed 2025 GUUT tariffs for comment if change is minimal — will run consultation if substantial change proposed.
Proposed 2024/25 Other System Charges	Relevant stakeholder group	Q3 2024	EirGrid and SONI consultation	Consultation on Proposed 2024/2025 Other System Charges.
Balancing Market Principles Statement (BMPS)	Relevant stakeholder group	Q3 2024	EirGrid and SONI consultation	Consultation with industry on proposed revisions to the BMPS — a guide to the scheduling and dispatch process (also published under publications).

Consultation	Audience	When	Engagement method	Objective
Market Operator User Group (MOUG) Presentations	Market Participants	Bi-Monthly	Online presentations	To provide Participants with updates in areas such as upcoming IT releases, Trading, Settlements, Future Markets, System Ops, SEMOpx and Ex-Ante Markets.

Publications

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement method	Objective
Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2024 Consultation Response Paper	All	Q1 2024	EirGrid website	A summary of responses EirGrid received during the consultation process and explains how we will respond.
Final Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2024	All	Q2 2024	EirGrid website	A comprehensive summary of EirGrid's stakeholder engagement plans for 2024.
Stakeholder Engagement Report 2023 Consultation Response Paper	All	Q2 2024	EirGrid website	A summary of responses EirGrid received during the consultation process and explains how we will respond.
Final Stakeholder Engagement Report 2023	All	Q2 2024	EirGrid website	A comprehensive summary of EirGrid's stakeholder engagement in 2023.
Annual Innovation Report	All	Q1 2024	EirGrid and SONI websites	Communicates the progress on innovative programmes throughout the year, as well as our ambition for future developments of programmes and new initiatives to begin.
SEM 13-011 (Annex)	All	Q2 2024	Submit recommendation to regulators	Changes to accommodate programme.
Annual Report	All	Q3 2024	EirGrid website	Detailed report of EirGrid Group's operations and financials in 2023.
Sustainability Report	All	Q4 2024	EirGrid website	Document will report on EirGrid's sustainability progress for 2024.
Winter Outlook	All	Q4 2024	EirGrid website	Annual summary that provides information on expected electricity demand and capacity margin for the winter ahead in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement method	Objective
Market Operator Quarterly Performance Report	Public	Within one month of reporting quarter on SEMO's website.	SEMO website	Report is published in accordance with section B.16.2 of the Trading and Settlement Code and the SEM Committee decision paper issued for the Legacy SEM market. B.16.2. The Market Operator shall report to the Regulatory Authorities in writing on a quarterly basis or at such other intervals as the Regulatory Authorities may reasonably request and in such manner and to such an extent as reasonably specified by the Regulatory Authorities.
Annual Market Operator Performance Report	Public	No timeframes when report is required to be published on SEMO's website	SEMO website	SONI Ltd. and EirGrid plc, operating as the Single Electricity Market Operator (SEMO) are required under their respective Market Operator (MO) Licenses to provide an annual report on Market Operator Performance to the Regulatory Authorities. The report is published in accordance with section B16.2 of the Trading and Settlement Code, Licence Condition 17(7) of the SONI MO licence and Licence Condition 10(8) of the EirGrid MO licence.
Publication of Grid Code Review Panel documentation including meeting minutes, modification proposals, recommendation papers and decision papers	Industry and public	At least three times a year as per GCRP governance.	EirGrid website	To ensure all Grid Code users are aware of all meeting minutes, modification proposals, recommendation papers and decision papers.
RESS 4 Auction Timetable	Industry and public	Q1 2024	EirGrid website	To provide timeline of events for auction to industry, such as qualification process, review process, auction run date, etc.
RESS 4 Qualification Information Pack	Industry and public	Q1 2024	EirGrid website	Qualification Information Pack and information sessions are to brief potential applicants on the RESS qualification process and changes to the Eligibility and Winner Selection criteria in the Terms and Conditions.
Final Auction Information Pack – Capacity Market	Industry and public	Q4 2024	SEMO website	To provide industry with Locational Requirement MWs as well as the final parameter values to be used in the auction.

