



# Stakeholder Engagement Plan

**2022**



Delivering a cleaner energy future

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# Introduction

This document summarises EirGrid’s plans for stakeholder engagement from 2022 onwards. We believe that working with stakeholders - customers and industry, the public and local communities - leads to better outcomes and helps to secure the transition to a cleaner energy future.

We are now in the third year of our 2020–25 corporate strategy that was launched in September 2019. A fresh approach to stakeholder engagement is one of the pillars of the strategy and this is reflected in how we have engaged with a wide range of stakeholders over the past two years.

A highlight was the rollout of the “Shaping Our Electricity Future” national public consultation last year. For fourteen weeks from March 8th, EirGrid held a series of workshops, meetings and fora across the country to inform people and gather feedback that directly influenced the final roadmap.

Engagement on “Shaping Our Electricity Future” will continue throughout 2022, including the rollout of regional energy citizens’ assemblies, which are modelled on Ireland’s citizens’ assembly, but at a local level. Further details are provided below.

Effective engagement is essential for EirGrid to achieve our purpose - to transform the power system for future generations.

EirGrid has been tasked to play a central role in making the critical changes in the electricity system that are necessary to respond to climate change, in particular to achieve up to 80% of our electricity to come from renewable sources by 2030, an important step on the journey to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

This will require a level of transformation that has not been attempted since the roll-out of rural electrification. To achieve this, we need to work in partnership with all our stakeholders. For that reason, meaningful engagement is more important than ever before.

Last year saw the signing of an infrastructure delivery charter by EirGrid and ESB Networks, which includes a series of “engagement principles”, which are detailed below. These principles underpin the working relationship between the two companies as they carry out their statutory functions in an efficient manner on behalf of the electricity customer.

EirGrid acknowledges that the CRU's decision regarding the Price Review 5 (PR5) framework continued the transition initiated in PR4 to a more outcome-based approach. EirGrid is taking account of this in stakeholder engagement reporting, as required for PR5.

This document also sets out our planned 2022 engagements and how our stakeholders can participate.

In addition to listing our planned engagements, we also highlight key areas of focus for 2022. Our approach to engagement in 2022 is to take the considerable learnings from our “Shaping Our Electricity Future” consultation and will seek to maximise all channels available to us in line with public health advice.

# Who we are and what we do

## Our role

EirGrid develops, manages and operates the transmission grid and electricity market in Ireland. The grid transports power from where it is generated to where it is needed. It brings power to industry and businesses that use large amounts of electricity.

The grid also powers the distribution network, which supplies the electricity used every day 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.

EirGrid is part of the EirGrid Group, which includes System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) - the transmission system operator for Northern Ireland. The Single Electricity Market Operator (SEMO) is also part of the group and it runs the wholesale electricity market. This ensures electricity users always have reliable power at a competitive price. We do this in the most cost-effective way possible, in the interests of all electricity users.

EirGrid is responsible for developing and operating interconnections with neighbouring grids, such as with National Grid in the UK via the East West Interconnector. Other proposed interconnections include the North South and Celtic Interconnectors. We also enable interconnections developed and operated by third parties, such as the proposed Greenlink Interconnector.

We implement Government and EU policy in Ireland. We act independently and in the public interest. We are regulated as a monopoly service provider. We perform our services for the benefit of every electricity user and to support the economy.

## 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. However, as stated above, 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.

# Who are our stakeholders?

EirGrid has a broad range of stakeholders involved across its various roles. These stakeholder groups include:

## Customers and Industry Stakeholders

- 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 procured services to other electricity systems. We also serve 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. We respond to a wide range of needs across the wholesale energy sector in Ireland. We recognise that many of our customers are key enablers to achieve up to 80% of Ireland's electricity needs from renewable sources by 2030 through electricity generation, interconnection and the supply of necessary services to operate the system with high penetration of generation from renewable sources.
- Engagement with both customers and other industry stakeholders is important for us to shape how we continue to meet the evolving needs of our customers, as well as future development of how we plan, develop and operate the transmission system.

## Landowners, Communities and General Public

- When we consider grid development, we consult with local landowners, local communities that may be affected and the general public. This can include:
  - individual landowners, or companies that own the land;
  - members of local communities, businesses and groups; and
  - local authorities and elected representatives.
- The scale and pace of changes to the power system required to achieve the targets in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2021 will need a proportionate increase in our engagement with landowners and communities. Learning how best to scale and optimise this engagement is a key priority for our engagement planning.
- In the next decade, we will need 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. We must acknowledge the challenges of what we ask from individuals and communities for the benefit of the entire population ensuring that they are consulted with and listened to from the outset.

- In recent years, we transformed our public and stakeholder engagement for grid development projects. We use a consistent, six-step public engagement 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.

### **Other Organisations**

- We also talk to businesses, academia, industry representative organisations, statutory and other state bodies and political authorities at all levels. This helps us to get the insights and opinions of those with a specific interest in our plans or on an issue. It also ensures that we are engaging on the policy that affects our operations and therefore our customers.
- We engage with organisations from many sectors by talking to groups interested in issues like the environment, tourism and heritage. We also talk to relevant government departments when needed.



# Stakeholder list

Some of the stakeholders we engage with most frequently are listed in the table below. As each engagement has a different audience there is no single prioritisation and the ordering of the list below does not imply importance.

Stakeholder group	Examples of stakeholders
Academia	Universities, Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)
Chartered Institutions	Engineers Ireland
Customers	Generators, interconnectors, large energy users, energy suppliers, demand-side aggregators
Communities, landowners and their representatives	Communities with major infrastructure projects, planning authorities
Energy Industry	ESB Networks, Gas Networks Ireland, Electricity Association of Ireland, Energy Storage Ireland (ESI), Wind Energy Ireland (WEI), Demand Response Aggregators of Ireland (DRAI), NOW Ireland, Microgeneration Ireland, Irish Wind Farmers' Association (IWFA), Irish Solar Energy Association (ISEA), Irish Energy Storage Association (IESA), Renewable Energy Ireland
Environment	National Parks and Wildlife Service
Government	Department of the Taoiseach, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Oireachtas committees
Government and Advisory - NI / UK	Department for the Economy, Department for Infrastructure, Northern Ireland Assembly, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Climate Change Committee (CCC)
Government Advisory Boards	Climate Change Advisory Council, National Competitiveness Council, National Economic & Social Council (NESCC), Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), Heritage Council
Industry Bodies	Industrial Development Agency, Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC), American Chamber, Chambers Ireland, French Chamber, British-Irish Chambers
Infrastructure	Irish Rail, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, Irish Water
Media	Print (regional & national), Broadcast (regional & national), trade, financial, digital and social
NGO	Friends of the Earth, Irish Farmers Association (IFA), Fáilte Ireland, Irish Rural Link, Irish Environmental Network
Non-Political - Europe	European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E), Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI), European Investment Bank
Political – Europe	European Commission, European Parliament, French Government
Regulatory	Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), Utility Regulator (UR), Single Electricity Market Committee (SEMC)
Think Tanks	Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA), European Policy Centre (EPC), University College Dublin

# How we engage with stakeholders

Across our work, stakeholders have opportunities to influence our decisions in different ways. Whilst there are often regulatory or other factors that also influence 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 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.





