

Stakeholder Engagement  
Strategy Review 2018



**EIRGRID**  
The current. The future.

# Part 1: Corporate/Business Application

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Why do we engage? .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Strategic objectives overview .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Our stakeholder engagement strategy .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>How our strategy is applied and managed across the organisation .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Planning our engagement.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Engagement Approaches .....</b>	<b>11</b>

## Part 2: Impact

<b>Case Study 1: Requirements for Grid Connection of Generators.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Case Study 2: CP966 – Public Consultation .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Case Study 3: Consultation on Draft Grid Implementation Plan 2017-2022 and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment and Natura Impact Statement .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Case Study 4: Tomorrow’s Energy Scenarios.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Case Study 5: DS3 System Services Volume Capped Procurement Process.....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Recognition .....</b>	<b>22</b>

## Who are EirGrid?

EirGrid is a state-owned company, responsible for managing and operating Ireland’s transmission grid. We work to ensure a safe, secure supply of electricity to homes, businesses and industry across the island of Ireland. We develop the transmission grid to guarantee a secure supply of electricity now and for future generations, and to facilitate local, national and European policies.

EirGrid’s core values are to provide good quality, efficient, independent electricity transmission and market services for the benefit of everyone across the island of Ireland. Our unique role in Ireland’s energy sector enables us to be at the heart of change by listening and consulting with our stakeholders to exceed their expectations.

# Why do we engage?

In 2015 the Government published its **Energy White Paper**. It highlighted the fact that consumers are increasingly driving the transformation of the energy sector. The Government acknowledged that the development of new energy infrastructure can give rise to a wide range of local concerns. These include the siting of the infrastructure, the decision-making process, the distribution of costs and benefits, and the impact on individuals, local communities and the environment.

The Government pointed out that formal processes for community consultation and engagement on new infrastructure are well established. The report also acknowledged the significant practical steps that have been taken by EirGrid in developing meaningful community consultation, public engagement, and a thorough understanding of the concerns of affected communities.

**The Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006** made significant changes to the way strategic infrastructure developments are determined within the planning system. The act makes provision for wide ranging public participation in relation to strategic infrastructure development.

**The Aarhus Convention** establishes a number of public rights with regard to the environment. The convention is structured around three pillars;

1. Public access to information about the environment,
2. Public participation in certain environmentally relevant decisions,
3. Access to courts of law / tribunals in environmental matters.

EirGrid follows the guidance set out in these three pillars to ensure best practice for stakeholder engagement.



# Strategic objectives overview

EirGrid recognises the need for its corporate strategy to encompass consultation and stakeholder engagement.

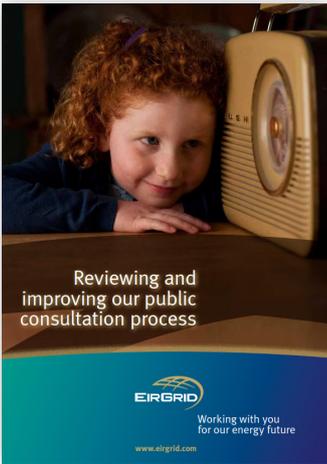
Five strategic objectives were established by the company to ensure that we provide quality, efficient transmission and market services for the benefit of everyone across the island.



# Our stakeholder engagement strategy

In implementing Government energy policy we need to upgrade parts of the national grid network to help secure Ireland's energy needs now and for future generations. Grid development is also essential to meet Ireland's commitment to reduce carbon emissions.

EirGrid acknowledged criticism of our engagement with stakeholders and communities when developing new infrastructure projects. In response to this feedback, we made a commitment in January 2014 to carry out a review of our consultation process to enhance future public engagement.



In December 2014 we published 'Reviewing and Improving our Public Consultation Process'. It was aimed at providing stakeholders with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way and to help EirGrid understand their concerns. It also provides an opportunity for us to explain to those affected how and when they can input into projects. As engagement and consultation is a cornerstone for all of EirGrid's business, this publication now formed the basis of an innovative and company-wide approach to stakeholder engagement.

Our stakeholder engagement strategy aims to support the five strategic objectives of the business, our stakeholders' requirements and our business planning process.

We also undertook two external reviews of our consultation, delivered by SLR Consulting and the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. These reviews highlighted the absolute importance of engagement with stakeholders for our business. This is not just grid infrastructure developments but overall company work streams and projects.

The reviews recommended we adopt a more collaborative approach. They also recognised that we must meet the needs of stakeholders, if we are to deliver a grid that grows with Ireland's economic development.

