

Electricity Storage Policy
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
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27 January 2023

Submitted by email to: energystorage@decc.gov.ie

REI Submission to the Consultation on developing an Electricity Storage Policy Framework for Ireland

Renewable Energy Ireland was established in January 2019 as an open partnership of sustainable energy associations working collectively to support the energy transition in Ireland.

Our members are the Demand Response Aggregators of Ireland, eHeat Ireland, Energy Storage Ireland, the Irish Energy Storage Association, Geothermal Association of Ireland, the Heat Pump Association, the Irish Bioenergy Association, the Irish District Energy Association, the Irish Solar Energy Association, the Irish Wind Farmers Association, the Marine Renewables Industry Association, NOW Ireland and Wind Energy Ireland.

Our shared vision is that by 2050 Ireland will be energy independent through using indigenous, clean, carbon-free renewable energy supported by, and supporting, communities across our country.

We are grateful for the opportunity to make a submission to DECC's Consultation on developing an Electricity Storage Policy Framework for Ireland.

We wish to make the following points in relation to the consultation:

- Energy storage will be critical to Ireland's energy transition. Storage technologies can provide a range of valuable services such as grid stability, security of supply and flexibility to optimise our renewable energy resources and decarbonise multiple sectors of the economy.
- Current market mechanisms and policies will not deliver the storage investments needed to achieve the ambitious carbon reduction targets set out in the Climate Action Plan 2023. These frameworks have mainly been designed around conventional fossil fuel generation and do not recognise the unique value that storage brings to the system or provide developers and investors with the necessary long-term revenue certainty. We believe new frameworks, similar to how the REFIT and RESS support schemes have driven the development of wind and solar energy, are needed for energy storage and this should be a key focus of the framework.
- We believe this framework should put in place clear targets and actions for storage development which stakeholders must deliver on over the coming years. It is essential that

there are common objectives and that stakeholders are aligned in achieving these otherwise there is a risk that energy storage will not develop in sufficient quantities or capabilities to meet our Climate Action Plan targets.

- This consultation focuses on electricity storage, but it is important to consider that storage encompasses a broad range of technologies and applications which can help decarbonise other sectors of the economy besides electricity.
- For example, green hydrogen and thermal storage are called out in the consultation and will have important roles in relation to decarbonising sectors such as heat, transport and other areas of the economy where carbon emissions will be hard to abate. The decarbonisation of these sectors must be supported too through targeted policies and incentives. It is important that this policy framework is well integrated with strategies relating to hydrogen, the heat sector and other relevant areas to ensure that the broader benefits of energy storage can be realised.

We look forward to continuing our engagement with you and working with you on the development of and implementation of this important policy framework for Ireland.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Tanya Harrington
Chairperson
Renewable Energy Ireland