



The role of Local Authorities and Elected Representatives in Shaping Ireland's Energy Future



**Delivering a cleaner
energy future**

Tomás Bradley, Senior Planner
12th May 2022



The involvement and commitment of the public and of all stakeholders is crucial to the success of the European Green Deal. Recent political events show that game-changing policies only work if citizens are fully involved in designing them. People are concerned about jobs, heating their homes and making ends meet, and EU institutions should engage with them if the Green Deal is to succeed and deliver lasting change. Citizens are and should remain a driving force of the transition.

EU Green Deal

Development
Plans & Policy



Community
Forums & Benefits



Regional Energy
Assemblies

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What is driving the ambition?

Internal



External

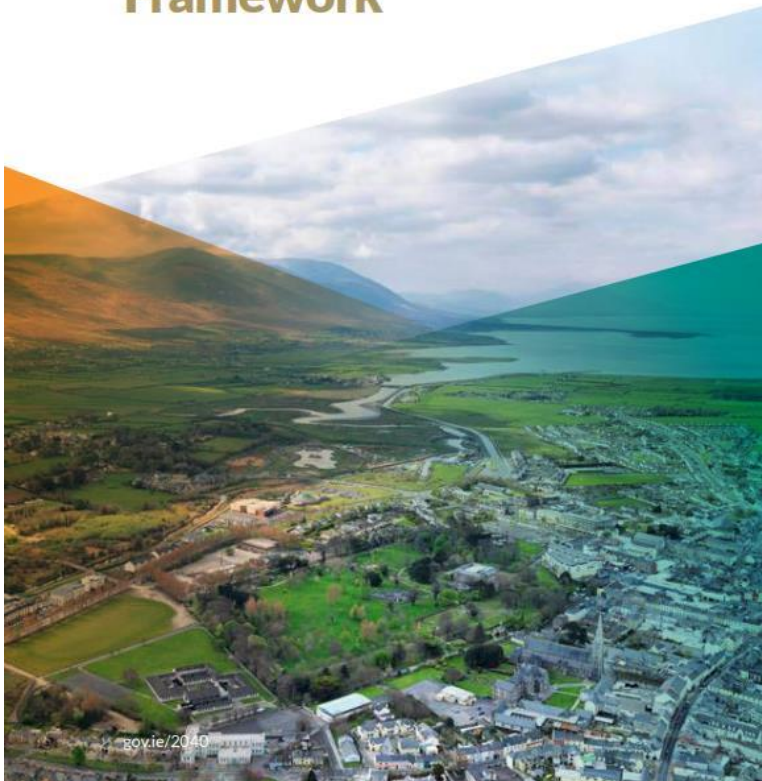
National outlook...



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Project Ireland 2040

National Planning Framework



National Policy Objective 47

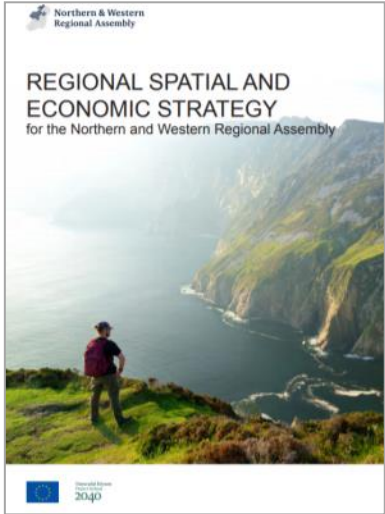
In co-operation with relevant Departments in Northern Ireland, strengthen all-island energy infrastructure and interconnection capacity, including distribution and transmission networks to enhance security of electricity supply.

