



# Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2021



Delivering a cleaner energy future

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# 1. Introduction

This document summarises EirGrid’s plans for stakeholder engagement from 2021 onwards. We believe that working together with all stakeholders – customers and industry, the public and local communities – will lead to better outcomes that reflect all views.

This approach has shaped our overall strategy for 2020-25, where stakeholder engagement is identified as one of our key supporting goals. Effective engagement is essential for EirGrid to achieve our purpose – to transform the power system for future generations.

EirGrid has been tasked to lead the changes in the electricity system that are necessary to respond to climate change, in particular to achieve 70% electricity from renewable energy sources on the grid by at least 2030. This will require a level of change that hasn’t been attempted since the roll-out of rural electrification. To achieve this, we will need to work in partnership with all our stakeholders. For that reason, meaningful engagement is more important than ever before.

This plan sets out our 2021 engagements, the areas of focus and how our stakeholders can get involved. In addition to listing all of our planned engagements, we also highlight key areas of focus for our engagement throughout 2021.



## 2. 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: this 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 SONI – the Transmission System Operator for Northern Ireland. Our services also include the Single Electricity Market Operator (SEMO). This wholesale market for power runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 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 develops and operates 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

Delivering energy to consumers in Ireland requires us to operate within a complex environment. We actively engage with policy, 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.



# 3. Our 2020-25 strategy

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. This 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 sums up 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, customer and industry. Engagements are a key part of the delivery of our strategy. Together we will deliver the most significant change to the energy system since rural electrification.



# 4. Engage for better outcomes for all - an enhanced approach to engagement

## Engage for better outcomes for all

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

The Government of Ireland “Action Plan 2019 to Tackle Climate Breakdown” and the Programme for Government: Our Shared Future (2020) requires that by 2030, at least 70% of Ireland’s electricity needs shall be met by renewable energy sources and this is reflected in our strategy. Given this ambition, it is recognised that transformative change is required across the electricity sector.

To achieve the required scale of 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.

## Why we engage

EirGrid is committed to stakeholder and public engagement - when we work together with stakeholders, customers, industry, the public and local community, we make better decisions across the organisation to ensure delivery of our strategic objectives.

We are committed to operating, developing and enhancing the grid and leading the electricity sector on sustainability and decarbonisation. The foundation of achieving this ambition will be ongoing engagement with all stakeholders to win the hearts and minds of the public. We will also ensure the country is fully engaged in the decarbonisation movement and cognisant of our role in that process. Our focus is not just at the level of supporting climate change targets but in engaging, supporting and facilitating the realisation of what that change means.

The purpose of the recent ‘Stepping Up’ advertising campaign that ran on TV, radio, digital, social channels and in print was to outline EirGrid’s role is at the heart of climate action. The campaign directed the public to reliable and easy to understand information that will help to build public understanding of EirGrid and why the delivery of key grid development is essential to reach the target of at least 70% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

## How we engage

EirGrid’s approach to engagement is tailored to suit 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 and notification 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 phonedlines 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 Agricultural Liaison Officer for each grid development project. Customers can engage directly with their Customer Account Manager.

In December 2020, we published our “[Engage with Us – A Guide for Customers and Industry Stakeholders](#)” document. This document summarises EirGrid’s engagement channels and points of contact for our customers and industry stakeholders. It was developed to provide clarity on how our customers and industry stakeholders can have their say and how these insights and feedback are used within EirGrid. In addition, the document contains information on governance and how feedback and insight provided to us is incorporated into decision-making and shared across the organisation to ensure better outcomes for all.

## What success looks like

Successful engagement for EirGrid involves making informed decisions utilising all available insights. We want to ensure that those who are affected by our activities are afforded the opportunity to have their say, to input into the process and also to understand how their contributions have been taken on board, resulting in better outcomes for all.

For EirGrid’s engagement approach to be truly effective, it must involve engaging in a consistent, transparent and accessible way and tailoring our engagement to suit the needs of stakeholders to deliver the identified objective(s) of the engagement. In identifying engagement objectives, we consider the purpose in the context of our strategic goals and achieving our target outputs and outcomes as deemed appropriate under PR5 to deliver value for consumers.

When we assess the effectiveness of our engagement, we consider whether we have successfully:

- provided information that is clear and easy to understand in plain English to our stakeholders;
- received relevant feedback from a range of stakeholders for consideration;
- identified insights, learnings and opportunities from feedback and ensured our stakeholders’ perspectives contributed to and were considered in decision making;
- provided transparency around decision making; and
- achieved the identified objective(s) and benefits that the engagement was designed to deliver.

## Enhancing our stakeholder engagement

2020 marked the start of a process of continuous improvement of our engagement activities to meet the challenges of the next decade. We are proud of the progress we have made in our stakeholder engagement to date. This progress includes increased focus on planning, reporting and availability of information regarding all our stakeholder engagement, and enhancement of our customer and industry engagement. It also includes the root and branch review of our approach to consultation to ensure all engagement is appropriately tailored and comprehensive. 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. This applies to all our stakeholder engagements, from industry and customers through to local communities and public affected by a development proposal.

Using insights and feedback received from stakeholders we regularly review and seek to improve our engagement. We are committed to continuous improvement and we will also continue to look for innovative new ways to engage. Our goal is to deepen and broaden our consultation, and to respond in meaningful and convincing ways to fears and concerns. We strive to engage with our stakeholders in a collaborative manner to improve our learnings, business processes and help to innovate and utilise stakeholder insights to assess, sustain and increase engagement standards.

Key initiatives and areas of focus for further improvement of stakeholder engagement in 2021 are:

### **Education and Engagement Campaign<sup>1</sup>**

We will engage proactively with stakeholders to ensure that our role is known and trusted across Ireland. This initiative will help support acceptance at all levels for grid infrastructure projects; minimising delays and the cost of those delays. EirGrid research conducted in 2020 around awareness of our role and public sentiment shows that engagement is necessary and timely to strengthen trust and confidence in EirGrid and in our central role in delivering on the Government's Climate Action Plan and the implications of that.

In 2021 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.

