



# 2021 Stakeholder Engagement Report

**May 2022**

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# 1. Introduction

In 2021, EirGrid demonstrated a clear step-change in our approach, methodology and channels of stakeholder engagement.

We worked to ensure that this evolution in our stakeholder engagement was in line with our principles; how we identify stakeholders and how we work to involve them in key decisions.

In the face of on-going public health restrictions, much of our engagement remained on-line, and, cognisant of this, EirGrid endeavored to be innovative to ensure that our stakeholders could benefit from impactful engagement on key and critical issues.

This Stakeholder Engagement Report contains a review of EirGrid's stakeholder engagement activities during 2021.

We believe that we clearly demonstrate how working together with all stakeholders – customers and industry, the public and local communities – leads to better and more impactful and inclusive outcomes that reflect all views.

The aim of this document is to assess the effectiveness of our engagement over 2021.

Following an overview of how we are working to improve our engagement and learnings we have identified, we provide a summary of our activities in 2021 under a number of topics that affect electricity users – customers, industry or consumers.

We also provide a more in-depth look at several key areas of engagement during 2021. In the appendices we present information for each of the infrastructure projects we planned to engage on in 2021, EirGrid consultations we undertook, and forums and workshops held during the year.

This Stakeholder Engagement Report 2021 has now been updated to reflect feedback we received from our draft report consultation, that ran from the 1st of April 2022 to 3rd May 2022. We have also now published a consultation response document to accompany the final report.

## Our corporate strategy

Launched in 2019, our 2020-25 corporate 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 forums, government departments, customers, as well as board members, management and staff from across EirGrid Group.

In our strategy we commit to seeking innovative new ways to engage. Our aim is to achieve world-class standards and to deliver better results. Achieving the scale of transformation identified in our strategy requires a significant increase in the scope and frequency of our stakeholder engagement.

This review of our engagement in 2021 highlights what we have done so far and will help us to continue to improve in future years – which is essential for us to deliver our strategy.

A highlight for 2021 was the launch of EirGrid's largest ever public consultation. The Shaping Our Electricity Future consultation ran for fourteen weeks from March. EirGrid held a series of workshops, meetings and forums across the country to inform people and gather feedback that directly influenced the final roadmap.

The consultation was supported by a range of traditional and innovative engagement and participation activities. These included a Deliberative Dialogue (modelled on Ireland's Citizens Assembly), complemented by national forums involving industry, civil society and youth. In addition to this, EirGrid engaged at grassroots level with rural communities, local businesses and young people. In response, there were 492 submissions from members of the general public and 80 industry submissions.

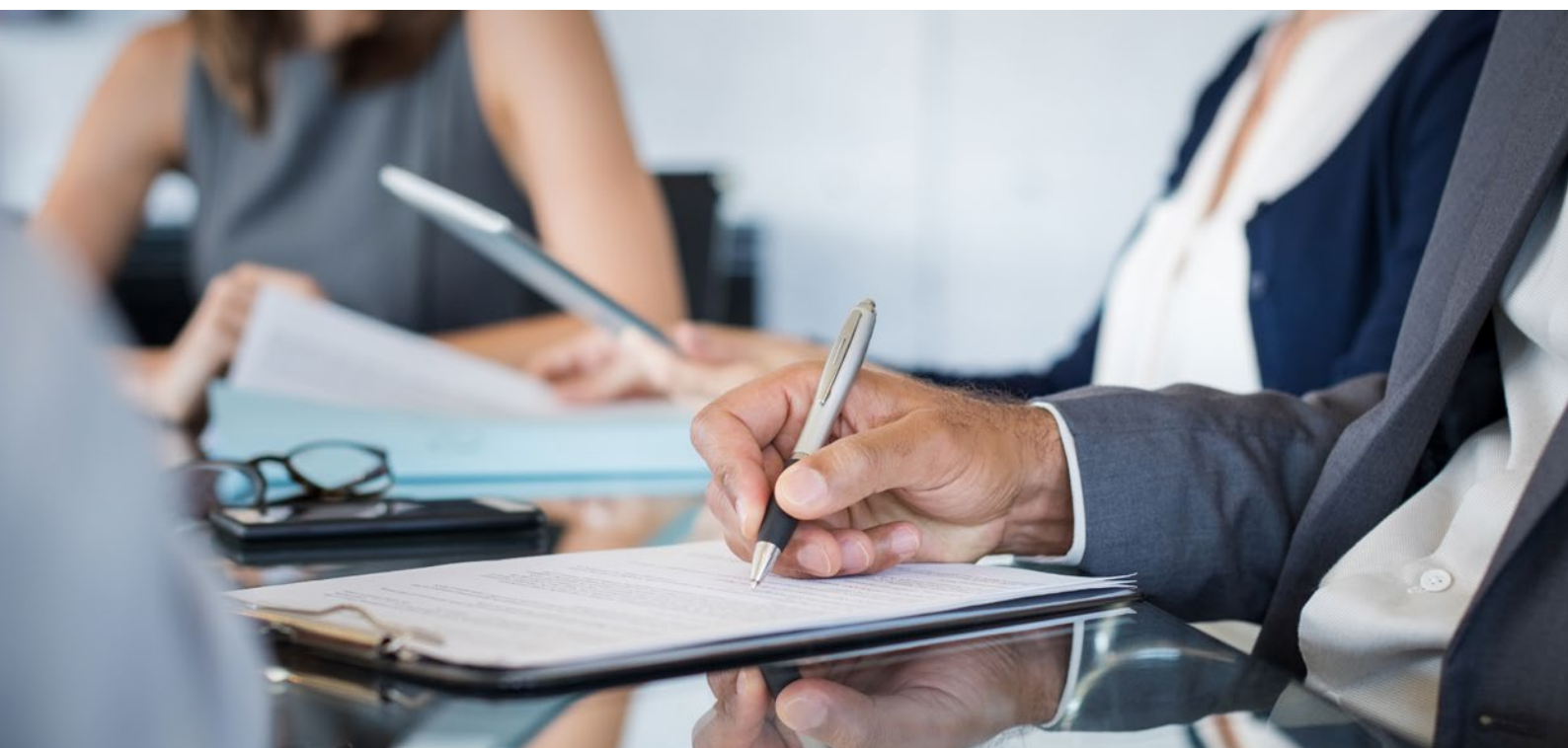
## A summary of our engagement principles

Our key engagement principles are designed so we listen to our stakeholders and take their feedback into consideration to inform better outcomes in our decision making. We want to ensure that customers and stakeholders have their say and that we are listening.

In practice this means that we:

- 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, communities and members of the public.



## 2. Who we are and what we do

### Our role

EirGrid develops, manages and operates the transmission grid 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 develops and operates interconnections with neighbouring grids, as well as enabling interconnections developed and operated by third parties. 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.

EirGrid is part of the EirGrid Group which includes SONI – which develops, manages and operates the transmission grid in 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.

### 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 makers, industry and society at all levels, from local to European, in line with our strategy.

However, we are a regulated business, and our engagement takes place within a regulatory and statutory environment which we must have regard to. 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 and statutory obligations and our objectives.





### 3. Engage for better outcomes for all - Enhancing our engagement

In February 2021, we launched our new public engagement strategy.

This followed the establishment in early 2020 of a programme delivery team to find ways to improve public engagement.

This team then started a detailed process of investigation and recommendation.

The members outlined goals, assessed practices, gathered learnings and defined a path to new standards. This process was informed by a comprehensive analysis of independent reviews on this topic.

These included independent reports carried out by external consultants.

The research also considered insights from workshops held with internal and external stakeholders. Finally, the team evaluated local case studies, and a range of international best practice reviews.

This process allowed us to consider specific lessons learnt from our own projects, and from similar work across the energy sector. In particular, we examined the detail of recent engagements with landowners, community and industry. The new strategy has three primary goals.

**Social Acceptance:** Work towards solutions that have landowner and public support.

- Consider the social acceptability of each solution.
- Improve participation and public engagement methods.
- Enhance community benefits.
- Deliver ambitious education and information campaigns.
- Improve our approach to landowner engagement.

**Capacity:** Increase our public engagement capacity and invest in our people and tools.

- Review and update our processes and outputs.
- Restructure our teams with a greater focus on public engagement.
- Increase our public engagement capacity by adding personnel.
- Carry out independent evaluation and certification of our public engagement every year.
- Expand our public engagement toolkit.

**Partnerships:** Renew and revitalise our existing alliances – and develop new ones.

- Work with Government on a multi-partner campaign about climate action to support public policy.
- Support and encourage the energy sector to work together more effectively.
- Strengthen relationships with community organisations.
- Renew and develop new alliances with enabling organisations.

#### RGI & Friends of the Earth

In December, EirGrid, Friends of the Earth and the Renewable Grid Initiative (RGI) announced the launch of a joint project to engage communities and groups around the country on Ireland's energy transition.

RGI is a collaboration of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and transmission system operators from across Europe. It promotes fair, transparent, sustainable grid development to enable the growth of renewables to achieve full decarbonisation in line with the Paris Agreement. Ireland now has in place the strongest climate action programme the country

has ever seen, including a commitment to increase the share of renewable electricity to up to 80% by 2030. This will involve a transformation of Ireland's grid infrastructure and require an energy transition which empowers citizens and supports open, equal and meaningful community participation.

In order to develop an inclusive vision of Ireland's energy future, there is a need to facilitate broader discussion of the nature and impact of the transition and to develop an improved understanding of the choices, concerns and obstacles that we face. EirGrid, Friends of the Earth and RGI have come

together to facilitate inclusive discussions and reflections with communities, civil society organisations, local groups, and other stakeholders.

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





## 4. Engage for better outcomes for all - Key Learnings from 2021

During 2021, we continued to engage with our stakeholders to seek constructive feedback. We welcome the insights we have received through our consultations, surveys and other formal and informal channels, as well as the recommendations from the Networks Stakeholder Engagement Evaluation Panel.

### Continuing to respond and improve

EirGrid has a strategy that is transforming our public engagement and that builds upon extensive work over the past decade.

We are now working with partners and stakeholders to deliver these improvements. These include local communities, landowners and industry.

The external context for this new strategy is the urgent need to respond to climate change – and secure our supply of low carbon renewable electricity for future generations. EirGrid has a unique role to play to help deliver this.

As we near the deadline to achieve the 2030 renewables target, our needs will change. Similarly, our approach to public engagement will continue to evolve.

This strategy provides the vision for the start of this process. This must continue to be a process of continuous improvement. We must listen to those who own, work on, and live near future grid infrastructure.

Only with their support will we be able to achieve the scale of change required in the next few short years.

Over 2021, we have used these insights and recommendations as well as other areas we have identified to continue to enhance our engagement to support our vision of always engaging effectively.

Some of the key improvements from 2021 include:

### Stakeholder engagement developments

In February 2021, we published our 2021 Stakeholder Engagement Plan for consultation providing a six-week period for our stakeholders to provide feedback.

### Development of a new online Consultation Portal

In March 2021, we launched a new permanent consultation portal.

Our new site ([consult.eirgrid.ie](https://consult.eirgrid.ie)) provides seamless integration with our digital suite and exceptional user experience for stakeholders.

- Stakeholders can provide their feedback on specific routes and sections of proposed grid projects and for non-grid projects such as our Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Report
- Stakeholders can use the portal to stay up to date on project developments
- EirGrid can use the portal to demonstrate to stakeholders how their feedback is used
- We also publish stakeholder submissions on the portal, so stakeholders can see what other feedback we are considering
- Additional consultations run by EirGrid were trialled on the portal. We will move towards using the portal for all consultations from 2022 onwards

## Community Forums

This year saw the establishment of community forums across a number of EirGrid projects.

