

Renewable Energy
Ireland

Programme for Government Submission

19 December 2024

Renewable Energy Ireland



1. “WE WILL ACCELERATE THE TRANSITION TO A RENEWABLE-BASED ENERGY SYSTEM, PROVIDING HOUSEHOLDS AND BUSINESSES WITH CLEAN, AFFORDABLE AND SECURE ENERGY AND POSITIONING IRELAND AS AN ENERGY POWERHOUSE”

- Ireland’s energy system continues to generate harmful emissions, with 83% of energy derived from fossil fuels. Secondly, because over 80% of our energy is imported, households and businesses are exposed to price spikes in global commodity markets and geo-political risks. The transformation needed to deliver clean, secure and affordable energy is underway, with renewables accounting for 15% of final energy consumption and with 40% of Ireland’s electricity generated from renewables.
- We pledge to accelerate this transformation and increase these percentages to reach (at least) 34% of energy consumption and 80% of electricity supply by 2030. New targets will be set to achieve full decarbonisation of electricity by 2035 and full decarbonisation of the whole energy system – encompassing electricity, heat, transport and industry - by 2040.
- Achieving this transformation in our energy system will provide households and businesses with clean, affordable and secure energy and position Ireland as a clean energy powerhouse, giving us a globally competitive and sustainable value proposition upon which to build jobs and prosperity.
- To do so, we will move from policies to plans and from plans to performance.
- We will urgently develop a single, integrated roadmap, or Energy White Paper, to masterplan and accelerate Ireland’s energy transition. The roadmap will support the achievement of existing 2030 targets by tackling bottlenecks on a whole-of-government basis and set new targets and implementation pathways for 2035 and 2040 that will deliver full energy decarbonisation. The roadmap will anticipate the new target of 90% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 proposed by the EU Commission.
- As well as planning the expansion of renewable energy supply and distribution, the roadmap will ensure there is a clear strategy for exploiting these resources through market demand from high value, export-oriented energy use, as part of Ireland’s competitive value proposition.
- The roadmap will demonstrate how existing policies will be implemented in a coordinated way, ensuring clear and accountable responsibility and resourcing of all existing and new recommendations. This includes the national biomethane strategy, national energy storage strategy, the roadmap for the decarbonisation of industrial heat, district heating steering group report, future framework for offshore renewable energy and Ireland’s offshore wind industrial strategy.
- Implementation of the roadmap and efficiency in the utilisation of our energy infrastructure will be subject to enhanced, whole-of-government oversight to ensure plans deliver real performance improvements as measured by emissions, energy security and affordability.
- All Department’s and state agencies, including both non-commercial and commercial bodies and regional and local authorities, will be mandated to support delivery of the roadmap with sufficient resources dedicated to doing so in as timely a manner as possible.
- In particular, the plans and capital investment strategies of all State agencies will be aligned with the roadmap.
- We will maintain and grow cross-government and industry participation in existing implementation structures, including the Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce and the Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce, and introduce similar structures for the decarbonisation of heat and transport.

- We will ensure the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) is resourced to implement both onshore and offshore renewable energy strategies and to simultaneously design multiple Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs), around Ireland’s West, South and East Coasts, to speed up the delivery of offshore wind.
- The roadmap will inform a clear and readily understandable high-level vision for Ireland’s energy transformation which forms the basis of engagement and communications to build public support, nationally and locally.

