Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Future Framework for Offshore Renewable Energy

2025 Review

Prepared by the Department of Environment,
Climate and Communications
gov.ie/DECC

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Introduction

The *Future Framework for Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Policy Statement*[1], published 1 May 2024, outlines Ireland's long-term ambitions of achieving 20 GW of installed ORE by 2040 and 37 GW by 2050, and it lays down a plan of how these ambitions will be achieved. A 29-action plan was established to realise this offshore renewable potential including a built-in annual review procedure. This document – the *Future Framework 2025 Review* – is the first iteration.

This review builds on the core tenets of the *Future Framework Policy Statement* including domestic and international policy context, key Government priorities, and various aspects of the plan-led process. The purpose of this document is twofold:

1. Provide an update of progress to date including milestones achieved and the evolving policy context.
2. Renew Government's commitment to the *Future Framework* action plan including necessary revisions such as removing completed actions and new additions.

For the avoidance of doubt, all policy decisions made in the original *Future Framework Policy Statement* stand, unless revised explicitly in this document.

1. Progress to date

Sector updates

Significant milestones have been achieved across Government and industry in the past year. A landmark success was the publication of the *South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan* (SC-DMAP) on 24 October 2024 following approval by both Houses of the Oireachtas[2]. Ireland's first forward spatial plan for ORE identifies four Maritime Areas in the Celtic Sea within which proposed future fixed offshore wind projects may be located. One of these four Maritime Areas, known as Tonn Nua or Maritime Area A, is allocated 900 MW and will aim for deployment by 2030, or as soon as feasible thereafter. The remaining three sites plan for areas that could reasonably allow for approximately an additional 4 GW to be developed post-2030.

Relatedly, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) published the terms and conditions for the second Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme (ORESS), known as ORESS Tonn Nua, in October 2024[3]. The Terms and Conditions set the framework for a competitive auction to take place for a two-way contract for difference (CFD) support for the 900 MW available

[1] Future Framework for Offshore Renewable Energy
[2] The South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy (SC-DMAP)
[3] ORESS Tonn Nua Offshore Wind Auction

grid at Tonn Nua. Following stakeholder requests, this auction is expected to take place in the latter half of 2025.

The Phase One projects have submitted planning applications to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) and are expected to deliver approximately 3.8 GW of offshore wind energy both through the ORESS 1 action and alternative routes to market. These projects represent a significant step in achieving Ireland's 2030 goals and Government will continue to support their delivery in accordance with legislative procedures.

Recent publications from other agencies relevant to offshore renewables include:

- Two decision papers from the Commission on the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) on grid-related information to support ORESS Tonn Nua[4].
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)'s *Offshore Renewable Energy Technology Roadmap*[5].
- *Ireland's Offshore Wind Skills Action Plan*[6], a report commissioned by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) to develop a skills action plan to address the identified skills shortages in Ireland.
- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE)'s *Powering Prosperity Implementation Progress Report*[7].

Global contexts are constantly evolving, as demonstrated by ongoing geo-political tensions and the exacerbating climate crisis. Recent international developments including EU publications have emphasised the need for energy security and electricity affordability, for example, the *Action Plan for Affordable Energy* from the European Commission[8]. One of the guiding principles of the *Future Framework* is "cost of energy and consumer affordability," which further highlights the emerging concern around this issue. Increased effort will be given to ensuring offshore projects are developed sustainably with reference to economic viability. This is particularly relevant as energy demand solutions are emerging to respond to large quantities of renewable generation.

Action updates

Action 1: *Explore the possibility of developing a more detailed roadmap for future ORE development, including the potential for interim ORE capacity targets and sub targets for innovative technologies.*

[4] We have published two phase 2 offshore wind decision papers. | CRU.ie
[5] Offshore Renewable Energy | Technology Roadmap| SEAI
[6] Offshore Wind Skills Action Plan 2024
[7] Powering Prosperity – Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy Implementation Progress Report
[8] Action Plan for Affordable Energy: Unlocking the true value of our Energy Union to secure affordable, efficient and clean energy for all Europeans - European Commission

Action 19: *Develop an Alignment Strategy action plan by end 2024, to support the delivery of 2040 and 2050 ORE targets, with a built-in review structure to assist implementation. This strategy, to be place by end 2025, intends to ensure that ORE generation, transmission, and demand – both traditional and non-traditional – are in alignment both from a geographic and temporal perspective.*

For the State to plan Ireland's renewable energy transition effectively in such a way as to provide confidence to industry, there needs to be a robust strategy with clearly delineated timelines and deliverables. This approach is particularly important for the ORE sector where lead times for projects can take upwards of 10 years. The *Future Framework* is the first iteration of this plan, setting out clear targets and an evidence base.