There were a number of wide-ranging recommendations in the reviews and significant commonalities in their proposals. This helped us to form a series of public commitments, grouped into three themes:

## Theme 1: Develop a Participative Approach

**We will move to a more community-focused approach when developing electricity projects - to enable greater stakeholder participation from the outset.**

## Theme 2: Change our Culture and Processes

**We will change the culture in our organisation - to develop stronger relationships with stakeholders and communities.**

## Theme 3: Encourage Leadership & Advocacy

**We will seek support from the political system and state bodies - to better explain energy issues and make the benefits of a stronger system clearer to all.**

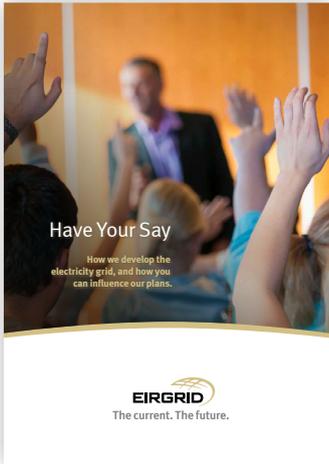
Our consultation review highlighted the absolute importance of engaging with the public and with communities directly impacted by new grid projects. It recognised that while significant measures had been taken, there were further changes required to improve future engagement. It is important to remember the purpose of our consultation process: It is not only to ensure a successful planning and consenting process, but also to work collaboratively with those affected by the need to expand the national grid.

Based on this, we set out 12 commitments to improve how we consult and engage.

## The 12 commitments

<b>Clear Communications</b>	<b>Improved Community Relationships</b>	<b>Consistency of information</b>	<b>Input from Representative Groups into EirGrid’s approach to grid development</b>
<b>Process for Consultation in Project Development</b>	<b>Demonstrate Consideration of Social Impact</b>	<b>Complaints Process</b>	<b>Regional Discussion Forums</b>
<b>Consultation Toolkit</b>	<b>Consultation Handbook</b>	<b>Support of Policy Makers</b>	<b>Independent EMF monitoring &amp; compliance</b>

For example, EirGrid documents are published in ‘Plain English’ aimed at achieving best practice and ensuring clarity for all company communications.



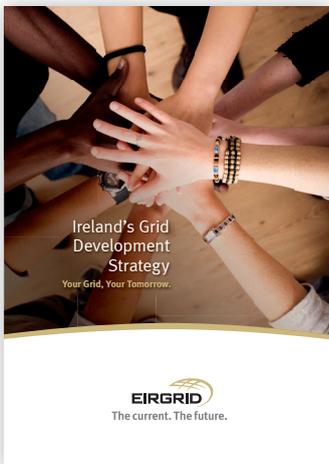
## Have Your Say

We published 'Have Your Say', a guide for all engagement on grid infrastructure projects. It outlines our renewed commitment to engage with and listen to stakeholders.

In particular it outlines the company's revised six-step approach to consulting on infrastructure projects and the opportunities for engagement at every step.

It explains why we develop the electricity grid, and how we consult with the public and other stakeholders to receive feedback on our plans. The earlier people become involved in our projects, the more influence they can have on the shape of the project. At each step, information is provided on our plans, how people can get involved and the different methods of contacting EirGrid.

The steps are:



## Ireland's Grid Development Strategy

In 2016 we published 'Ireland's Grid Development Strategy - Your Grid, Your Tomorrow'. The strategy aims to meet Ireland's electricity needs whilst ensuring that the burden is not too great on communities, or too high a cost on the industry and consumers. Under the strategy we will only build new infrastructure when it is the best solution after considering all options. The document is a comprehensive development strategy for our electricity infrastructure summarised in three statements:

### Strategy Statement 1

Inclusive consultation with local communities and stakeholders will be central to our approach.

### Strategy Statement 2

We will consider all practical technology options.

### Strategy Statement 3

We will optimise the existing grid to minimise the need for new infrastructure.

# How our strategy is applied and managed across the organisation

One of EirGrid's five strategic objectives is to be a 'Respected and trusted organisation'.

Developing strong engaged relationships with stakeholders, customers, communities, landowners and the shareholder is of critical importance to delivering this objective.

Our strategy encompasses the commitments and themes in:

- **Have Your Say**
- **Ireland's Grid Development Strategy**

The commitments are embedded into the EirGrid culture and have been rolled out company wide.

There have been a number of key initiatives;

- The appointment of Agriculture and Community Liaison Officers.
- The development of a consultation handbook and toolkit.
- The adoption of "plain English" in our publications.
- The establishment of a National Advisory Committee, comprising external stakeholders from national groups. The purpose of the National Advisory Committee is to advise EirGrid in relation to the development of the grid and, in particular, aspects of its business that have a direct bearing on the citizens of Ireland. The committee meets twice a year in a workshop setting to discuss current topics.