Related FF/FG Manifesto Commitments	
<p>FF Manifesto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver 9GW of onshore wind, 8GW of solar and at least 5GW of offshore wind by 2030. • Hold two Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) auctions annually. • Work with ports to support their infrastructure investments to facilitate offshore renewable energy development. • Expedite delivery of wind energy by building more onshore and offshore wind farms. • Select and complete a west coast floating offshore wind test site by 2026. • Repower the 76 windfarms reaching the end of life in 2030. • Publish the Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines. • Formally assign an area off the West Coast for a floating offshore wind test project. 	<p>FG Manifesto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine Gael is committed to achieving 80% of Ireland’s electricity generation from renewable sources by 2030. To reach this goal, we will establish a clear regulatory pathway, enable network upgrades, improve port facilities, and ensure a dependable schedule of renewable energy auctions. We are focused on ensuring that local communities benefit from Ireland’s renewable potential, with job creation, community ownership, and tangible economic returns. • Investing in Renewable Energy: Expand Ireland’s renewable energy sources, including wind, solar, and emerging technologies, while ensuring security of supply. • Fast-Track Offshore Wind Development: Prioritise the publication of Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs) and increase resources for responsible agencies to accelerate offshore wind projects. • Enhance Port Infrastructure: Develop a strategic, regionally balanced approach to port upgrades, preparing for offshore renewable projects. • Set out an ambitious energy plan for 2030: We will create a comprehensive plan for energy generation, connectivity, and planning processes, emphasising renewable sources to provide certainty for industries making short- and medium-term investments. This plan will also guide the development of data centre infrastructure in alignment with our decarbonisation objectives and Ireland’s knowledge-based economy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance plans for a wind generation centre of excellence: We will establish a floating offshore wind demonstrator site off the West Coast to showcase the feasibility of this technology. We will prioritise the rapid rollout of designated maritime area plans (DMAPs) to expedite offshore wind development, particularly along the Western Seaboard. • Support Medically Vulnerable Households: Extend schemes to help households with chronic health conditions install solar panels and restore the Warmth and Wellbeing scheme for low-income individuals with chronic respiratory conditions. • Promote Solar in Schools and Third Level Institutions: Drive the installation of solar panels in schools and third level institutions across Ireland, supporting renewable energy uptake in education facilities. • Solar and Renewable Energy for Public Buildings: Install solar panels, renewable energy sources, or connect to district heating where feasible in all suitable public buildings.
<p>Comments: Re floating wind, a “test project” is generally used as part of technology R&D. Since a number of floating wind projects are underway at commercial scale internationally, establishing a site to “deploy early, commercial scale” floating offshore wind would be a better wording.</p>	

2. “WE WILL INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ELECTRICITY GRID’S UTILISATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY BY MAKING THE GRID SMARTER AND MORE RESILIENT, IN PARALLEL WITH ITS EXPANSION”

- Every available opportunity will be taken to enhance efficiency in the current electricity grid’s utilisation, given the lead-in time for grid planning and expansion. This will include:
 - Removal of all barriers to co-located projects i.e. storage located with wind and/or solar PV to enable more effective use of the grid.
 - Introduction of non-firm grid connections, which can be allow industrial customers to utilise their existing infrastructure, without the need for expensive grid upgrades.
 - Utilisation of innovative grid technologies, such as Dynamic Line Rating and Dynamic Power Flow Control, local storage, private wires, hybrid connections, system services, inertia measurement and other technology enhancements to reduce network congestion and curtailment of renewables.
 - Ensuring operating performance and avoidance of curtailment is strongly incentivised under the Commission for Regulation of Utilities’ performance oversight of EirGrid and ESB Networks.
- In parallel, we will provide investment and political support at every level for the reinforcement and expansion of our electricity grid, as set out in EirGrid and ESB Network’s national grid plans, and instruct EirGrid to start planning now for grid projects to be delivered in the 2030s. This will be a programme of overriding public interest and an ongoing focus for Government, similar to the previous successful development of Ireland’s motorways.
- We will ensure grid expansion decisions are determined by public investment criteria based upon evaluation of the relative costs of each project and the total potential amount of renewables each project can facilitate, rather than the availability of grid development charges. Planning and anticipatory investment in the electricity grid and substations will be based upon their role as essential public infrastructure. The merits of removing grid development charges from potential suppliers and, through lower financing costs, reviewing and reducing the overall grid costs passed on to customers will be examined by CRU. Such an approach to grid financing would be similar to that adopted for Phase 2 offshore wind projects.

Related FF/FG Manifesto Commitments	
<p>FF Manifesto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €2.5 billion will be provided in the form of direct equity injections to support capital spending on the further development of our electricity grid infrastructure, both on-shore and off-shore. • Complete vital energy connectivity projects, including the Celtic Interconnector • Complete the Celtic Interconnector and continue to explore and support options for further interconnection. 	<p>FG Manifesto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will pursue a variety of funding sources, both public and private, to develop our energy grid, recognising the significant investment needed in our grid infrastructure.”