### **Our new public engagement strategy for a cleaner energy future**

In 2020, EirGrid established a programme delivery team to explore ways to improve engagement around delivering grid infrastructure undertaking a detailed process of investigation and recommendation. The team outlined goals, assessed practices, gathered learnings and defined a path to new standards. This process allows us to consider specific lessons learnt from our own projects and from similar work across the energy sector.

EirGrid has developed an informed and considered public engagement strategy for infrastructure delivery to support our strategy which will be implemented from Q12021 onwards. We recognise that engaging successfully with the public and those affected by grid infrastructure is crucial to achieving climate action targets.

EirGrid will step up to ensure that community engagement and communication is part of our core competence to complement and enable our well-established expertise in engineering. We are developing in-house skills, increasing our capacity and partnering with best practice providers across the industry to step up levels of local engagement to deliver grid infrastructure projects.

### **Enhanced Customer Journey<sup>2</sup> - Industry and customer engagement**

In 2021 we will continue to strongly focus on enhancing and bringing consistency to our engagement with customer and industry stakeholders. This encompasses implementing learnings from review 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 2021 we will commence work on initiatives under PR5, to deliver an *Enhanced Customer Journey* from start to finish, focusing on effective customer and industry engagement. We will focus on early engagement and ensuring that customers and industry stakeholders can easily find relevant and up to date information on connecting to, and the planning, development and operation of, the grid.

<sup>1</sup> [EirGrid PR5 Submission](#) Appendix E Engage for Better Outcomes for All - Initiative 1: Engage and Educate.

<sup>2</sup> [EirGrid PR5 Submission](#) Appendix E Engage for Better Outcomes for All - Initiative 2: Enhanced Customer Journey.

## **Tools and communication channels to support enhanced stakeholder engagement**

In 2020 we have restructured our organisation to rationalise and optimise delivery of our 2020-25 strategy. In 2021 we will maximise the benefits of this new structure through the implementation of new, and improvement of existing tools and communication channels to support enhanced stakeholder engagement. We will continue to build on the new tools and ways of engagement embraced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 including webinars, virtual exhibitions, online meetings and focus groups. We will continue to focus on developing objective assessment of our engagement that is useful and meaningful to both EirGrid and our stakeholders. This includes working with experts to develop and rollout tools to support our engagement including surveys, a consultation portal, post event polls and our Customer Relationship Management tool, making it easier for stakeholders to provide feedback and for us to track response levels and more meaningfully measure the effectiveness of our engagement.

EirGrid is also piloting a number of virtual tools with a view to including these tools in our public engagement toolkit across projects. This includes interactive webinars, a new consultation portal for projects and enhanced web publications.

## **Accessibility of Information**

With a vast amount of data and documentation now available on our website, we are working to improve how this 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. We are starting a process of analysis and review to further upgrade our website. During this review, we will incorporate valuable stakeholder feedback previously received on this topic.

## **Transparency**

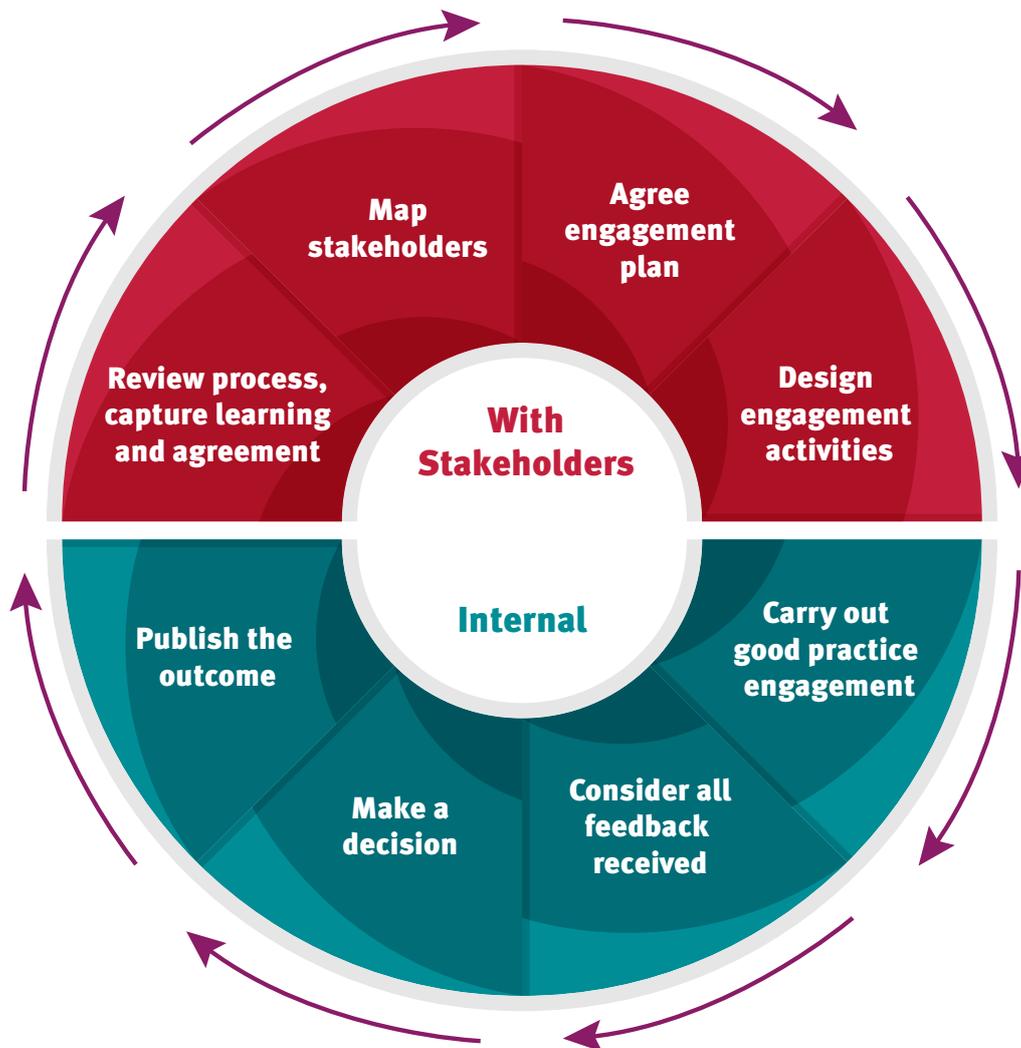
We have made clear commitments to publishing the outcomes and rationale for our engagement and we will continue to focus on ensuring that reports, key decisions and relevant stakeholder information are published in a timely manner. The development in 2020, and ongoing rollout, across the organisation of internal guidelines and templates for engagement will continue throughout 2021 and will ensure that we continue to support and enhance transparency and consistency in our engagement with our stakeholders.