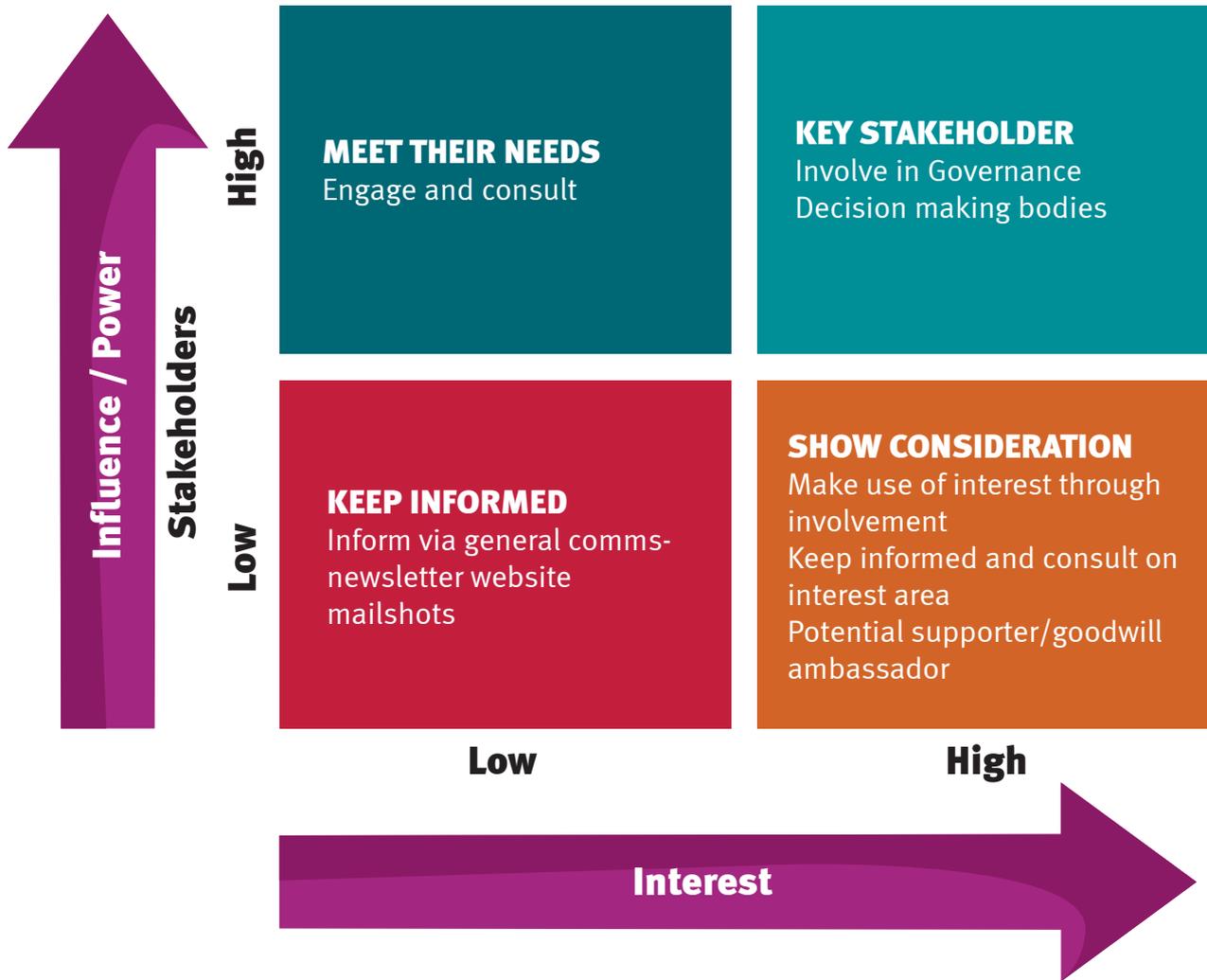
We seek to engage early with public representatives in the Oireachtas and local government. This provides political feedback while also acting as an avenue to engage with local communities.

In **Have Your Say**, there are structured governance processes throughout the steps, called Gateways. EirGrid has a number of oversight committees that are responsible for ensuring that internal governance structures are in place in respect of grid infrastructure development projects.



# Planning our engagement

Who are our stakeholders and how do we engage with them?



## What are stakeholders?

Stakeholder means someone affected by a project; it could include individuals or organisations. The list may be different at different stages of the project. For example, at the early technical stages of a project we will work mostly with national organisations. At the detailed stage when we know where we might build a project we will work with local people and landowners.

### **Key stakeholders:**

These are stakeholders such as local authorities who we will work with throughout a project, and who we ask to help us plan our engagement work.

### **Stakeholders:**

Here we mean representatives of organisations, politicians and others who have some professional interest in the project, for example a community group.

### **Public:**

When we talk about the public we mean people who are engaging with us as individuals and not part of an organisation.