To create policy synergies and reduce consultation burden on stakeholders it has been decided that the documents referenced under Action 1 and Action 19 – the ORE roadmap and the alignment strategy – will be developed under the existing *Future Framework* policy structure which already has a built-in review mechanism. To deliver these actions, an update to the *Future Framework Policy Statement* will be developed, in addition to this document which contains the action plan review.

The next *Future Framework* iteration will focus on specifying the ORE policy needed to enable project development within future DMAP sites and thus will be closely aligned with upcoming marine spatial planning (MSP) decisions (see update to Action 7 below). Additionally, the next *Future Framework* iteration will be more closely aligned with future iterations of DETE's *Powering Prosperity – Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy*[9], particularly where offshore renewable generation must be closely aligned with available domestic demand and market offtake.

This policy update, aligned with ORE DMAPs and *Powering Prosperity*, will be delivered by Q4 2026 alongside an updated suite of actions to the *Future Framework* action plan to be reviewed annually.

Action 2: *Conduct a study to assess the potential to deploy floating offshore wind in Irish waters at scale, assessing capacity at key strategic locations in Ireland and taking account of the upcoming global auctions dedicated to floating wind, including in France, in 2024.*

Action 3: *Investigate the feasibility of a floating offshore wind demonstrator site including optimal capacity.*

In Q3 2024 DECC commenced a study to evaluate the technical feasibility of Ireland's offshore wind resource – both fixed and floating. The analysis evaluated locations where offshore wind projects are not feasible based on technical limitations such as bathymetry or where the seabed is occupied by other infrastructure. Feasible areas were overlayed with a levelised cost of electricity (LCOE) mapping exercise to evaluate where fixed and floating could be developed including capacity estimates. General

[9] Powering Prosperity – Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy - DETE

recommendations were also provided for Ireland's approach to a floating offshore wind demonstrator site.

This study is expected to be published at the end of May 2025. The report details the maximum technical capacity of fixed and floating offshore wind that could be deployed in the Irish maritime area without factoring in any other constraints such as environmental, social or energy demand considerations. This technical capacity will feed into initial discussions on future DMAPs which will undergo thorough stakeholder engagement and public consultation.

The technical feasibility assessment report also provides recommendations for the approach to a floating offshore wind demonstrator site. Development of a floating demonstrator will also require further discussion on location through MSP processes including environmental considerations and discussions with EirGrid on available grid capacity or alternative offtake such as renewable hydrogen. These aspects will be further explored in the next *Future Framework* iteration under Action 1 and Action 19.

Action 4: *Maintain State support for our existing or planned test sites and explore the feasibility of supporting additional test sites.*

Currently, Ireland only has one operational ORE test site[10]: Lir National Ocean Test Facility (Lir-NOTF) in Co. Cork, an interior testing facility for technology readiness level (TRL) 1-4. This facility is vital for testing early-stage innovations but does not have the capacity for scaling up to higher TRLs. Lir-NOTF is supported through a Master Service Agreement between SEAI and University College Cork 2024-2026 through which funding is secured for the facility operations and the annual SEAI industry access programme.

The TRL 4-6 SmartBay test facility in Galway was supported through the SEAI – Marine Institute (MI) Master Service Agreement 2024-2025 to fund facility operations. The site is currently being decommissioned, and SEAI and MI are evaluating appropriate next steps.

SEAI are leading development of the Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site (AMETS) in Co. Mayo that will de-risk advanced technologies (TRL 7-9) in full-scale metocean conditions. The project is seen as a vital cog in establishing Ireland as a location for ORE innovation. A FLiDAR (floating light detection and ranging) is being deployed during 2025 at the site to enhance data collection.