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upgrade the national grid to make it more resilient, more reliable, capable of transmitting offshore energy and ultimately to reduce costs for the consumer.• Fund the upgrading of the national electricity grid using State subventions of network charges so businesses will not have to pay for the upgrades through their electricity bills.• Support hybrid connections to share grid access between multiple renewable sources.• Explore alternative energy storage models, such as grid-to-vehicle/ vehicle-to-grid systems.	
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3. “WE WILL DELIVER THE STREAMLINED & PREDICTABLE PLANNING SYSTEM NEEDED TO BUILD ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE AT PACE AND SCALE”

- We will ensure that the planning system supports the rapid deployment of renewables and supporting infrastructure (including energy storage and the electricity grid).
- We will implement the new Planning and Development Act and the Renewable Energy Directive III. We will expedite commencement and transposition of this legislation, resourcing and accountability to ensure all planning authorities meet the statutory objectives and timelines.
- We will approve the National Planning Framework, setting ambitious targets for onshore renewable energy at a regional and county level. We will designate grid infrastructure areas and technology specific renewable acceleration areas under the EU RED III Directive.
- Where implementation issues arise, we will quickly and proactively intervene, including through legislative amendment, to ensure the priority given to the delivery of renewable energy in the Planning and Development Act and the National Planning Framework, together with the associated timelines, are fully achieved.

Related FF/FG Manifesto Commitments	
<p>FF Manifesto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately implement our landmark Planning and Development Act, including recruitment of 400 additional planning staff to deliver homes faster. • Support MARA to best carry out its functions in marine planning and in the development of a robust Offshore Renewable Energy sector through rapid, rigorous and transparent procedures. 	<p>FG Manifesto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate Project Delivery: We will expand the Planning and Environment Court to ensure projects move forward without unnecessary setbacks. This will enable housing and other high-priority infrastructure to meet sustainability criteria more effectively. • Streamline Planning: Implement the Planning and Development Act to make the planning process clearer, faster, and more predictable. • Resource our planning authorities: Ensure An Coimisiún Pleanála and local authorities are adequately resourced with staff and financial resources to make decisions in a quick and predictable timeframe. • Develop national planning guidelines for solar farms: We will assist in the managed development of solar energy in agriculture • Publish Wind Energy Development Guidelines: Ensure communities are consulted on wind capacity projects and benefit directly from them.

4. “WE WILL ENSURE ENERGY MARKET INCENTIVES ARE FULLY EFFECTIVE IN DELIVERING ALL THE ELEMENTS OF THE RENEWABLE-BASED ENERGY SYSTEM SET OUT IN NATIONAL POLICIES”

- We will ensure all the constituent elements of the renewable-based energy system and existing national targets in energy policies are supported by the appropriate market incentives needed to stimulate investment and uptake. We will promote fair and equitable energy pricing policies that incentivise decarbonisation, benefit consumers and encourage the use of domestic renewable sources for electricity, transport, heating, industrial processes and other uses.
- We will hold a regular schedule of auctions to promote the continued development of renewable energy sources. We will swiftly design the renewable auction scheme for 2026 – 2030 and obtain State Aid approval for this process in 2025, in order to provide advance certainty to renewable electricity developers that Ireland is committed to achieving our targets.
- We will address the “spark gap” between electricity and fossil fuel gas and heating oil, narrowing this gap to the EU accepted target spark gap of 2 and encouraging use of affordable, low-carbon heating options.
- We will put in place investment frameworks for long-duration electricity storage ensuring investment in these necessary large infrastructure projects is encouraged. This will include the use of thermal storage on district heating networks.
- We will allow full and fair participation of storage in the energy market. Currently market systems and network charges restrict the ability of energy storage assets to trade in the market, deliver their full value to consumers, provide flexibility to the grid and reduce system costs. The target of Q2 2025 for the introduction of schedule and dispatch for storage will be delivered.
- We will introduce a modest fixed flat electricity supply rate for currently “curtailed/constrained power” to electricity customers, helping when there is surplus to stimulate its use by large customers in decarbonising industrial heat and other areas and utilising more of the over 9% of renewable power which is currently switched off and wasted.
- We will provide the operational support, not capital support, needed for biogas/biomethane producers to mobilise investment and achieve the 2030 target of 5.7TWh in the National Biomethane Strategy.
- We will promote participation by community-led projects in the Small-Scale Renewable Energy Support Scheme by providing attractive rates, terms and conditions and reviewing eligibility criteria to bring these into line with EU criteria of 51% community ownership.

