

NEWSLETTER

South Irish Sea is a proposed renewable energy project by Energia off the east coast. The project will generate clean electricity to power the equivalent of more than 500,000 Irish homes and businesses – making a major contribution to achieving Ireland’s carbon reduction targets.

Upcoming Surveys

Energia applied to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for a foreshore licence to carry out surveys to determine the feasibility of this location to accommodate an offshore wind farm. The licence, which was granted in September 2021, permits a series of site investigation surveys which will provide essential information to progress the project design and environmental assessments.

The geophysical surveys, which will be undertaken from late May to June this year (subject to weather conditions) will provide important information on the seabed conditions and the ecology of the sea area.

We wish to advise that the survey area will remain open to fishing during the surveys. Energia has a policy of co-existence with fishing interests and will continue to engage and work with the fishing industry to deliver a successful outcome for both.

Geotechnical surveys will also be undertaken later in the summer. These surveys involve the collection of samples to determine sediment properties both on and below the seabed.

The data from these studies will help determine the proposed size and design of the wind farm, its location, the number of turbines and the distance from shore.



Location

South Irish Sea is a renewable energy project proposed to be located a minimum of 10km and up to 25km off the coasts of Co. Wexford and south Co. Wicklow.



Size

A typical 600-800MW offshore wind farm will consist of approximately 40-60 turbines.



Benefits

Economic

- €2bn investment
- 800 jobs during construction
- 70-100 local operational and maintenance jobs
- Supply chain opportunities for local businesses



Social

Under the Renewable Electricity Support Fund (RESS), a typical 600-800MW wind farm will provide a multi million euro community benefit fund per annum for local projects.



Geophysical survey vessel.

We are continuing to carry out monthly aerial marine mammal and seabird surveys as well as fishing activity surveys across the site. Studies are continuing to identify grid connection options and suitable locations for construction and operations facilities. We hope to have options available for consultation later this year.

Information Clinics

To ensure that information on the South Irish Sea project is accessible to local residents, we are holding information clinics at locations along the Wexford and south Wicklow coastline.

The first clinics will be held on **Tuesday 10th May 2022** at the following locations and times:

Wexford Town

Talbot Hotel Wexford, 10am-12pm

Kilmuckridge

Kilmuckridge Hall (beside Kate's Café), 2-4pm

Arklow

Arklow Bay Hotel, 6-8pm

These clinics provide the opportunity for members of the public to meet with the project team, ask questions, and receive an update on South Irish Sea project. In person and online appointments are available.

To book an appointment please contact Aiveen Finn, Community Liaison Officer, on 087 183 7452 or email info@southirishseawind.ie



Irish Wind Industry Awards

As one of Ireland's leading and most experienced renewable energy companies, we are delighted to have won three awards at Wind Energy Ireland's annual industry awards held in March 2022. The Irish Wind Industry Awards, organised by Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) recognise and celebrate companies and individuals demonstrating originality, innovation and excellence in Ireland's wind energy sector.

Energia's Meenadreen windfarm won both the 'Wind Energy in the Community Award' and the 'Overall Winner Award' for the Meenadreen windfarm community benefit fund which is administered in partnership with Community Fund Ireland. Meenadreen is a 95MW wind farm located in South Donegal.

Cian Brogan an engineer on Energia's Renewables team won the Young Person of the Year Award. These three awards are a testament to the work our team is doing to progress renewable energy projects that will benefit our environment.

First Public Consultation Report Published



Energia has published the introductory phase public consultation report for the proposed offshore renewable energy project in the South Irish Sea.

We would like to thank everyone for taking the time to learn about the project during the introductory consultation period in autumn 2021

and submitting feedback. All feedback provided has been fully considered by the project team and will inform the project going forward.

During the consultation, there were over 4,010 views of the project website and 730 visits to the online exhibition room, culminating in a total of 46 submissions to the project team.

There was a clear understanding of the need for climate action expressed by respondents throughout the consultation. A wide selection of topics was raised in the feedback including the planning processes, project benefits, visual impacts and fishing. Responses by the project team to each topic are contained in the report.

Consultation with local communities, the fishing industry and all interested stakeholders forms a key part of the South Irish Sea project and we are committed to ongoing engagement as the project progresses.

The introductory consultation period was the first of a number of non-statutory public consultations that will be held as the project is developed. This was our first consultation since the award of our Foreshore Licence by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in September 2021. The public will also have an opportunity to submit views on the project at the statutory public consultation, which will happen when the planning application is submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

Visit southirishseawind.ie/publications/ to view the report.



Team members at Wicklow Harbour to discuss the project with the local fishing community.



Wexford Youths Women Football Club

Energia has been a proud supporter of Wexford Youths Women's Football Club since 2014. In 2021 a new partnership deal was agreed through which Energia covers the subscription fees for each player for a three-year period. This has helped to remove some of the barriers to participation for female athletes in the area.

One of Ireland's most successful women's teams, WYWFC are the current holders of the FAI Cup and a number of their players regularly line out for the Irish squad. We are very proud of our association with the team and wish them the very best of luck for the coming season.



Eoin McPartland, Offshore Renewables Manager, and Caroline Roche, Offshore Environmental & Consents Manager, outside Wexford County Hall on a rainy morning in March following a meeting with environmental and marine staff of Wexford County Council. We look forward to our continued engagement as the project progresses.

For further information

Throughout the development of the project, the Fisheries Liaison Officer and Community Liaison Officer will continue to be available to discuss the project with the community.



Community Liaison Officer (CLO)
Aiveen Finn

☎ 087 183 7452

✉ info@southirishseawind.ie



Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)
Mark O'Reilly

☎ 021 2031005

✉ flo@southirishseawind.ie

About Energia



Energia is one of Ireland's leading energy companies supplying approximately 20% of Ireland's total electricity requirements.



Energia is supporting Ireland's climate action targets to reduce carbon emissions by half by 2030.



Energia has 309MW of wholly owned onshore wind farms on the island of Ireland.

Más mian leat cóip den leabhrán seo a fháil as Gaeilge,
déan teagmháil linn.