# 5. Our engagement principles

Regardless of whether we are considering a new grid project, a response to a specific policy, holding a forum to hear from our customers or engaging in our business as usual activities, we take the same strategic approach to designing engagement.

Our key engagement principles ensure that we will listen to all our stakeholders with a view to taking into consideration their feedback to ensure better outcomes in our decision making. We want to ensure that customers and stakeholders will have their say and that we are listening.



In practice this means that we will:

- involve stakeholders early in the process so they can influence plans;
- provide information in plain English that is accessible;
- provide enough time for people to contribute their views;
- offer clear opportunities for engagement and ways to influence the decision-making process;
- explain decisions that need to be taken and factors that influence those decisions; and
- communicate with everyone who has taken the time to engage with us and explain how feedback shaped our eventual decision or approach.

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

# 6. Identifying and mapping our stakeholders

EirGrid is mindful that our work affects people and organisations. We continuously strive to deepen our understanding of these impacts, our stakeholders and their evolving needs and views as the energy industry transforms. We want everyone to have an opportunity to have their say. Stakeholder identification and mapping helps us understand what we must do to provide opportunities for everyone to do so.

We regularly update our stakeholder mapping and review the ways in which we engage with them, allowing us to implement a more tailored approach to engagement for different stakeholder groups. For each engagement we carry out, identification of relevant stakeholders is a key part when planning our engagement and we have developed guidelines and templates to support this planning across the organisation.

At the start of key projects and initiatives a formal stakeholder mapping process is conducted and is an ongoing process throughout the lifespan of that project or initiative. This is to reflect new stakeholders that have been identified during the process and to recognise changes that have happened to the project.

## The stakeholder mapping process



**Identifying Stakeholders**



**Analysing Stakeholders**



**Creating the Stakeholder Map**



**Planning Engagement**



**Reviewing the Stakeholder Map**

We start by asking the following questions:

- Why is this needed? Before we engage with stakeholders, we ensure that the reasons for the engagement are clear, such as why this grid development is required or why a change to how we operate the grid is required.
- Who might this affect? For example, communities affected by grid development, or customers affected by changes to the operating environment.
- Who may have an interest in it?
- What decisions do we need to make?
- When and how could the stakeholders we engage with influence these decisions?
- What are the best ways to involve stakeholders who we may affect, or groups with an interest in a relevant project/piece of work/issue?

Once we have identified the stakeholders for the project or initiative, we analyse the stakeholder list by stakeholder group and map our stakeholders considering the interest they are likely to have throughout the project or initiative. This stakeholder mapping is then used to identify suitable methods for different stakeholder types as part of the engagement plan.

Stakeholder mapping is not a static activity as new stakeholder groups can emerge at various stages through the project or initiative's lifetime. The identified list of stakeholders for the project or initiative is therefore treated as a living document, monitored and updated periodically.

# 7. 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 interconnection 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 meeting 70% 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 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.
- Asking landowners and local communities to accept new infrastructure has never been an easy task. We never take these decisions lightly or without investigating all alternative options. But where new infrastructure is essential, we need to inform and convince landowners and communities.
- 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

We engage with a wide range of stakeholders and for each policy, project or challenge we review the list of relevant stakeholders to ensure we have a comprehensive list and identify any gaps.

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, 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, NESC, ESRI, Heritage Council
Industry Bodies	IDA, 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, IFA, Fáilte Ireland, Irish Rural Link, Irish Environmental Network
Non-Political – Europe	ENTSO-E, RGI, European Investment Bank
Political – Europe	European Commission, European Parliament, French Government
Regulatory	CRU, SEM Committee, UR
Think Tanks	IIEA, EPC, University College Dublin

# 8. 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 (below – with examples in italics) 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's 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*



## 9. 2021 stakeholder engagements

Plans of our specific formal engagements for 2021, outlining the topic of engagement, key stakeholders, timing and the objective of the engagement, are listed in the appendices. These specific engagements are also available on our website [here](#), and updated on a regular basis with the different categories of engagement available at the links below. We will also provide updates on our website on any additional opportunities for formal engagement with stakeholders as they arise.

- [Consultations<sup>3</sup>](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [EirGrid Hosted Industry Fora, Working Groups and Conferences](#)
- [Project Consultations](#)

### Other ongoing engagement

In addition to the stakeholder engagements referenced above and published on our website, there is significant ongoing bilateral engagement with a range of stakeholders including key Government departments, regulatory authorities, industry partners such as ESBN, GNI, DECC, DHPLG, CRU, SEAI, IDA, ENTSO-E, community groups and industry representative bodies. We also participate in a number of several other industry and stakeholder hosted fora, working groups and conferences.

There is ongoing considerable bilateral engagement with individual customers contracted and/or connected to the transmission system in Ireland to address their needs. We also facilitate customer clinics for potential customers on a regular basis for those seeking to connect to the transmission system in Ireland. For further information, please contact [info@eirgrid.com](mailto:info@eirgrid.com).



<sup>3</sup> All consultations (including project consultations) will be circulated from the [info@eirgrid.com](mailto:info@eirgrid.com) mailbox to the mailing list. If you are not on this list and wish to be added, please submit a request to [info@eirgrid.com](mailto:info@eirgrid.com).