National Policy Objective 42

To support, within the context of the *Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPP)*³⁹ and its successors, the progressive development of Ireland's offshore renewable energy potential, including domestic and international grid connectivity enhancements

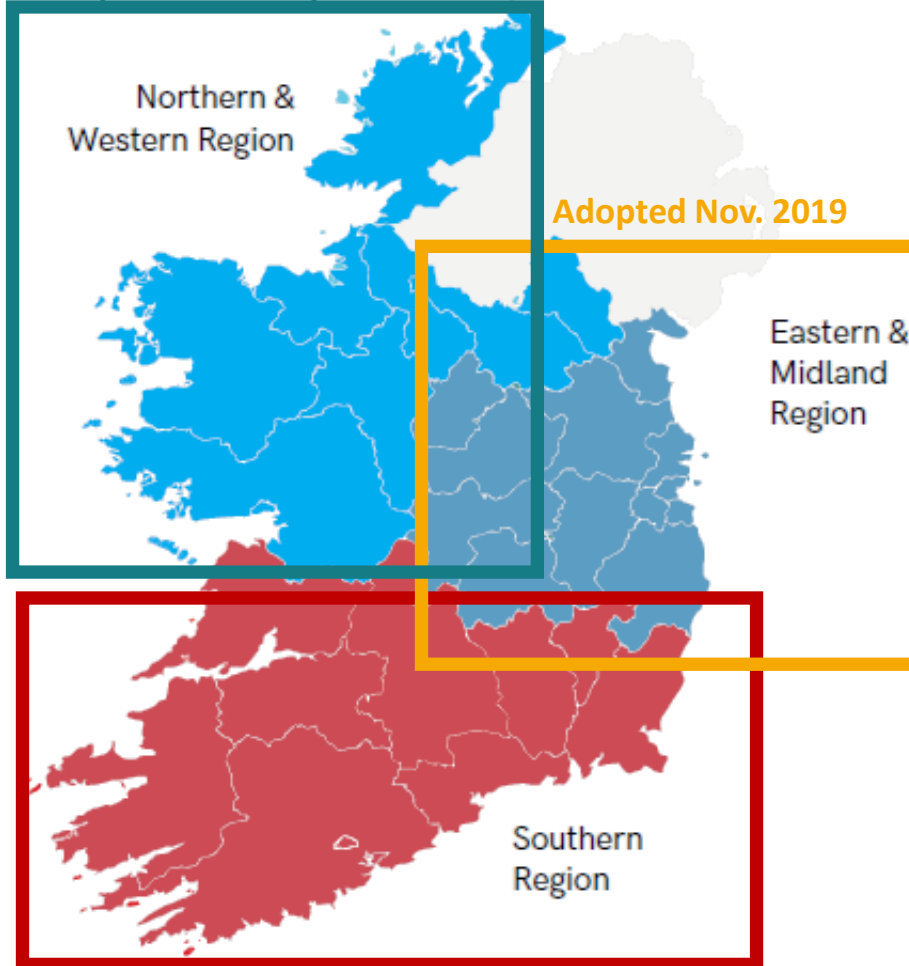


Regional outlook

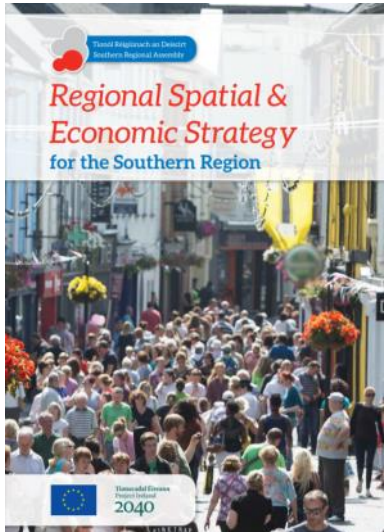
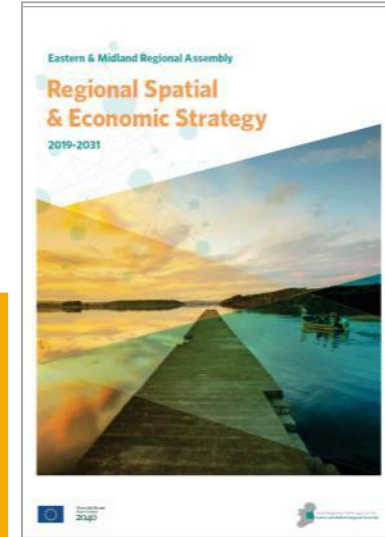