The following forums were established in 2021:

- Clashavoon Dunmanaway in July 2021
- Kildare Meath Grid Upgrade in August 2021
- Laois Kilkenny in June 2021
- Celtic Interconnector in September 2021
- North Connacht in November 2021

The role of the forums is to ensure that local people take part in the project as much as possible and that they have direct engagement in the project.

Community forums are made up of representatives of local community groups, local county councillors and chamber of commerce members.

The forums ensure that the priorities of each community benefit scheme reflect the priorities of each local community. Each forum is independently chaired.

Each forum is unique, with each having core group working principles and terms of reference. The forums' focus differs depending on what step the project is at. For example, the Kildare Meath Grid Upgrade community forum's focus during Step 4 of the project was consultation and engagement on the potential routes of the project. In Cork, the Celtic Interconnector forum at Step 5 prioritised the development of a community benefit strategy, to provide a framework for the implementation of the community benefit scheme on that project.

As the forums are only recently established, capacity building has also been a focus, encouraging a sense of ownership and empowerment, ensuring that community forum members gain greater control over the future development of their area, through the community benefit scheme.

To date all meetings have taken place virtually, however it is hoped that as COVID-19 restrictions ease, community forums will meet in person.

## Recognition of our practice

We have shared our practice with national and international stakeholders, culminating in our participation at COP26. This event focused on sharing our practice here in Ireland on a global stage.

EirGrid has been requested to and proactively shared our engagement journey with a range of international bodies and TSOs including:

- International Energy Agency
- Directorate General for Energy in the European Commission
- Red Eléctrica de Espana
- International learning event (UK) on engaging with the public on decarbonisation



In addition to this, EirGrid has been approached to support learning and capacity building in state bodies, including:

- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Dublin Airport Authority
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
- Office of the Planning Regulator
- University College Dublin Energy Institute

They include:

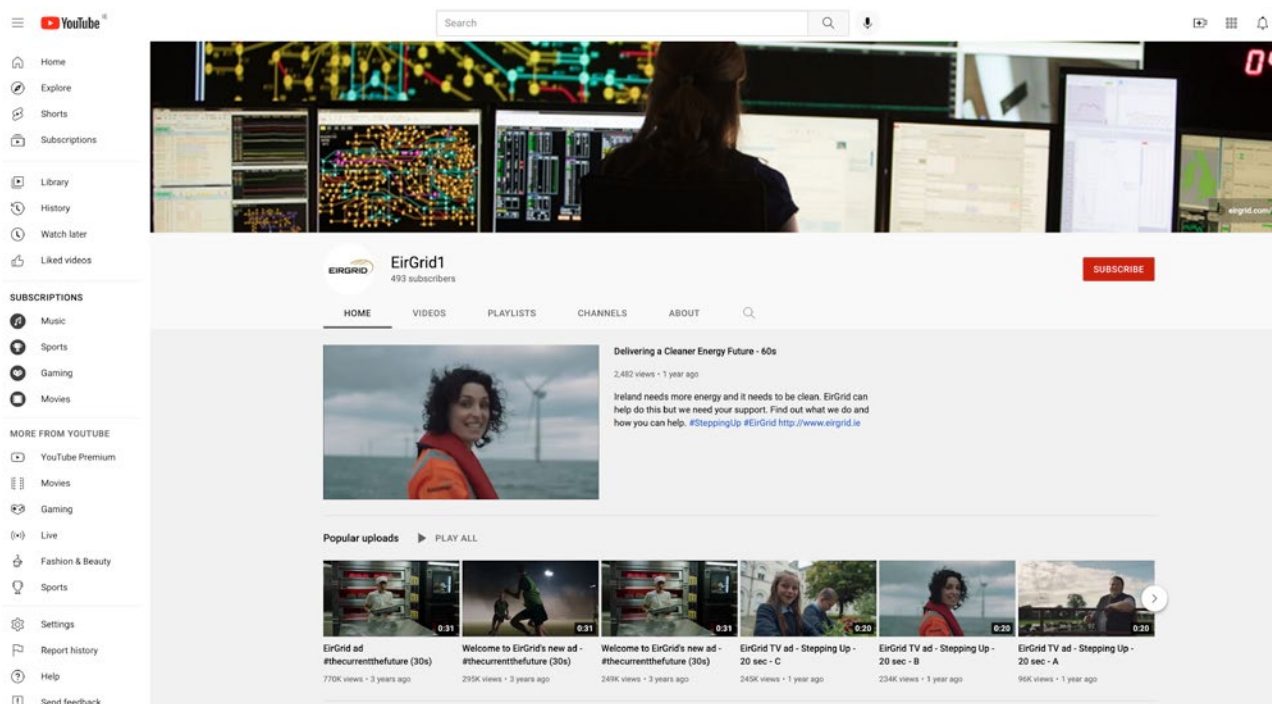
- Installation of underground cables
- Are overhead wires a health risk?
- Why can't we put everything underground?

This library will be expanded over the coming months and years. You can access the library through EirGrid's website by clicking the YouTube button or directly through the YouTube page - [Youtube.com/EirGrid1](https://www.youtube.com/EirGrid1)

## Information and Education Videos

EirGrid has created a new library of information videos for stakeholders, to help build an understanding of our work and to reassure stakeholders about topics they may be curious about.

This library includes a range of videos that were developed in partnership with the distribution system operator ESB Networks.





## Measuring the effectiveness of our engagement and industry best practise

**Awareness metrics:** EirGrid uses a survey that measures public awareness of the role it plays in addressing the climate crisis as well as an understanding of who we are and what we do. This also monitors key questions such as attitudes to new infrastructure. This allows us to engage more meaningfully with the public when communicating the need for our grid infrastructure projects.

- In 2021 the survey evolved to a quarterly survey to ensure more accurate and reliable data
- Questions were included on the understanding of infrastructure and the attitudes towards its development
- The survey also includes a flexible element which allows testing of understanding of

key issues of the day which allows for more accurate and impactful communication from EirGrid

In 2021 a quarterly focus group was also established. This allows EirGrid to test public understanding of key messages and issues to ensure that we are communicating effectively. For example, the communication for Shaping Our Electricity Future was tested and tweaked to ensure that the public understanding of the consultation was high and that engagement would be facilitated as a result.

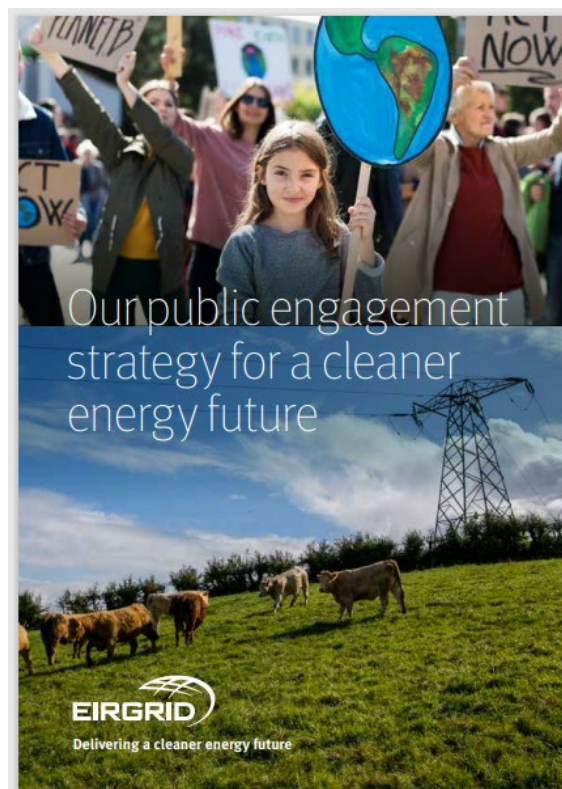
**Media Sentiment:** In 2021 EirGrid embedded quantitative and qualitative media metrics. A quarterly report tracks the number of media articles across regional and national press, print and broadcast and online. The sentiment of these articles is also tracked. This allows EirGrid to understand what forms of communication are having an impact and where.



EirGrid public engagement team meeting members of community groups as part of ongoing project engagement.

Again this allows us to identify areas or stakeholders that may require additional or different communication.

- **Increased project engagement metrics:** We have stepped up the capture of metrics associated with our engagement on grid infrastructure projects and will continue to track these going forward.
- As part of the media sentiment metrics, media sentiment towards key projects is now tracked.
- **Customer survey:** In February 2022, a survey was issued to 77 customers from 67 organisations to ask for feedback on their experience of engaging with EirGrid during 2021. The results of the survey will be used to inform and enhance our stakeholder engagement and drive customer service across various teams within EirGrid.
- There was a 36% response rate to our survey, with 32% of customers engaging with EirGrid at least monthly and 32% in contact with us at least weekly. Over 90% of customers rated their understanding of EirGrid in terms of its overall role and function as excellent or good.
- As an organisation, our customers were most satisfied with our trustworthiness, impartiality and fairness and credibility and technical competence, each scoring over 60%. The lowest satisfaction ratings provided were for driving out solutions for customers and understanding the commercial realities and challenges facing customers, both scoring under 40%.
- In terms of how satisfied customers are with EirGrid staff, professionalism (74%) and technical business expertise (65%) ranked the highest, while the accessibility of staff (44%) and the ability of staff to make decisions quickly (44%) ranked the lowest.



- Preferred channels of communication noted by the respondents are customer forums, events workshops and seminars, followed by personal contact, email, online meetings and webinars, publications, website and social media.
- The results of the customer survey have been analysed and shared with senior management, who are looking at ways to incorporate feedback to improve and enhance our stakeholder engagement and drive success across various teams within the business.
- The survey has provided us with valuable information, the two main themes for improvement include, resourcing and accessibility of staff, these are two areas we hope to improve this coming year.
- We are looking at ways to improve our engagement in 2022 and believe this annual survey is an important step on our pathway to measure the effectiveness of our engagement and inform the key focus areas in 2022 and future years.



### **EirGrid's National Advisory Committee (NAC)**

EirGrid recognises the need to obtain feedback on our work from a cross-section of Irish society and the economy as this informs our approach to engagement going forward. The NAC, which met twice in 2021, is comprised of external stakeholders from national groups. The NAC advises EirGrid in relation to several areas that are critical to the development of the grid. In particular, the NAC guides us on the need to mitigate the potential impact of our work on individuals and local communities. In 2021, the NAC played a key role in informing and analysing the major consultation that supported Shaping Our Electricity Future.

### **Enhancing our Engagement - our ongoing response to COVID-19**

The COVID-19 pandemic created an unprecedented and challenging backdrop to our stakeholder engagement throughout 2021.

As we entered the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, EirGrid continued to adapt and seek new ways of working. As a result of this challenge, we ensured that engagement with our customers and stakeholders was not compromised by using tools already available to us, including conference call facilities, phone and email and in parallel accelerating delivery of a robust online meeting platform to continue to engage with our customers and stakeholders throughout the year.

### **Virtual Exhibition Spaces**

Against a backdrop of continuing COVID-19 restrictions, EirGrid pioneered the use of a virtual open day. This online format allowed stakeholders to see information typically seen on project open days.

Site visitors entered a virtual room displaying project information posters. They could then walk through the room and get more detail by interacting with each poster.



The virtual exhibition space also allowed for stakeholders to register for webinars and submit their views – all in one place.