DECC is looking to publish a draft policy statement on ORE Innovation in Q2 2025 for consultation. The purpose of this policy is to establish pathways for innovative ORE projects to deploy in Irish waters and provide guidance to consenting bodies on criteria for assessing innovative projects. DECC commits

[10] Ocean Test Sites In Ireland | Ocean Energy | SEAI

to continued support of state-funded test sites and research projects operated by SEAI, MI and others. There is also a commitment to evaluate existing funding supports and potential financing options for ORE innovation.

Action 5: *Conduct an analysis to determine the economic and practical viability of various innovative ORE technologies.*

DECC has submitted a research call to conduct this study through the 2025 SEAI National Energy Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) Call. Work on the project has commenced and is on schedule to meet the delivery timeline.

Future research on innovative ORE generation technologies is expected to be ongoing. DECC are exploring additional policy supports in tandem with SEAI as the predominant body tasked to promote energy research in Ireland.

Action 6: *Establish a dedicated ORE technology innovations research and development advisory group including research, industry and government representatives, chaired by SEAI.*

Action 21: *Consider the establishment of additional working groups to provide opportunities for policy input regarding the Future Framework between government and other stakeholders, which may include environmental groups or community representatives.*

Additional working groups are still under consideration by Government and engagement with stakeholders is ongoing. Government will revisit the establishment of additional working groups in subsequent reviews of the *Future Framework* and a mapping exercise of existing stakeholder groups will be conducted to facilitate synergies across Government efforts.

Action 7: *Provide the structures and supports necessary to establish a future DMAP roadmap including criteria and timelines for deployment. This roadmap should be produced in accordance with all relevant legislative and regulatory processes and in alignment with technology maturity and offtake availability.*

Action 8: *Assess the potential for accelerating the development of a West Coast DMAP and examine the cost and viability of initiating floating offshore wind projects in this DMAP as Ireland seeks to support the development of this sector in line with Action 7.*

At the time of publication, the *Future Framework Policy Statement* pre-dated the draft SC-DMAP and subsequent approval by the Oireachtas. As such, the original approach taken for the designation of DMAPs was thought to be piecemeal and follow the methodology undertaken for the south coast. This

was the justification for the DMAP roadmap which was to establish timelines and broad areas of interest for future ORE DMAPs to meet Ireland's long-term energy targets.

After thorough deliberation from Government departments and engagement across stakeholder groups, it was decided that a more comprehensive and holistic approach will be taken. In May 2025, the Minister for Climate, Environment and Energy announced the commencement of work on the preparation of a National ORE DMAP[11]. This more systematic planning approach will ensure future developments take place in a managed and sustainable way. For example, increased integration of environmental considerations and cumulative impacts. In addition, long-term planning of Ireland's offshore energy resource will aid in the forward planning of Ireland's onshore transmission grid and business cases for port investment.

The National ORE DMAP will focus on Ireland's 20 GW by 2040 offshore renewable target. It will consider all coasts out to an outer boundary, thus overwriting the need for coast-specific DMAPs as previously indicated under Action 8 of the *Future Framework*. Due to the extensive data collection, stakeholder engagement, public consultation, and analysis that will underpin the project, the National ORE DMAP is expected to be completed by the end of 2027.

Action 9: *Continue to support the consenting process for ORE projects including support of necessary environmental procedures*

Consenting bodies continue to progress applications for offshore renewable projects including for Marine Usage Licences (MULs), Maritime Area Consents (MACs), and Planning Permission. Due to the strategic importance of ORE deployment, the application process for offshore renewables is being prioritised. For example, the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA)'s prioritisation scoring system which describes both ORE DMAP and ORE non-DMAP activities as a national and European priority[12]. DECC are aware of risks at in the planning and consenting system and are working closely with regulators and industry to mitigate barriers.