# 10. Key areas of engagement for 2021

The below key areas of engagement for 2021 have been categorised under our 2020 – 2025 strategic goals in order to effectively demonstrate alignment of this plan with our strategy:

1. Lead the island’s electricity sector on sustainability and decarbonisation;
2. Operate, enhance and develop the all island grid and market;
3. Work with partners for positive change; and
4. Engage for better outcomes for all.

All of EirGrid’s stakeholder engagement is underpinned by our commitment to *Engage for better outcomes for all* and contribute to this, our fourth strategic goal. In Section 4 of this document, we have outlined key initiatives and areas of focus for further improvement of stakeholder engagement in 2021.

A number of key areas for engagement align with two or more of the strategic goals. One example is our Shaping Our Electricity Future study, which is a major area of focus for all strategic goals.

## Lead the island’s electricity sector on sustainability and decarbonisation

### Shaping Our Electricity Future

EirGrid Group is working with its stakeholders to deliver at least 70% of Ireland and Northern Ireland’s electricity from renewable sources by 2030<sup>4</sup>. This includes accommodating 95% generation from renewable sources on the grid by 2030. To achieve this, the grid will need to be operated in a more dynamic and responsive way. This will require an end-to-end solution incorporating user experience, improvements to infrastructure, operational practices, and market design and operation.

EirGrid Group has undertaken a “*Shaping Our Electricity Future*” study across the three dimensions of the all-island electricity system: networks, power system operation and electricity markets. The aim of this study is to develop an integrated all-island vision of the 2030 power system and electricity market. The consultation on the network dimension will include potential approaches that will prepare the grid to achieve at least 70% electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

In 2021, we will:

- conduct a large-scale public consultation and engagement programme (commencing in early 2021) on our draft *Shaping Our Electricity Future* study. This will act as a framework for an informed discussion on the island of Ireland; and
- following the analysis of the feedback received from stakeholders, a final roadmap to deliver on this ambition will be published. This will set out what is required to deliver a reliable and efficient power system and wholesale electricity market in a future with significant levels of generation from renewable sources.

Success will be measured as:

- providing a broad range of engagement opportunities, methods and time for all stakeholders to have their say and provide insights, tailored to specific stakeholder groups’ needs;
- insights and feedback received from a broad spectrum of stakeholders to inform the final decision; and
- a transparent decision-making process demonstrating to stakeholders how their insights and feedback have been considered in the final roadmap.

<sup>4</sup> It is anticipated that the new energy strategy for Northern Ireland will set a target of minimum 70% RES-E by 2030 as indicated by the Economy Minister.

## Shaping Our Electricity Future – Key Enabler Programmes

The integration of generation from renewable sources is maximised by three key programmes: DS3, EU-SysFlex and FlexTech.

The DS3 (Delivering a Secure, Sustainable Electricity System) programme was established to meet Ireland and Northern Ireland's 2020 electricity targets by increasing the amount of renewables (non-synchronous generation) on the all-island power system. For instance, new system services arrangements have been set up, procuring services from a wide pool of generators and market participants, with the aim of facilitating 40% electricity from renewable sources in Ireland and Northern Ireland in a safe and secure manner. This programme is now evolving to continue to support the integration of renewables on the island of Ireland to meet our future RES-E (renewable sources of electricity) targets.

By 2030, the European Union has committed to delivering at least 70% of its electricity consumption from RES-E. EirGrid, as the coordinator of the Horizon 2020 project, has a leading role in the EU-SysFlex project. The project aims to identify the long-term needs as well as the technical scarcities of the future power system. EU-SysFlex covers different aspects of the innovation process, from the development of new approaches for integration of large-scale generation from renewable sources, to testing pilot installations, to analysis of regulatory frameworks

In parallel, the FlexTech Technology Integration initiative is a sectoral wide, all-island collaboration, intended to identify and break down key barriers to renewable integration. The objective is to maximise the opportunity to make effective use of new and existing technologies to meet the needs of the future power system. This is done while collaborating with stakeholders to understand their perspectives and key challenges.

In 2021 we will:

- collaborate on these programmes with key stakeholders including the DSOs and other TSOs as appropriate;
- engage on these programmes via dedicated stakeholder workshops;
- continue to engage with stakeholders via regular DS3 Advisory Council meetings on DS3 deliverables and on the future evolution of the DS3 programme;
- consult as appropriate on FlexTech priority areas; and
- continue to notify industry of relevant EU-SysFlex updates via publication on the EirGrid website.

Success will be measured as:

- regular meaningful engagement with industry representative bodies; and
- receiving feedback and insights from a range of stakeholders through formal and informal engagement including policy makers, regulators, industry peers, academia and members of the public.



## 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 June 2019, the Irish Government launched a highly ambitious Climate Action Plan (CAP), which puts the electricity system at the heart of an ambition to achieve major reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The CAP explicitly set out the emission reductions Ireland needed to meet national and international targets over the period 2021 to 2030 and reinforces international and European policy surrounding this issue. It places an explicit onus on EirGrid to both enable and deliver the greatest change on the power system since the rural electrification project. The new Programme for Government (June 2020) called out even higher ambitions. EirGrid's 2020-25 strategy is heavily aligned with the CAP in which EirGrid is the assigned owner of 19 actions for the electricity sector. EirGrid is also heavily involved in supporting the delivery of a further 23 actions and this requires significant engagement with key stakeholders.

In 2021 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;
- engage in depth with the DECC to support the required revision to the CAP by providing thought leadership and our key insights in order to revise and optimise it and to deliver on the Government's climate ambitions including learnings from work on key EirGrid projects such as the Pathway to 70% Renewables by 2030;
- 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 stakeholders e.g. actions associated with Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) and RESS auctions, facilitation of renewables connection policy and facilitation of hybrid connections; and
- continue to work closely with DECC and the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (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.

## Sustainability

EirGrid is committed to focusing on improving environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance in the areas in which we have a material environmental or social impact, as set out in our strategic goal of leading the island's electricity sector on decarbonisation and sustainability. We are doing this by leading, advocating and embedding sustainability into how we operate our business.