Adopted January 2020

Northern Ireland



Adopted Nov. 2019



Adopted Jan. 2020

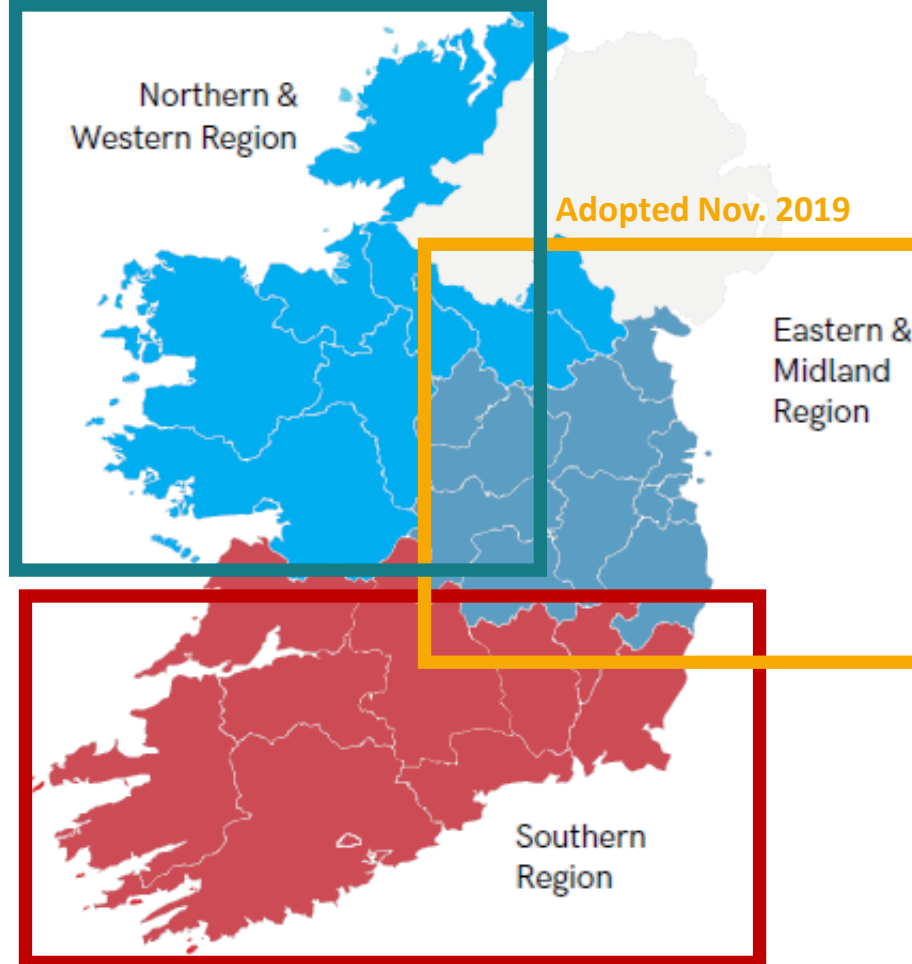


Regional outlook

RPO 4.16: The NWRA shall co-ordinate the identification of potential **renewable energy sites of scale** in collaboration with Local Authorities and other stakeholders within 3 years of the adoption of the RSES.....

RPO 98: Regional Renewable Energy Strategy. It is an objective to support the development of a **Regional Renewable Energy Strategy** with relevant stakeholders.