Action 10: *Explore the feasibility of implementing a competitive MAC framework with consideration to requirements under the MAP Act including appropriate criteria and indicative timelines for implementation.*

Action 14: *Design a competitive process to facilitate sea-bed access designated for 2GW of non-grid limited capacity in 2025, to be in development by 2030 in alignment with Action 10.*

[11] Work to begin on a National Offshore Renewable Energy Designated Maritime Area Plan
[12] Application Prioritisation Scoring System - MARA - The Maritime Regulator

MARA secured support services in Q4 2024 to assist in the design of a competitive MAC framework that can be used by MARA for potential competitive MAC calls. Once designed, this framework will be used by MARA in line with Government policy on the deployment of ORE in the maritime area. A key aspect of this project will be ensuring consistency with existing legislation and policy, such as the *Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act 2021*[13]. Due to the need for a thorough legal review, the framework will likely be delivered by Q3 2025.

Following engagement with relevant Government departments and seeking legal advice, MARA are now working on the delivery of a competitive MAC process. Action 10 can be considered complete and will be revised to reflect the implementation stage of the competitive MAC process which will include consideration of non-grid limited projects.

Action 11: *Maintain a single schedule for all upcoming State tenders for ORE, including non-grid limited ORE, in alignment with Action 7.*

Action 12: *Design and develop a successor support scheme to ORESS, and obtain State Aid clearance, to be in operation from 2026-2030. This successor support scheme will be subject to domestic and international demand assessment.*

The current mechanism to secure Government supports for ORE is the ORESS scheme which encourages the production of renewable energy while providing certainty and confidence to generators. The scheme was hugely successful in securing a competitive price for ORESS 1 and Government and industry are gearing up for a second auction this year for the ORESS Tonn Nua site to select a winner for the 900 MW available in the SC-DMAP[14]. All updates to auction timelines and publications have been made publicly available on gov.ie.

Work is underway to redesign the ORESS scheme to take account of the *Net Zero Industry Act (NZIA)*[15] and the EU *Electricity Market Design Regulation*[16] and to adapt the scheme to future market conditions. Consultation will take place later in 2025, followed by State Aid notification.

Action 13: *Identify and assess the enabling supports and/or frameworks that may be required to maximise capacity from alternative routes to market.*

[13] Maritime Area Planning Act 2021
[14] ORESS Tonn Nua Offshore Wind Auction
[15] Net-Zero Industry Act - European Commission
[16] Regulation - EU - 2024/1747 - EN - EUR-Lex

In addition to the ORESS auctions, a key enabler of economy-wide decarbonisation is facilitating alternative routes to market such as Corporate Purchase Power Agreements (CPPAs). These mechanisms are particularly important for innovative offtake solutions such as renewable hydrogen generation as well as enabling the decarbonisation of large energy users.

Work is underway to examine the policy environment for alternative route to market for offshore wind. Consultation will take place later in 2025, before finalising conclusions and identifying actions.

Action 14: *Design a competitive process to facilitate sea-bed access designated for 2GW of non-grid limited capacity in 2025, to be in development by 2030 in alignment with Action 10.*

See Action 10 above.

Action 15: *Explore and develop routes to markets as required for the 2GW non-grid limited generation capacity in alignment with Action 4 of the National Hydrogen Strategy.*

DECC has conducted initial stakeholder engagement to support the scoping of this action. In summer 2024, DECC hosted a series of stakeholder workshops across Government departments and agencies to align expectations and agree next steps. Further work is underway to advance the hydrogen sector, as set out under the *National Hydrogen Strategy*[17], which will be needed to promote the commercialisation of the sector such that routes to market are economically viable for the State and industry.

From Q2 2025, this action will be taken forward by the National Hydrogen Taskforce currently under development. As such, this action has been removed from the Future Framework action plan. In its place there is an ongoing commitment to continue engagement with the renewable hydrogen sector through the National Hydrogen Taskforce in recognition that development of a renewable hydrogen industry will enable delivery of Ireland's ORE ambitions.

Action 16: *Rollout of EirGrid's Grid Implementation Plan and future iterations to aid in the alignment of infrastructure efficiencies in a manner which considers offshore generation, grid, and routes to market.*

EirGrid's final *Grid Implementation Plan 2023-2028* was published in September 2024 following rigorous environmental assessments including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA)[18]. The Plan details the objectives and policies to implement the long-term vision set

[17] National Hydrogen Strategy
[18] Environment and Biodiversity | In the Community | EirGrid

out in *Shaping Our Electricity Future*[19] alongside the specific projects outlined in the *Transmission Development Plan 2024*[20]. Included is consideration of Ireland's 2030 ORE generation and interconnection ambitions, such as the 5 GW of offshore wind generation.