A key focus in 2021 is the development of our sustainability strategy, including a materiality assessment to define the environmental, social and governance topics that are most important for our business and its stakeholders. This materiality assessment is best practice when developing a comprehensive sustainability strategy and the materiality matrix developed will be used as one of the key tools to influence our sustainability strategy.

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 companies to commit to a 50% absolute reduction in scope 1 and scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 2030<sup>5</sup>. A third area of focus will be EirGrid's Ecology Guidelines (first published in 2012), which are primarily drafted for Ecological Consultants producing ecological assessments of high voltage electrical transmission projects in support of planning applications. The guidelines seek to ensure consistency and quality control across all project ecological assessments.

In 2021 we will

- engage to develop our materiality matrix with a cross section of internal and external stakeholders. Initial engagement will be through a survey (either online or in person/by phone) and a subset of these stakeholders may be requested to participate further either through in-depth interviews or focus groups. External stakeholders will comprise representatives from all our key stakeholder groupings in Ireland as well as in other key jurisdictions;
- update stakeholders once our sustainability strategy has been developed;
- engagement with BITCI member companies will continue, supported by Mark Foley. The objective of engagement in 2021 will centre on an increased ambition pledge, asking companies to commit to setting science-based targets by 2024. Engagement within the BITCI membership cohort will consist of encouraging existing pledge signatories to sign the increased ambition pledge and asking members that have yet to sign the initial pledge to commit to setting science-based targets; and
- provide EirGrid's "Draft Updated Ecology Guidelines" to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for review. Updates to the original guidelines are required to identify new requirements arising from EirGrid's six step framework, and the (rapidly evolving) legal instruments, case law, and guidance in the ecological field. Consultation with NPWS is not a statutory requirement but is reflective of EirGrid's best practice approach to engagement, and EirGrid's commitment to high standards of environmental assessment and ecological protection.

Success will be measured as:

- satisfactory participation and completion rates in our materiality assessment engagements, with feedback and insights received from a broad cross-section of external and internal stakeholders;
- the number of BITCI member companies that sign the increased ambition pledge, and an overall reduction in Green House Gas (GHG) emissions across the "Low Carbon Economy" Leaders' Group; and
- incorporation of comments of the NPWS into EirGrid's Draft Updated Ecology Guidelines, to capture input of the statutory nature conservation agency, and assist in ensuring robust planning.

<sup>5</sup> <https://compareyourfootprint.com/difference-scope-1-2-3-emissions/>

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

### Our new public engagement strategy for a cleaner energy future – Delivering Grid Infrastructure

EirGrid's work to transform the electricity system is the foundation of the Government's CAP and will both lead and underpin Ireland's response to climate change. We have been tasked with enabling the grid to facilitate 70% of Ireland's electricity from renewable sources by 2030. For this to happen, EirGrid needs to make an evolutionary shift in how we engage with the public around delivering grid infrastructure: we need to evolve our engagement strategy.

When we are developing new grid infrastructure, our engagement principles (outlined on page 8) are applied to our six step engagement process. It ensures we are identifying stakeholders and giving them an opportunity to shape the proposals as early as possible.

In early 2020, EirGrid established a programme delivery team to find ways to improve engagement. This team then started a detailed process of investigation and recommendation. They outlined goals, assessed practices, gathered learnings and defined a path to new standards. This process allowed us to consider specific lessons learnt from our own projects, and from similar work across the energy sector. We examined recent engagements with landowners, community and industry. This allowed EirGrid to develop an informed and considered engagement strategy, recognising that if we don't engage successfully with those affected by grid development plans, we won't achieve climate action targets.

In response, EirGrid is making community engagement and communication part of our core competence for all projects. This step up complements and enables our well-established expertise in engineering. We are developing in-house skills, increasing our capacity and partnering with best practice providers across the industry.

In 2021, we will:

- step up our engagement on projects as they progress through the six step process. These projects are listed on our website [here](#);
- ensure that a consistent approach to engagement is applied, tailored to the scope and complexity of each project; and
- continue the alignment and streamlining of engagement processes with ESB Networks to expedite the overall project delivery programme.

Success will be measured as:

- a broad range of engagement opportunities, methods and time for all stakeholders to have their say and provide insights;
- utilising constructive stakeholder feedback to inform essential decision-making, such as route and location selection;
- a transparent decision-making process demonstrating to stakeholders how their insights and feedback have been considered in the final decision; and
- progress of grid infrastructure projects through the six step framework to delivery.

## 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 7000 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 be carried out during 2021 on these asset refurbishment and replacement projects.

In 2021, 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 2021.

## 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 2021 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).*

## 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.

### ESB Networks

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

### 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 2021 we will be collaborating closely 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, starting in 2021, will see 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 Distribution System Operator (DSO), operates the electricity distribution system in Ireland. The transition to a power system with 70% 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 2021 we will be collaborating closely 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 Climate Action Plan 2019
- initiatives and programmes such as DS3 and FlexTech 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 at least 70% 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 2021 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 connections, connection policy and the connection process to support customers in making informed decisions;
- 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 in line with policy;
- 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.

### **Regulatory Engagement**

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 2021, EirGrid will also engage with the CRU on matters such as PR5 Implementation, the Celtic Interconnector Regulatory Framework and the Offshore Regulatory Framework.

### **Other Key Partners**

In 2021 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;
- landowners and communities;
- 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;
- engagement with suppliers to enhance our technical capabilities;
- consumer and industry representative bodies; and
- think tanks, academic institutions and other research facilities.

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.



# 11. Conclusion

EirGrid's plan for our Stakeholder Engagement in 2021 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 2021 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 2021 and beyond.