## **Inform**

E.G. Notifications of progress/updates



## **Consult**

E.G. Formal Consultation



## **Involve**

E.G. Reference Group and Industry Workshops



## **Collaborate**

E.G. Design Workshops and Industry Advisory Councils



# Our 2020-25 Strategy

Launched in September 2019, our [2020-25 strategy](#) is shaped by two factors; climate change and the transition of the electricity sector to low-carbon, renewable energy. This strategy was informed by extensive engagement with key stakeholders. These included industry fora, government departments, customers, as well as board members, management and staff from across EirGrid Group.

We have a unique role to play in leading the radical transformation that is required. Our strategy is our response to these challenges. It consists of a set of key goals, underpinned by our purpose to transform the power system for future generations.

One of the key goals of our strategy is to engage for better outcomes for all. We recognise the need for continuous engagement with stakeholders, customers and industry. Engagements are a key part of the delivery of our strategy. In the following section, we outline our plans for engagement in 2022 under our key goals.

## Our purpose

Transform the power system  
for future generations

## Our primary goal

Lead the island's electricity  
sector on sustainability and  
decarbonisation

## Our supporting goals

Operate develop and enhance the all-island grid

Work with partners for positive change

Engage for better outcomes for all

# Engage for better outcomes for all

Our 2020-25 strategy includes a commitment to seek innovative new ways to engage. Our aim is to achieve world-class standards, and to deliver better results.

The Government's 2021 Climate Action Plan raises the target for renewable-sourced electricity from 70% to 80%, which will involve increased solar, onshore wind, and offshore wind power. The amount of emissions generated from electricity must fall between 62% and 81% by 2030 compared to 2018 – the largest of any sector.

Achieving this transformation involves a significant increase in the scope and frequency of our stakeholder engagement, making it the foundation of all that we do. A key supporting goal of our strategy is to engage for better outcomes for all. We understand the importance of continuous engagement with our stakeholders to deliver our strategy. The purpose of this report and our overall approach to stakeholder engagement is to ensure that we engage for better outcomes for all.

The approach to engagement taken during the extensive and comprehensive “Shaping Our Electricity Future” consultation has resulted in a roadmap with engagement as a key pillar and workstream. This reflects the challenges involved in delivering on a cleaner energy future and meeting Government targets on renewable electricity.

In March 2021, with the launch of the “Shaping Our Electricity Future” consultation, we asked the public for their views on our four approaches to achieving our renewable ambitions. This was so that we can agree on a roadmap to reach the 2030 goals. We held more than 100 events across Ireland and Northern Ireland, engaging with civil society organisations, communities, local businesses, industry, consumers, agricultural groups and young people. We also received more than 500 submissions as part of the consultation.

## How we engage

EirGrid's approach to engagement is tailored to the project or initiative. A bespoke engagement plan is used for each key project or initiative, identifying the channels we will use to provide information to the stakeholders. This can include emails to customers and stakeholders, project brochures and updates, targeted social media content, advertising in local and national press, letters to landowners and statutory bodies, providing spokespeople for discussions on public radio, providing phonelines and conducting webinars. For grid development projects, it also includes promotion in public locations and open days in the local area where members of the public can meet the experts and have their queries addressed.

Stakeholders are invited to provide feedback in multiple formats including feedback forms online and at open days, through fora and webinars and by email or letter. Stakeholders can also engage directly with a dedicated Community Liaison Officer or Agriculture Liaison Officer for each grid development project. Customers can engage directly with their Customer Account Manager.



## Enhancing our stakeholder engagement

Our Stakeholder Engagement draft plan for 2022 is informed by a comprehensive consultation process with our stakeholders. The valued feedback which we received last year (2021) has contributed to EirGrid's plan for the continuous development of our stakeholder engagement activities to meet the challenges that lie ahead, in the coming decade.

This progress includes increased focus on planning, reporting and the availability of information regarding all our stakeholder engagement. Learnings from the "Shaping Our Electricity Future" consultation are significant as new channels and methods of engagement were trialled for the first time. These will be fed into our consultation activities to ensure they are appropriately tailored and reflect valuable feedback from consultees.

Consultation tools and approaches are constantly evolving as are stakeholders' expectations. Our stakeholder engagement is geared towards understanding and responding to learnings and concerns, highlighting impacts and opportunities we were not previously aware of, and ensuring we deliver the best possible service with the least disruption.

## Key areas of engagement for 2022

### Energy Policy and Thought Leadership

EirGrid Group is uniquely positioned to lead the island's electricity sector on sustainability and decarbonisation and to be a trusted, independent advisor to policy makers in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Europe through use of our deep expertise, knowledge and data.

In 2022 we will:

- continue to consistently communicate with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) in relation to the delivery of our actions under the CAP and provide regular reports on progress;
- continue to engage with the stakeholders who are providing input and supporting us to deliver on the CAP deliverables where we are acting as lead stakeholder, e.g. actions associated with integration of renewables, offshore wind, system services and interconnection development;
- continue to provide input and support the lead stakeholders, as identified in the CAP, in the delivery of other CAP deliverables where EirGrid is identified as a key stakeholder, e.g. actions associated with Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) and RESS auctions, facilitation of renewables connection policy and facilitation of hybrid connections;
- continue to proactively seek opportunities to feed our perspective and thought leadership into policy development across Government;
- continue to identify opportunities to engage with a broader stakeholder audience across industry and society on the developments we foresee as required to support climate and energy goals; and
- continue to work closely with DECC and the CRU to ensure that the key decision makers in Europe understand our pioneering efforts to facilitate electricity from renewable sources and the solutions that are required to meet the associated challenges.

Success will be measured as:

- how our engagement on policy serves to educate policy makers to make informed policy decisions that will deliver on Irish, European and international vision for the future of energy and its contribution to climate change ambitions; and
- whether our engagement with stakeholders (for example on specific actions in the CAP) serves to ensure that we fulfil our obligations in policy delivery to the highest standard.

### **Education and Engagement Campaign**

In 2022 we will invest in a targeted and modern education, information and engagement programme, using a range of channels to engage with the Irish public. This will be supported by research and regular measurement of awareness of EirGrid and what we do to ensure that we are delivering relevant and useful information in a way that reflects the understanding of stakeholders.