### **Operating the grid and market**

Engaging with and responding to our customers and industry stakeholder needs has been a priority for EirGrid during the pandemic. From the early stages, and into the second year of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we informed our customers on the comprehensive programme of preparedness we were operating to, with proportionate measures for the COVID-19 outbreak to ensure availability of critical staff to operate the power system and market and reassurance that contingency plans for a more widespread outbreak were in place.

We built on our initial response by putting in place regular calls with generators, including conventional and renewable generation and demand side units. These calls provided valuable two-way engagement with industry to resolve challenges being faced by both EirGrid and generators to provide continuous service, as well as other relevant system operations information such as system trials and capacity margins. They also provided the opportunity for generators to share information with each other.

Updates were provided to customers on the impact of restrictions on delivery of the annual Transmission Outage Programme via emails and conference calls as well as through the regular publications on our website.



## Business as usual

Across the organisation, we adapted quickly to the restrictions in place to ensure formal and informal engagement could continue with our stakeholders through the channels available with our new working arrangements.

## Delivering Infrastructure

The challenging public health context of the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on how EirGrid could engage on delivering infrastructure throughout 2021.

Our direct contact with communities, landowners and elected representatives were significantly affected. We could no longer safely hold open exhibition days, visit landowners or engage with the public in our mobile information unit.

As with every employer, the safety of our project stakeholders and staff was the immediate priority. But equally, it was also important to minimise the impact of the pandemic on the consultation experience and on our grid infrastructure projects' programmes.

However, this also gave us an opportunity to accelerate our innovation in the digital engagement space. We have sought new and innovative ways of engaging with our stakeholders while at the same time adhering to COVID-19 health guidelines.

## Lessons learned on engagement during COVID-19 in 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the process of adopting new technologies, learning by doing and adapting to the needs of our stakeholders. However, this provided additional experience and insight to inform our engagements.

This has resulted in what we consider a robust and future-proof strategy for public engagement and we believe we have demonstrated how this is possible with examples of the engagement we have undertaken on grid development projects and strategies this past year.



Deliberative Dialogue process as part of the Shaping Our Electricity Future consultation process'

## 5. Lead the island's electricity sector on sustainability and decarbonisation

### Shaping our Electricity Future

Shaping Our Electricity Future was one of the most extensive and comprehensive consultations in any sector over the last number of decades.

Running for fourteen weeks from March, it comprised a series of workshops, meetings and forums across the country to inform people and gather feedback on four distinct network development approaches to achieving our renewable ambition.

We held more than 100 events across Ireland, engaging with civil society organisations, communities, local businesses, industry, consumers, agricultural groups and young people. We also received more than 500 submissions as part of the consultation. We thank everyone who attended our events, collaborated with us and provided responses to our consultation.

There were 492 public responses and 80 industry responses from across Ireland.

We learned a lot both from the public stakeholders (academics, advocacy organisations, civil society and the general public) and from industry stakeholders (developers, investors, lobbyists and suppliers).

1

#### Generation-led

Put clean electricity generation close to where most power is used

2

#### Developer-led

Let developers decide where to locate clean electricity generation

3

#### Technology-led

Try new technological ways to move clean electricity across the country

4

#### Demand-led

Put large electricity users close to sources of clean electricity generation

## Consultation feedback:

### Benefits for regional and rural communities

- Rural communities need to share in any economic upturn due to plans to achieve renewable energy targets.

**Community ownership** - There was strong support for community ownership of wind farms and that communities should be supported in developing community-owned renewable projects.

**Keeping costs manageable** - Cost was a consistent concern raised by the public and industry.

**Microgeneration** - There was strong support from communities for microgeneration.

**Social acceptance** - The consultation clearly shows it is vital to achieving our renewable ambition targets.

## Summary of other public feedback

- Environment and ecology – there is concern about how the outcome could affect the landscape and the raw materials used in developing renewables.
- Landowner concerns – landowner rights must be recognised and protected.
- New technology and future-proofing – the grid must work beyond 2030.
- Offshore wind generation – many people preferred offshore wind generation as they felt the environmental and visual impact would be lower.
- Onshore electricity generation – wind energy is accepted as a solution, but people would prefer onshore solar generation.



- Public engagement processes – there must be meaningful engagement and consultation by all stakeholders involved in implementing this plan with the public, communities and landowners.
- Role of EirGrid – there is a lack of understanding of the role EirGrid plays in relation to the electricity grid and markets.
- Security of supply – energy supply must be maintained despite the infrastructural and other changes needed to reach the targets.

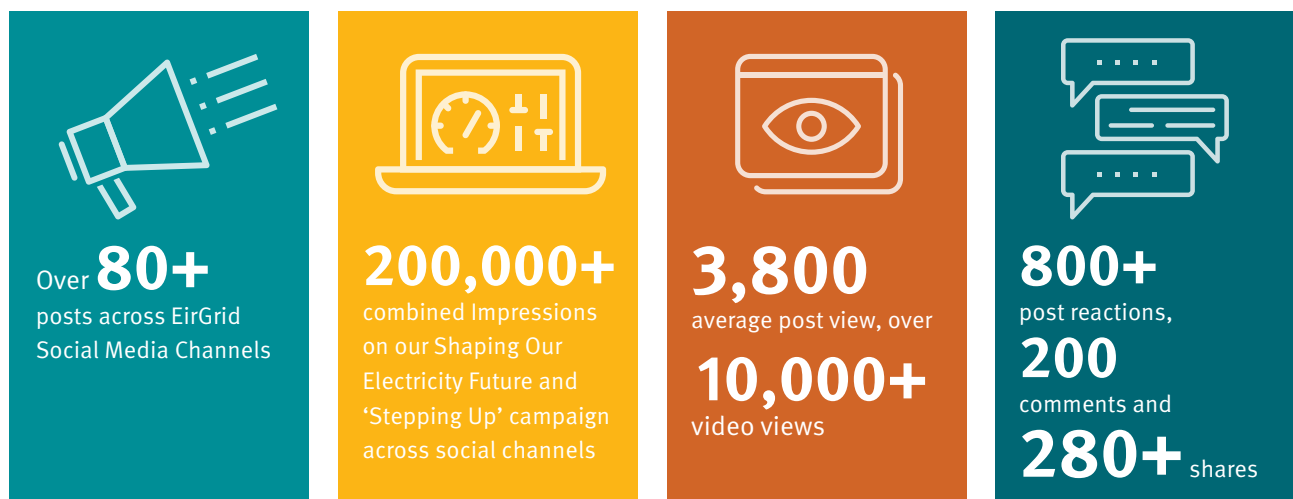


# Consultation and Engagement



- Relatively high level of both public and industry responses (usually, responses to strategic consultations are very low).
- Fewer responses from opposition campaigns (often, these would be more than 80% of responses).
- Deep interest by the public in the future of the electricity system and a desire to play an active role in the transition to a low-carbon system.
- Increased understanding of EirGrid's role and willingness to trust us.
- Support from public and industry for our open, transparent consultation approach.

# Social and Digital Engagement



## How are we responding to what the public said?

We looked closely at all of the consultation feedback and considered all the responses. We used this feedback to influence the modelling used to determine our approach. This helped us determine:

- Where the grid will be strong and weak.
- What type of electricity generation we can expect.
- What new electricity infrastructure projects we will need.

This work culminated in the launch in November of the “[Shaping Our Electricity Future](#)” roadmap, a blueprint for radically transforming the country’s electricity grid.

It provides an outline of the key developments needed from a networks, engagement, operations and market perspective to support

a secure transition to meet the government's climate action targets.

### Summary of Industry Feedback

Throughout the industry stakeholder engagement process, participants discussed and provided feedback on a wide range of subjects related to how best to achieve the Renewable Ambition while maintaining a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of electricity. The content and quality of the feedback was high and provided a variety of insights, suggestions and recommendations to support the Shaping Our Electricity Future roadmap.

The consultation generated feedback from over 70 different electricity industry stakeholders and the diversity of responses ranged from regional development groups, renewable developers, energy and business associations, energy storage providers and energy citizens. Our review of the feedback identified several



Environment Minister Eamon Ryan, EirGrid chief executive Mark Foley, and EirGrid chief innovation and planning officer Liam Ryan unveiling the Shaping Our Electricity Future roadmap at Cop26.

key themes that we correlated and applied to the underlying assumptions and modelling inputs. The key themes were grouped under the following headings:

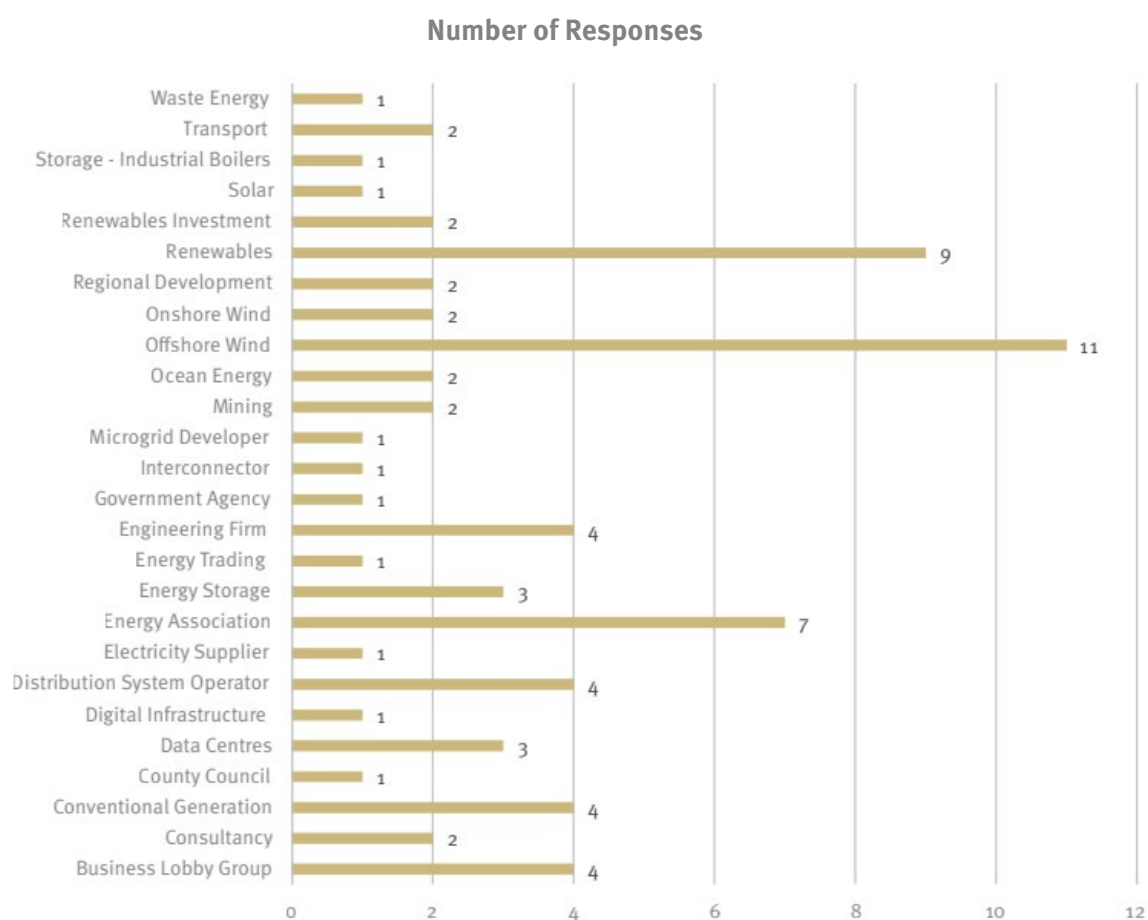
- Broad feedback – commentary that relates to networks, markets, and operations
- Transmission Networks – feedback that relates specifically to networks
- Power System Operations – feedback that relates specifically to enhancement of power system operations processes and tools
- Electricity Markets – feedback that relates specifically to market enhancements

### Responder types

The diversity of responses ranged from regional development groups, renewable developers, energy and business associations and energy storage providers. Figure 4.1 provides a breakdown of all the types of responders.