Related FF/FG Manifesto Commitments	
FF Manifesto: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold two Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) auctions annually. • Follow through on our commitments regarding carbon tax to ensure that carbon efficient practices are 	FG Manifesto: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine Gael is committed to ...ensure a dependable schedule of renewable energy auctions. • Support Community Ownership and Local Jobs: Increase local ownership of

<p>rewarded and to fund continued investment in environmental practices.</p>	<p>renewable projects, and create jobs and opportunities, especially in rural areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Community Ownership: Support communities in funding and securing grid access for local renewable projects. • Create Local Jobs in Renewable Sectors: Facilitate employment opportunities in constructing, maintaining, and servicing renewable infrastructure, integrating local businesses into the supply chain. • Expand Small-Scale Renewable Support: Promote the Small-Scale Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (SRESS) to simplify market access for community-owned solar and wind projects. • Stay on Track to €100 per Tonne by 2030: Continue with the planned carbon tax increase to reach €100 per tonne of CO₂ by 2030, aligning with recommendations from the Climate Change Advisory Council and scientific experts. • Encourage Solar Adoption on Farms: Maintain the 60% grant aid through the Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme to help farmers install solar PV systems, supporting renewable energy on farms and reducing their environmental footprint. • Provide financial incentives for the National Biomethane Strategy: We aim to produce up to 5.7 Tera Watt Hour (TWh) of biomethane by 2030.
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5. “WE WILL GIVE ENHANCED PRIORITY TO THE DECARBONISATION OF TRANSPORT AND HEAT”

- The SEAI’s Energy in Ireland 2024 report shows that in 2023 final energy use in Ireland was made up of Transport (43%), Heat (34%) and Electricity (22%). Electricity consumption is increasing but these figures show that, as well as decarbonising and expanding electricity supply, we must redouble efforts to decarbonise the transport and heat sectors, including through electrification.
- We will establish whole-of-government delivery structures for the decarbonisation of heat and transport involving key Departments, agencies and industry.
- We will ensure delivery of existing heat pump targets.
- We will address the issues in the Support Scheme for Renewable Heat for biomass by removing the cap on project size, addressing state aid issues and supporting biomass promotion.
- We will implement capital supports for Low-Carbon District Heating Projects to achieve the ambitious 2030 target of 2.7 TWh of district heating energy. We will make available sizeable grant funding through the Support Scheme for Renewable Heat, financed under the Infrastructure Climate and Nature Fund.
- In the interim, we will provide seed capital of €1m per existing District Heat project to further progress preparatory work, including planning, design, and legal/contractual arrangements for customers and construction, to ensure they are “shovel-ready” by 2026 to compete under the revised capital Support Scheme for Renewable Heat. This approach has proved successful in recent years in the UK (Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF) Transition Fund) and will expedite the transition to low-carbon district heating solutions.
- Continuing support for the shift from internal combustion engine cars to EVs and to public transport will be combined with early electrification of the public transport fleet.

Related FF/FG Manifesto Commitments	
<p>FF Manifesto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support decarbonisation of road freight and commercial coach with green fuels like HVO, hydrogen, and biomethane. • Introduce a Boiler Scrappage Pilot to encourage households to switch to more renewable sources of home energy • Accelerate the phase-out fossil fuel boilers in new builds. • Increase SEAI grants for heat pumps and develop stronger pathways for households to work towards better energy efficiency. • Promote HVO and BIOLPG as alternative fuels homes. • Support the development of Local District Heating Networks, warming multiple of homes from excess industrial energy sources. 	<p>FG Manifesto</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Transition from Oil and Fossil Fuels: Target older homes still using oil to switch to renewable heating systems, lowering carbon footprints and costs. Support the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) and other biofuels to reduce emissions from existing home boilers where deep retrofits are not possible in the short term. • Encourage District Heating Systems: Develop district heating systems across Ireland, building on the successful model established in Tallaght. • Enhance EV Charging Infrastructure: Increase the number of EV chargers, especially in rural areas, to support Ireland’s transition to electric vehicles and provide convenient access for all communities. • Promote Sustainable Transport in Decarbonising Zones: Work with local