We will engage proactively with stakeholders to ensure that our role is known and trusted in Ireland. This initiative will help support acceptance at all levels for grid infrastructure projects; minimising delays and their associated costs. EirGrid research conducted in 2021 around awareness of our role and public sentiment shows that consistent comprehensive engagement is necessary and timely to strengthen trust and confidence in EirGrid and in our central role in delivering on the CAP.

### **Shaping Our Electricity Future**

In 2022, EirGrid is making community engagement and participation part of our “Shaping Our Electricity Future” blueprint. This will complement our well-established expertise in engineering and operating a system with very high RES-E (Renewable Energy System - Electricity). Our aim is to develop a cohesive approach that is framed by the secure transition to a low carbon electricity system – and by the urgent context of climate action.

During the year, we will embed our new consultation and engagement toolkit within the “Framework for Grid Development”, putting communities at the heart of grid development. Activities will include:

- The roll out of regional energy citizens’ assemblies which are modelled on Ireland’s citizens’ assembly but at a local level.
- Continue to engage with individual local authorities and regional assemblies on future grid needs in their area, including Climate Action Regional Offices.
- Partner with a youth organisation that has regional reach to deliver awareness programmes and initiatives on transitioning Ireland to a cleaner, greener energy future.
- Explore the introduction of a new strand of community benefit funding to support landowners and communities undertaking microgeneration projects.
- Continue rolling out new community forums on projects in collaboration with the community and voluntary sector.
- Coordinate and host regional knowledge hub initiatives that support communities with the practical information and tools to commence their community energy journey.
- Develop a knowledge portal for communities to explore topical queries in relation to the grid such as electric magnetic fields, underground cabling, overhead lines, cost of the grid, how EirGrid is funded, and how renewable electricity works.

## **Friends of the Earth and RGI**

In December 2021, EirGrid, Friends of the Earth and Renewable Grid Initiative, which is comprised of TSOs and NGOs from across Europe, came together to facilitate inclusive discussions and reflections with communities, civil society organisations, local groups, and other stakeholders.

The three-year project will support diverse and open dialogues on the challenges and opportunities associated with Ireland's energy transformation, from development of grid infrastructure, to the need for decarbonised, secure and affordable electricity, with a much higher share of community participation.

“Shaping Our Electricity Future”, sets out the fundamental role EirGrid will play in providing the necessary grid infrastructure to facilitate this transition. Communities will be at the heart of this and it is vitally important that their voices continue to be heard and their views considered in our project outcomes.

The partnership with Friends of the Earth and RGI provides a unique opportunity to join together with two organisations that continually strive to promote and exhibit clear, equitable and transparent engagement.

## **Enhanced Customer Journey - Industry and customer engagement**

In 2022 we will continue to focus on enhancing and bringing consistency to our engagement with industry and customer stakeholders. This encompasses implementing learnings from reviews and feedback received to enhance business as usual as well as specific engagements on projects and initiatives to support delivery of our 2020-25 strategy and meet customer needs as set out in our key areas of engagement.

In 2022 we will continue our work on the initiatives under PR5, to deliver an enhanced customer journey from start to finish, focusing on effective customer and industry engagement. This work is focusing on early engagement and ensuring that customers and industry stakeholders can easily find relevant and up to date information on connecting to, as well as the planning, development and operation of, the transmission grid.

## **Customer Relationship Management Tool**

The EirGrid customer and connection team introduced a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool, which will continue to be rolled out across the organisation on a phased basis throughout 2022. The purpose of the tool is to support the effective management and engagement of customers and stakeholders across the business.

The tool provides a central repository for customer engagement information; enhances query management activities; and promotes collaboration and consistent, transparent and accountable customer engagement.

This tool supports us in “Engaging for Better Outcomes for All”.

## **Customer Survey**

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, the customer and connections team conduct an annual survey to gather structured feedback from our external customers on their experiences of engaging with EirGrid.

This feedback is very important and enables us to continue to improve and enhance our stakeholder engagement and drive customer service improvements where possible.

The 2021 survey will take place in Q1 2022 and the feedback will shape our approach for the upcoming year.

## **Customer Clinics**

To ensure we are engaging effectively with customers, the customer and connection team, alongside members of technical disciplines within EirGrid, facilitate customer clinics. The aim is to meet new and current customers and discuss their needs and answer any questions they may have.

The team is currently looking at establishing monthly and quarterly clinics with stakeholders to ensure an open dialogue is maintained and the stakeholders are always engaged and informed.

## **Accessibility of Information**

With the vast amount of data and documentation now available on our website, we are working to improve how it can be accessed. Comprehensive lists of all publications, consultations and various fora, such as planned workshops and webinars, are already detailed and maintained on our stakeholder engagement webpage.

In 2021, we started the process of analysis and review to further upgrade our website. During this review, we incorporated valuable stakeholder feedback previously received on this topic and in Q4 of 2021, we brought in third-party strategic communications and website design agencies to inform our website upgrade plan and strategy.

In Q1 of 2022, our website upgrade project will enter the diagnostics phase, which will include a thorough quantitative and qualitative analysis, website user experience evaluation and internal and external stakeholder engagement.

Following this, the next phase will commence in Q2 of 2022, which will be the building phase of our website development. This will involve agreement of the hierarchy of communications to include messaging, audiences, imagery and navigation. By Q3 we will aim to start the website build and testing will start in Q4 2022. This is the critical path for this project, contingent on stakeholder feedback, capacity and capability and cognisant of the need to maintain a website service and ensure that IT security in EirGrid is prioritised at all times.

# Sustainability

A key milestone in 2022 will be the launch of our new Group Sustainability Strategy. This ambitious strategy to embed sustainability across EirGrid Group was developed with stakeholder input.

In 2021 we completed a materiality assessment as part of our sustainability strategy development process. This was a process whereby we invited a comprehensive list of stakeholders to rate and rank a long list of broad sustainability related topics, in addition to EirGrid Group specific topics to ascertain the importance of each individual topic to these stakeholders. We then carried out this exercise internally to identify the topics of most relevance to EirGrid Group from a corporate perspective. Those topics that ranked highly for both internal and external stakeholders were given key consideration within the development of this strategy. A key part of the development of our strategy was the determination of Science Based Targets for the EirGrid Group which we are in the process of having verified by the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTI).

In order to engage effectively with stakeholders and demonstrate our commitment to sustainability, we intend to establish annual sustainability reporting. In addition, the Government's Climate Action Plan 2021 has indicated an increased ambition on leadership from the public sector including greenhouse gas emissions targets and a new framework for commercial semi-state organisations which we will need to address in the development of this reporting framework.

EirGrid is proud to have continuously held the Business Working Responsibly Mark since 2012. The mark, which is based on ISO 26000, was developed by Business in the Community and is audited by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI). It is an independent verification that we carry out our business in a sustainable and responsible way. The triennial certification process assesses our performance with respect to how we interact with the marketplace, the workplace, the environment, the community and our corporate responsibility/sustainability governance.