Adopted January 2020



Northern Ireland

Adopted Nov. 2019

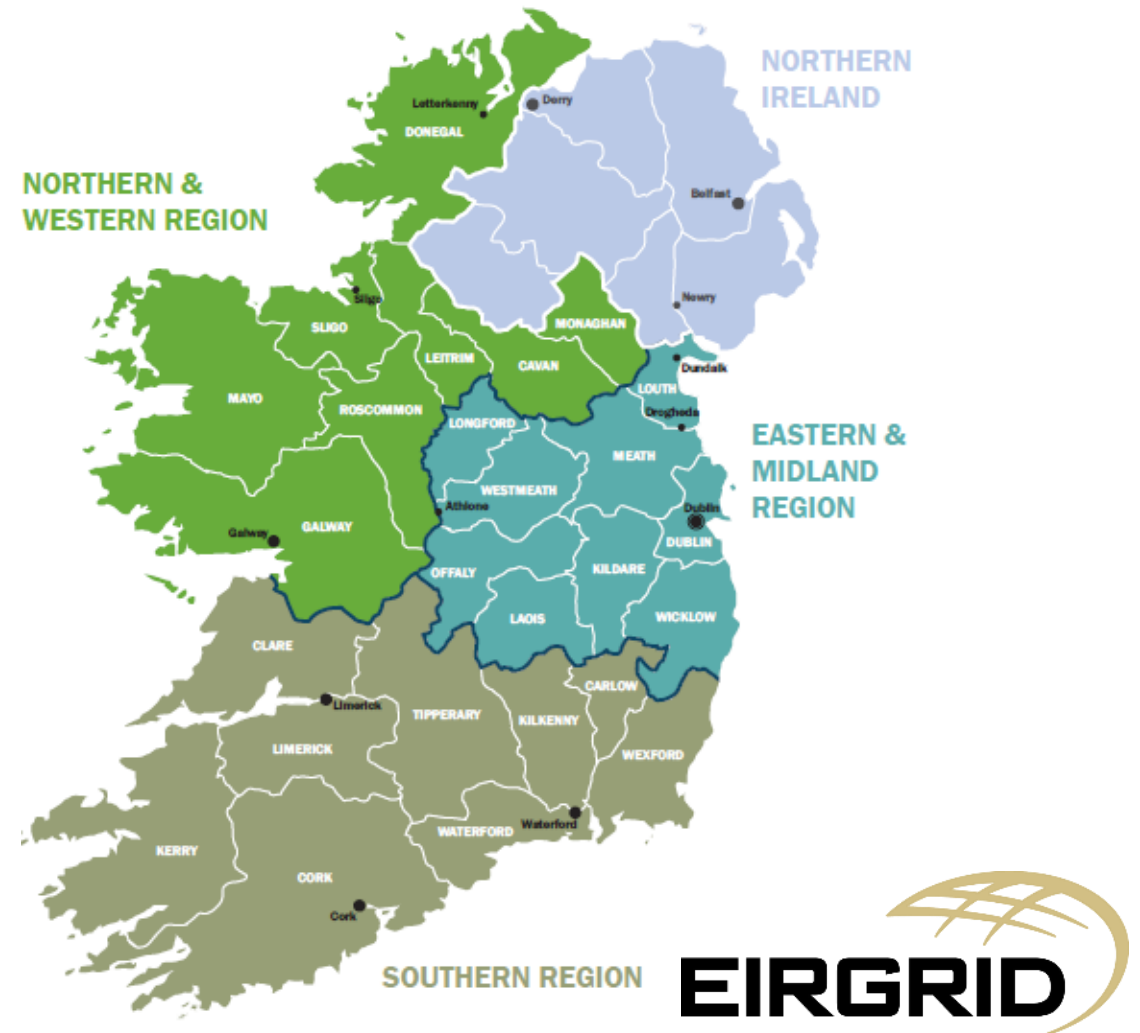
RPO 7.35: EMRA shall, in conjunction with local authorities in the Region, identify **Strategic Energy Zones** as areas suitable for larger energy generating projects, the role of community and micro energy production in urban and rural settings and the potential for renewable energy within industrial areas.

Adopted Jan. 2020

County outlook

Most counties now making new plans or vary existing plans to ensure they are consistent with the NPF and RSEs.