These documents are reviewed under a five-year SEA cycle as well as to ensure upcoming grid development is fit for purpose. Work is ongoing to develop a long-term strategy for grid forward planning, which will align closely with EirGrid's *Tomorrows Energy Scenarios*[21] and the ambitions set out in the *Future Framework*. Any future network development is intended to align closely with DETE's analysis of green energy industrial parks and consideration of large energy users under *Powering Prosperity* actions 37, 38 and 39.

Action 17: *CRU to consider provision for anticipatory investment for the development of offshore and onshore grid through the regulatory framework following publication of EU guidance scheduled for Q1 2025.*

This action will be covered through the standard CRU price review mechanism setting out the five-year revenue allowance for network companies. The current Price Review (PR5) will conclude at the end of 2025. CRU has published a strategy paper for Price Review Six (PR6)[22] to inform the 2026-2030 period. EU guidance such as the recently announced *Action Plan for Affordable Energy* will influence future developments of Ireland's network.

The CRU is also participating in the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)'s Infrastructure Taskforce and the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER)'s Regulatory Benchmarking & Legal Working Groups.

Action 18: *Identify the resourcing needs both, current and capital, across government departments and agencies to ensure all government bodies in relevant marine, ecology, planning, relevant industrial development and ORE disciplines are properly resourced to discharge the expanded responsibilities to attract the economic value as set out under the Future Framework.*

In Q1 2025, Government departments and agencies across the Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce (OWDT) co-developed a high-level White Paper on the economic opportunity of Ireland's emerging offshore renewable industry. The purpose of this paper was to provide a common foundation, agreed

[19] Shaping Our Electricity Future | EirGrid
[20] Transmission Development Plan (TDP) 2024 | Eirgrid
[21] Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios (TES)
[22] Price Review 6 - 2024 | CRU.ie

across Government at Taskforce level, of the industrial potential of this opportunity from which specific investment asks and strategic policy development can progress in future.

The White Paper outlines the financial and economic implications of establishing an at-scale ORE industry, both in terms of investment required and economic benefits returned. Critically, the White Paper decouples the offshore renewable energy needed to achieve Ireland's legally binding domestic net zero commitments from the wider industrial business case for ORE sector expansion. This was done to distinguish the investment needed to achieve carbon neutrality and those that would help establish a larger scale 37 GW ORE industry.

The White Paper, currently under review, is to be used by Government as part of the deliberative process for future investment and funding calls. The completion of this action is a significant result since agreement at national level on the cross-departmental investment needs and economic benefits will ultimately advance delivery timelines.

Action 19: *Develop an Alignment Strategy action plan by end 2024, to support the delivery of 2040 and 2050 ORE targets, with a built-in review structure to assist implementation. This strategy, to be place by end 2025, intends to ensure that ORE generation, transmission, and demand – both traditional and non-traditional – are in alignment both from a geographic and temporal perspective.*

See Action 1 above.

Action 20: *Establish a joint government and industry working group as facilitated under the OWDT industry forum to discuss the prioritisation, delivery and implementation of the actions set forth under the Future Framework.*

Arising from initial feedback during the *Future Framework Policy Statement* public consultation was the need to have ongoing, targeted discussion between Government and industry representatives on emerging barriers to the long-term vision of ORE. After deliberation with industry association groups, the joint Government and industry working group was established in Q3 2024. Members have met regularly since establishment to discuss pertinent topics such as the ORE technical resource assessment (Action 2) and the potential for a floating demonstrator (Action 3).

The group will continue to meet into the upcoming year and, as such, this action has been moved to an ongoing commitment.

Action 21: *Consider the establishment of additional working groups to provide opportunities for policy input regarding the Future Framework between government and other stakeholders, which may include environmental groups or community representatives.*

See Action 6 above.