We will continue to participate in Business in the Community Ireland's "Low Carbon Economy" Leaders' Group. EirGrid Chief Executive Mark Foley co-chairs this group, the purpose of which is to support and encourage businesses to lead the transition to a low-carbon economy. One key output has been the development of a 'Low Carbon pledge' asking signatory companies to commit to setting Science Based Targets by 2024, i.e. setting greenhouse gas emissions reductions in line with the Paris Agreement targets.

We will also engage with Business in the Community Ireland on the 'Elevate' Diversity and Inclusion Pledge that EirGrid signed in 2021. The 'Elevate' Pledge commits signatories to building inclusive workplaces that support everyone to thrive equally.

In 2022 we will:

- Publish the EirGrid Group Sustainability Strategy and commence our strategy execution programme.
- Develop our approach to annual sustainability reporting in order to engage stakeholders in our sustainability journey, communicating our progress and demonstrating our leadership.
- Engage with DECC, NewERA and SEAI in the context of increased public sector contribution highlighted in the Climate Action Plan and the planned commercial state framework.
- Engage with the SBTi as our targets go through the validation process in early 2022.
- Recertify under the Business Working Responsibly Mark recertification process given our current certification expires in 2022.

# Security of Supply

The challenge of security electricity supply was exacerbated in early 2021 following the long-term outage of two large gas generators. This coincided with growing electricity demand and declining availability of generators. The summer of 2021 also saw the lowest wind levels in several decades, and therefore we have had lower contribution from wind generation than would normally be the case. This comes in the context of declining capacity margins in Ireland, as identified in the annual Winter Outlook and Generation Capacity Statement in recent years.

In the last two years, we have seen an increasing number of System Alerts on the electricity system. System Alerts are triggered when the generating margin has tightened to a level where EirGrid begins taking additional actions to protect security of supply. These actions can include maximising the dispatch of all conventional and energy limited plant and undertaking trades on the electricity interconnectors to reduce exports or reverse flows so that we are importing, contributing to security of supply.

While return of some generators on forced outage have improved the margins on the electricity system in the short term, there remains a need to proactively address declining capacity margins in coming years. For this reason, EirGrid will work closely with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that security of supply risks are mitigated to the best extent possible.

In 2022 we will:

- Work closely with the CRU and DECC to implement a coordinated approach to address Security of Supply challenges in Ireland in the short- to medium term, as well as measures to address security in the longer-term.
- Engage the operators of existing conventional units to increase the availability and reliability of the units in the short- to medium term.
- Publish updated outlooks on short- and longer-term security of supply in Northern Ireland and Ireland - through the Winter Outlook and Generation Capacity Statement respectively.
- Review and enhance coordinated plans for demand control under a System Emergency with our DSO partners (NIEN and ESBN).
- Review and enhance coordinated emergency communication plans through a review of our Power System Emergency Communications Plan, coordinated crisis messaging plans, and joint multi-stakeholder exercises.
- Engage our large customers on the implementation of mandatory demand control.
- Engage with the relevant parties to achieve and effectively communicate the above, including the EPA, IDA, SEMC, GNI, and relevant industry sector bodies.

# Operate, enhance & develop the all-island grid & market

## Asset Management

EirGrid has an asset management and maintenance role and is responsible for setting maintenance policy and standards which is comprised of policies for maintenance, replacement and refurbishment of the assets forming part of the transmission system. The transmission system consists of over 7,000 km of overhead line, 350 km of underground cable and over 170 substations containing transmission assets. EirGrid plans and manages the maintenance programme and ESB Networks, as Transmission Asset Owner (TAO), carries out the physical maintenance work. EirGrid in conjunction with ESB Networks as TAO is also responsible for assessing asset condition and making the decision to invest in either refurbishing or replacing assets.

As part of PR5, an asset refurbishment plan was submitted to the CRU which covers the period 2021 to 2025. It is expected that stakeholder engagement will continue to be carried out during 2022 on these asset refurbishment and replacement projects.

In 2022 we will:

- progress our identified overhead line and station refurbishment projects as well as specific equipment replacements to address transmission asset condition or end of life needs; and
- progress our plan to replace all fluid filled transmission cables with modern cross-linked polyethylene (XLPE) type cables. This will include taking cable replacement projects through steps two and three of the grid development framework to assess the various technical options available and making decisions on the best performing options for specific budget approval.

Success will be measured as:

- progress asset management projects through the relevant steps of the grid development framework and obtain necessary approvals to progress to the next framework step; and
- assess the various technical options available and select the best performing option for specific budget approval, influenced by feedback from the stakeholder engagement conducted prior to and during 2022.

## Operating the Grid and Market

To ensure safe, secure and reliable power and market system operation and development, we engage on a day to day basis and collaborate regularly with our customers and industry representative bodies and other key stakeholders. These include, but are not limited to ESB Networks, Gas Networks Ireland, other system operators, government, regulators and wider industry.

In 2022 we will continue to engage through a broad spectrum of methods, including one-to-one engagements with specific customers and industry representative bodies, formal engagement processes and panels, industry fora, publications and workshops on a range of topics including:

- Generator and transmission outages, including outturn availability reporting and fora;
- Scheduling and dispatch, including forecasting, Balancing Market Principles Statement, operational data, reporting;
- Dispatch down analysis, reporting, updates and industry engagement;
- Generator commissioning and testing, including Grid Code compliance;
- System services, performance monitoring and tariffs;
- Interconnection;
- Business continuity, emergency communications and emergency and restoration planning;
- Dispatch Balancing Cost forecasting, management and reporting;
- System integrity, including protection, revenue metering and system performance;
- Grid Code, including the Grid Code Review Panel and derogations process;
- EU Network Codes Implementation;
- \*Market pre-registration and registration;
- \*Market queries and disputes;
- \*Capacity Market qualification and auctions;
- \*Renewable Electricity Support Scheme auction;
- \*Market Settlement; and
- \*Nominated Electricity Market Operator (NEMO) commercial management.

Success will be measured as:

- Satisfactory outcomes to quantitative assessment through the key performance indicators and incentives put in place as part of our regulatory price review to measure operational performance.
- Customer feedback gathered through individual formal and informal engagements will provide qualitative assessment.

\*Note: Operation of the Market and associated stakeholder engagement are SEMO functions rather than EirGrid TSO functions and are included here for completeness. EirGrid TSO contributes to a number of the market engagements such as Market Operator User Groups (MOUGs) and Market Operator Specialist Topics (MOSTs).

## **Innovation**

In 2022 we will publish a consultation on our annual Innovation Report.

The Innovation Report will outline innovative projects worked on in 2021 and will also include our ambition for developing these projects further in the coming years.