EirGrid responding systematically to each consultation request seeking objectives supporting grid infrastructure.



What can you do in the development plan?

support and facilitate newer and existing energy technologies and their integration into the national grid (grid connections).

support and facilitate upgrading and reinforcements of electricity networks into and through the region.

support and facilitate the safeguarding of strategic energy corridors/areas.

support and facilitate the sustainable development of Ireland's onshore and offshore renewable energy resource.



How we will develop the grid...

Step 1

How do we identify the future 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

The planning process

Step 6

Construction, energisation and benefit sharing

Strategy Statements

Strategy Statement 1

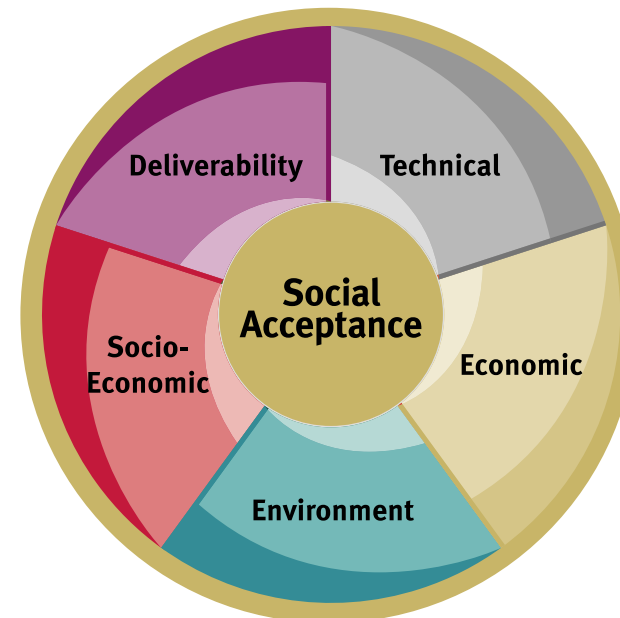
Inclusive consultation with local communities and stakeholders will be central to our approach.

