



Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
An Roinn Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádurtha

Energy Policy for Communities event

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Presentation Overview

- **Introduction to energy policy**
 - **2020**
 - **2030**
- **The Energy Policy Paper**
- **Community Energy**



Introduction to Energy Policy

- **Energy policy is shaped by three key pillars**
 - Security of energy supply
 - Competitiveness
 - Sustainability/Environmental Responsibility
- **Energy policy is a servant to wider social and economic policy**
 - Delivery of safe, secure, efficient and economic energy services
 - Promote innovation and entrepreneurship
 - Improve economic competitiveness and quality of life
- **Three principle aspects:**
 - Electricity
 - Heat
 - Transport



European Policy - 2020

- The climate and energy package is a set of binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its ambitious climate and energy targets for 2020.
- These targets, known as the "20-20-20" targets, set three key objectives for 2020:
 - A 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels;
 - Raising the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%;
 - A 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.
- Four main instruments for its achievement
 - Renewable targets at Member State level
 - Reform of the EU – Emissions Trading Scheme
 - Emissions targets at Member State level
 - Legal framework for carbon capture and storage



Progress to date

- In 2013 the cost of imports to Ireland was approximately €6.5 billion.
 - It is estimated that renewable energy in electricity generation avoided between €250 million and €280 million in 2012 in fossil fuel imports
- **Progress against 2020 target: end 2013**
 - 16% of energy from renewables sources: 7.8%
 - 40% of electricity demand from RES: 20.9%
 - 10% of transport demand from RES : 2.8%
 - 12% of heat demand from RES : 5.7%

- **Electricity generation statistics at end January 2015**

Wind generation connected to the grid in Ireland	2238 MW
Hydro generation connected to the grid in Ireland	238 MW
Biomass/LFG generation connected to the grid in Ireland	82 MW
Total amount of renewable generation capacity connected to the grid in Ireland.	2558 MW

- ***Ireland is making progress towards a very demanding 2020 target, but there are real challenges to be overcome***

2020 – Challenges

- **Delivery of renewable generation and grid development**
 - Maintaining generation build rate – a challenging financial environment for developers
 - Maintaining grid build rate – a 21st century grid is central to our renewable ambitions
 - System operation – challenges to operating the system with a different generation portfolio including renewables
- **Social Acceptance of infrastructure development**
 - Acceptance of energy infrastructure projects has dis-improved in recent years
 - Need for a mature national discussion on energy, as pointed to by the NESC
 - Denmark appears to have achieved near consensus on energy generation and distribution



Framework 2030

- EU leaders reached agreement on a new Climate and Energy Policy Framework for 2030 at the October European Council meeting in Brussels
- The agreement commits the EU to:
 - reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by the year 2030, compared with 1990 levels
 - a target of at least 27% for renewable energy and energy savings by 2030
- Ireland supports the EU level ambition and is fully engaged in deciding on an ambitious contribution from Ireland that is technically feasible, cost-effective, achievable and fair



Forthcoming Energy Policy Statement – September 2015

- **Green Paper on Energy published in May 2014**
- **Why?**
 - The three pillars
 - Within International (UN) and European Contexts
 - What can Ireland add? What extra can we bring? How can we lead?
 - Are there economic opportunities for Ireland?
 - Wider context of the economic and social recovery underway
- **Six priority areas**
 - Priority 1: Empowering Energy Citizens
 - Priority 2: Markets and Regulation
 - Priority 3: Planning and Implementing Essential Energy Infrastructure
 - Priority 4: Ensuring a Balanced and Secure Energy Mix
 - Priority 5: Putting the Energy System on a Sustainable Pathway
 - Priority 6: Driving Economic Opportunity





Putting the Energy System on a Sustainable Pathway

Electricity, Heat and Transport

- What measures are needed to upscale the use of renewable energy across the sectors and where most beneficial

Energy Efficiency

- How to enable a radical improvement in energy efficiency and the local jobs dividend it brings?

Grid

- Sustainable development of the grid
- Technologies for smart grids and grid deployment

Diversity of Renewable Supply

- Community Energy
- Micro-generation
- Balanced Mix – existing and emerging



Green Paper on Energy Policy in Ireland – May 2014

- **Consultation / Engagement Process**
 - Public consultation – over 1,200 responses received
 - Public Seminars – 12 held in total
 - 8 held in Dublin
 - 4 regional seminars
 - Westmeath, Sligo, Cork, Wexford
- **Timeline**
 - Publication of the energy policy paper in September
 - Definitive Energy Policy Statement out to 2030
 - Sustainability, Security, Competitiveness – clear statements
 - Ireland's specific circumstances
 - A policy fit for present and future purposes



Community Engagement

- The 2012 *Government Policy Statement on the Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure*
 - recognises that public and community acceptance are key to the timely development of strategic infrastructure. It emphasises early consultation and engagement with local communities, and building community gain considerations into energy infrastructure planning and budgeting.
- The *Green Paper on Energy Policy in Ireland*, which was published recently, also recognises building societal acceptance as one of several challenges in further deploying renewable energy.
- The Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework will set out policy in relation to community engagement.



Community Energy

- Several models exist in other EU States – range from community benefit to community ownership
- A number of barriers have been highlighted and are being considered in the energy policy paper process including but not limited to:
 - ensuring that community members have adequate information in order to build the capacity required to be engaged in energy projects,
 - enabling access to finance and the electricity grid to progress projects
 - the platform for communities to avail of payment for electricity such as the ability to participate in power purchase agreements.



Conclusion

- Energy Policy shaped by three pillars and must serve societal needs by steering the actions that will lead to long term transformation, to the benefit of everyone
- Ireland has world class renewable electricity resources. It is critical that we fully participate in the formation of the next chapter of EU energy policy and maximise our leverage of EU support for emerging renewable technologies
- To be a world leader in renewable energy technology also requires international best practice in community engagement. We're good at the first, we need to get better at the second
- In forming renewable energy policy DCENR recognises the critical role it has to play in balancing public and private interests in the common, national, interest
- Energy Policy Paper to be published by the Minister in September 2015