Stakeholder group	Examples of stakeholders
Political	Taoiseach, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Oireachtas committees
Government Advisory boards	Climate Change Advisory Council, competitiveness council, NESC, ESRI, Heritage council
Think Tanks	IIEA, EPC, University College Dublin
Political – Europe	European Commission, European Parliament, French Government
Non Political - Europe	ENTSO-E, RGI, European Investment Bank
Regulatory	CRU, SEM Committee
NGO	Friends of the Earth, IFA, Failte Ireland, Irish Rural Link, Irish Wind Energy Association, Now Ireland, Microgeneration Ireland
Industry Bodies	IBEC, American Chamber, Chambers Ireland, French Chamber, British-Irish Chambers
Chartered Institutions	Engineers Ireland
Infrastructure	Irish Rail, ESB Networks, Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Customers	Directly connected demand, interconnectors, energy suppliers, large demand, generators, generators, demand-side aggregators
Energy Industry	IWEA, ISCA, Gas Networks Ireland, generators, suppliers, ESB Networks, ENTSO-E
Academics	Universities, ESRI
Media	Consumer, Trade, Financial, Broadcasters
Environment	National Parks and Wildlife Service
Communities and their representatives	Communities with major infrastructure projects, planning authorities
EirGrid	Board members, employees, trade unions

# Engagement Approaches

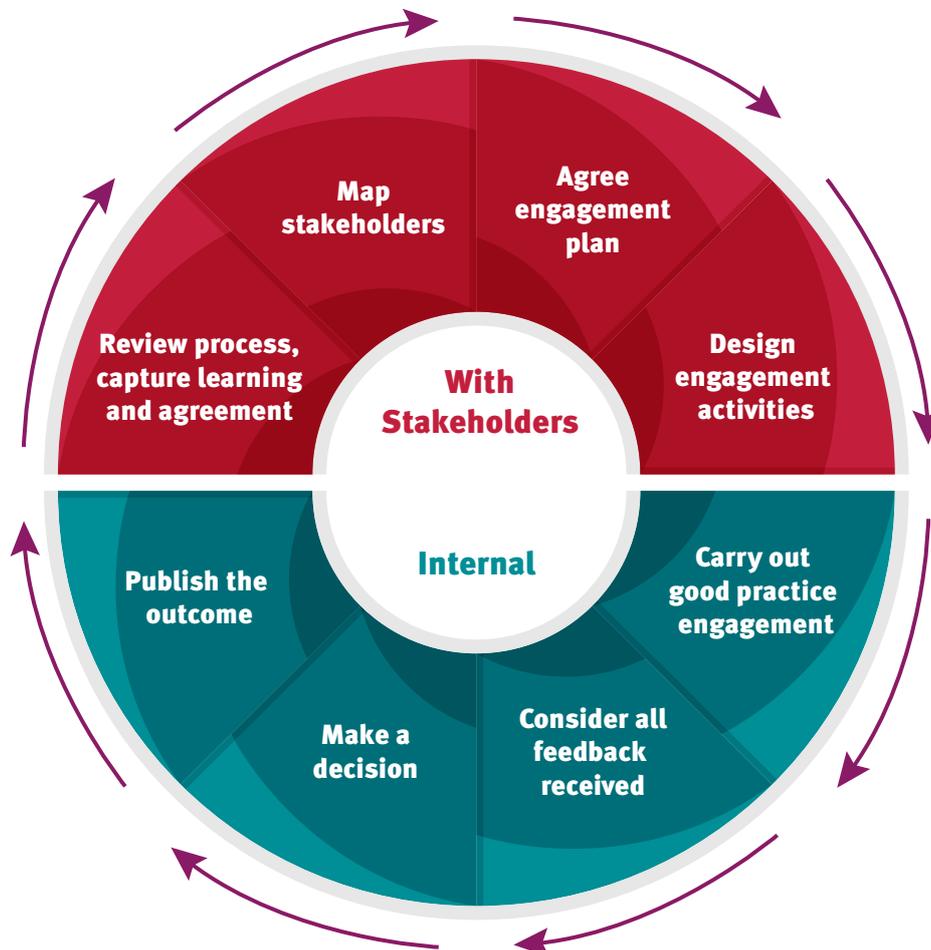
Every project that we develop is part of the transmission network which serves the whole of Ireland.

As part of the 12 commitments set out in our 'Reviewing and improving our Public Consultation Process' 2014, we developed an engagement handbook and engagement toolkit.

The engagement handbook ensures consistency in our approach and facilitates feedback from our stakeholders in an efficient manner. We want to ensure our project development process is clear and transparent. This approach was developed via a series of workshops with staff and with input from EirGrid's National Advisory Council.

The consultation handbook is a resource for both EirGrid staff and those people and organisations involved in and affected by our projects. It sets out:

- What communities and stakeholders can expect from EirGrid, and how we will work with them.
- A process by which EirGrid's consultation and engagement activities will comply with national and international obligations such as the Aarhus Convention.
- An explanation of the project development process, setting out what decisions are made at each stage and the role stakeholders and the public will play in them.
- A guide to the engagement methods EirGrid may use.
- Clear standards which can be applied to assess whether an engagement exercise has been effective.



The engagement toolkit is part of a set of resources we have developed for anyone involved in and affected by our work. Our engagement handbook describes the steps we take in developing a project. It describes the different tools we can use to work with stakeholders to hear their views. The toolkit is designed to help decide what kind of engagement best suits each project. The table below sets out some of the engagement methods we use.