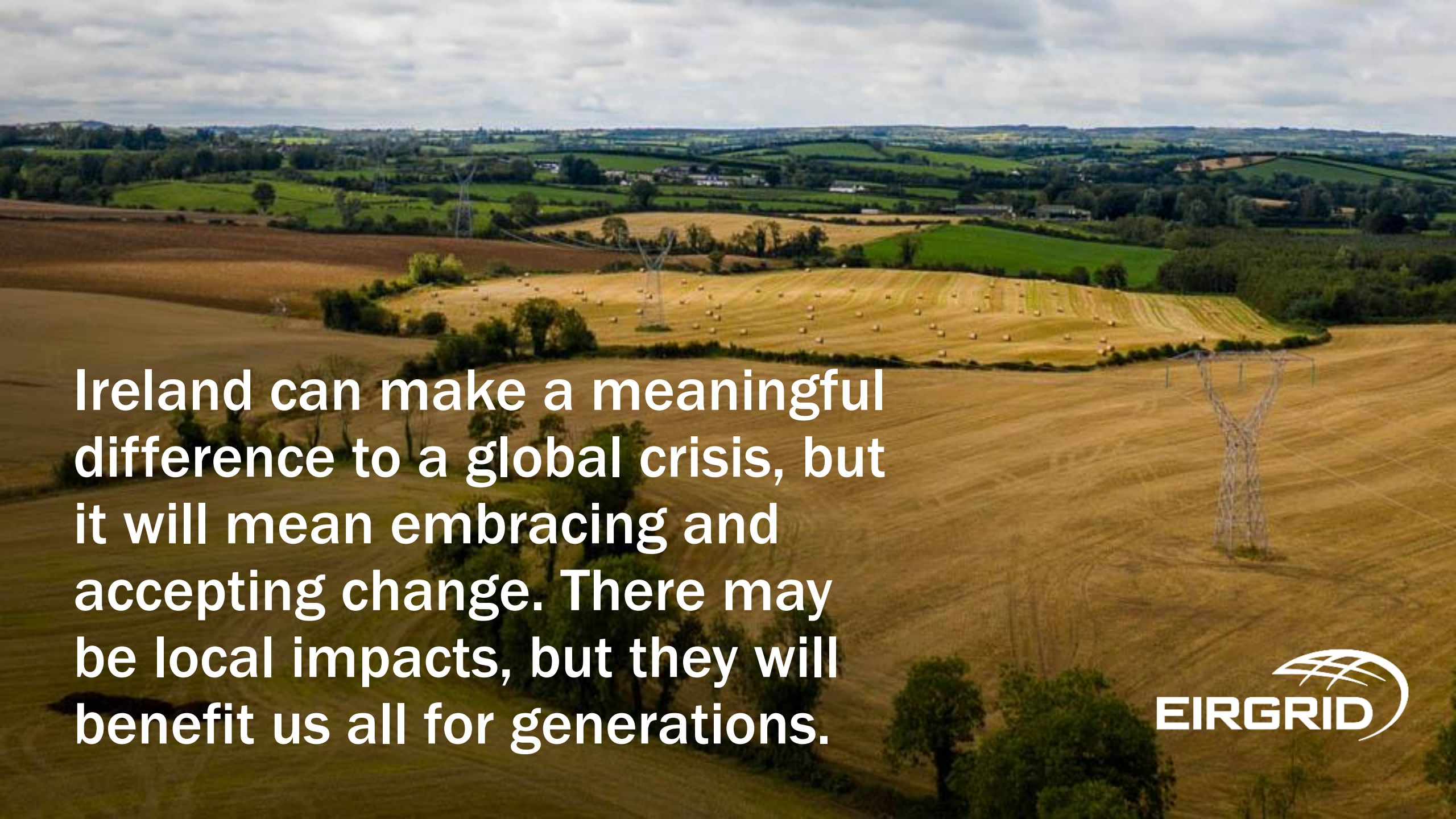
Strategy Statement 2

We will consider all practical technology options.

Strategy Statement 3

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





Ireland can make a meaningful difference to a global crisis, but it will mean embracing and accepting change. There may be local impacts, but they will benefit us all for generations.



What benefits are you facilitating?



Competition

Apply downward pressure
on the cost of electricity
to consumers



Sustainability

Help facilitate Ireland's
transition to a low carbon
energy future



Security of Supply

Enhanced security of supply
for Irish electricity consumers



Economic Benefits

Help support the growth
of regional industry



Elected Members are critical gate keepers in realising emerging energy scenarios through decisions made in the development plan for that area.

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Previous Policy



Community

Delivered through community fund grants process.

Limited local input

New Policy



Community

Delivered through community fund with flexibility for participatory grant making initiatives.

Sustainability

Transform how communities think about, generate and use electricity. Delivered through retrofitting, smart tech and partnerships.

Biodiversity

Leave a positive legacy on communities who facilitate our projects. Delivered through grass root biodiversity initiatives.

Managed by a Community Forum of stakeholders and partners and guided by a local Community Benefit Strategy.

What we have changed

New 3 Stream approach: Community, Sustainability and Biodiversity.

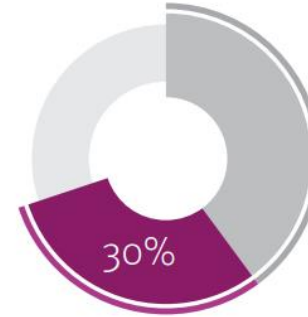
Triple the current € value.

Putting Participation at the core – led by local steering group.



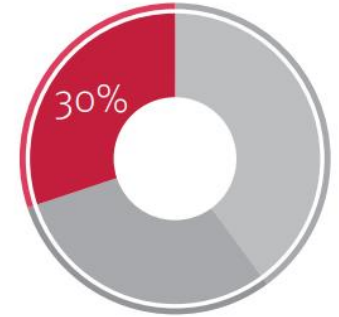
Phase 1: 40%

When we start constructing our project.