## What did we conclude from the public responses to the consultation?

From the public point of view, no one approach achieved complete support. Overall, the feedback from the public showed that there is a lot of support for a low-carbon future and a clear understanding that real action must be taken to address climate change. There was also clear support for a blend of the Generation-led and Demand-led approaches.



**Breakdown of consultation responses by responder type**



## Energy Policy and Thought Leadership

In 2021, the increased climate ambition for the State and the initial milestone of a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 was enshrined in law through the enactment of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

In addition, The Government developed and published the Climate Action Plan 2021 (CAP 2021) with an accompanying detailed annex of actions including an increased target of up to 80% renewable electricity by 2030 and a reduction in the GHG emissions from the electricity sector to 2-4Mt in the same timeframe. In addition the draft economy wide carbon budgets published by the Climate Change Advisory Council outlined the breadth and depth of change required.

A decarbonised electricity system will be fundamental to the delivery of this ambition and EirGrid has engaged with the Department in the development of CAP 2021.

As lead owners of 13 actions and key stakeholders on 31 actions (in total representing 48% of the actions in the electricity section) under the CAP 2021, EirGrid is dedicated to promoting and enabling initiatives and developments that influence and encourage advancements in energy policy and related thought leadership.

In addition we have continued to engage in policy formation and use key industry platforms, forums and consultations to advance our consideration and input to policy and regulation. We look forward to continued engagement across 2022 including in the formation of the sectoral emissions ceilings. This approach has been ingrained in our group values and is demonstrated in the 2021 achievements.

## Offshore Wind

There has been significant progress made during the year to advance the development of offshore wind in Ireland. EirGrid recognises the key role that offshore wind will play in meeting Ireland's energy needs in the next decade and beyond and we are keen to play our part in supporting the Government's ambition.

In late 2020 EirGrid began engaging with developers of the Phase 1 offshore generation projects in response to direction from the CRU. Applications for connecting to the transmission system were made for up to 4.5GW; 4.1GW of which was located on the east coast and a further 400MW on the west coast.

Following extensive analysis of the transmission system a detailed report was prepared for the CRU with details of the onshore reinforcements arising from these applications.

The Offshore Phase 1 project Grid Connection Assessment was issued to the CRU in March 2021. The report studied different options for connecting wind along the east coast and found that planned system requirements already progressing through the grid development framework significantly facilitate the connection of this generation, thus minimising the need for additional new infrastructure.



The scale of the works planned for the Dublin area over the next decade in particular is considerable and EirGrid has been working closely with ESB Networks on planning the delivery of these works to fully realise the opportunity that these large-scale generation projects bring.

In May 2021, following a Government decision, it was announced that EirGrid would be appointed as the transmission system operator and asset owner of Ireland's offshore transmission grid.

The Government policy on the Framework for Ireland's Offshore Electricity System provided for a phased transition from a decentralised offshore transmission system model to a centralised model through a series of offshore wind specific RESS auctions.

EirGrid is fully committed to effecting the phased transition as envisaged in the Government's policy statement and whilst there is a particular focus on the successful delivery of the Phase 1 projects, it is crucial that our actions and decisions support the transition to a plan-led approach for offshore grid delivery. We are working closely with the Government and the CRU, to support them in the development of both the legislative and regulatory frameworks required.

EirGrid is also working closely with the Phase 1 developers, Wind Energy Ireland and other stakeholders on the technical and commercial aspects of grid connections.

A series of workshops were held with Phase 1 developers during 2021 and an engagement plan has been established to work collaboratively with developers and industry representative bodies.

## RESS

The Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) is a Government of Ireland initiative that provides support to renewable electricity projects in Ireland. RESS is a pivotal component of the Programme for Government and the Climate Action Plan 2021.

Support under RESS is allocated by way of auctions. RESS auctions will be delivered by Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) with the support of Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) and EirGrid.



With a primary focus on cost effectiveness, the RESS delivers a broader range of policy objectives, including:

- providing an enabling framework for community participation through the provision of pathways and supports for communities to participate in renewable energy projects
- increasing technology diversity by broadening the renewable electricity technology mix
- delivering an ambitious renewable electricity policy to 2030.
- increasing energy security, energy sustainability and ensuring the cost effectiveness of energy policy

## RESS 2 onshore

During 2021 there was further engagement for the next RESS onshore auction (RESS2) with DECC, CRU and interested industry parties through workshops and consultation. This culminated in DECC publishing the terms and conditions for the second competition under the RESS2 on its website. Please follow this [link](#) which will redirect you to the DECC website.

EirGrid developed a new Qualification Platform portal during 2021 to support potential participants. This will enable participants to upload their qualification documentation and act as a communication tool for participants.

A number of key guidance documents were also developed and updated from RESS1 to support the participants, which are listed below.

- RESS 2 Auction Timetable  
Please find at [this link](#) the approved RESS 2 Auction Timetable by the Minister.
- RESS 2 Qualification Information Pack.  
Please find at [this link](#) the RESS 2 Qualification Information Pack.
- RESS 2 Frequently Asked Questions  
Please find at [this link](#) the RESS 2 FAQ document.
- RESS Auction Platform User Guide  
Please find at [this link](#) the RESS Auction Platform User Guide.
- RESS Authorised User Form  
Please find at [this link](#) the RESS Authorised User Form.



### Influencing and contributing on a European and global scale

Established in 1921 in Paris, CIGRE is a global community committed to the collaborative development and sharing of power system expertise. The community features thousands of professionals from over 90 countries and 1250 member organisations, including some of the world's leading experts.

Over the last 100 years the works of CIGRE has contributed to many of the key technical cornerstones of the modern power system. Every year CIGRE celebrates individuals within its member base that have made a strong contribution.

We were delighted when one of our own engineers, Marta Val Escudero, was recognised by having two awards bestowed upon her at the Virtual Centennial Session: the "Women in Energy Award", recognising the outstanding contributions of WiE members to CIGRE activities; and the "CIGRE Pioneer e-session Achievement Awards", recognising outstanding contribution to the work of Study Committees.



## European engagements

Despite the travel restrictions that were in place for a significant amount of 2021, EirGrid continued to pivot to significant virtual engagement at EU level. EirGrid representatives worked extensively with ENTSO-E on the development and implementation of Irish and European policy. A key advance in EirGrid's activity at EU level was the election of EirGrid Chief Innovation and Planning Officer Liam Ryan to Vice-Chair of the ENTSO-E Board in September. EirGrid also continued the strong relationship it has with Irish members of the EU Parliament, with particular focus on the Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) Committee. EirGrid also continued to play an active role in the Renewable Grid Initiative, based in Berlin, and focused on developed fair, transparent and sustainable grid development.

EirGrid also increased its participation in the North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC), along with DECC, other Ministry and TSOs. The EU Commission also played a key role. In October, EirGrid Chief Infrastructure Officer Michael Mahon was invited to speak at the NSEC Ministerial Conference in Ostend hosted by the Belgian Energy Ministry.

In June and July, representatives from EirGrid gave separate high-level briefings to representatives from the EU Commission, from ENTSO-E, and from the International Energy Agency (IEA) on the engagement tools utilised to engage citizens for Shaping Our Electricity Future. Engagement is ongoing with those organisations to learn from our experience of bringing deliberative dialogue to the centre of grid development strategies. In advance of COP26, the IEA highlighted the work of EirGrid as international good practice in a key report – 'Recommendations of the Global Commission on People-Centred Clean Energy Transitions'. In the report, the IEA stated: "*EirGrid, the state-owned transmission operator in Ireland, recently undertook an intensive process of community consultations, with an emphasis on youth participation, to build understanding of the need for new infrastructure and to better understand community concerns.*"

### Recommendation 10 – Recommendations of the Global Commission on People-Centred Clean Energy Transitions – Analysis - IEA

In 2021, EirGrid continued to show technical leadership at EU level, through the EU-SysFlex project. Engagement with the EU Commission was very positive and the learnings from the project are of key interest to DG ENER (The Directorate-General for Energy) officials looking at how best to develop a sustainable grid and electricity system for Europe into the next decade and beyond.

## Sustainability

### Responsible Business

EirGrid's primary goal to lead the island's electricity sector on sustainability and decarbonisation and places sustainability at its core. We also have an internal goal to embed sustainability across all areas of the business.

In 2021 we embarked on a programme to renew our approach to sustainability with the development of a Sustainability Strategy for the business.

Sustainability is a very broad concept and we needed to develop the most impactful and material approach for the business in defining what sustainability means to EirGrid.

To ensure that the perspectives of internal and external stakeholders were incorporated in terms of what should be material, we conducted a materiality assessment during 2021. In doing so we compiled a survey of a broad range of sustainability topics and asked our internal and external stakeholders to share their perspectives. This exercise has provided a rich insight into the role EirGrid should play and has informed the development of our strategy.

As an external verification of our sustainability activities, EirGrid continues to hold the Business Working Responsibly Mark. The Business Working Responsibly Mark, awarded by Business in the Community Ireland and audited by the National Standards Authority of Ireland, is the leading independently audited standard for CSR and sustainability certification in Ireland. The mark provides a root to branch review of the organisation and assesses and certifies our CSR and sustainability management system across five pillars: Governance, Workplace, Marketplace, Environment and Community. We will be undertaking the recertification process in 2022.



## Environmental - Lead the island's electricity sector on sustainability and decarbonisation

EirGrid continued to co-chair the Business in the Community Ireland 'Low Carbon Economy' Leaders Group and to encourage more businesses to sign the Low Carbon pledge.

The original Low Carbon Pledge, which has been included in the Climate Action Plan, committed signatories to reducing their Scope 1 (direct) and Scope 2 (emissions from purchased electricity, heating and cooling) greenhouse gas emissions intensity by 51% by 2030. In 2021 we played a key role in raising the ambition of the pledge which now commits signatories to setting science-based carbon emissions reduction targets by 2024, which must include their entire carbon footprint (Scope 1, 2 & 3) and be in line with the Paris Agreement and the latest IPCC findings.

In order to advance our leadership in this area in line with our primary goal, we have completed an assessment of our baseline emissions across Scope 1, 2 and 3 in 2021. We have calculated Science Based Targets for the organisation focused on 2030 and have submitted this to the Science Based Target initiative (SBTi) for validation. We are currently engaging with SBTi as part of the validation process and will be in a position to communicate our science-based targets along with our Sustainability Strategy in 2022.

## What are Science Based Targets?

Science-based targets provide a clearly defined pathway for companies to reduce GHG emissions.

Targets are considered 'science-based' if they are in line with what the latest science deems necessary to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement - limiting global warming to well-below 2c above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5c.

Under the GHG Protocol, emissions are divided into direct ('Scope 1') and indirect ('Scope 2 / 3') emissions. Direct emissions originate from sources owned or controlled by the reporting entity. Indirect emissions are generated as a result of the reporting entity's activities but occur at sources owned or controlled by another entity.

