

# ENERGY YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2023

### FEBRUARY

#### Oil Emergency Legislation

The Act strengthens the powers of the Irish government to respond to oil emergencies.

#### Offshore Grid Connection Policy Decision

The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) issues a key decision (CRU/2023/09) on the regulatory treatment of offshore assets owned by 'Phase 1' projects.

#### EU Green Hydrogen Rules

The European Commission adopts two delegated acts which define what constitutes renewable hydrogen in the EU.



### MARCH

#### Future Offshore Wind Policy

The Irish government publishes a number of measures designed to accelerate the development of offshore wind in Ireland, including moving from a developer-led to a plan-led approach. See [our update](#) for more detail.

#### Proposals for EU Energy Market Reform

The European Commission proposes significant reforms to the EU's electricity market design, with a view to accelerating the development of renewable energy and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.



### APRIL

#### ECP-2.4 Decision

The CRU issues the next iteration of Irish grid connection policy (ECP-2.4). The window for applications opens from 1 October 2023 - 30 November 2023.

#### Shaping Our Offshore Energy Future

EirGrid announces plans to develop offshore electricity substations and associated undersea electricity cables, to facilitate future offshore windfarm development.



### JUNE

#### CRU Roadmap for Clean Energy Package

The CRU publishes its roadmap on the implementation of the EU Clean Energy Package in Ireland, noting progress to date and future plans for further implementation.



### JULY

#### National Hydrogen Strategy

The Irish government publishes the first ever National Hydrogen Strategy, which sets out the strategic vision on the role that hydrogen will play in Ireland's energy system.

#### Policy on Electricity Interconnection

The Irish government issues a new policy on electricity interconnection. The policy supports increased interconnection for Ireland (including to currently unconnected countries like Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands). The policy also considers the use of interconnection to support the export of renewable electricity and generation of green hydrogen and the development of a policy on multi-purpose interconnectors (MPIs).

#### ORESS 2 Consultation

The Irish government issues a consultation on the second phase of the offshore wind subsidy auction (ORESS 2). Among other things, the consultation notes that ORESS 2 will align with the recent policy decision to transfer to a plan-led system.

#### MARA Launches

The new Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) launches. MARA will regulate activity in Ireland's maritime area and will be responsible for issuing Maritime Area Consents (MACs) required for offshore wind development.

#### Temporary Solidarity Contribution Legislation

The first piece of legislation implementing the EU's emergency energy regulation (Regulation (EU) 2022/1854) passes into Irish law. The legislation imposes a 'temporary solidarity contribution' on companies involved in the extraction, mining or refining of natural gas, coal and petroleum.



### AUGUST

#### Private Wires Consultation Released

The Irish government issues a highly-anticipated consultation to gather views on how 'private wires' could be facilitated in Ireland.



### SEPTEMBER

#### Wind Power Exceeds Demand

Wind power temporarily outpaces electricity demand for the first time in Ireland on 26 September 2023, reaching a high of 3,642 MW compared to 3,558 MW of demand.



### OCTOBER

#### RESS 3 Auction Results

The third onshore RESS auction (RESS 3) results are announced. The average strike price is €100.47/MWh and 646 MW of projects were successful.



### NOVEMBER

#### Third Renewable Energy Directive

The third Renewable Energy Directive (RED III) comes into effect. RED III sets an overall EU renewable energy target of at least 42.5%. It also supports further development and integration of renewables across a number of sectors (eg, heating and cooling, transport, industry, buildings and district heating/cooling). See [our update](#) for more detail.

#### Energy Security Report

The Irish government publishes its strategy on ensuring Ireland's energy security.

#### Renewable Hubs Decision Paper

The CRU publishes a decision paper (CRU/2023/131) which supports the development of five distribution-connected 'Renewable Hubs' on a pilot basis.



### DECEMBER

#### Electricity Connection Policy Consultation Paper Published

The CRU issues a consultation paper on potential changes to Irish grid connection policy. Among other things, the paper discusses the potential for more frequent grid connection application batches, locational signals, hybrid generation projects and repowering.

#### Climate Action Plan 2024

The Irish government issues CAP 2024. CAP 2024 sets out a detailed plan of action for Ireland to realise its climate action targets, including by implementing sectoral emissions limitations and carbon budgets.

Among other things, CAP 2024 notes that "the deployment rates of renewable energy and grid infrastructure required to meet the carbon budget programme for electricity is unprecedented and requires urgent action across all actors to align with the national targets".