Phase 2: 30%

When we start line stringing or cable jointing.

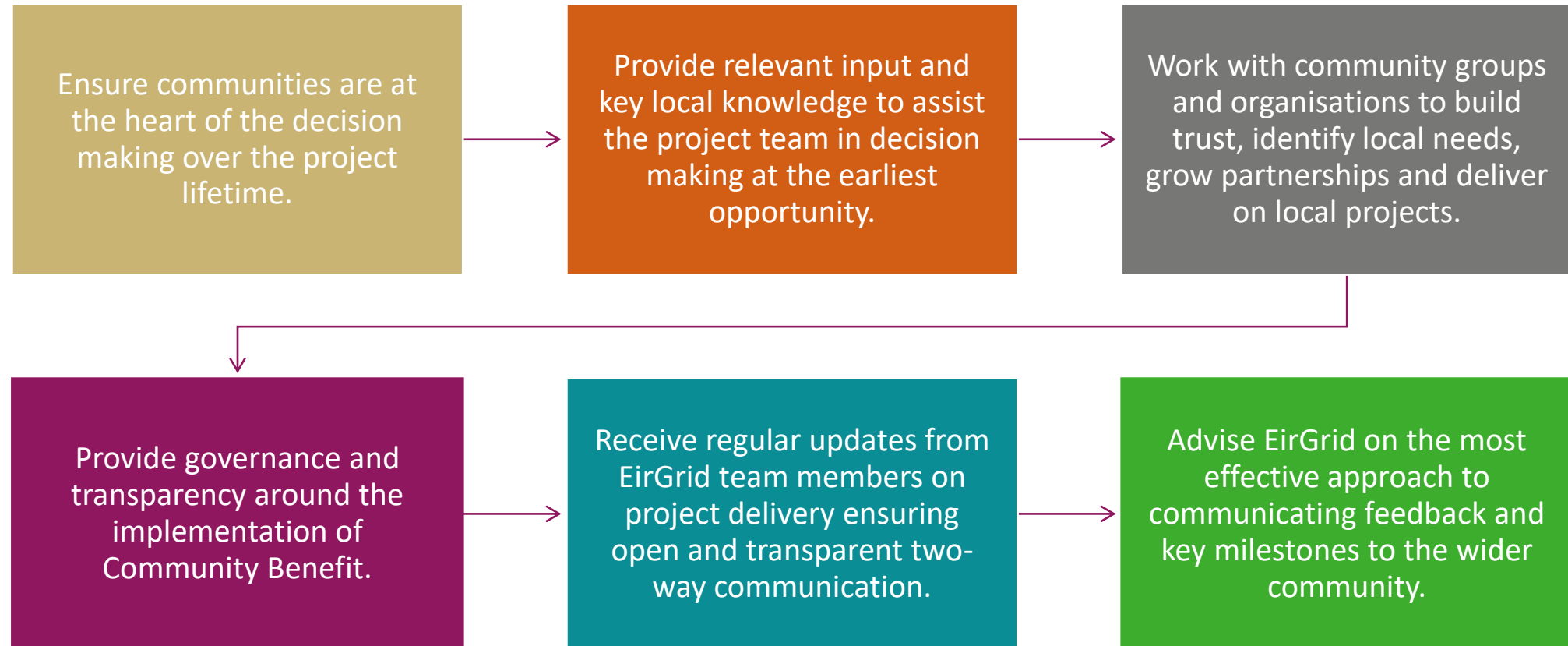


Phase 3: 30%

When our project goes live (when the line becomes a part of the electricity grid and electricity runs through it).