In addition to this we will share our intent for future initiatives planned over the coming years. The intent includes both projects already agreed under the PR5, as well as proposals for new strategic innovation programmes, identified from our refreshed innovation strategy.

We will seek to actively engage with stakeholders on our future innovation programmes to help guide the direction of the programmes, and ensure they are supported by our key stakeholders.

## **DS3 & Flextech**

The DS3 programme will come to a conclusion in 2022 with follow-on activities being picked up through the “Shaping Our Electricity Future” programme.

Through the programme, EirGrid is integrating the broader 2030 networks, markets, engagement and system operations plans into a single overarching programme of work focused on delivering up to 80% RES-E by 2030.

FlexTech activities will be integrated into other established programmes such as the EirGrid-ESB Networks TSO-DSO joint programme as well as our “Shaping Our Electricity Future” programme.

For clarity, while we will no longer manage activities under the FlexTech governance arrangements nor use the FlexTech brand, we remain firmly committed to delivering on FlexTech’s objective of removing barriers to the integration of new technologies at scale.

# Work with partners for positive change

We recognise the need for successful partnerships to deliver our strategy and our climate action targets. By collaborating with our partners and having a common purpose, goals and a shared view of what success looks like, we will deliver the most significant change to the energy system since rural electrification.

We work closely with ESB Networks to develop, maintain and manage the transmission system, connect generation and demand as TAO and DSO customers and to ensure that we continue to operate the transmission system in a safe, secure, and reliable manner.

## **EirGrid & ESB Networks - Common Principles to Guide our Partnership**

- Both organisations are committed to jointly review end to end programme and project delivery timelines to meet 2030 climate change targets, while maintaining safety and security of supply.
- Full project lifecycle process improvements will be considered when employing continuous improvements via the seven joint committees referenced in this plan's appendix.
- Both organisations are committed to jointly review project delivery timelines with a commitment to improving outcomes for customer project.
- We will jointly work together to ensure the development and roll out of new and innovative technologies in a timely manner, informed by the needs of the grid system.
- Project timelines will be accelerated by the elimination, reduction or the paralleling of activities where appropriate to the risk. Consideration will also be given to grouping projects, where appropriate, to improve the efficiency of the project development & supply chain lifecycle.

## **ESB Networks - TAO**

ESB Networks, as TAO, owns and builds grid transmission assets, managing the capital and maintenance work programmes for the transmission system. In 2022 we will be continuing our close collaboration with the TAO to jointly develop and implement optimal grid delivery process improvements (many of which we have already trialled on existing projects) and further enhancing collaboration and cooperation between us to the benefit of all our customers and Ireland's consumers.

Success of our partnership will be measured as our performance and associated joint incentives in PR5 around the delivery of our programme for grid delivery including new connections and asset management. This programme, which started in 2021, has seen even closer cooperation between EirGrid as TSO and ESB Networks, as TAO, leading to increased project delivery output and joint process improvements. Details regarding the assessment and metrics for our joint incentives for 2021 to 2025 are detailed in the CRU's PR5 decision.

## ESB Networks - DSO

ESB Networks, as DSO, operates the electricity distribution system in Ireland. The transition to a power system with up to 80% of its electricity met by renewable energy sources, with a significant portion of the new technologies connecting to the distribution system, will require a heightened level of collaboration with ESB Networks in its role as the DSO. We both have challenging goals to achieve climate action targets and key to achieving these is partnership and collaboration.

In 2022 we will be collaborating with the DSO on:

- operational policies, operational coordination, exchange of data and training;
- implementation of legislation and energy policy including EU Network Codes and Ireland's 2021 Climate Action Plan;
- initiatives and programmes, to address local and system challenges as the system becomes more diverse as we connect and implement a wider array of technologies; and
- collaboration of DSO and TSO to ensure security of supply is maintained and to address customer needs as required

Success of our partnership will be measured as on track implementation of a programme of work developed jointly between EirGrid and ESNB and focused on the changes required to operational policies & tools and markets, as well as the enablement of new technologies, to meet up to 80% renewable energy by 2030. Customer and stakeholder feedback is welcome and will also be considered.

# Connecting our Customers

The energy transition can only be delivered if new customers providing the energy, system services, interconnection and investment in Ireland continue to connect to the system. From initial enquiry to energisation, we engage with potential customers to discuss their project(s) with them and guide them through the connection process.

In 2022 we will:

- engage early with potential customers seeking to connect to the transmission system. We will provide information and guidance on the transmission system, potential connection methods, connection policy and the connection process to support customers in making informed decisions;
- implement the 2021 direction from the CRU regarding the connection of new data centres (CRU/21/124) and engage with applicants on the basis of this direction;
- provide clear, comprehensible information through publications, customer clinic meetings and one-to-one engagements;
- ensure each customer has a clear point of contact at each stage in the connection process and experiences timely feedback and issue resolution;
- process the connection applications in line with our regulatory obligations and relevant policies;
- regularly engage with key industry representative bodies to provide updates, gather feedback and prioritise challenges for resolution experienced by each industry sector; and
- work closely in collaboration with ESB Networks to deliver our customers' grid connections in a timely manner.

Success will be measured as:

- customer clinic meetings facilitated and feedback from customers on our early engagement;
- customer feedback (both formal and informal) on the connection process and customer support throughout;
- processing of connection applications and contract management of connection agreements in line with the regulatory framework;
- coordinated policies, processes and approach between EirGrid and ESB Networks;
- regular engagement with industry representative bodies; and
- delivery of customer connections, energisation and completion of Grid Code testing.

# Regulation & Other Key Partners

The CRU is Ireland's independent energy and water regulator. The CRU is responsible for the economic regulation of energy, protecting the interests of energy customers, ensuring security of energy supply and facilitating the provision of a low carbon future.

EirGrid's relationship with the CRU is of paramount importance. In addition to ongoing engagement regarding issues such as transmission system operation, connection policy, security of supply, market operation and development, tariffing etc., in 2022, EirGrid will also continue engagement with the CRU on matters such as facilitation of interconnection, PR5 implementation and offshore policy.

## Other Key Partners

In 2022 we will also continue to work closely with our existing partners and explore new partnerships with a range of stakeholders including:

- System operators of transmission systems connected through interconnectors and other system operators in Europe and worldwide;
- Customers that generate or use large amounts of power and provide the system services to support safe secure and reliable operation of the power system;
- National and European policy makers - Government and regulatory policy are key enablers in the energy transition. We provide the data and analysis required to help assist and inform policy development in Ireland and Europe;
- Suppliers to enhance our technical capabilities;
- Consumer and industry representative bodies;
- Think tanks, academic institutions and other research facilities; and
- Not for Profit Organisations, Social Enterprises and Voluntary & Community Sector.