### Scope 1

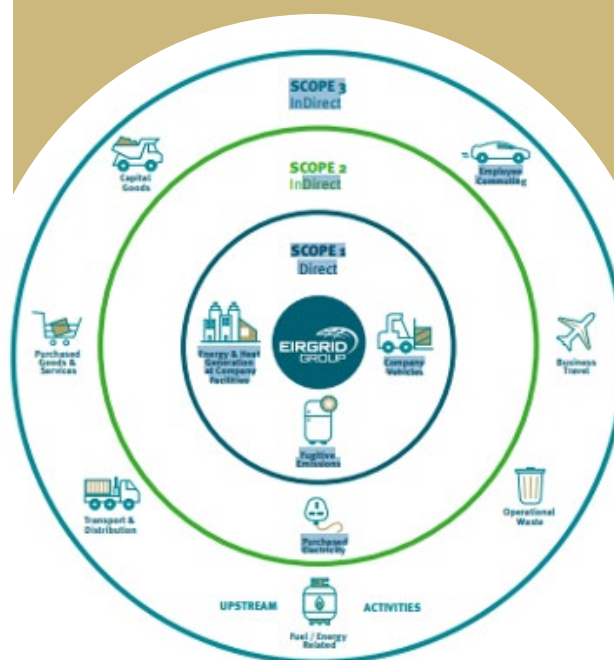
Refers to direct emissions from owned or controlled sources;

### Scope 2

Relates to emissions from purchased electricity, heating and cooling; and

### Scope 3

Refers to indirect emissions upstream and downstream across the supply chain, and activities such as employee commuting and business travel.





## Corporate Social Responsibility

Removing barriers to education is a core focus of EirGrid's community investment strategy. EirGrid continued its work with Margaret Aylward Community College through Business in the Community Ireland. EirGrid volunteers, who are part of the graduate programme, mentored sixth year students.

In addition, EirGrid has supported the DCU Access Programme since 2017. The DCU Access Programme provides financial support to socio-economically disadvantaged students to enable them to pursue a college education.

Finally, in Science Week 2021 we also initiated our partnership with SciFest. SciFest@School is a second-level programme promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) education by providing a forum for students to present and display their scientific investigations.

In 2021, schools around the country participated in the qualifying rounds and were awarded prizes with overall winners being shortlisted for the 'EirGrid Climate and Delivering a Cleaner Energy Future Award'.

Our partnership with SciFest offers not only the opportunity to promote greater participation in STEM subjects but also to support young people to develop these skills and showcase their innovation and creativity in addressing an existential challenge like climate change.



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

### Delivering grid infrastructure

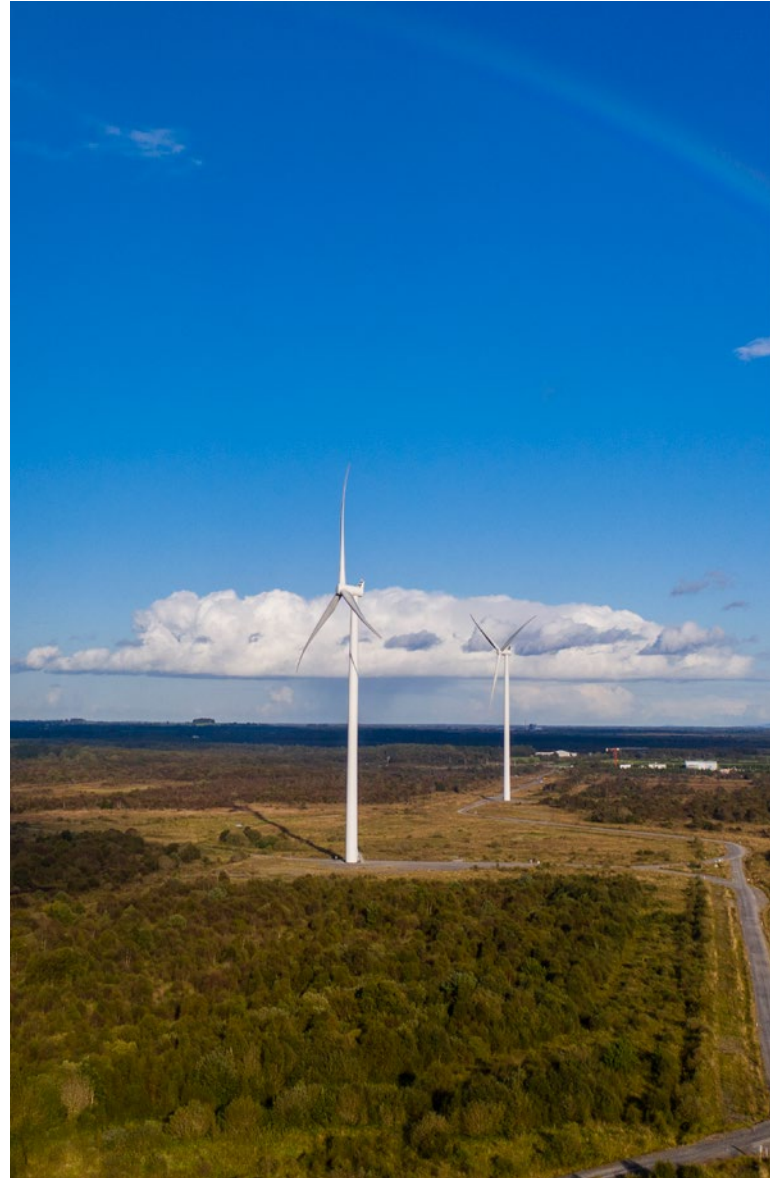
Asking landowners and local communities to accept new infrastructure has never been an easy task.

Our grid development projects will affect multiple communities and stakeholder groups over a number of years. We never take decisions requiring new infrastructure lightly, or without first investigating all alternative solutions.

Where new infrastructure is essential, we need to inform and persuade landowners and communities. Incorporating public feedback is critical to the delivery of energy infrastructure. It allows EirGrid to make better and more informed decisions.

It is critical that we make consistent efforts to facilitate effective stakeholder participation in decision-making as these projects develop.

This will allow us to answer queries, address concerns and build understanding and support for these projects. We will also learn how the project may affect host communities which will inform what we do to address this.



In our 2021 Stakeholder Engagement Plan, we outlined our intention to engage on a range of projects:

1. CP966 Kildare - Meath Grid Upgrade;
2. CP0816 North Connacht 110kV Project;
3. CP0967, CP0968, CP0969 Series Compensation Dunstown Moneypoint 400kV line at Moneypoint, Dunstown and Oldstreet;
4. Celtic Interconnector;
5. CP0466 North South 400kV Interconnector Project;
6. CP0585 Laois-Kilkenny Reinforcement Project;
7. Clashavoon-Dunmanway
8. Other Project Engagements:
  - CP1111 - Cahir and Connected Stations 110kV Protection Upgrade
  - CP0866 Great Island - Kellis 220kV OHL refurb
  - CP1021 East Meath to North Dublin Reinforcement
  - Cross Shannon 400kV Cable

An overview of our engagement approach, impact and lessons learned on our projects is set out below. Further information on the engagement on each specific project is provided in Appendix I.

## Engagement Approach

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. It ensures we are identifying stakeholders and giving them an opportunity to shape the proposals as early as possible. 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.

The level of stakeholder engagement is dependent on the type of project, as technical projects such as the Cross-Shannon

400kV cable have a limited number of impacted stakeholders. Large infrastructure projects such as CP966 Kildare – Meath Grid Upgrade, North Connacht and Celtic Interconnector involve a much wider range of stakeholders with larger numbers of landowners and communities affected by the development. Our approach to the engagement is tailored to suit the particular project.

As highlighted in *Responding to COVID-19*, the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on how EirGrid could engage during 2021 on our projects, with all in person engagement with communities, landowners and elected representatives directly affected. We deployed technical solutions, trained our liaison, communication, engagement and project management teams and then trialled solutions including webinars, digital workshops, virtual exhibitions and micro-sites.

We recommenced face-to-face engagement during the second half of 2021. Our virtual engagement was complemented by a bespoke media campaign for each project covering information and notifications provided via multiple channels. This included advertising in local and national press, letters to landowners and statutory bodies, emails to stakeholders, social media announcements and discussions on public radio with the approach refined for each project. Stakeholders were invited to provide feedback in multiple formats including feedback forms online, email or letter. They could also engage directly with a dedicated Community Liaison Officer.

In addition to our engagement with affected stakeholders as part of the six step process on specific grid development projects, throughout 2021 we also continued to



engage with customers and industry around the delivery of grid infrastructure. This included updates on Associated Transmission Reinforcements as well as engagement through calls and webinars on specific regions and projects, such as North Connacht.

## Impact of Engagement

- While our engagement across all projects was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the flexibility to adjust our engagement approach for when engagement could start again resulted in effective engagement across all projects where engagement took place.
- Our revised approaches ensured that the appropriate level of information could reach our project stakeholders in good time while we diligently monitored and followed public health restrictions.

## Learnings

Learnings from individual infrastructure projects are reviewed and incorporated to improve our engagement on subsequent infrastructure projects to ensure the benefits of learnings identified are realised in future engagement. A complete set of learnings from our grid development engagement over 2021 is included in Appendix I following the individual project updates.

The role of consultation in infrastructure development is evolving and requires continual focus and development. Building on successes achieved through consultation is key to the evolution of consultation. These include, for example, nurturing community relationships and understanding community ambitions. We will be addressing this continued need for focus and development through the implementation of our Public Engagement strategy in 2022.

Enhancing the representation of all stakeholders in our consultations remained a key focus for EirGrid over 2021. This broad range of perspectives and feedback, in particular relating to local knowledge on grid infrastructure projects, has resulted in a more well-rounded and balanced approach to our project development and delivery. This was particularly evident in the Celtic Interconnector project and the associated site selection and development - more information in Appendix 1.

The consistent and proactive engagement and project communication resulted in a partnership approach which provided benefits to all. Engaging with our stakeholders during the consultation period allowed us to nurture our community relationships, contribute to the communities that we are working in and deliver on our strategic initiatives.