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement method	Objective
RESS 4 Auction Results	Industry and public	Q2I & Q3 2024	EirGrid website	Report outlines the results of the RESS 4 auctions as per the obligations set out in the Terms and Conditions.
Capacity Auction Timetable	Industry and public	Q3 2024	SEMO website	To provide timeline of events for auction to industry, such as qualification process, review process, auction run date, etc.
Capacity Market Auction Results	Industry and public	Q2 2024	SEMO website	To provide Capacity Auction results to industry.
ORESS 2.1 Qualification Information Pack	Industry and public	Q4 2024	EirGrid website	Qualification Information Pack and information sessions are to brief potential applicants on the ORESS qualification process and changes to the Eligibility and Winner Selection criteria in the Terms and Conditions.
Enduring Connection Policy (ECP) 2.3 Constraints Reports	Industry	Q1 2024	EirGrid website	The purpose of these reports was to provide generation developers with information on possible levels of renewable generation output reduction in Ireland for a range of future scenarios. It is a regulatory requirement (CRU/20/060).
Enduring Connection Policy (ECP) 2.4 Assumptions Document	Industry	Q4 2024	Q4 2024	To provide industry and CRU/DECC with information on the final assumptions of the modelling process associated with the ECP constraint reports.
Transmission Development Plan 2024	Industry	Q1 2024	EirGrid website	This report lists the committed projects and projects under development for the enhancement of the Irish transmission network over the coming ten years.
Day-Ahead System Services Auction (DASSA) Design Recommendations Paper	Industry. Existing and new service providers	Q2 2024	EirGrid and SONI websites and notification to stakeholders mailing list	Recommendations paper on FASS daily auction arrangements for system services.
DASSA Product Review and Locational Methodology Recommendations Paper	Industry. Existing and new service providers	Q3 2024	EirGrid and SONI websites, notification to stakeholders mailing list and workshop	Provide TSO recommendations on the DASSA reserve product review and locational methodology.

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement method	Objective
High-Level Readiness Scope	Industry. Existing and new service providers	Q4 2024	Industry survey, notification to stakeholders mailing list and workshop	Set out FASS Programme's candidate scope of readiness activities for impacted stakeholders.
Response to the Call for Evidence on Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)	Industry	Q1 2024	EirGrid website	The response to the call for evidence on Long Duration Energy Storage aims to provide an overview of the responses received from stakeholders to the original call for evidence released in October 2023.
RESS 4 Auction Information Pack	Industry	Q2 2024	EirGrid website	Auction Information Pack is to brief qualified applicants on the RESS auction process and publish the key auction parameters such as the Price Cap.
Tomorrows Energy Scenarios 2023 final report	Industry	Q2 2024	EirGrid website	Latest thinking on long term energy scenarios for Ireland and Northern Ireland.
Scheduling & Dispatch Audit Report	Industry	Q3 2024	EirGrid website	Independent Assurance Reporting on the 2023 Audit.
All-Island Transmission System Performance Report 2023	Industry	Q2 2024	EirGrid and SONI websites	Report contains transmission system data and performance statistics, for the transmission system in Ireland and Northern Ireland for 2023.
Joint TSO & TAO Investment Planning and Delivery Report 2023	Customers, industry participants and other interested parties	Q3 2024[1]	EirGrid and ESB Networks websites	Report to provide stakeholders with an overview of the transmission development programme as at the end of calendar year 2023.
Joint TSO & TAO Annual Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2023	Customers and industry	Q3 2024[2]	EirGrid and ESB Networks websites	Report seeks to provide customers, industry and stakeholders with clear and accessible reporting on our operation, development and maintenance of the transmission system.
PR5 TSO/TAO Joint Incentive Multi-Year Plan 2025-2029 including consultation responses	Industry	Q4 2024	CRU and EirGrid & ESB Networks websites	Report detailing the TSO/TAO multi-year plan 2025-2029 and the proposed milestones.
PR5 TSO/DSO Joint Incentive Multi-Year Plan 2025-2029 including consultation responses	Industry	Q4 2024	CRU and EirGrid & ESB Networks websites	Report detailing the TSO/DSO multi-year plan 2025-2029 and the proposed milestones.