# 12. Appendices

## Appendix 1: Consultations

Consultation	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Draft 2020 Stakeholder Engagement Report	All	Q1 2021	EirGrid Consultation	Ask for feedback on our Stakeholder Engagement throughout 2020 to allow for more meaningful and effective stakeholder engagement.
Shaping Our Electricity Future Consultation	All	Q1 2021	EirGrid and SONI Consultation	Gather insights from all stakeholders for consideration in development of a pathway to achieving at least 70% renewables by the year 2030.
<a href="#">Scheduling and Dispatch Audit: 2020 and 2021 Terms of Reference</a>	Relevant stakeholder group	Q1 2021	EirGrid and SONI Consultation	Gather stakeholder input for audit.
Transmission Development Plan 2020	All	Q1 2021	CRU Consultation	Ask for feedback on the TDP 2020. 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	Q2 2021	EirGrid and SONI Consultation	Ask for 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.
"Proposed 2021/22 Other System Charges"	Relevant stakeholder group	Q2 2021	EirGrid and SONI Consultation	Consultation on Proposed 2021/22 Other System Charges.
Proposed 2021/22 Transmission Loss Adjustment Factors (TLAF)	Relevant stakeholder group	Q2 2021	EirGrid and SONI Publication for Comment	Publish Proposed 2021/22 TLAFs for comment.
Proposed 2021/22 Generator Transmission Use of System (GTUoS) Tariffs	Relevant stakeholder group	Q3 2021	EirGrid and SONI Publication for Comment	Publish Proposed 2021/22 GTUoS tariffs for comment.
Proposed 2022 Generator Unit Under Test Tariffs	Relevant stakeholder group	Q2 2021	EirGrid and SONI Consultation/ Publication for Comment	Publish Proposed 2022 GUUT tariffs for comment if change is minimal - will run consultation if substantial change proposed.
Balancing Market Principles Statement (BMPS)	Relevant stakeholder group	Q1 2021	EirGrid and SONI Consultation	Consultation with industry on proposed revisions to the BMPS – a guide to the scheduling and dispatch process.
Ten Year Network Development Plan 2020 package	All	Q2 2021	ENTSO-E Consultation	Ask for feedback on TYNDP package.
Proposed Calendar Year 2022 Generator Unit Under Test (GUUT) Tariffs	Relevant stakeholder group	Q2/Q3 2021	EirGrid and SONI Consultation	Consultation on Proposed 2022 GUUT tariffs.
Joint TSO & TAO Investment Planning and Delivery Report 2020	All	Q3 2021	EirGrid/ESB Networks Consultation	Ask for Stakeholder feedback on TSO & TAO Investment Planning and Delivery Report 2020.
Joint TSO & TAO Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2020	All	Q3 2021	EirGrid/ESB Networks Consultation	Ask for Stakeholder feedback on TSO & TAO Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2021.
Transmission Development Plan 2021	All	Q3 2021	CRU Consultation	Ask for feedback on proposal which will input to the Final TDP 2021. The final version will be published on the EirGrid website subsequent to completion of the consultation process and CRU approval.
Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement (TYTFS) 2021	All	Q3 2021	CRU Consultation	Ask for feedback on the Final TYTFS.
East-West Interconnector Biodiversity Project	National Parks & Wildlife Service, Meath County Council, Botanical Society for Britain and Ireland, Devenish Heartland, Maynooth University	Q3 2021	EirGrid Consultation	Seek comment on interim report for ecological monitoring year 2, to include latest proposals for biodiversity enhancement measures.

Consultation	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Strategic Environmental Assessment - Monitoring of Grid Implementation Plan 2017-2022	SEA Environmental Advisory Group (Environmental Protection Agency, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, DHLGH, DAFM, DCCAE)	Q3 2021	EirGrid Consultation	Seek comment on draft interim SEA monitoring report (2017-2020). This will fulfil obligation ER4 under SEA for Grid Implementation Plan 2017-2021.
EirGrid's Updated Ecology Guidelines for Electrical Transmission Projects	National Parks & Wildlife Service	Q3 2021	EirGrid Consultation	Seek NPWS Comment on Draft guidelines.
EirGrid's Updated Cultural Heritage Guidelines for Electrical Transmission Projects	National Monuments Service (DHLGH)	Q3 2021	EirGrid Consultation	Scope and where appropriate seek endorsement, of Updated Cultural Heritage Guidelines.
Interconnection Operations BREXIT Consultation	All	Q3 2021	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.
LNAF/SIFF consultation	Relevant stakeholder group	Q3 2021	EirGrid and SONI Consultation	Long Notice Adjustment Factor and System Imbalance Flattening Factor. Consultation on the proposed values for these parameters as directed by SEMC, completed annually.
Customer Engagement Survey	All	Q3 2021	EirGrid Consultation	Ask for Customer feedback on different aspects of engagement with EirGrid.
Consultation on Test Plan in accordance with EU Network Code on Emergency Response and Restoration	Relevant stakeholder group	Q4 2021	EirGrid and SONI Consultation	Consultation with industry on proposed Test Plans as required by Network Code on Emergency Response and Restoration.
Materiality Assessment (Sustainability Strategy)	Relevant stakeholder group	Q4 2021	EirGrid Consultation	Materiality assessment of sustainability strategy.
Ten Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) 2021	All	Date TBC (Statutory Documents being streamlined/reviewed in 2020/2021)	ENTSO-E Consultation	Ask for feedback on system needs package 2040.
TSO Incentives Framework multi-year plan (2022-2025)	All	Q2/Q3 2021	EirGrid Consultation(s)	Seek stakeholder feedback on the proposed multi-year plans for 2022-2025.
TSO/TAO Joint Incentive multi-year plan (2022-2025)	All	Q2/Q3 2021	EirGrid/ESB Networks Consultation	Seek stakeholder feedback on the proposed multi-year plan for 2022-2025.
TSO/DSO Joint Incentive multi-year plan (2022-2025)	All	Q2/Q3 2021	EirGrid/ESB Networks Consultation	Seek stakeholder feedback on the proposed multi-year plan for 2022-2025.