## Asset management

EirGrid has an asset management and maintenance role and is responsible for setting maintenance policy and standards. This covers 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 either refurbish or replace assets. As part of Price Review 5 Electricity Networks (PR5), an asset refurbishment plan was submitted to the CRU which covers the period

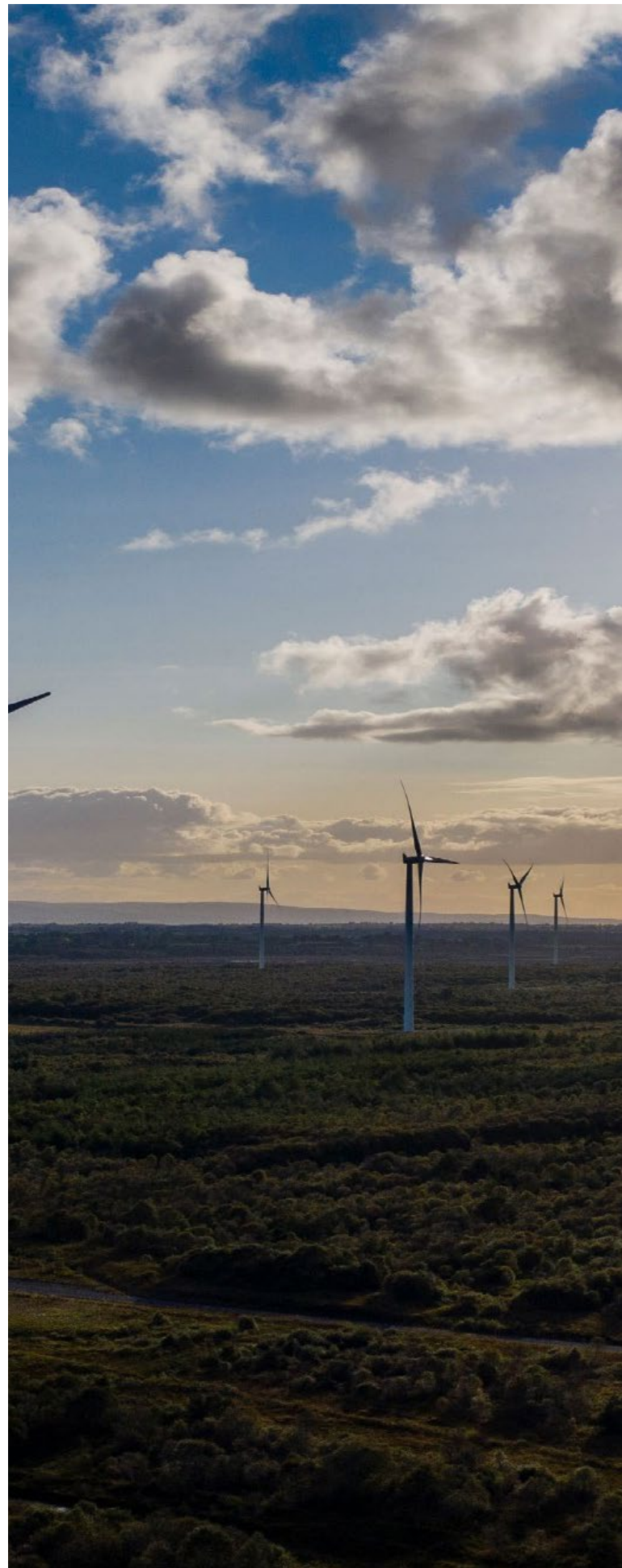
2021 to 2025. Stakeholder engagement was carried out during 2021 on these asset refurbishment and replacement projects.

### In 2021, we:

- progressed 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
- progressed our plan to replace 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.
- progressed asset management projects through the relevant steps of the grid development framework and obtained the necessary approvals to progress to the next framework step; and
- assessed the various technical options available and selected the best performing option for specific budget approval, influenced by feedback from stakeholder engagement conducted prior to and during 2021.

Engagement with customers on asset management activities including planned and forced maintenance and repairs.

To ensure safe, secure and reliable power and market system operation and development, we engaged 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 continued 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 forums, publications and workshops on a range of topics including:

- generator and transmission outages, including outturn availability reporting and forums;
- 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.

*During the year, success was measured through:*

- satisfactory outcomes to quantitative assessment through key performance indicators;
- customer feedback gathered through individual formal and informal engagements which provided qualitative assessment.

Note: EirGrid TSO contributes to a number of the market engagements such as Market Operator User Groups (MOUGs) and Market Operator Specialist Topics (MOSTs).

We recognise the importance of continuing to engage with other TSOs where knowledge sharing is facilitated. Customers have welcomed increased engagement to share more knowledge on asset and operational related matters during 2021 which we will look to continue.



## Operating the grid and market

Our engagement on the 2021 Transmission Outage Programme and on generation outages continued throughout 2021 through the normal channels of one to one engagement with customers affected by outages as well as regular updates on our website.

A range of topics relevant to our customers and industry were presented at the Outturn Availability Forum in March 2021, including transmission outages, EDIL declaration codes, system states and new control centre tools. We published information on the wind dispatch tool constraint groups and issued communications to our customers and industry on forced outages and other outages on the transmission system that may result in increased constraints during higher wind conditions.

Over the course of 2021 we also continued significant engagement on generator testing and grid code compliance with our customers to support delivery of energy and system services. We engaged directly with our customers to support delivery and over the year 170 System Services reports were approved across three System Services Gates, 25 dispatch tests were carried out and reports issued and 47 signal lists issued. Operational Certs were issued to 10 new units as well as to 13 DSUs changing capacity.



## Engagement on EU Network Codes and Clean Energy Package

During 2021, EirGrid continued to engage on the implementation of EU Network Codes and the Clean Energy Package. This work involves significant collaboration between CRU, UR, ESBN, NIEN, SONI and EirGrid, with regular meetings, as well as detailed engagement on individual topics and items. We worked closely with the regulatory authorities to ensure a collaborative approach to consultation and programme management using shared project management tools.

This was complemented by engagement with customers and industry to provide updates, discuss and formally consult. In July 2021, a workshop on the implementation of Article 12 and 13 of the Clean Energy Package took place. In April 2021 we hosted an online All-island Network Code Stakeholder Forum. This forum, along with providing a broad overview of the Network Codes, focussed in particular on presenting in detail on the Network Code consultations that were taking place concurrently. It was noted that the attendance and interaction at this online event was much higher than previous such in-person events. In addition to continuing to build on previously identified learning of on the importance of engaging frequently on detailed topics, going forward, consideration will be applied to hosting future such events in hybrid form.





## 7. Work with partners for positive change

### Supporting and connecting our customers

In 2021, we continued to focus on delivering and enhancing our support to existing and prospective customers, as well as industry stakeholders, in relation to a wide spectrum of electricity industry issues. The publication 'Engage with Us - A Guide for Customers and Industry Stakeholders' provides further clarity for our customers and industry stakeholders. Our customer account managers are each customer's primary point of contact within EirGrid. They ensure continued support for their customers and address queries and issues as they arise throughout the year.

Early and consistent engagement with developers during the connection process is something EirGrid recognises as essential and is continuously working to improve. Throughout 2021 we hosted 68 customer clinics with potential customers to discuss future generation and demand connections with our subject matter experts in their consideration of future projects ahead of submission of connection applications.

The latest policy for connecting generators, ECP-2, focuses on connecting 'shovel ready' projects that have already achieved planning permission, and prioritises those projects with the largest renewables output. The decision paper on [ECP-2](#) sets out a process for engagement with customers who have qualified for a connection offer under the policy.

EirGrid works closely with both the CRU and DSO in implementing ECP 2. In 2021, TSO/DSO meetings took place every fortnight and engagements with CRU were also frequent. In addition, EirGrid engaged with each of the 31 project applicants seeking a TSO offer through the connection policy, working closely with them to agree their method of connection to the system and to manage any challenges that arose in preparing their connection agreement. This collaborative process provided for the efficient and effective delivery of transmission offers through ECP-2.1, with all TSO connection offers being delivered in advance of the incentivised deadline.

The connection of data centres was a challenging space in 2021, and required a high level of stakeholder engagement. EirGrid engaged with both the CRU and DECC to discuss concerns on the potential impact of data centres on security of supply, and we wrote specifically to CRU on this topic. This letter formed part of a [CRU consultation](#) on this matter. We also engaged regularly with our data centre customers on an individual basis outlining our concerns and the challenges we faced in progressing their application.

Data centre connection was challenging in 2021. Significant stakeholder engagement took place with CRU, DECC and data centre applicants to chart a way forward with a security of supply backdrop. CRU held a public consultation on the matter (CRU/21/060) over June and July 2021. On 23rd November 2021, the CRU published

#### Step 1

How do we identify needs of the electricity grid?

#### Step 2

What technologies can meet these needs?

#### Step 3

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

#### Step 4

Where exactly should we build?

#### Step 5

Apply for planning permission.

#### Step 6

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



its decision (CRU/21/124) which included a direction to the system operators (EirGrid & ESB Networks) regarding data centres and grid connections processing. In this direction, the CRU set out the criteria to be applied by the system operators in assessing existing and future data centre applications.

Following this publication, EirGrid hosted a webinar on 17th December 2021 with the data centre industry to clarify as a matter of priority EirGrid's interpretation of the CRU Decision and how we intended to proceed with all data centre applications. We also provided information that would provide greater clarity to existing or potential future data centres applicants on what they would need to do to meet the CRU requirements as set out in CRU/21/124. Over 100 stakeholders attended the webinar which included a presentation from EirGrid followed by a substantial Q&A session. One to one engagements have taken place with all existing data centre applicants since and customer clinics with potential future data centre applicants.

## 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 is a key stakeholder relationship. EirGrid engaged with the CRU on a regular basis in 2021 regarding issues such as market operation and development, transmission system operation, connection policy, tariffing, security of supply. In 2021, EirGrid also engaged with CRU on matters such as facilitation of interconnection, PR5 implementation and offshore policy.

## ESB Networks – Transmission Asset Owner and Distribution System Operator

ESB Networks, as transmission asset owner (TAO), owns and builds grid transmission assets. 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, as distribution system operator (DSO), operates the electricity distribution system in Ireland.

We both have equally challenging goals to achieve climate action targets and key to achieving these is partnership and collaboration.

*In 2021 we collaborated closely 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;
- initiatives and programmes such as DS3 to address local and system challenges as the system becomes more diverse as we connect and implement a wider array of technologies;
- jointly developing and implementing optimal grid delivery process improvements (many of which we have already trialled on existing projects) and further enhancing collaboration and cooperation to the benefit of all our customers and Ireland's consumers; and
- collaboration of DSO and TSO to ensure security of supply is maintained and to address customer needs as required.

Success of our partnership can be measured through our performance and associated joint incentives in PR5 around the delivery of our programme for grid delivery, including new connections, asset management and the safe secure reliable operation of the transmission system.

This work, starting in 2021, saw even closer cooperation between EirGrid and ESB Networks, as TAO, leading to increased project delivery output and joint process improvements. Proposed assessment and metrics for our joint incentives for 2021 to 2025 were detailed in our PR5 submission.

There was on track implementation of a programme of work developed jointly between EirGrid and ESB Networks, as the DSO, which focused on the changes required to operational policies and tools and markets, as well as the enablement of new technologies, to meet 2030 renewable targets.



## Academia

EirGrid actively supports research projects and collaborates and partners with academia and research experts, both on the island of Ireland and internationally.

In 2021, MaERI, the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine in Cork, began work on a three-year project, “Public Engagement with Energy Transitions in an era of Climate Crisis”.

The project entails an impartial analysis of EirGrid’s evolving public engagement processes, based on a mapping of actors, and a framework to codify different elements of existing strategies.

This approach will simultaneously offer guidance and suggestions throughout the consultation and engagement process lifecycle, seeking to improve both engagement processes and outcomes.

This includes the completion of a comparative case study in Ireland and France, drawing insights from the Celtic Interconnector Project and an exploration of the community benefit funding programme, which presents promising opportunities for communities to build and enhance their lead role as change agents at local level.

Complementing this analysis, the project will also investigate innovative deliberative democracy instruments and processes with specific attention to aspects involved in promoting well-informed, equal and inclusive interactions that enhance energy citizenship.

EirGrid also has a long tradition of supporting research in universities by hosting undergraduate students and supporting final year projects and by collaborating with masters and PhD level research. In addition, EirGrid routinely provides letters of support for senior researchers for their funding applications.

We also have a long-standing involvement with UCD, primarily with the Energy Institute.

Additionally, over 2021 EirGrid continued to provide information and data upon request to PhD students and researchers. EirGrid also contributes to large research projects (such as MIGRATE, PROMOTION) and has representation on Advisory Committees for academia-led consortium projects and research groups (such as CREDENCE, MaERI, ESRI Energy Policy Research Centre).

EirGrid also led the EU-SysFlex Project throughout 2021, which had a large consortium of academic and industry partners.





## 8. Appendix I: Grid Development Projects

An overview of our consistent six step engagement approach for developing grid infrastructure projects is set out in *Delivering Grid Infrastructure*, where we also provide information on future improvement.