Action 22: *Procure, consolidate and publish all relevant data to support the open sourcing of ocean data available for the protection of the marine environment and biodiversity during development of ORE.*

Data is critical to advancing Ireland's renewable energy goals and securing its energy future. Near term priorities include data collection for the SC-DMAP area, particularly focusing on the Tonn Nua site which will be auctioned in the next ORESS auction.

Geophysical data has been procured from a private operator in Q4 2024 to complement the geophysical data surveyed by Marine Institute summer 2024. Additionally, DECC have secured the successful completion of a regional metocean characterisation study and data package for the SC-DMAP in December 2024. These have been published and made available for download[23].

While data for the SC-DMAP remains a priority, further efforts will look at collating and securing additional data – through both procurement and additional surveying – at a national level. This will inform future DMAP decisions and other marine planning such as the upcoming Marine Protected Area (MPA) legislation. As such, this action has been moved to an ongoing commitment.

Action 23: *Establish a priority process to incorporate cumulative impact studies into the DMAP process as required by the MAP Act.*

Cumulative impacts are required to be assessed on a project by project basis under the *Planning and Development Act 2024*[24] as well as incorporated into the DMAP process as required by the *MAP Act 2021*. Cumulative impacts are referenced under the SC-DMAP; however, it is stated that assessments are to be informed by regional level surveys to evaluate effects at project level.

A National ORE DMAP will allow for greater consideration of environmental effects including cumulative impacts. There is a need for further research to be conducted both for assessing impacts of singular activities and to understand the complex interactions across maritime sectors. It is also likely that as the discourse emerges, there will be new standards for international best practice.

[23] The South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy (SC-DMAP)
[24] Planning and Development Act 2024

The consideration of ongoing research and the emerging international conversation will inform this project under the *Future Framework* action plan. As such, the action end-date is aligned with the delivery timeline of future ORE DMAPs.

Action 24: *Conduct additional studies and data modelling to inform future ORE DMAP delineation given increasing frequency of weather extremes and future climate and environmental conditions.*

The metocean surveying request for tender published by DECC in Q3 2024 was required to be cancelled. Instead, a metocean characterisation package has been procured as stated under Action 22 to de-risk bid preparations for the upcoming ORESS Tonn Nua auction. This data will also support developers in improving future offshore wind farms' planning, engineering, and operational efficiency.

Additional studies and data modelling will continue to be prioritised by DECC in tandem with relevant Government agencies such as the Marine Institute, transferring this action to an ongoing commitment.

Action 25: *Develop an overarching ORE data policy and governance statement.*

To inform the strategic and valuable acquisition of marine data, DECC have prepared a draft data policy statement for ORE and circulated to relevant stakeholders for comments. The data policy describes a three-part approach: policy, strategy and plan. DECC received extensive feedback on the document and are incorporating the comments into a finalised data policy. The data policy is expected to form part of the deliberative process for data acquisition. It is expected that this action will conclude in Q3 2025.

Action 26: *Explore potential investment incentives which could be developed to encourage both domestic investment opportunities and foreign direct investment (FDI) in domestic supply chain facilities.*

DETE, working closely with Enterprise Ireland (EI) and IDA Ireland, are pursuing a suite of targeted actions in *Powering Prosperity* designed to develop the capacity and capability of the offshore wind supply chain in Ireland. A detailed progress report is provided in *Powering Prosperity – Ireland's Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy Implementation Progress Report*. Within this report, the relevant actions for offshore renewable supply chain investment are *Powering Prosperity* actions 4, 5, 6, 7, 16, and 30.

EI continues to work with companies on funding investments, including recent funding packages of over €1 million and €2 million, respectively, to two companies, with other companies also in receipt of funding packages from EI over the last year. EI's Climate-Tech department is actively engaged with

start-ups, stakeholders and accelerators to drive increased entrepreneurial development in the offshore wind sector.

DETE has launched a communication campaign to highlight relevant Government-supported funding opportunities, supported by MI and the Irish Maritime Development Office (IMDO). Additionally, DETE, SEAI, MI and Research Ireland have actively participated in a range of industry events over the last year to further highlight support programmes and funding opportunities to industry. DETE are also liaising closely with IDA to respond to opportunities arising from changes in EU state aid and funding approaches in areas of strategic importance for FDI in Ireland, including those related to sustainability and green economy opportunities.