Community Forums

Setup on Celtic Interconnector, Laois Kilkenny Reinforcement, Clashavoon Dunmanway, North Connacht and Kildare Meath Grid Upgrade





• Video

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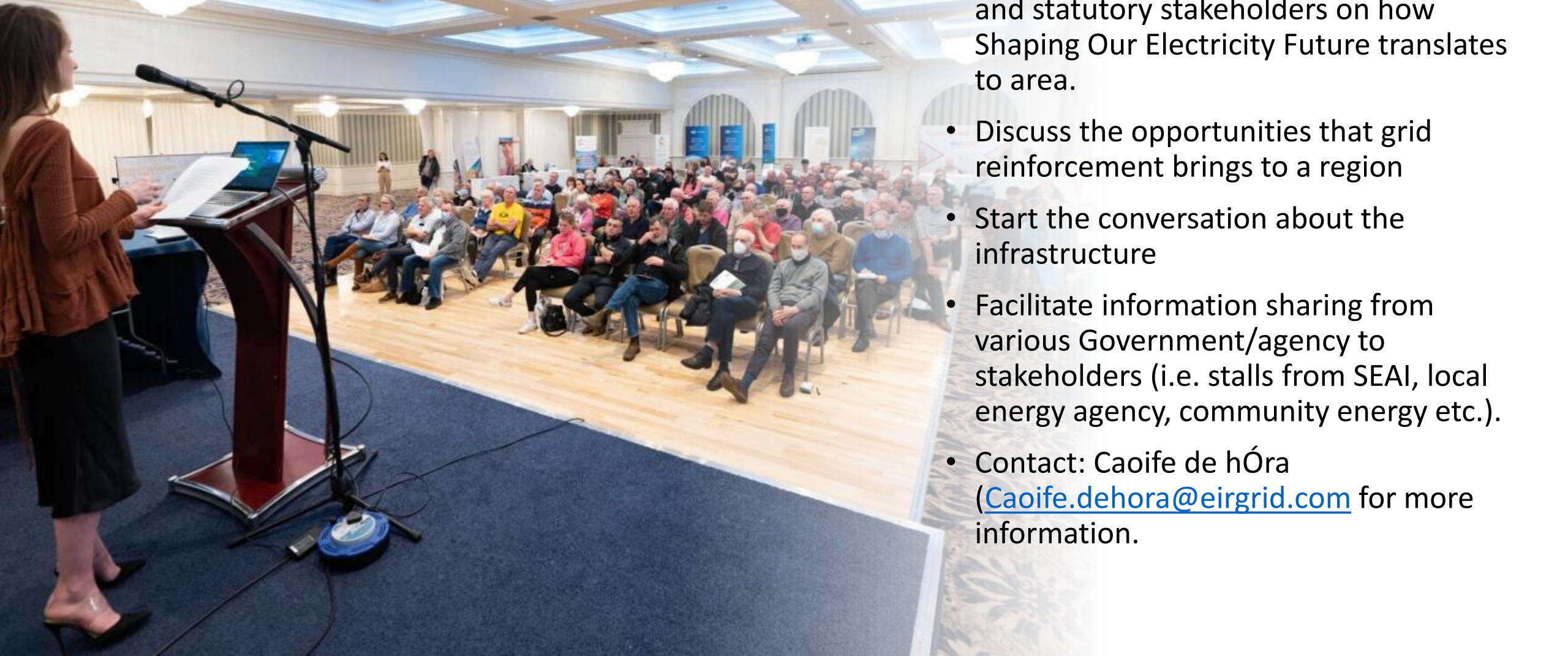


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Regional Energy Assemblies



- Overview to key community, business and statutory stakeholders on how Shaping Our Electricity Future translates to area.
- Discuss the opportunities that grid reinforcement brings to a region
- Start the conversation about the infrastructure
- Facilitate information sharing from various Government/agency to stakeholders (i.e. stalls from SEAI, local energy agency, community energy etc.).
- Contact: Caoife de hÓra (Caoife.dehora@eirgrid.com for more information.

Technical Challenge



Acceptance Challenge



Thank You
Questions?