1 Report completed by EirGrid and submitted to the CRU for approval in Q3 2024. The report will be published once final confirmation is received from the CRU. This is expected in Q1-25.
2 Same comment as above.

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement method	Objective
Northern Ireland Constraints Report	Industry	Q4 2024	SONI website	The purpose of this report is to provide generation developers with information on possible levels of renewable generation output reduction in Northern Ireland for a range of future scenarios.
Operational Policy Roadmap Update	Industry	Q4 2024	EirGrid and SONI websites	Sets out our plans for evolving operational policy to 2030.
Market System Development Plan (MSDP) 2025-2027	Industry	Q4 2024	SEMO website	Outlines the capital projects planned for SEMO to further stabilise and support the operation of the SEM systems.
Publication of any updated agreed HV Forum specifications, standards or protocols	Industry, statutory and other	Q2 2024	EirGrid website	To communicate updates to specifications, standards or protocols.
Publication of any additional EirGrid specifications identified for Offshore Developer-Led Projects post Phase 1	Industry and regulator	Q4 2024	EirGrid website	To communicate additional EirGrid specifications identified for Offshore Developer-Led Projects post Phase 1.
Net-Zero Offshore Markets Design	Government departments regulator	Q3 -Q4 2024	Workshops, email, virtual meetings,	A High-level Paper, followed by a Detailed Paper on a Net-Zero Offshore Markets Design.
SEM and GB Trading Arrangements	Government departments regulators TSOs, Industry, SEM-GB Interconnectors (existing and forthcoming)	Q3 2024	Workshops, email, virtual meetings,	A High-level Paper on the Single Electricity Market (SEM) and Great Britain (GB) trading arrangements post-Brexit which includes a technical analysis of Multi-Region Loose Volume Coupling (MRLVC).
All-Island Outage Plan	EirGrid	Weekly	EirGrid website	All-Island Outage Plan covering the next 16 weeks to provide up to date information for industry.
Weekly Operational Constraints Updates	EirGrid	Weekly	SEMO Website	To provide information regarding constraints to industry.
Transmission Outage Summary	EirGrid	Fortnightly	EirGrid website	To communicate transmission outage dates for the next fortnight.
Wind and Solar Dispatch Down Reports	EirGrid and SONI	Monthly	EirGrid website	Monthly Wind and Solar Dispatch Down (constraint and curtailment) reports Ireland and Northern Ireland.
System & Renewable Summary Report	EirGrid and SONI	Monthly	EirGrid and SONI websites	Latest system & renewable KPIs and historical data for Ireland and Northern Ireland.
System Data Qtr-Hourly	EirGrid and SONI	Monthly	EirGrid and SONI websites	Quarter-hourly system readings.

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement method	Objective
Quarterly Imperfections Report	EirGrid and SONI	Quarterly	EirGrid, SONI and SEMO website	To report on imperfections spend by quarter and year-to-date.
Publication of updated versions of the Grid Code	EirGrid	At least three times a year as per GCRP governance: Published 4 versions in 2024	EirGrid website	To ensure that all users have access to and are aware of the latest version of the Grid Code.
Combined Loss Adjustment Factors	EirGrid	As required	SEMO website	Loss factors as per the System Operator.
Outturn Availability 2024 ExAnte Report	EirGrid	Q1 2024	EirGrid website	Outturn Availability Connection Asset Maintenance Plan for 2023 Outage Season.
Annual Dispatch Down 2023 Report	EirGrid and SONI	Q2 2024	EirGrid website	Annual Renewable Dispatch Down (constraint and curtailment) report Ireland and Northern Ireland.
Committed Outage Programme (COP) 2025 and Provisional Outage Programmes (POP) 2027 and 2028	EirGrid	Q3 2024	EirGrid website	To provide outage programme for the year ahead and provisional plans for subsequent two years.
SEM Parameters Decision Paper	EirGrid	Q3 2024	SEM Committee website	Presents the RAs' decision in relation to the operational parameters for 2024.
SEMOpx Statement of Charges	EirGrid	Q3 2024	SEMOpx website	Charges for SEMOpx Annual Fees for 2025.
Approved Transmission Loss Adjustment Factors (TLAFs) for 2024/25	EirGrid and SONI	Q3 2024	EirGrid website	To communicate the approved TLAFs for 2023/2024.
Approved Generator Transmission Use of System (GTUoS) Tariffs for 2024/25	EirGrid and SONI	Q3 2024	EirGrid and SONI websites	Approved Generator Transmission Use of System (GTUoS) Tariffs for 2024/25.
Transmission Outage Programme (TOP) 2024	EirGrid	Q1 2024	EirGrid website	To communicate transmission outage dates proposed for 2024.
System Margin Outlook Report	EirGrid	2 x Weekly (Mon, Fri)	EirGrid website	To communicate potential tight system margins (with and without TEG)