Further information on ongoing work to develop the offshore wind supply chain is available in the *Powering Prosperity Implementation Progress Report*. The timelines for this action have been extended to Q4 2025 to align with those referenced in *Powering Prosperity*.

Action 27: *Establish Offshore Bidding Zone (OBZ) Frameworks necessary to maximise the efficient use of offshore renewable energy and interconnector capacity, in order to meet the objectives of the EU Green Deal.*

DECC has begun preliminary stakeholder engagement with international, national and internal colleagues on the challenges regarding OBZs. Part of this work involves further exploring the complexities of OBZs while monitoring EU developments in the area. Due to the emerging concept of OBZs this action has been modified to an ongoing commitment.

Action 28: *Further assess the feasibility of hydrogen export markets and routes, including the costs and viability of transport options, including export pipeline routes.*

Under the emerging National Hydrogen Taskforce, DECC commissioned a feasibility study to explore the opportunities for exporting hydrogen to continental Europe in May 2025. Given the nascent nature of the hydrogen industry and ongoing efforts to establish the National Hydrogen Taskforce timelines for the study have been extended with the project expected to conclude in Q4 2025.

Action 29: *Include Community Benefit Fund provisions in MACs, applicable regardless of route to market*

In 2024, transfer of Government functions saw responsibility for the *MAP Act* assigned to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. In response, DECC sought updated legal advice on the legislative options for the transfer of the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) to the MAC. An interim solution is to require CBF contributions as a condition under the Tonn Nua auction, as was the case for

the ORESS 1 auction. Legal advice is ongoing, and next steps on this action will be provided by Q1 2026.

Due to the complex legal implications of adjusting the CBF provisions, DECC are reviewing legislative vehicles to progress this action as supported by MARA. The action owner and timelines, therefore, have been altered to reflect these changes.

2. 2025-2026 Action Plan

The Government's objective, in the first instance, is to achieve the legally binding 5 GW target set forth in the *Climate Action Plan 2025*[25]. For this reason, efforts focused on the Phase One and Phase Two projects, including full implementation of the SC-DMAP, are being prioritised. The *Future Framework* looks beyond the 2030 timelines toward realising climate neutrality by 2050. It envisages a revolutionised energy system in which offshore renewables play a key role in electricity generation and system balancing efforts.

While Ireland's 2050 targets are on the horizon, it is important to act now and to establish a robust, achievable set of milestones to deliver our vision. Providing certainty to the sector will not only enhance Ireland's reputation but also facilitate investment, drive down costs, and ensure Government oversight enables sustainable development of our maritime area with an ecosystems-based management approach.

The 29-action plan in the original *Future Framework* focused on kickstarting Ireland's long-term, plan-led approach to ORE emphasising the immediate action needed and where resources should be allocated. The 2025-2026 action plan builds on this momentum, with predominant attention centred around achieving Ireland's 20 GW by 2040 target.

Identified below are 14 actions to deliver and 9 ongoing commitments. Where relevant, a justification has been provided to explain the deviation from the original action plan in the *Future Framework*.

Actions

	Actions	Owners	End date	Justification
1	Develop a draft ORE Alignment Strategy by end 2026, to support the delivery of 2040 ORE targets in	DECC	Q4 2026	A high-level, location agnostic strategy is insufficient to inform the detailed forward planning, financial