<b>Method</b>	<b>Project step</b>	<b>What kind of influence?</b>	<b>Who is it best suited to?</b>	<b>Similar and related methods</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	Steps 1, 2 and 3	Consult	Stakeholders and the wider public	Questionnaires
<b>Deliberative workshops</b>	Steps 1 & 2 (and for strategic, non-project engagement)	Involve and/or collaborate	Stakeholders or the public (typically small number of people)	Participatory mapping workshops
<b>Discussion packs</b>	Any step	Consult	Anyone (as long as they can gather in small groups)	Deliberative workshops Consultation Focus groups
<b>Drop in sessions</b>	Steps 2 and 3	Inform and consult	Local communities	Outreach processes
<b>Focus groups</b>	Steps 0-3	Consult	Selected groups from any audience	Interviews Outreach processes Webinars
<b>Interviews</b>	Any step	Consult	Individuals	Focus groups Outreach processes Questionnaires
<b>Newsletters</b>	Steps 1-3	Inform	Local communities	Social media
<b>Outreach processes</b>	Steps 2 and 3	Inform and consult	Hard to reach or distrustful groups	Public meetings Drop in sessions
<b>Public meetings</b>	Steps 2 and 3	Inform	Local communities	Outreach processes Deliberative workshops
<b>Site visits</b>	Steps 2 and 3	Inform	Stakeholders or members of the public	None
<b>Social media and digital tools</b>	Steps 1-3	Inform and/or consult	Anyone with internet access	Newsletters
<b>Webinars</b>	Any step	Inform	Anyone with internet access	Public meetings Social media

## Part 2 – Impact

Stakeholder engagement is central to our organisation. The position we hold in the industry means it is crucial that our business is shaped by our stakeholders' input for the benefit of all.

Consultation and engagement is embedded into the EirGrid culture not only on transmission infrastructure projects but extending into all aspects of the business. Within the last year, we have made further progress in our commitments and held over 25 consultations across the business.

In part two we have highlighted **five case studies** carried out that affect all electricity users - consumer or industry.



# Case Study 1: Requirements for Grid Connection of Generators

Europe's electricity networks are currently operated according to national rules that govern the actions of operators and determine how access is given to users. The European Union is adopting a common set of rules, commonly known as Network Codes, which will enable electricity network operators, generators, suppliers and consumers to operate more effectively in the pan-European electricity market. The harmonisation of national rules will promote the efficient use of cross-border interconnection between countries and will provide a more secure and reliable electricity system with an increased level of renewable generation.

Over the past several years EirGrid, together with other members of ENTSO-E, have been working hard to develop the Network Codes. The final rules are proposed by the European Commission and adopted by the European Parliament before becoming binding European law. The focus now is to identify what necessary changes are required in Ireland and Northern Ireland to ensure that our national legislation is compliant to these new rules when they enter into force.

In May 2016 the Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631 establishing a network code on requirements for grid connection of generators came into force. As part of its national implementation, the relevant Transmission System Operator (TSO) of each member state is required to submit a proposal for requirements of general application. It is not a requirement to consult upon the proposal for requirements of general application prior to submission to the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU).

The TSO (EirGrid) and the Distribution System Operator DSO (ESB Networks) issued a collaborative consultation document. This was to ensure that the TSO and DSO have the best information available to them to submit an appropriate set of recommendations to the CRU for the proposal of requirements of general application. The consultation on Network Code commenced 20 December 2017 and was initially set for a period of six weeks. A response questionnaire template was also issued to encourage feedback.

On 16 January 2018 the TSO and the DSO hosted an industry workshop to further encourage public engagement. The engagement was very well received and following feedback the TSO and the DSO issued an updated version of the consultation paper with clarifications. Following a number of requests for an extension to the consultation deadline the TSO and the DSO agreed to extend the deadline by an extra week. On 16 February 2018 the consultation period closed. The TSO and the DSO received 13 individual submissions of which 12 were not confidential.

On 16 May 2018, following a joint review of the responses by the TSO the DSO, we issued a joint 'Proposal for General Application of RfG Requirements for Ireland' document to the CRU. In a number of cases the parameters proposed in the consultation document were revised following industry submissions and these were highlighted throughout the document. In the interest of transparency the document also included the non-confidential submissions received.

On 26 November 2018 the CRU issued their Decision Paper.

Consultation documents, notifications and invitations were available on the EirGrid Group website throughout the full consultation period and beyond. Notifications were also issued to TSO customers via our customer information email process.