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement method	Objective
Day-Ahead Interconnector Net Transfer Capacity Procedure	EirGrid	Q3 2024	EirGrid website	To communicate the procedure applied when restricting exports to Great Britain over EWIC due to tight margins in Ireland.
Interconnector Net Transfer Capacity Reductions	EirGrid	5 working days after NTC is reduced (from May 2024)	EirGrid website	To communicate when and why the NTC has been reduced
Interconnector Net Transfer Capacity Reductions – 3 Month Report	EirGrid	Quarterly (from Aug 2024)	EirGrid website	To report on all NTC reductions over the last 3 months

Industry Forums Working Groups Hosted By Eirgrid

Engagement Topic	Audience	When	Method	Objective
Future market collaborative workshop	Industry	Q1-Q4 2024	Both in-person and virtually	Future market focused collaborative workshop between EirGrid, SONI and National Energy System Operator (NESO) formerly National Grid ESO.
Offshore Phase 1 workshops	Offshore Phase 1 Customers	Throughout 2024	Held In-person and virtually	Workshops with Offshore Phase 1 Customers throughout 2024 on multiple topics relating to design of offshore transmission assets.
TSO_RA meetings	Regulator	Throughout 2024	Virtual conference	Regular meetings/workshops on the SOEF Operations Programme.
TSO_DSO meetings	ESB Networks	Throughout 2024	Virtual conference and in-person as required	Regular meetings/workshops on the Joint System Operator Programme and development of the implementation plan for the TSO-DSO Operating Model.
TSO-DSO Operating Model	Industry	Q2 2024	Virtual webinar and workshop TBC	Provide update from EirGrid and ESB Networks to industry on progress of future TSO-DSO Operating Model

Engagement Topic	Audience	When	Method	Objective
Generator and Outturn Availability Forum	Generation Customers and the regulator	Q2 2024	Industry Forum	Provide update on transmission outages, outturn availability reports and to address generator customer queries.
Participant Update Call	Market Participants	Weekly	Virtual conference	Provide Trading and Settlement updates and general updates.
Future Power Markets workshops	Industry	Monthly	Held in-person and virtual	Monthly workshops with industry on the Scheduling and Dispatch Programme (SDP), Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS), Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES), Energy Market Policy and Balancing Market Reform
Offshore Phase 1 progress meetings	Offshore Phase 1 Customers	Monthly	Virtual conference	Progress meetings held with Offshore Phase 1 Customers.
Customer Clinics Pre-Connection Application Information	Customers	Monthly	Virtual conference	Customers looking to connect to the Transmission System - Clinic days with bilateral meetings to provide guidance to prospective customers & developers regarding potential grid connections.
HV Forum	Industry, statutory and other	Monthly	Industry Forum	The Forum, established by EirGrid, with an independent Chair, is a critical enabler to bringing together key stakeholders from the Electricity and Roads Sectors. Such as TII, ESB Networks and local roads authorities, together with Government departments to address some of the key challenges blocking progress of planning applications and development projects.
Dublin Infrastructure Forum	Industry, Statutory and other	Quarterly	Industry Forum	To help minimise disruption and work as efficiently as possible on the Powering Up Dublin grid upgrade project, this forum was established by EirGrid, with an independent Chair, to enable effective collaboration and other state-owned utilities, transport providers and local authorities across the programme of works.
Wind Industry Forums	Wind industry	Monthly / Quarterly	Virtual conference	Wind Industry Representatives Engagement Forum for industry.