In this appendix, we set out further information on the grid development projects that were identified in the 2021 Stakeholder Engagement Plan. We outlined that we would engage on the following projects:

1. CP966 Kildare - Meath Grid Upgrade;
2. CP0816 North Connacht 110kV Project;
3. CP0967, CP0968, CP0969 Series Compensation Dunstown Moneypoint 400kV line at Moneypoint, Dunstown and Oldstreet;
4. Celtic Interconnector;
5. CP0466 North South 400kV Interconnector Project;
6. CP0585 Laois-Kilkenny Reinforcement Project;
7. Clashavoon-Dunmanway
8. Other Project Engagements:
  - CP1111 - Cahir and Connected Stations 110kV Protection Upgrade
  - CP0866 Great Island - Kellis 220kV OHL refurb
  - CP1021 East Meath to North Dublin Reinforcement
  - Cross Shannon 400kV Cable

We have also captured the learnings from our engagement on grid development projects following descriptions of individual project engagements. These lessons learned are shared to ensure the benefits identified are realised in future engagement.

### 1. Kildare Meath (Capital Project 966)

The Kildare-Meath Grid Upgrade will add a high-capacity electricity connection between Dunstown substation in Kildare and Woodland substation in Meath. The upgrade will help to more effectively transfer power to the east of the country and distribute it within the electricity network in Meath, Kildare and surrounding counties. The project is essential to meet the Government of Ireland's Climate Action Plan targets. This includes transporting electricity from offshore renewable sources. 2021 saw the Kildare-Meath Grid Upgrade project progress through two key milestones:

1: Outcome delivery of the Step 3 consultation (Oct to Dec 2020) which posed the question 'What's the best option and what area may be affected'? The best performing option announced from the shortlist of overhead and underground technologies was a single 400kV underground cable.

2: Delivery of the Step 4 consultation (Aug to Nov 2021) on four underground cable route options, to determine where exactly this project should be built, based on our six-step approach to developing the electricity grid.

### Engagement approach

- Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions in April 2021, the outcome to Step 3 'What's the best option and what area may be affected', was announced through both traditional and digital media channels, to ensure maximum reach of this message within the study area.
- All announcement communications in press, radio and social media directed stakeholders to the EirGrid website to read associated materials about

this Step 3 announcement including; Best Performing Option Report, Public Consultation Report, Spring Update Brochure and more.

- The Step 4 12-week Public Consultation invited stakeholders to give feedback on the four route options for the 400kV underground cable technology within the revised study area via a range of channels both traditional and digital. We deployed a bespoke consultation portal online to gather both detailed submissions and simple survey feedback about the project.
- Stakeholders could also engage with the team via a dedicated email address and phone number, attend an online webinar, return the freepost questionnaire which was sent to circa 50,000 households in the study area, or meet a member of the team at one of nine open day events held out-doors along the study area, as permitted by Covid-19 rules at the time.
- For continuity and to maximise recall for stakeholders, a robust advertising and engagement campaign was actioned, with the existing “Upgrading Lines, Upgrading Lives” tagline on all materials. Over a 14-week period this project had a presence in local press, radio, digital and hyperlocal channels, such as local credit unions and GAA pitches, ensuring the messaging filtered to the grass roots along the study area.
- The consultation was briefed to all key stakeholder in the study area including the Community Forum, Public Participation Networks, Local Authorities and Chambers of Commerce, along with ongoing community and landowner engagement.



## Impact of Engagement:

- The public consultation and in-depth engagements provided valuable insights into the views and opinions of stakeholders and their support or concerns about the four potential route options.
- All respondents to the consultation were welcoming of the opportunity to have their say, and most expressed their understanding of the need for the project.
- Overall, the consultation gave EirGrid detailed feedback about the support, the concerns and the suggestions to be considered across all four routes proposed.
- Through the provision of a set of guidelines called routing principles, stakeholders expressed positive feedback about having a deeper understanding around how we plan out routes.
- The setting up of and engagement with the Kildare Meath Grid Upgrade Community Forum allowed this project to gain a deeper level of understanding of challenges and feedback from within different community groups in the study area.

## 2. North-Connacht 110kV Project (Capital Project 0816)

The North Connacht 110kV Project is a 110kV transmission circuit linking the substations at Moy in Co. Mayo and Tonroe in Co. Roscommon.

The Step 4 consultation aimed to identify the best performing technology option and route corridor.

### Engagement approach

- In February 2021, we published three documents:
- Step 4 Consultation Report – which collated all the themes, opinions, queries raised during the twelve-week consultation;
- A Project Update document – which sought to address commonly asked queries and concerns were raised on several themes from landscape and visual impact through to cultural heritage and future development;
- A revised FAQ document – an update to address the most commonly asked questions during the consultation.
- In March 2021 we issued a Spring Update, this followed feedback from a consultation period and following further technical, economic, environmental and socio-economic studies. This update identified Option 2 as the Emerging Best Performing Option (EBPO) for the project. Option 2 is an underground cable which runs from Moy substation near Ballina in Co. Mayo along the west of the study area, passing Swinford before reaching Tonroe substation near Ballaghaderreen in Co. Roscommon.
- We held three public webinars in March and April 2021 to provide information to the public and stakeholders on the EBPO. A further two webinars were held on 20 and 22 July, to ensure stakeholders were kept up to date on the project progress.
- In September 2021 EirGrid confirmed Option 2 as the Best Performing Option (BPO) to be taken forward to the planning process at step 5. However, further studies were required in Swinford to further investigate three different options (one off-road and two in-road). We carried out door-to-door engagement in the town and at the end of November and start of December 2021, two open days were held in the Swinford Cultural Centre.
- We have committed to continue engagement with stakeholders and communities throughout the final two steps of the development of the North Connacht 110kV project.
- A planning application will now be prepared for submission directly to An Bord Pleanála. It is anticipated that the application will be submitted by the middle of 2022.



- We intend to continue local engagement on options for Swinford and the planning application will include preparation of environmental and ecological appraisals and reports.

## Impact of Engagement

A community forum was established and is made up of local community representatives from the area in proximity to the project route.

We held an information evening on 23 September 2021 about the community forum for this project and the North Connacht community forum was established following a public nomination process in October 2021. The forum has met on two other occasions since its establishment.

### The purpose of the forum is to:

- a) ensure that stakeholder and community views are understood and properly considered prior to and during project delivery
- b) input into the design and implementation of the Community Benefit Fund, ensuring maximising the impact of the fund.

## 3. Series Compensation on the Dunstown - Moneypoint 400kV line

Capital Projects CP0967, CP0968, CP0969 are associated with series compensation on the Dunstown - Moneypoint 400kV line at Moneypoint, Dunstown and Oldstreet respectively. These are innovation projects and the devices will be connected to the existing 400kV circuits to increase power flows. There were further extensive studies required for these projects during 2021 and external engagement was completed with prospective manufacturers of the equipment.

In the last quarter of 2021, ahead of

a planning submission regarding the Dunstown element of the project, door-to-door engagement was carried out in the vicinity of the existing station.

## 4. Celtic Interconnector

The Celtic Interconnector is a proposed electrical link which will enable the movement of electricity between Ireland and France. The European Commission has designated the Celtic Interconnector as a Project of Common Interest (PCI). The Celtic Interconnector will deliver a number of benefits including enhanced security of supply, downward pressure on electricity costs and help facilitate Ireland's transition to a low carbon energy future.

### Engagement approach

- In November 2020, a cable route for the Celtic Interconnector was proposed along the public road network from the landfall at Claycastle Beach in Youghal to a new converter station at Ballyadam in Carrigtwohill. The company also identified options for bypassing the villages of Castlemartyr and Killeagh. In February 2021 it was confirmed that both villages would be bypassed. This decision was informed by focused engagement with local representatives, landowners and communities and widely communicated.
- A focused period of engagement followed the communication of the proposed cable route with the proposed route challenged by neighboring communities concerned by the proposal. Community engagement resulted in the publication of a 'A Cable Route Options Review report', this report reviewed the project and while no change was made to the proposal it afforded an opportunity to reconsider all options and respond to concerns raised.
- In April 2021 a call was made for expressions of interest to participate in the

Celtic Community Forum. Independently chaired by Irish Rural Link, the Celtic Interconnector Community Forum brings together people and organisations from across the project area so that stakeholder and community views can be discussed, understood and properly considered prior to and during project delivery. Critically it creates an opportunity for dialogue between stakeholders with diverse and direct interest in the project and the EirGrid project team.

- A second meeting to establish the process for selection onto the forum was held in June with subsequent meetings held in September and November 2021.
- In July 2021, there was the submission of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála for the Irish on-shore element of the Celtic Interconnector under the Strategic Infrastructure Development process including statutory public consultation. EirGrid held focused engagements with interested stakeholder groups prior to the launch of public consultation and prepared a Guide to Public Participation in the Strategic Infrastructure Development Planning Application Process to assist with participation in the process.
- A statutory public consultation with regard to an application for a foreshore Licence for consent to install and operate the Celtic Interconnector opened on Monday the 11 October 2021 for eight weeks. Once again focused engagements with stakeholders including fishermen were held prior to launch to facilitate participation.
- As we entered the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was continued challenges to consulting and engaging with stakeholders throughout 2021. This was addressed in a number of ways including online general public and invite only webinars to ensure continued communication and engagement.





## Impact of Engagement

- Strengthening the association between EirGrid project activity and the Government's climate action targets
- Early identification of concerns and local priorities and incorporating these in the decision-making process
- Strengthening community relationships
- Creating new and innovative community relationships and ways of communication through Project Forums
- Sharing of project information
- Increased awareness of the project
- Identification of public concerns and addressing them; for example a Public Webinar on Electricity and Electromagnetic Fields held in September 2021
- Identification of local community representative groups
- Increased engagement with particular stakeholders and stakeholder groups
- Incorporation of publicly held concerns and themes into decision making process
- Demonstration of the role of consultation in project decision making

## 5. CP0466 North South 400kV Interconnector Project

The project is a cross border overhead line between the Ireland and Northern Ireland transmission systems to enhance security of supply, reduce market constraints and facilitate the integration of renewables. The project will consist of 138 km of single circuit 400kV overhead line running from Woodland substation in Co. Meath through counties Cavan, Monaghan, Armagh and joining the Northern Ireland Transmission system at a new substation at Turleenan near Moy in Co. Tyrone.





## Engagement Approach

- EirGrid continues to engage with landowners and communities through the use of Agricultural Liaison Officers and a communications team that liaises with political and business stakeholders.
- A project website is also available with project updates to members of the public.

## 6. Laois Kilkenny Reinforcement Project

A community forum on Laois Kilkenny was established in June 2021 following an information evening and a nomination process. The forum consists of 12 members representing community groups and elected representatives (county councillors) from the relevant municipal districts. The forum met on a further two occasions in 2021 where the members worked on the design of a scoping study for the community benefit fund for the area.

The overall Community Benefit Fund for the Laois-Kilkenny Reinforcement Project is €511,500. This fund will be released in three phases, which align with the development of the infrastructure. These funds will provide support to local community groups, not-for-profit organisations and social enterprises that operate or service communities near the new infrastructure.

Phase 1 of the Community Benefit Fund opened for applications in November 2021. The €204,600 available represents 40 percent of the overall fund. Community groups were offered one to one support on their individual applications. Fund guidelines were available and applications were submitted via an online portal.

Community forum members also received project updates in relation to the delivery of the project from EirGrid and ESB.