Success of these partnerships will be measured by insights, learnings and opportunities identified collaboratively within each partnership for mutual success in the delivery of respective objectives.

# Conclusion

EirGrid's plan for our Stakeholder Engagement in 2022 is set out in this document, including key areas we will be engaging on over the coming year.

We welcome your feedback to shape and influence both our plan for 2022 and for future years. We understand and recognise the benefits and importance of learning from stakeholder feedback in influencing our engagement strategy and plans.

We look forward to further collaboration and engagement with our customers and stakeholders to ensure that we continue to enhance and improve our stakeholder engagement throughout 2022 and beyond.



# 14. Appendices

## Appendix 1: Consultations

Consultation	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Draft 2022 Stakeholder Engagement Report	All	Q1 2022	EirGrid Consultation	Ask for feedback on our Stakeholder Engagement throughout 2022 to allow for more meaningful and effective stakeholder engagement.
Transmission Development Plan 2021	All	Q1 2022	CRU Consultation	Seek feedback on the TDP 2021 -30. The final version will be published on the EirGrid website subsequent to completion of the consultation process and CRU approval.
DS3 System Services Protocol Document	All	Q1 2022	EirGrid and SONI Consultation	Seek feedback on the DS3 System Services Protocol Document for consideration in final Protocol. The Protocol document specifies the compliance requirements which a service provider must satisfy before being paid for DS3 System Services.
Balancing Market Principles Statement (BMPS)	Relevant stakeholder group	Q1 2022	EirGrid and SONI Consultation	Consultation with industry on proposed revisions to the BMPS - a guide to the scheduling and dispatch process.
Proposed 2022/2023 Transmission Loss Adjustment Factors (TLAF)	Relevant stakeholder group	Q1 2022	EirGrid and SONI Publication for Comment	Publish Proposed 2022/2023 TLAFs for comment.
Mandatory Demand Curtailment (MDC)	Relevant Demand Customers	Q1 2022	EirGrid Consultation	To proactively engage Demand Customers in the Power System Emergency Planning including the implementing of MDC measures
Annual Innovation Report	All	Q1 2022	EirGrid Consultation	Report on Innovation projects (i) being initiated, (ii) projects that are in progress, and (iii) projects that have completed, including relevant, proportionate evidence on the scope, cost, rationale for and impacts of each project with either activity or impacts during the reporting year.
Customer Engagement Survey	All	Q1 2022	EirGrid Consultation	Seek Customer feedback on different aspects of engagement with EirGrid.

Consultation	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Proposed 2022/2023 Generator Transmission Use of System (GTUoS) Tariffs	Relevant stakeholder group	Q2 2022	EirGrid and SONI Publication for Comment	Publish Proposed 2022/2023 GTUoS tariffs for comment.
Proposed 2023* Generator Unit Under Test (GUUT) Tariffs	Relevant stakeholder group	Q2 2022	EirGrid and SONI Consultation/ Publication for Comment	Publish Proposed 2023* GUUT tariffs for comment if change is minimal - will run consultation if substantial change proposed.
Proposed 2022/23 Other System Charges	Relevant stakeholder group	Q2 2022	EirGrid and SONI Consultation	Consultation on Proposed 2022/2023 Other System Charges.
PR5 TSO Incentives Multi-Year Plans 2023-2025	All	Q3 2022	EirGrid Consultation(s)	Seek stakeholder feedback on the proposed PR5 TSO Incentives multi-year plans for 2023-2025.
Joint TSO & TAO Investment Planning and Delivery Report 2021	All	Q3 2022	EirGrid/ESB Networks Consultation	Seek Stakeholder feedback on TSO & TAO Investment Planning and Delivery Report 2021.
Joint TSO & TAO Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2021	All	Q3 2022	EirGrid/ESB Networks Consultation	Seek Stakeholder feedback on TSO & TAO Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2021.
Transmission Development Plan 2022	All	Q3 2022	CRU Consultation	Ask for feedback on proposal which will input to the Final TDP 2022. The final version will be published on the EirGrid website subsequent to completion of the Consultation process and CRU approval.
TSO/TAO Joint Incentive multi-year plan 2023-2025	All	Q3 2022	EirGrid/ESB Networks Consultation	Seek Stakeholder feedback on the proposed multi-year plan for 2023-2025.

Consultation	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
TSO/DSO Joint Incentive multi-year plan 2023-2025	All	Q3 2022	EirGrid/ESB Networks Consultation	Seek Stakeholder feedback on the proposed multi-year plan for 2023-2025.
Interconnection Operations BREXIT Consultation	All	Q4 2022	EirGrid Consultation	Consultation will be required on alternative forwards access arrangements for EWIC if GB is excluded from IEM. Form of consultation dependent on wider access arrangements.
Registered Capacity Definition Consultation	Grid Code Users	Q4 2022	All-Island Consultation	To ensure that the definition of Registered Capacity is fit for purpose for all relevant Users

## Appendix 2: Publications

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Weekly Operational Constraints Updates	EirGrid	Weekly	SEMO Website	To provide information regarding constraints to industry.
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.
Transmission Outage Summary	EirGrid	Fortnightly	EirGrid Website	To communicate transmission outage dates for the next fortnight.
Wind Dispatch Down report	EirGrid & SONI	Monthly	EirGrid Website	Monthly Wind Dispatch Down (Constraint and Curtailment) Report for Ireland and Northern Ireland.
Solar Dispatch Down report	EirGrid & SONI	Monthly	EirGrid Website	Monthly Solar Dispatch Down (Constraint and Curtailment) Report.
Quarterly Associated Transmission Reinforcement (ATR) Web Update	EirGrid	Quarterly	EirGrid Website	To communicate ATR completions, date changes, addition or removal of ATRs.
Combined Loss Adjustment Factors	EirGrid	As required	SEMO Website	Loss factors as per the System Operator
DS3 advisory Council presentations	EirGrid & SONI	Ad-Hoc as required	EirGrid & SONI Websites	Publication of relevant DS3 presentations.
Publication of updated versions of the Grid Code	EirGrid	Following approval of Grid Code modifications by CRU	EirGrid Website	To ensure that all users have access to and are aware of the latest version of the Grid Code.
Publication of Grid Code Review Panel documentation including meeting minutes, modification proposals, recommendation papers and decision papers.	Industry & public	At least 3 times a years 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.