## 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.
<a href="#">Transmission Outage Summary</a>	EirGrid	Fortnightly	EirGrid Website	To communicate transmission outage dates for the next fortnight.
Monthly Operational Constraints Updates	EirGrid	Monthly	SEMO Website	To provide information regarding constraints to industry.
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.
<a href="#">Quarterly Associated Transmission Reinforcement (ATR) Web Update</a>	EirGrid	Quarterly	EirGrid Website	To communicate ATR completions, date changes, addition or removal of ATRs.
DS3 advisory Council presentations	EirGrid & SONI	Ad-Hoc as required	EirGrid & SONI Websites	Publication of relevant DS3 presentations.
<a href="#">Transmission Outage Programme (TOP) 2021</a>	EirGrid	Q1 2021	EirGrid Website	To communicate transmission outage dates proposed for 2021.
T-4 2024-2025 Capacity Auction Provisional Results	EirGrid	Q1 2021	SEMO Website	This report contains Provisional Capacity Auction Results for the T-4 Capacity Auction in respect of Capacity Year 2024/2025.
T-4 2024-2025 Final Capacity Auction Results Report	EirGrid	Q1 2021	SEMO Website	This report contains Final Capacity Auction Results for the T-4 Capacity Auction in respect of Capacity Year 2024/2025.
Synchronous Area Operational Agreement (SAOA)	EirGrid & SONI	Q1 2021	EirGrid Website	Operational Agreement between EirGrid and SONI. Publication required under SOGL Articles 118 and 8. Only required if Agreements are to change significantly.
Load Frequency Control Block Operational Agreement (LFCBOA)	EirGrid & SONI	Q1 2021	EirGrid Website	Operational Agreement between EirGrid and SONI. Publication required under SOGL Articles 119 and 8.
Annual Dispatch Down 2021 Report	EirGrid & SONI	Q1 2021	EirGrid Website	Annual Renewable Dispatch Down (Constraint and Curtailment) Report for Ireland and Northern Ireland 2020.
Outturn Availability 2021 Ex Ante Report	Generator Customers	Q1 2021	EirGrid Website	Outturn Availability Connection Asset Maintenance Plan for the 2021 Outage Season.
Outturn Availability 2020 Ex Post Report	Generator Customers	Q1 2021	EirGrid Website	Provide information regarding Outturn Availability Connection Asset Maintenance for 2020.
Final Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2021	EirGrid	Q1 2021	EirGrid Website	The document will summarise EirGrid's plans for Stakeholder engagement for 2021.
Final Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2021 Consultation Response Paper	EirGrid	Q1 2021	EirGrid Website	This document summaries the responses EirGrid received during the consultation process, and explains how EirGrid will respond to this feedback.
Community Benefit Policy	EirGrid	Q1 2021	EirGrid Website	To communicate to community stakeholders on EirGrid's new approach to Community Benefit.
Multiple Legal Entity Consultation Response	EirGrid & ESB DSO	Q1 2021	EirGrid Website	To respond to feedback received during the consultation process.
Stakeholder Engagement Report 2020 Consultation Response Paper	EirGrid	Q2 2021	EirGrid Website	This document summaries the responses EirGrid received during the consultation process, and explains how EirGrid will respond to this feedback.
Final Stakeholder Engagement Report 2020	EirGrid	Q2 2021	EirGrid Website	The document will summarise EirGrid's Stakeholder Engagement throughout 2020.

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Generation Outage Planning (GOP) and Provisional Outage Programmes (POP)	EirGrid	Q2 2021	SEMO Website	To provide outage programme for the year ahead and provisional plans for subsequent two years.
Scheduling and Dispatch Audit Report	EirGrid and SONI	Q3 2021	SEMO, EirGrid & SONI Website	Independent Assurance Reporting on the 2020 Audit.
Annual Report	EirGrid	Q3 2021	EirGrid Website	Publication of EirGrid Annual Report.
Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement 2020	EirGrid	Q2 2021	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.
Qualification Trial Process (QTP) Learnings and Outcomes	EirGrid and SONI	Q3 2021	EirGrid & SONI Website	Outcome of the Qualification Trial Process that took place over 2020.
Final Publication of Shaping Our Electricity Future	EirGrid	Q3 2021	EirGrid Website	Final document detailing a pathway to achieving at least 70% renewables by the year 2030.
EWIC Trading Arrangements	EirGrid	Q3 2021	EirGrid Website	Supporting publication setting out likely revised post Brexit trading arrangements on EWIC. Similar to previous publication for SEM.
Approved Transmission Loss Adjustment Factors (TLAF) for 2021/22	EirGrid & SONI	Q3 2021	EirGrid Website	To communicate the approved TLAFs for 2021/2022.
Approved Generator Use of System Tariffs (GTUoS) for 2021/2022	EirGrid & SONI	Q3 2021	EirGrid Website	To communicate the approved GTUoS for 2021/2022.
EirGrid's Updated Ecology Guidelines for Electricity Transmission Projects	EirGrid	Q3 2021	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.
Code of Practice for laying UGC on Farmland	EirGrid	Q3 2021	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.
Annual Innovation Report	EirGrid	Q2 2021	EirGrid Website	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.
All-Island Generation Capacity Statement	EirGrid	Q3 2021	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.
Protocol document for System Services	EirGrid	Q3 2021	EirGrid Website	Update protocol document for changes to System Services.
EU SysFlex Publications	Industry	Q4 2021	EirGrid Website	Publication of EU-SysFlex project deliverables.
Winter Outlook	EirGrid	Q4 2021	EirGrid Website	Annual summary that provides information on expected electricity demand and capacity margin on an all-island basis.

Publication	Audience	When	Engagement Method	Objective
Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios (TES) 2021	EirGrid	Q4 2021	EirGrid Website	To outline a range of credible scenarios for Ireland's clean energy transition with a specific focus on the electricity transmission grid.
Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement 2021	EirGrid	Q4 2021	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.
Joint TSO & TAO Investment Planning and Delivery Final Report 2020	All	Q4 2021	EirGrid Website	Final CRU Approval on TSO & TAO Investment Planning and Delivery 2020.
Joint TSO & TAO Electricity Transmission Performance Final Report 2020	All	Q4 2021	EirGrid Website	Final CRU Approval on TSO & TAO Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2020.
EirGrid's Updated Cultural Heritage Guidelines for Electricity Transmission Projects	EirGrid	Q4 2021	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.
ECP-2 Constraint Reports for Wind and Solar	EirGrid	Q4 2021	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.
Innovation & Research strategy	EirGrid	TBC 2021	EirGrid Website	The final strategy will be published once finalised upon conclusion of the engagement and once strategy is complete.