Engagement Topic	Audience	When	Method	Objective
Solar Industry Forums	Solar industry	Monthly / Quarterly	Virtual conference	Solar Industry Representatives Engagement Forum for industry.
Shaping Advisory Council	Industry	3 times a year	Industry Forum	Discuss, review and facilitate the progress of the Shaping Our Electricity Future programme.
Market Operator User Group (MOUG)	Market Participants	Six times a year	Virtual conference	Inform members of any key activities and updates.
Enduring Connection Policy (ECP) 2.3 Final Result Presentation	Industry, CRU, DECC	Q1 2024	Webinar	To present to industry the final results of the ECP constraint reports, with specific area details.
ECP 2.4 Constraint Reports Assumptions Workshops	Industry, CRU, DECC	Q3 – Q4 2024	Webinar	To provide industry and CRU/ DECC with information on the assumptions (initial Q3, final Q4) of the modelling process associated with the ECP constraint reports and seek feedback.
ECP 2.3 Constraint Reports Initial Results Presentation	Industry, CRU, DECC	Q1 2024	Webinar	To present to industry and CRU/DECC the initial results of the ECP constraint reports, which is a CRU requirement (CRU/20/060).
Grid Code Review Panel Meetings	Industry	At least three times per annum: In 2024: March, September and December	Industry Forum	Review, discuss and ensure user consultation of recommendations for Grid Code amendments.
RESS Qualification Participant Sessions	RESS Participants	Annually	Virtual conference	Inform participants on qualification process for RESS.
Capacity Market Qualification Participant Sessions	Capacity Market Participants	Annually	Virtual conference	Inform Participants on qualification process for Capacity Market.
Trading and Settlement Code Modifications Committee	Industry, Regulators	Bi-monthly	Virtual conference	Propose, discuss and vote on proposed Code modifications.
Capacity Market Modifications Workshop	Industry, Regulators	Bi-monthly	Virtual conference	Discuss Capacity Market Code Modification Proposals.



Project Engagements

Project	Audience	When	Engagement method	Objective
Powering Up Dublin	All residents, community groups, public representatives, utilities, government organisations and businesses in the defined 5 engagement zones.	Throughout 2024	Public engagement (events, forums, meetings, leaflet drops, advertising in newspapers and social media platforms)	Informed stakeholders of emerging best performing cable route options. Continued to update stakeholders on the project progress.
Energy Citizen Roadshows	Local communities	Throughout 2024	Public engagement	Informed local communities on how the organisation plans to future-proof the electricity grid.
Celtic Interconnector	Local communities	Throughout 2024	Public engagement	In 2024, we worked with communities in East Cork, as the successful applicants draw down funds on the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund.
North South Interconnection Development	Landowners, local communities, ESB NETWORKS, the CRU	Q1 2024	Public engagement	Now that planning permission has been achieved in ROI and NI next phase of engagement with all stakeholders will commence.
North Connacht	Local communities	Q3 2024	Public engagement within the community	Engaged with communities door-to-door in Swinford Town and both stations (Ballaghaderreen and Ballina).
East Meath - North Dublin	Local communities, technical stakeholders, the CRU	Q1 2024	Public engagement	Planning application submitted in Q1 2024. We also commenced capacity building with the community forum in East Meath North Dublin.
Flagford to Sligo	Technical stakeholders, the CRU	Q3 or Q4 2024	Public engagement	Identify best options and what area may be affected by the project.
Donegal to Srananagh	Technical stakeholders, the CRU	Q3 or Q4 2024	Public engagement	Identify best options and what area may be affected by the project.
Platin 110 kV Refurbishment Project	Customers	Q1-Q3 2024	Meetings/ workshop / site visits	To identify best performing solution.

(*More detail on the above along with key project engagements are detailed in the grid development and public engagement chapter.*)



EirGrid

The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road,
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28, Ireland
+353 (0) 1 627 1700 | eirgrid.ie

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