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Transmission Outage Programme (TOP) 2022	EirGrid	Q1 2022	EirGrid Website	To communicate transmission outage dates proposed for 2022.
Outturn Availability 2022 Ex-Ante Report	EirGrid	Q1 2022	EirGrid Website	Outturn Availability Connection Asset Maintenance Plan for the 2022 Outage Season.
Capacity Auction Timetable	EirGrid	Q1 2022	SEMO Website	To provide Capacity Auction results to industry.
Final Capacity Auction Results	EirGrid	As per the published Capacity Auction timetable for the relevant Capacity Auction	SEMO Website	To provide a brief high-level overview of the Capacity Market and a summary of the Capacity Auction Final results.
Use of Revenue Report	EirGrid	Q1 2022	EirGrid Website and CRU Website	Publishing of Use of Revenue for FY 2021
T-4 2024-2025 Final Capacity Auction Results Report	EirGrid	Q1 2022	SEMO Website	This report contains Final Capacity Auction Results for the T-4 Capacity Auction in respect of Capacity Year 2024/2025.
Annual Dispatch Down 2021 Report	EirGrid & SONI	Q1 2022	EirGrid Website	Annual Renewable Dispatch Down (Constraint and Curtailment) Report for Ireland and Northern Ireland 2021.
Community Benefit Policy	EirGrid/Community	Q1 2022	EirGrid Website	To communicate to community stakeholders on EirGrid's new approach to Community Benefit.
Final Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2022	EirGrid	Q1 2022	EirGrid Website	The document will summarise EirGrid's plans for Stakeholder engagement for 2022.
Final Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2022 Consultation Response Paper	EirGrid	Q1 2022	EirGrid Website	This document summaries the responses EirGrid received during the consultation process, and explains how EirGrid will respond to this feedback.

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Multiple Legal Entity Consultation Response	EirGrid & ESB DSO	Q1 2022	EirGrid Website	To respond to feedback received during the consultation process.
Joint TSO & TAO Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2020	All	Q1 2022	EirGrid/ESB Networks Websites	Publication of the TSO & TAO Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2020.
Joint TSO & TAO Investment, Planning and Delivery Report 2020	All	Q1 2022	EirGrid/ESB Networks Websites	Publication of the TSO & TAO Investment, Planning and Delivery Report 2020.
Stakeholder Engagement Report 2021 Consultation Response Paper	EirGrid	Q2 2022	EirGrid Website	This document summaries the responses EirGrid received during the consultation process, and explains how EirGrid will respond to this feedback.
All-Island Transmission System Performance Report 2021	EirGrid & SONI	Q2 2022	EirGrid & SONI Websites	Contains transmission system data and performance statistics for 2021
Final Stakeholder Engagement Report 2021	EirGrid	Q2 2022	EirGrid Website	The document will summarise EirGrid's Stakeholder Engagement throughout 2021.
Outturn Availability 2021 Ex-Post Report	EirGrid	Q2 2022	EirGrid Website	Provide information regarding Outturn Availability Connection Asset Maintenance for 2021.
Scheduling & Dispatch Audit Report	EirGrid	Q2 2022	EirGrid Website	Independent Assurance Reporting on the 2021 Audit
Committed Outage Programme (COP) 2023 and Provisional Outage Programmes (POP) 2024 and 2025	EirGrid	Q3 2022	EirGrid Website	To provide outage programme for the year ahead and provisional plans for subsequent two years.
SEM Parameters Decision Paper	EirGrid	Q3 2022	SEMO Website	Decision Paper for Market Tarriffs for 2023
SEMOpX Statement of Charges	EirGrid	Q3 2022	SEMOpX Website	Charges for SEMOpX Annual Fees for 2023

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Annual Report	EirGrid	Q3 2022	EirGrid Website	Publication of EirGrid Annual Report.
All-Island Generation Capacity Statement	EirGrid	Q3 2022	EirGrid Website	To provide an overview of electricity demand and generation capacity that will be required on the island plus generation adequacy studies to assess the balance between this supply and demand over the next ten years.
Enduring Connection Policy -2.2 Constraint Reports for Wind and Solar	EirGrid	Q3 2022	EirGrid Website	Results of studies for a range of generation scenarios and these indicate the levels of transmission curtailment and constraint that solar and wind generation might experience in the future.
Marine Updates to EirGrid's Updated Ecology Guidelines for Electricity Transmission Projects	EirGrid	Q3 2022	EirGrid Website	To update the guidelines to take into consideration any changes in policy, laws, practices since the guidelines were first published by EirGrid in 2012.
Strategic Environmental Assessment of Grid Implementation Plan 2017-2022 – Final Monitoring Report	EirGrid	Q3 2022	EirGrid Website	Report on monitoring the environmental effects of EirGrid projects; to influence and inform the next grid implementation plan 2023-2028.
Approved Transmission Loss Adjustment Factors (TLAF) for 2022/23	EirGrid & SONI	Q3 2022	EirGrid Website	To communicate the approved TLAFs for 2022/2023.
Winter Outlook	EirGrid	Q4 2022	EirGrid Website	Annual summary that provides information on expected electricity demand and capacity margin for the winter ahead in both Ireland and Northern Ireland.
Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement (TYTFS) 2022	EirGrid	Q4 2022	EirGrid Website	The TYTFS provides detailed data and models of the all-island transmission system. The TYTFS is designed to assist users and potential users of the transmission system to identify opportunities to connect to and make use of the transmission system.

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios (TES) 2022	EirGrid	Q4 2022	EirGrid Website	To outline a range of credible scenarios for Ireland's clean energy transition with a specific focus on the electricity transmission grid.
Code of Practice for laying Under Ground Cables (UGC) on Farmland	EirGrid	TBC	EirGrid Website	To provide landowners with details of our approach to the laying of cables on farmland detailing the impacts to the landholding and what the landowners can expect from EirGrid in terms of works being undertaken on their land.
EirGrid's Updated Cultural Heritage Guidelines for Electricity Transmission Projects	EirGrid	Ongoing	EirGrid Website	To update the guidelines to take into consideration any changes in policy, laws, practices since the guidelines were first published by EirGrid in 2012.
East West Interconnector (EWIC) Trading Arrangements	EirGrid	Q4 2022	EirGrid Website	Supporting publication setting out likely revised post Brexit trading arrangements on EWIC. Similar to previous publication for SEM.