## Highlights:

- Collaboration between the TSO and DSO
- Six week consultation period
- Industry Workshop (Eventbrite used for registration)
- Extension to the initial consultation period
- 13 responses received
- Revisions made to some of the parameters in the consultation paper
- Joint proposal paper issued to the CRU
- Decision paper issued by the CRU



# Case Study 2: CP966 – Public Consultation

The planned connection of new data centres in the greater Dublin area is leading to an increased demand for electricity in the east of the country. A significant amount of Ireland’s electricity is generated in the south and south west, and as a result power is mainly transported to the east via two high-voltage power lines:

- From Moneypoint in Clare to Dunstown substation in Kildare;
- From Moneypoint in Clare to Woodland substation in Meath.

The transportation of increased amounts of electricity on these two lines could have a negative impact on the security of supply, as the loss of one of the lines would result in major power disruption.

EirGrid is therefore proposing to ensure resilience of supply by strengthening the electricity network between Dunstown and Woodland.

Capital Project 966 (CP966) is currently in Step 2 of EirGrid’s six-step project Have Your Say public consultation process.

Step 1 comprised the publication of a “needs report” that identified the transmission network problem outlined above.

The aim of Step 2 is to consult with the public on the possible technological options to meet the needs identified, concluding with the development of a shortlist of options to be evaluated in more detail in Step 3.

EirGrid developed a Step 2 engagement plan to seek out, document and incorporate feedback from members of the public on the choice of technology and location for Capital Project 966.

The engagement was also intended to build support for the project among strategic stakeholders such as government, political parties, community groups and representative bodies.

More generally, the engagement exercise provided the opportunity for EirGrid to highlight the potential economic benefits of upgrading the grid, by addressing the need identified in Step 1.

EirGrid’s approach to engagement as outlined in the plan was to:

- Communicate clearly in plain English with people who engaged with the project, setting out the various ways engagement can influence the decision-making process;
- Provide sufficient time and information for respondents to be able to influence project plans;
- Describe clearly the wide variety of factors that influence any decisions made.

EirGrid launched an eight-week public consultation and engagement programme in November 2018, focussing on Meath and Kildare, by issuing press releases to local media in both counties. Other means that were designed to inform and engage with the public included:

- Sharing of up-to-date photography with media outlets and for social media;
- A dedicated CP966 section on EirGrid’s website;
- Distribution of a brochure via the EirGrid website, as well as hard copies printed and made available to the public and stakeholders;
- Utilising EirGrid’s social media platforms as a means of communicating information about the project

On 23 November strategic stakeholders including TDs, Senators, MEPs, and local councillors were sent information from the EirGrid project team about Capital Project 966. Some of this communication resulted in meetings with strategic stakeholders.

Additionally, EirGrid staff members answered various queries and provided members of the public with information relating to CP966.

EirGrid ran a social media campaign across our corporate Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter accounts explaining how stakeholders could provide feedback on the project.

# Case Study 3: Consultation on Draft Grid Implementation Plan 2017-2022 and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment and Natura Impact Statement

Respect for the environment is a key part of the development and operation of the transmission system. Electricity transmission infrastructure interacts with many environmental factors including natural habitats, wildlife - especially birds, landscape and cultural heritage.

EirGrid undertakes Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) of our grid implementation plans every five years. This is to ensure that our approach to developing the grid is sustainable and in line with best environmental practice.

Our current implementation plan (IP) and SEA cover the period 2017-2022. The draft IP, associated draft Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement were open to stakeholder and public consultation over the period 04 May to 31 August 2018. Feedback and on the draft IP and environmental reports could be submitted via an online survey, by post and by a dedicated email address [GridPlanSEA@Eirgrid.com](mailto:GridPlanSEA@Eirgrid.com)

A copy of the draft IP, associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement was available for public consultation from 04 May until 31 July 2018.

**On the EirGrid Website**  
[www.eirgridgroup.com/about/in-the-community/environment/](http://www.eirgridgroup.com/about/in-the-community/environment/)

**At the EirGrid Office (reception) during normal working hours**

**At our regional offices in Carrickmacross and Castlebar by appointment**

We received 14 responses in relation to the draft IP and feedback received was taken into account in its finalisation and adoption and in the drafting of the SEA Statement.

The IP was adopted by EirGrid in December 2018 and brings together the following in one report:

- Ireland's Grid Development Strategy
- [www.eirgridgroup.com/the-grid/irelands-strategy/](http://www.eirgridgroup.com/the-grid/irelands-strategy/)
- How we develop our projects: Six step framework for Grid Development [www.eirgridgroup.com/the-grid/have-your-say/](http://www.eirgridgroup.com/the-grid/have-your-say/)
- Policies and objectives that we follow to ensure sustainable grid development
- Project options from the Transmission Development Plan 2016 and 2017 approved by the CRU
- Strategic level mitigation for grid development and a monitoring framework for the IP

The SEA Statement describes how environmental considerations and the views of consultees have been taken into account in shaping the adopted grid IP.