### 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	Quarterly	EirGrid Industry Forum	"Review, discuss and ensure user consultation of recommendations for Grid Code amendments."
DS3 System Services Volume Uncapped Gate 5 Bidders' Conference	Industry	Q1 2021	Industry forum or webinar	Provide guide to industry on Gate 5 procurement process.
Pilot Shaping our Electricity Future Industry Forum	Industry	Q1 2021	EirGrid Industry Forum	"A pilot forum to engage industry in the development of pathway to 2030 and to ensure the views of industry are taken on board in the final Pathway to 70% Renewables by 2030 2030 plan. The pilot shall be reviewed with a view to industry forums taking place twice annually."
Generator and Outturn Availability Forum	Generation Customers, CRU	Q2 2021	EirGrid Industry Forum	Provide update on transmission outages, outturn availability reports and to address generator customer queries.
RESS 2 Weekly Information Sessions	Relevant stakeholder group	Q2 2021	EirGrid Industry Forum	To assist customers in preparing their application for qualification for the RESS 2 auction.
Data Centre Industry Forum	Data Centre customers	Q2/Q3 2021	EirGrid Industry Forum	Update and discussion of information related to Data Centre Industry.
EirGrid Stakeholder Conference	Stakeholders	Q4 2021	EirGrid Conference	"Conference for customers and stakeholders facilitating information sharing and industry discussion."

## Appendix 4: Project engagements

Project	Audience	When	Method	Objective
<a href="#">CP0816 North Connacht 110 kV Project</a>	All	Q1 2021	Step 4: EirGrid Consultation	A 110 kV overhead line or underground cable, linking the substations at Moy, Co. Mayo, and Tonroe in Co. Roscommon. At the end of Step 4b, a single emerging best performing option for the overall project will be brought forward. This is likely to occur in Q1 2021.
<a href="#">CP0466 North South 400 kV Interconnector Project</a>	All	On-going	Step 5: Stakeholder Engagement	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.
<a href="#">CP0585 Laois-Kilkenny Reinforcement Project</a>	All	"Q1 2021/ 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 Coolnabacky and this will continue throughout 2021. There will also be an event to launch the community fund.</p> <p>Landowner engagement on the new Ballyragget-Coolnabacky 110 kV OHL is expected to progress in 2021. ESB are leading local engagement around the construction site at the new Ballyragget 110 kV substation."</p>
<a href="#">Celtic Interconnector</a>	All	Q1 2021	Step 5: Stakeholder Engagement	This is a proposed electrical link, which will enable the movement of power via subsea cable between Ireland and France. Step 4 of the Framework for Grid Development is now complete and a best performing option has been identified. This is the result of significant stakeholder community and landowner engagement which informed decision making on various location options for the project. It is intended to setup a community forum for ongoing consultation and engagement. The project is now in Step 5 involving the preparation and submission of consent applications in the spring of 2021. 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.
CP0968 Dunstown 400 kV Series Compensation	All	Q1 2021	Step 4: Planning Application/ Consultation	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. This local consultation will be required to inform and liaise with the local community adjacent to the station. prior to submission of the planning application.
<a href="#">Clashavoon-Dunmanway</a>	All	Q1 2021	Step 6: Engagement on Community Benefit	Event to launch community fund. Local stakeholders to be engaged in setup and rollout of the fund.
CP1111 - Cahir and Connected Stations 110 kV Protection Upgrade	All	Q1 2021	Step 5: Stakeholder Engagement	This is a protection upgrade project. Engagement with key customers and stakeholders regarding the implementation of the project will be required.
CP0866 Great Island - Kellis 220kV OHL refurb	All	Q2 2021	Step 4: Planning Application/ Consultation	This project is a refurbishment to maintain the line. This consultation will be run by the Planning Authority. Depending on COVID restrictions, the primary activity of landowner engagement will occur in Q2 2021. Public engagement likely to follow this in Q3 2021.
<a href="#">CP1021 East Meath to North Dublin Reinforcement</a>	All	Q2 2021	Step 2: EirGrid Consultation	This is a proposed development that will help meet the growing demand for electricity in the East and to allow flexibility of conventional generational dispatch in Dublin. This consultation will be in relation to refining an extensive list of options, to inform the best performing options.
<a href="#">Cross Shannon 400 kV Cable</a>	All	Q3 2021	Step 5: Stakeholder Engagement	"The project will comprise of subsea cables within the seabed of the Shannon estuary, and underground cables on land on both the northern and southern shores of the estuary near the existing substations at Moneypoint and Kilpaddoge Planning Application was submitted in early August 2020 and decision from ABP is expected in Q1 2021. ESB E&MP will take the lead on project consultation leading in to Q3 2021."
CP0969 Oldstreet-Woodland 400 kV Series Compensation	All	Q3-Q4 2021	Step 4: Planning Application/ Consultation	There is Series Compensation technology proposed at a location along the existing 400kV OHL between Moneypoint and the proposed Coolnabacky substation. There is a significant area around the proposed Coolnabacky substation that has been scoped out of this project. This local consultation will be required to refine an extensive list of options, to inform the best performing site/ location for the equipment. No site has yet been identified and this process is currently following the Framework for Grid Development.

Project	Audience	When	Method	Objective
CP0967 Laois-Moneypoint 400 kV Series Compensation	All	Q4 2021	Step 4: Planning Application/ Consultation	There is Series Compensation technology proposed at a location along the existing 400kV OHL between Moneypoint and Laois. This local consultation will be required to refine an extensive list of options, to inform the best performing site/location for the equipment. No site has yet been identified and this process is currently following the Framework for Grid Development.
<a href="#">CP966 Kildare - Meath Grid Upgrade</a>	All	Q4 2021	Step 4: EirGrid Consultation	This is a grid reinforcement project. The outcome of the on-going consultation around Step 3 is expected in Q1 2021. Following this outcome, the Step 4 consultation will explore potential routes for the best performing option.

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



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