## Appendix 3: EirGrid hosted industry fora working groups

Engagement Topic	Audience	When	Method	Objective
DS3 Advisory Council Meeting	DS3 Advisory Council	Ad-hoc as required	EirGrid Industry & Stakeholder Forum	Work in partnership with industry and other stakeholder representatives to implement DS3.
Customer Clinics Pre-Connection Application Information and Support	Customers looking to connect to the Transmission System	Monthly	EirGrid Industry Forum	Clinic days with bilateral meetings to support future customers.
Grid Code Review Panel Meetings	Industry	At least three times per annum	EirGrid Industry Forum	Review, discuss and ensure user consultation of recommendations for Grid Code amendments.
Demand Side User Forums	Demand Side Users	Quarterly	EirGrid Conference Call	Engagement Forum for Industry
Wind Industry Forums	Wind Industry Representatives	Monthly/Quarterly	EirGrid Conference Call	Engagement Forum for Industry
Market Operator User Group	Market Participants	Monthly	EirGrid Virtual Conference	Inform Members of any Key Activities\Updates
Capacity Market Qualification Participant Sessions	Capacity Market Participants	Annually	Conference Call	Inform Participants on Qualification Process for Capacity Market
RESS Qualification Participant Sessions	RESS Participants	Annually	EirGrid Conference Call	Inform Participants on Qualification Process for RESS
DS3 System Services Volume Uncapped Gate 5 Bidders' Conference	Industry	Q1 2022	Industry forum or webinar	Provide guide to industry on Gate 5 procurement process.
Generator and Outturn Availability Forum	Generation Customers, CRU	Q2 2022	EirGrid Industry Forum	Provide update on transmission outages, outturn availability reports and to address generator customer queries.
Data Centre Industry Forum	Data Centre customers	Q2/Q3 2022	EirGrid Industry Forum	Update and discussion of information related to Data Centre Industry.
EirGrid Stakeholder Conference	Stakeholders	Q4 2022	EirGrid Conference	Conference for customers and stakeholders facilitating information sharing and industry discussion.

## Appendix 4: Project engagements

Project	Audience	When	Method	Objective
CPo816 North Connacht 110 kV Project	All	Q1 2022	Step 5: The Planning Process	<p>A 110 kV overhead line or underground cable, linking the substations at Moy, Co. Mayo, and Tonroe in Co. Roscommon. A 110 kV overhead line or underground cable, linking the substations at Moy, Co. Mayo, and Tonroe in Co. Roscommon.</p> <p>The project is now in Step 5 involving the preparation and submission of consent applications. The preparation of the applications will involve ongoing engagement with prescribed bodies and other stakeholder as well as communities and landowners. The planning application process will also provide a formal opportunity for stakeholder and community participation. A community forum was setup in the autumn of 2021 which provides for an opportunity of ongoing engagement, capacity building and the preparation of a Community Benefit Strategy in 2022 and 2023.</p>
CPo466 North South 400 kV Interconnector Project	All	Ongoing	Step 5: Stakeholder Engagement	<p>Carrickmacross Office will be open on request with social distancing measures in place for stakeholders to drop-in to discuss the project with the CLO and/or ALO. At least one Stakeholder Update Newsletter will be issued.</p> <p>Landowner engagement commenced in Q4 2021 and will continue throughout 2022.</p>
CPo585 Laois-Kilkenny Reinforcement Project	All	Ongoing	Step 6: Engagement on Community Benefit/ Project Construction	<p>EirGrid is proposing to reinforce the network in the general Laois-Kilkenny region. We plan to achieve this through the development of a new transmission line between the two counties.</p> <p>Engagement has been ongoing near to site in Coolnaback and a community forum has been setup in 2021. A community benefit fund scheme has been agreed and was launched at the end of 2021. This will continue throughout 2022. Landowner engagement on the new Ballyragget-Coolnaback 110 kV OHL is expected to progress in 2022. ESB are leading local engagement around the construction site at the new Ballyragget 110 kV substation.</p>

Project	Audience	When	Method	Objective
Celtic Interconnector	All	Ongoing	Step 5: The Planning Process	<p>The Celtic Interconnector is a proposed electrical link, which will enable the movement of power via subsea cable between Ireland and France.</p> <p>The project is now in Step 5 with consent applications in process in Irish land, marine and UK marine jurisdictions. Associated statutory public consultation periods are now completed which will allow project stakeholder communication and engagement to recommence in 2022. The team are committed to informing and engaging stakeholders throughout the lifetime of the project.</p> <p>In addition a community forum, setup in the summer of 2021, will provide an opportunity for ongoing focused engagement with local communities impacted by the project, including capacity building and the preparation of a Community Benefit Strategy.</p> <p>It is scheduled that the project could move to step 6 in late 2022.</p>
CP0968 Dunstown 400 kV Series Compensation	All	Ongoing	Step 5: The Planning Process	<p>There is Series Compensation technology proposed at a site adjacent to the existing Dunstown substation. Local consultation will take place prior to submission of the planning application.</p> <p>Engagement will be minimal, community briefed in 2021 and details provided to those with any concerns. Project currently in planning process and final decision expected in Q2 2022.</p>
CP0969 Oldstreet-Woodland 400 kV Series Compensation	All	Q1 and Q2 2022	Step 5: The Planning Process	<p>There is Series Compensation technology proposed at a location along the existing 400kV OHL between Oldstreet and Woodland. Studies are currently being finalised and we will confirm the best performing site and commence engagement with the local community in Q1 2022. Landowner engagement has been ongoing throughout 2021.</p>
Clashavoon-Dunmanway	All	Ongoing	Step 6: Engagement on Community Benefit	<p>The community benefit fund was allocated in late 2021 and will commence distribution in 2022.</p>

Project	Audience	When	Method	Objective
CP1021 East Meath to North Dublin Reinforcement	All	Q1 2022	Step 4: Consultation and Planning	There is Series Compensation technology proposed at a location along the existing 400kV OHL between Moneypoint and Laois. Studies are currently being finalised and we will confirm the best performing site and commence engagement with the local community in Q1 2022. Landowner engagement has been ongoing throughout 2021.
CPo866 Great Island - Kellis 220kV OHL refurb	All	Q1 2022	TBC	Local engagement with community in 2022.
Maynooth 220 kV GIS Upgrade	All	Ongoing	TBC	New GIS station added to the existing site. Local engagement with community in 2022.
Moyle Replacement Controller Project	Internal	Ongoing	Meetings/Site Visit	Replace Controller on site and integrate into our internal systems
CP966 Kildare - Meath Grid Upgrade	All	Ongoing	Step 4: EirGrid Consultation and Routing	This is a grid reinforcement project. The outcome of the on-going consultation around Step 4 is expected in Q2 2022. consultation explored potential routes for the underground cable. A community forum was set up in the summer of 2021 which provides an opportunity for ongoing engagement, gathering of local insights and early relationship building with community stakeholders. The forum will meet throughout 2022.
Greenlink	All	Q1 2022	Step 4: Core planning consents for the project have been granted and preparations for start of construction in early 2022 are now under way.	Connection of third party interconnector
East West Interconnector Outage with Hitachi	All	Q2 2022	Regulation on Wholesale Energy Markets Integrity and Transparency and Joint Allocation Office	Maintenance and Repair of the EWIC Asset
UK TSO SteerCo - National Grid and UK Interconnectors	All	Q4 2022	SteerCo Meetings and Working Groups	Developing technical procedures for capacity calculation and Multi-Region Loose Volume Coupling in alignment with EU TSOs

\*note, the timelines for some engagements may be affected due to Covid 19 restrictions.



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