

## Engineers Ireland

# Submission to Review of Irish Energy Policy

For the attention of the International Energy Agency

29<sup>th</sup> May 2018

### Engineers Ireland's priorities for Irish energy policy

- National Mitigation Plan
- Integrated Single Electricity Market
- North-South Interconnector
- Renewable Electricity Support Scheme & Support Scheme for Renewable Heat
- Retrofitting grants

Engineers Ireland welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the International Energy Agency's Review of Irish Energy Policy. In our view, significant progress has been made by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and other bodies in developing energy policy in Ireland. However, further actions are necessary to meet the objectives of the energy trilemma by being environmentally sound, economically viable and from indigenous sources.

Engineers Ireland publishes the annual *State of Ireland* report, an independent assessment of Ireland's infrastructure. In 2016, an advisory group of expert engineers assessed the energy sector, awarding it a 'C' grade, meaning that our energy infrastructure is inadequately maintained, and/or unable to meet peak demand, and requiring significant investment.

The group also developed recommended actions, which were updated last year, including:

- Implement the National Mitigation Plan.
- Accelerate the expansion of renewable energy, harnessing Ireland's naturally-occurring renewable resources.
- Progress the North-South Interconnector and explore other interconnection options.
- Continue to invest in energy research in line with the Energy Research Strategy Group recommendations.
- Explore technology solutions such as energy storage and further interconnection to address variable renewable generation.
- Carry out a deep retrofit of Ireland's domestic dwellings and public buildings to reduce energy demand and increase energy efficiency.

- Incentivise the production of biogas from anaerobic digestion plants to enable 20% of natural gas be displaced by biogas from the gas distribution system.
- Incentivise consumers and private car operators to purchase electric vehicles and Introduce more superfast chargers.
- Introduce public transport systems that utilise sustainable energy sources, such as hybrid, electric, CNG and LNG.

More information on Engineers Ireland's priorities for Irish energy policy can be found in our policy brief, *The State of Ireland 2017* and *The State of Ireland 2016*, all available at [www.engineersireland.ie](http://www.engineersireland.ie).

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### **Background to Engineers Ireland**

With over 25,000 members from every discipline of engineering, Engineers Ireland is the voice of the engineering profession in Ireland. Engineers Ireland was established in 1835 making us one of the oldest and largest professional bodies in the country. Members come from every discipline of engineering, and range from engineering students to fellows of the profession.

### **Our responsibility is to**

- Promote knowledge of engineering
- Establish and maintain standards of professional engineering and engineering education
- Provide opportunities for Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Maintain standards of professional ethics and conduct
- Ensure that professional titles are granted to qualified candidates
- Act as the authoritative voice of the engineering profession in Ireland

### **Our Vision Statement**

Engineers Ireland: a community of creative professionals delivering solutions for society.

### **Our Mission Statement**

Engineers Ireland is an organisation that enables the engineering community to progress their professional development, make an impact on society and encourage and educate the future generations of engineers.