## 7. Clashavoon Dunmanway

A community forum was established for this project in June 2021. The forum met three times and consisted of 24 members representing communities within the project area. The community forum reviewed the scoping study, that had previously been completed.

The fund opened for applications in July and closed in September. The fund was available to community groups, not-for-profit organisations or social enterprises that operate or service communities near the line, for projects that will create positive social and/or environmental impacts.

A total of 53 Applications were received totalling €2,223,244.18 or 370% of the fund value. Applications were submitted via an online portal. Online information evenings and support sessions were provided to potential applicants.

The outcome of the community benefit fund for the project was announced in December 2021. The fund saw €600,000 being awarded to 36 groups and organisations. The fund recognises the importance of the local communities who support our work.

## 8. Summary of other project engagements

### CP1021 East Meath North Dublin

In 2021, EirGrid published the Step 2 Options Report. At the end of Step 2, we confirmed a shortlist of four best-performing technical options to examine further in Step 3. These were:

- Woodland to Finglas 400kV overhead line
- Woodland to Finglas 400kV underground cable
- Woodland to Belcamp 400kV overhead line
- Woodland to Belcamp 400kV underground cable

### CP1111 - Cahir and Connected Stations 110kV Protection Upgrade

Engagement took place in autumn 2021 with stakeholders to discuss outages to minimise potential disruption.

### CPo866 Great Island - Kellis 220kV OHL refurb

Landowner engagement took place in summer 2021 to arrange access to tower locations along the route. The project is currently on hold.

### Cross Shannon 400kV Cable

Planning permission was received for the onshore elements of the project in summer 2021. Landowner and stakeholder engagement took place throughout the year.



## Project Engagement - Key learnings from 2021

### Consistent engagement with stakeholders, communities and landowners throughout the project development process.

We have continued our project engagements and outline some of the learnings over this period.

- Consistent, proactive engagement and communication is valuable to communities to provide transparency and address concerns.
- We have established five community forums across projects in 2021. Each community forum was established following an information evening and a nomination process. The forums ensure that stakeholder and community views are understood and properly considered prior to and during project delivery. It also allows for input into the design and implementation of the community benefit fund, ensuring maximising the impact of the fund in the project area.
- A community benefit fund for Clashavoon Dunmanway project was announced in December 2021. The fund recognises the importance of the local communities who support our work.
- The use of digital methods of engagement has been widely accepted by communities and has become an accepted approach to enable community participation and to provide project updates during the project development cycle.
- The use of traditional media, such as newspaper and radio advertisements, together with printed information brochures and update letters remains important to help us reach and inform those in communities where our projects are located.
- The use of digital media has allowed us to gain a better understanding of how people engage on projects and to consider our approach for future project consultations.
- We have seen that some engagements are much more difficult when they are not conducted face to face. For example landowner engagement often requires a visit to a landholding to meet with and discuss a project with the landowner.
- Digital engagement methods are much less effective for these meetings.
- Communities are keen to engage with us on projects as has been evidenced by the feedback we have received from on-line questionnaires, virtual open day exhibitions and webinars. Some of the digital methods used are easier to access than others. Some webinar platforms for example provide a better experience than others. We need to be mindful of this and ensure we tailor our approach to reduce technical barriers as far as possible.
- The year 2021 has shown us that stakeholders are open to new forms of engagement and there is an onus on us to continue to innovate in this area. We will be trialling new engagement methods over the coming months, for example with the introduction of deliberative assemblies to seek greater participation and collaboration on our projects and programmes.



## 10. Appendix 2

Table 1: Consultations

Topic	Audience	Objective	When	Outcome	Effectiveness
Balancing Market Principles Statement (BMPS)	All Market Participants.	Consult on revisions to BMPS and give participants an opportunity to respond to the changes made and highlight other areas they feel need to be addressed.	Q1 2021	Revised BMPS took comments into consideration and the updated version is provided to RAs for review and then published	Six responses were received and feedback considered in final version.
Shaping Our Electricity Future	All	Inform people and gather feedback on four distinct network development approaches to achieving our renewable ambitions.	Q1 2021	We ran a 14 week consultation period from March and held more than 100 events across the island of Ireland, engaging with civil society organisations, communities, local businesses, industry, consumers, agricultural groups and young people.	We received more than 500 submissions as part of the consultation.
DS3 System Services Protocol Document - EirGrid and SONI Consultation	All	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.	Q2 2021	Consultation about to start in Q1 2022. Delayed due to implementation of concurrent DS3 System Services Gates.	N/A
DS3 Expenditure	Other DS3 System Services consultations	Consult on DS3 expenditure	Q2 2021	Published consultation and recommendations. Received 23 responses to the consultation.	Gives participants the opportunity to comment on proposals before recommendations are submitted to the SEM Committee.

Topic	Audience	Objective	When	Outcome	Effectiveness
Proposed 2021/22 Other System Charges (OSC)	Generators and other stakeholders	Consult on proposed OSC for coming tariff year and indicate direction of travel regarding potential OSC for future tariff years.	Q2 2021	Received responses from four parties.	Gives generators, and other stakeholders, early indication OSC for coming tariff year and an opportunity to comment on them. Comments received are not just considered for the coming tariff year but are considered for OSC consultations for future tariff years.
Proposed 2021/22 Transmission Loss Adjustment Factors (TLAF)	Generators	Publish TLAFs for coming tariff year (as calculated using approved methodology) for comment.	Q2 2021	Comments were received from six parties	For future years we plan to consider what additional information it is possible to publish, with proposed TLAFs, to try and answer some of the queries received this year, up front, in future years.
Proposed 2021/22 Generator Transmission Use of System (GTUoS) Tariffs	Generators	Publish G-TUoS tariff for coming tariff year (as calculated using approved methodology) for comment.	Q3 2021	One comment was received, highlighting an anomaly in the publication, which was rectified.	Process is working effectively
Proposed 2022 Generator Unit Under Test Tariffs (GUUT)	Generators	Consult on proposed GUUT for coming calendar year	Q2 2021	No comments were received.	Industry has been alerted that a more significant review of GUUT, and associated consultation, will take place for 2023 GUUT.
DS3 System Services Volume Uncapped Gate 5 Bidders' Conference	Industry	Conferences on Gate 5 and 6.	Q1 & Q3 2021	Conferences took place with a number of queries from new participants.	Process is working effectively in terms of providing tenderers with vital information.
Emergency Preparedness and Mandatory Demand Curtailment (MDC)	Large energy users connected at 110 kV and above.	Engagement on emergency protocols. Confirmation of demand reduction expected.	Q4 2021	19 individual TSO customers engaged and MDC letters issued.	Up to 320 MW of emergency demand reduction achieved from 24 sites.

Topic	Audience	Objective	When	Outcome	Effectiveness
Power System Emergency Communications Exercise	DfE, UR, Mutual Energy, NIEN	To enhance emergency preparedness, training of stakeholders. Identification of improvements.	Q4 2021	All parties trained and exercised	New Power System Emergency Communications Plan in place.
Audit Sample Days 2021	Balancing Market Participants	Seek Market Participant input on potential sample days for focus for the 2021 audit period.	Q4 2021	Sample days suggested by market participants were passed to the auditors for their consideration	Provides Market Participants with an opportunity to highlight events, trends scenarios of interest to the Independent Auditor.
Test Plan consultation for Regulation (EU) 2017/2196 establishing a network code on electricity emergency and restoration (NCER)	TSO, DSO, Demand, Generation and Interconnector customers	Required by EU regulation. Ensures our test methodologies in relation to system defense and restoration are compliant with code.	April 2021	No responses received, Test Plans submitted to CRU as required. CRU approval received Feb 2022	Proven compliance with these articles of EU code.
2021 Stakeholder Engagement Plan	All	Ask for feedback on the proposed Stakeholder Engagement Plan 2021	February 2021	Final 2021 Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Consultation report were published on EirGrid's website	Responses were received from stakeholders on our Stakeholder Engagement Plan for 2021 and this feedback was incorporated into the consultation report and used to inform the 2022 and future annual Stakeholder Engagement Plans.



**Table 2: Industry Forums and Working Groups**

**2021 Working Groups**

The Topic	Audience	When	How	Why	Outputs
UK TSO Steering Committee	UK TSOs & Interconnectors	Monthly	Microsoft Teams	Capacity allocation and calculation	Methodology discussions for capacity allocation and calculation
Customer Clinics – Pre-Connection Application Information and Support	Customers looking to connect to the system	Monthly – 68 Individual Customer Clinics meetings were held in 2021	EirGrid Industry Forum	Clinic Days with bilateral meetings to support future engagements	Engagement with customers to provide support ahead of application for grid connection
UK Cross Border Steering Committee	Regulators	Monthly	Microsoft Teams	To report on developments regarding capacity calculations and allocation and developments in the EU UK relationship	Updates from regulators
ENTSO-E Intra Synchronous Area Subgroup	ENTSO-E Members	Monthly	Microsoft Teams	To investigate potential optimisation of HVDC technology usage across ENTSO-E regions and to make recommendations for implementation of same, supported by verification through modelling exercises	Verification through modelling exercises
Market Operator User Group (MOUG)	Market Participants	There were six MOUGs throughout the year.	Conference Calls	Inform Stakeholders of any key updates, important information.	Updates provided regularly from all relevant groups whose activities have an impact on the Market.

The Topic	Audience	When	How	Why	Outputs
Capacity Market Information Sessions	Relevant Market Group	There were four throughout the year.	EirGrid Industry Forum	Provide Information on participating ahead of the auction.	These sessions allowed Participants to ask any questions they had following the overview provided.
Connection Clinics in collaboration with Gas Networks Ireland	Relevant Market Participants who had registered for these.	There were seven clinics held with those meeting the criteria	Conference Call and Microsoft Teams	An exchange of information, providing an opportunity for sensitive Workshop on Offshore Function Specifications	Contributed to successful auction process.
Generator and Outturn Availability Forum	Generation Customers, CRU, ESBN	March 2021	EirGrid Meetings, Webinars and Conference calls	Present Outturn Availability Ex-Poste Report. Provide updates on transmission outages, EDIL declaration codes, system states and new control centre tools	Information provided to industry and opportunity for questions and answers
All-island Network Code Stakeholder Forum	Generation customers, demand customers, ESBN, NIEN, CRU, UR	April 2021	Microsoft Teams	Broad overview of the Network Codes & presenting detail on Network Code consultations taking place	Approximately 60 attendees

The Topic	Audience	When	How	Why	Outputs
EirGrid Grid Code Review Panel Meetings	Representatives from all Grid User types, CRU, ESBN.	March, July and November 2021	Conference call, then Teams	Key changes to Grid requirements for Generation, Demand and Interconnectors. Documentation available <a href="#">here</a>	Approximately 30 attendees
Joint Grid Code Review Panel (EirGrid and SONI)	Representatives from all Grid User types, CRU, UR, ESBN, NIEN.	November 2021	Microsoft Teams	Updates on changes to Grid requirements with an All Island impact	Approximately 60 attendees
Trading & Settlement Code (T&SC) Modifications Committee Meeting	Market Participants & RAs	Seven Modifications Meetings, two Industry Calls & one Working Group held in 2021	Conference Call	TT&SC Code Requirement for Modification Proposals management	Approved Proposals input to the T&SC – 21 Proposals raised
Capacity Market Code Modifications Workshops	Market Participants & RAs	Three workshops held in 2021	Conference Call	Capacity Market Code requirement for Modification Proposals management	Approved Proposals input to the T&SC – 12 Proposals raised





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