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage data centres and other industries to supply waste heat for community projects. • Review how the Government can assist with the faster roll out of EVs, by increasing the grant levels and linking the grant to income earnings. • Reduce the average distance between EV recharging points. • Ensure Local Authorities allocate space for EV chargers in town plans and mandate new commercial car parks to provide EV chargers. • Launch a Government of Ireland EV Charger App showing all EV charger locations and availability. 	<p>authorities to develop decarbonising zones aimed at a 75% carbon reduction by 2030, focusing on pedestrianisation, cycling facilities, and renewable energy in transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Charging Infrastructure: Increase the number of publicly available EV charging points four-fold to nearly 10,000, ensuring better coverage nationwide. • Review EV Purchase Grants: Examine the current EV grant system, focusing on potential additional support for residents in areas with limited public transport options. • Explore the feasibility of a Vehicle Scrappage Scheme: Mindful of the need to decarbonise our vehicle fleet, we will consider the introduction of a scrappage scheme to replace older, polluting vehicles with electric cars and electric bikes, promoting a cleaner transport system • Assess Customs Duties on Imported EVs: Review customs duties on second-hand EV imports to make electric vehicles more affordable. • Explore Solar Storage Grants: Consider grants for solar storage batteries to encourage EV ownership and allow users to store energy for charging at optimal times. • Develop a Charging App: Collaborate with commercial operators to create a nationwide app for both public and private charging points, enhancing accessibility and ease of use for EV owners. • Promote Sustainable Aviation: Develop a National Sustainable Aviation Fuel Policy Roadmap and support Shannon Airport as a hub for testing new aviation technologies • Promote Decarbonisation in Haulage: Aid the road haulage sector in its transition to a more sustainable, low-carbon future.
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decarbonisation of road freight should include support for heavy goods EVs. - Boiler scrappage should be targeted at eliminating fossil fuel use as boilers which operate on renewable fuels are available and comply with climate objectives. - HVO needs to be certified and traceable, which is currently not the case with non-EU imported fuels. Without such controls these imports into the EU are likely to be harmful to the environment and will displace indigenous climate-friendly biofuels. 	

6. “WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENHANCE LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY SUPPORT FOR THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION”

- We will enact the Heat (Networks and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2024 to provide a clear legal framework for the development and operation of district heating networks, streamline permitting and licensing processes to reduce administrative barriers, enhance consumer protections and encourage private sector participation in the district heating market. We will ensure the buyback provisions encourage investment by providing clarity on key definitions and the role of price regulation.
- We will introduce restrictions on the importation of cheap untraceable non-EU sourced bioliquids which are harmful to the environment and detrimental to indigenous Irish clean bioliquid and biogas/biomethane production.
- We will rationalise the rules for heat pump design, installation and commissioning between new build and retrofit installations - to keep standards high on all installations, and to avoid separate barriers making the retrofit market less attractive to installers.
- We will support the solar rooftop sector to continue to develop safety at scale and regulatory bodies to ensure installation meets regulatory standards, placing the consumer at the heart of the clean energy transition.

7. “WE WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO ACQUIRE THE SKILLS FOR THE FUTURE NEEDED IN SCALING THE CLEAN ENERGY TRANSITION”

- As part of our overall emphasis on promoting workforce skills for the future and apprenticeships, we will work in conjunction with industry to develop a comprehensive skills strategy for the renewables sector, building on the work of Skillnet Ireland, Solas and others, including the continued expansion of the new Skillnet Offshore Wind Academy.
- We will update the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs 2021 Report – Skills for Zero Carbon. Relevant Departments and state bodies will be charged with delivering on costed recommendations across renewables, heat and transport sectors, in conjunction with industry.
- We will expand and develop apprenticeships, conversion courses and undergraduate and postgraduate courses, including by allowing those who have an existing degree to benefit from the free fees initiative when undertaking relevant courses.
- We will grow heat pump training and incentivise those with relevant skills to become installers.

Related FF/FG Manifesto Commitments	
FF Manifesto: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand retrofitting training and apprenticeship places to meet demand. • Ensure that Solas will train the skilled workers we need to deliver retrofitting. 	FG Manifesto: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will fund new courses in Green Skills, including the offshore wind energy sector, to support Ireland’s transition to a green economy

8. “WE WILL DELIVER CLEAN ENERGY IN THE MOST AFFORDABLE WAY POSSIBLE, PROTECTING HOUSEHOLDS FROM UNCERTAINTY AND PRICE SPIKES”

- We will create and maintain adequate renewable energy supports (e.g. grants, sectoral capital improvement works, low interest loans, tax breaks and system pricing) to reduce energy bills and ensure that everyone is included and supported to be part of the clean energy transition.
- We will initiate an early review of each component of charges passed on to electricity households to see if they are justified and/or would be better met by direct State subvention.
- This will include completion in 2025 of a review, as previously announced by CRU, of grid and network charges currently imposed on those developing renewable energy supplies or storage to ensure they are competitive with those imposed in other jurisdictions and do not exceed true costs.
- We will give consideration to the role, if any, of Grid Development Charges currently imposed on those seeking to install renewable generation and storage. We will examine the merits of removing these charges on potential suppliers and, through lower financing costs, reducing the overall grid costs passed on to customers. Such an approach to grid financing would be similar to that adopted for Phase 2 offshore wind projects.
- We will ensure competitive Dynamic Electricity Price Tariffs are launched for customers during 2025 to allow those that wish to do so to reduce their bills by switching demand to non-peak periods.
- We will put a freeze on the reduction of grants for the installation of domestic solar rooftop systems to support those with limited savings engaging with the renewable energy transition.