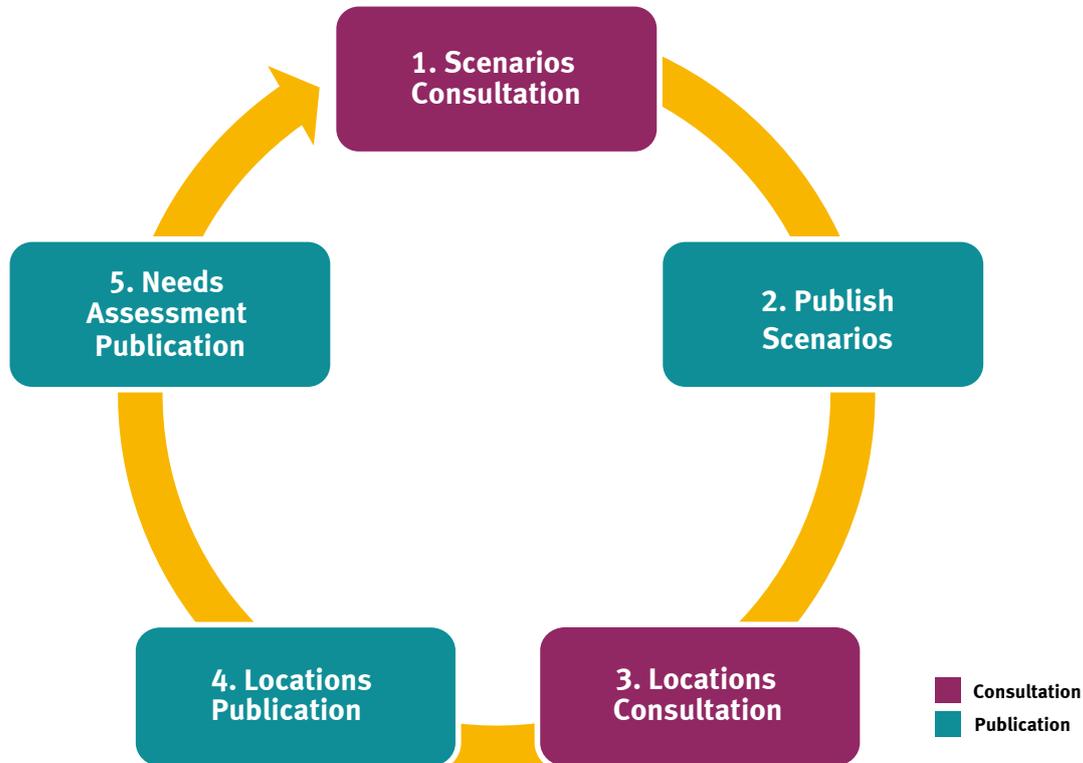
# Case Study 4: Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios

In 2017 we introduced scenario planning as a way of developing the transmission system so that it continues to support Ireland's economic growth and expanding population in the face of an uncertain future. We published Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios 2017 – a document outlining four possible futures for the supply and consumption of electricity in Ireland out to 2040.

Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios 2017 brought together a wide range of factors that may shape the future electricity sector into a set of four distinct scenarios.

## How do our stakeholders input to the scenario development process?

We take a cyclical approach to scenario development. Involving our stakeholders in the development cycle is key to ensuring continuous improvement of our scenarios. The consultation milestones and publications included as part of the 2017 scenario development cycle are shown below.



# The TES 2017 locations report

In 2018 we published Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios (TES) 2017 Locations, which analyses assumptions about where various demand and generation technologies may connect in the future.

The stakeholder engagement strategy for the TES 2017 locations involved three stages of engagement scheduled around the publication a consultation report and a final report.

This locations report reflects feedback received as part of the TES 2017 Locations Consultation which took place over a nine week period beginning in April 2018.

An initial round of engagement occurred through targeted stakeholder meetings. This allowed for relevant and manageable input into the location based assumptions to be received whilst the locations report was in draft form and before publication. This initial round of engagement targeted policy makers in the industry and those stakeholders who are best positioned to validate location based assumptions.

A list of targeted stakeholders is below:

- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE)
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)
- Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA)
- Irish Solar Energy Association (ISEA)
- The National Offshore Wind Energy Association of Ireland (NOW)
- The Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)
- IBEC
- Irish Environmental Network (IEN)
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
- Offshore Renewable Energy Working Group
- Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government

The input received from these stakeholders was incorporated into the first publication of the locations consultation report which was published on the EirGrid website and promoted on social media and in the press.

Open stakeholder engagement took place through a webinar session broadcast on the EirGrid website.

Engagement with the wider public and industry was achieved through the EirGrid website following the publication of the initial locations report. Visitors to the EirGrid website were requested to provide feedback on the locations report. This was achieved using the scenario planning email address. Stakeholders had a period of six weeks to provide feedback prior to the publication of the final locations report.

The open consultation was promoted on social media and in the press – a lot of meaningful feedback was received, mainly through the scenario planning mailing list.