Related FF/FG Manifesto Commitments	
<p>FF Manifesto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Switch to direct State funding of Renewable Electricity Support Scheme, reducing Public Service Obligation (PSO) levy on households' electricity bills by an average of €40 	<p>FG Manifesto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under our proposal electricity and gas will not revert to 13.5% but instead go to 11% (up from 9%), households will receive a Domestic Energy VAT Rebate of €40 per annum to insulate them from any additional costs arising from our simplification of the VAT system.

9. “WE WILL MAKE IRELAND AN ENERGY POWERHOUSE, WITH CLEAN, SECURE AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY PROVIDING A CORNERSTONE OF OUR COMPETITIVENESS AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY”

- We will initiate an early review of each component of charges passed on to electricity businesses to see if they are justified and/or would be better met by direct State subvention. This will include the review of grid and network charges, as planned by CRU, to ensure they are competitive with those imposed in other jurisdictions.
- We will work with those industrial sub-sectors that are large energy users (e.g. agri-foods, life sciences, data centres, cement, etc) to develop and support pathways to industrial decarbonisation. We will support these sub-sectors to utilise Ireland’s expertise in decarbonisation of industrial heat and cooling, renewables, storage and demand management to accelerate their transition to energy efficiency and decarbonisation.
- We will increase public R&D Investment in renewable energy and grid technologies and support their commercialisation and scaling so that Irish companies can participate fully in the renewable energy supply-chain at home and abroad.
- We will implement Powering Prosperity – Ireland’s Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy, including by identifying high value export-oriented large energy users to provide a market for the planned surplus in renewable energy.
- Data centres provide an important market outlet to support the expansion of renewables and ensure capital costs are not solely carried by the State and domestic customers. State agencies will work collectively with those proposing new data centres to ensure their introduction leads to the net addition of renewables, backed up by onsite storage and flexible demand response, rather than recourse to fossil fuels, during high peak/low renewable periods. The utilisation of waste heat from data centres for district heating will also be encouraged.

Related FF/FG Manifesto Commitments	
<p>FF Manifesto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund the upgrading of the national electricity grid using State subventions of network charges so businesses will not have to pay for the upgrades through their electricity bills. • Ireland is home to a number of world leading data centres and technology companies. We will continue to work with the sector towards a secure and decarbonised energy future. • Increase investment in critical infrastructure and the electricity grid which will benefit all customers and, where appropriate, facilitate increased data centres. • Roll out nationwide 5G for high speed, low-latency connectivity vital to data centres and tech industries. 	<p>FG Manifesto:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch a Roadmap for Industrial Heat Decarbonisation: Develop a targeted roadmap to help manufacturers transition to low-carbon heating solutions in their production processes. • Set out an ambitious energy plan for 2030: We will create a comprehensive plan for energy generation, connectivity, and planning processes, emphasising renewable sources to provide certainty for industries making short- and medium-term investments. This plan will also guide the development of data centre infrastructure in alignment with our decarbonisation objectives and Ireland’s knowledge-based economy. • Green Energy Industrial Parks: Develop Green Energy Industrial Parks to attract large-scale investments in regional locations, co-located with renewable

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase incentives for data centres to use energy efficient technologies, renewable energy sources and innovative solutions like heat reuse to significantly lower their carbon footprint. 	<p>generation, and inspired by successful international models.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Data Centres as Renewable Catalysts: Allow data centres that contribute to economic growth and efficient grid usage, prioritising waste heat capture for district heating systems. • Implement Shannon Estuary Taskforce Recommendations: Keep the recommendations of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce central to renewable energy planning, recognising the region’s potential • Support Emerging Renewable Technologies: Back research and development in wave, tidal, and hydrogen energy, utilising test sites in An Spidéal, Belmullet, and Ringaskiddy. • Integrate Irish Companies into Offshore Wind Supply Chain: Help Irish companies participate in the offshore wind supply chain, raising their international profile.
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RENEWABLE ENERGY IRELAND
19 December, 2024.