# How did we use the feedback received?

The table below summarises the changes made to the TES 2017 Locations report as a result of the feedback received through the consultation. Changes to the document coincided with changes to the model assumptions used to identify system needs as part of the TES process and the wider grid development process.

Chapter	Key changes
Introduction	<p>A new section titled “Why do we use scenarios” explains EirGrid’s role as the transmission system operator and why EirGrid uses scenarios.</p> <p>A new section titled “Report purpose” outlines the document motivation.</p> <p>A new section titled “TES and the grid development process” explains the role of scenarios in the grid development process.</p> <p>A new section titled “EirGrid planning publications” lists other EirGrid publications, summarises the information contained within them and how they relate to TES.</p>
Electricity demand	We have revised our data centre locations for the <b>Low Carbon Living</b> scenario reflecting further alignment with the <i>NPF</i> and the Government’s recent statement on data centres.
Electricity supply	We have revised our onshore wind locations for the <b>Low Carbon Living</b> scenario reflecting further alignment with the <i>NPF</i> .
Electricity Storage and Interconnection	We have revised our interconnector capacity for the <b>Low Carbon Living</b> scenario to reflect the project details of the Greenlink Interconnector.

# Case Study 5: DS3 System Services Volume Capped Procurement Process

Our Delivering a Secure Sustainable Electricity System (DS3) programme seeks to address the challenges of increasing the level of renewable energy that can be handled on the system at any given time up to 75% by 2020, whereby the curtailment of wind would be reduced to approximately 5% per annum. Operating in this manner should deliver significant savings to consumers through lower wholesale energy prices.

A key workstream in the DS3 programme is the System Services work stream. The aim of the System Services work stream is to put in place the correct structure, level and type of services in order to ensure that the system can operate securely with higher levels of non-synchronous generation.

On the 28 March 2018 EirGrid and SONI published a consultation on the DS3 System Volume Capped procurement process. The Volume Capped process has been created to provide contractual arrangements suitable for those parties looking to invest in new service providers. This means that contracts will need to provide a level of certainty on which new providing units can be built.

Based on early feedback from stakeholders, EirGrid and SONI published a clarification note on 13 April 2018, receiving positive feedback from stakeholders. On the 25 April, EirGrid and SONI hosted an industry event in support of the consultation, in order to explain the rationale behind the proposals and where open questions remained.

Subsequent to the industry event, EirGrid and SONI hosted bilateral meetings with interested parties to discuss the consultation and answer questions. This resulted in bilateral meetings with circa 20 parties (approx. 4/5 NI, 15/16 IRE)

Resulting from this, a recommendation paper was published on 06 September 2018, taking account of the 24 stakeholder responses resulting in changes to the proposed framework. Procurement has now begun, as of 07 March 2019, seeking service providers to provide innovative super-fast services to the system, starting in 2021.

# Recognition

## RGI awards



The Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI) is a unique collaboration of NGOs and TSOs from across Europe. It promotes transparent, environmentally sensitive grid development to enable the further steady growth of renewable energy.

The RGI ‘Good Practice of the Year’ awards have been running for five years. Awards are presented annually for innovative and exemplary practices that have contributed to the implementation of energy transition. Featured in their annual brochure are recommended submissions and practices that RGI encourages others to replicate.

In 2018 ‘DS3 System Services’ featured in the annual brochure and received acknowledgement for its efforts to provide flexible services

in order to meet the challenges of operating the electrical system in a secure manner while achieving Ireland’s 2020 renewable electricity targets. The ‘DS3 System Service’ project includes regular consultations to ensure that stakeholder feedback is incorporated.

## Irish Planning Institute Awards



EirGrid won an award in the ‘Participation and Engagement’ category at the Irish Planning Awards ceremony in February 2018. The entry was entitled *A Transformational Approach to the Planning of Strategic Infrastructure*.

The aim of the Irish Planning Awards is to highlight innovation and achievement in Irish planning in complex and dynamic environments.

EirGrid was recognised for developing its new, innovative six-step approach to building the electricity grid.

The new six-step approach to developing electricity transmission infrastructure underpins our desire to develop the national grid across the country in a transparent and inclusive manner with communities and stakeholders.

The judges noted this project’s:

***“Singular focus on providing a forum for all participants, underpinned by a shared commitment to gather and to document in clear terms, evidence as the context for decision making around the often contentious issue of electricity infrastructure.”***

## Plain English Awards 2018



Plain English is a style of presenting information that helps you understand it the first time you read or see it. At EirGrid we recognise the importance of communicating in a clear and understandable way. Our work can be quite technical and complex at times; however we are committed to producing high-quality, accessible publications.

The aims of the Plain English Awards are to reward organisations that communicate clearly and to promote the use of plain English in all public information. In 2018 we were highly recommended in the 'Champions of Plain English' for our brochure on the Celtic Interconnector project.



The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 FW28 • Telephone: 01 677 1700 • [www.eirgrid.com](http://www.eirgrid.com)



Printed on recycled paper