[25] Climate Action Plan 2025

Actions		Owners	End date	Justification
	alignment with the spatial planning process underpinned by future DMAP delineation.			decisions, and strategic co-location needed to inform ports, network, and demand offtake development. Instead of another generic alignment strategy, duplicating the efforts of the Future Framework Policy Statement, a specific plan informed by MSP process is considered more valuable. This policy is expected to be drafted alongside upcoming MSP decisions including the National ORE DMAP and be compliant with environmental assessment requirements.
2	Conduct an analysis to determine the economic and practical viability of various innovative ORE technologies.	SEAI DECC	Q4 2025	SEAI have been added as an action owner as this study will be completed under the 2025 National Energy RD&D Call.
3	Publish a policy statement on ORE research and innovation projects and explore the potential of other support for ORE innovation.	DECC	Q4 2025	The purpose of this policy is to establish pathways for innovative ORE projects to deploy in Irish waters and provide guidance to consenting bodies on criteria for assessing innovative projects.
4	Evaluate, via a mapping exercise, the establishment of additional working groups to provide opportunities for policy input regarding the *Future Framework* between government and other stakeholders, such as dedicated ORE research group, and implement as appropriate.	SEAI DECC	Q4 2025	The establishment of additional working groups will be considered after thorough examination of existing efforts made across Government.
5	Provide the structures and supports necessary to support the MSP process in the delineation of future DMAPs and potential development locations.	DECC	Q4 2027	The undertaking of a National ORE DMAP will require significant resources throughout the process including consideration of the requirements for DMAP establishment as set forth under the *MAP Act*.

Actions		Owners	End date	Justification
6	Implement a competitive MAC framework with consideration to requirements under the *MAP Act* including appropriate criteria and indicative timelines for implementation. Consideration should be given to non-grid limited generation capacity in addition to conventional routes to market.	MARA	Q3 2025	The updated wording combines two actions from the original *Future Framework* action plan and reflects MARA's ongoing legal discussions.
7	Design and develop a successor support scheme to ORESS, and obtain State Aid clearance, to be in operation from 2026-2030. This successor support scheme will be subject to domestic and international demand assessment.	DECC	Q4 2025	No modification.
8	Identify and assess the enabling supports and/or frameworks that may be required to maximise capacity from alternative routes to market.	DECC	Q4 2025	No modification.
9	CRU to consider provision for anticipatory investment for the development of offshore and onshore grid through the regulatory framework Price Review mechanism.	CRU	Q4 2025	EU guidance provided by ACER and CEER on the national treatment of anticipatory investment to be accounted for.
10	Establish a priority process to incorporate cumulative impact studies into the DMAP process as required by the *MAP Act*.	DECC	Q4 2027	The end date has been extended to allow for incorporation of this action into upcoming MSP decisions such as the National ORE DMAP.
11	Develop an overarching ORE data policy and governance statement.	DECC	Q3 2025	The end date has been extended to allow for more thorough consideration of stakeholder feedback.
12	Explore potential investment incentives which could be developed to encourage both domestic investment opportunities and foreign direct investment in domestic supply chain facilities.	DETE DECC	Q4 2025	The end date has been extended to align with related actions in *Powering Prosperity*.

	Actions	Owners	End date	Justification
13	Further assess the feasibility of hydrogen export markets and routes, including the costs and viability of transport options, including export pipeline routes.	DECC DETE	Q4 2025	The end date has extended given the nascent nature of the hydrogen industry and ongoing efforts to establish the National Hydrogen Taskforce.
14	Include CBF provisions in MACs, applicable regardless of route to market.	DECC MARA	Q1 2026	The end date has been extended following legal advice.

Ongoing commitments

	Ongoing commitments	Owners	Justification
1	Maintain State support for our existing or planned test sites and explore the feasibility of supporting additional test sites.	DECC SEAI	No modification.
2	Continue to support the consenting process for ORE projects including support of necessary environmental procedures.	DECC MARA	No modification.
3	Maintain a single schedule for all upcoming State tenders for ORE, including non-grid limited ORE.	DECC	No modification.
4	Facilitate regular engagement between the OWDT and the National Hydrogen Taskforce to ensure policy levers for the development of a renewable hydrogen industry are progressing.	DECC	This approach will allow for greater consideration of all actions under the *National Hydrogen Strategy* in addition to specific projects identified under the *Future Framework*.
5	Continue engagement with EirGrid on future grid strategies including the *Grid Implementation Plan*, *Network*	DECC EirGrid	The *Grid Implementation Plan* has been published and DECC should continue to liaise with EirGrid on upcoming network developments.

Ongoing commitments		Owners	Justification
	Development Plan, *Shaping Our Electricity Future* and any upcoming documents.		
6	Continue regular meetings of the joint Government and industry working group as facilitated under the OWDT industry forum to discuss the prioritisation, delivery and implementation of the actions set forth under the *Future Framework*.	DECC	Meetings of this working group will continue to be regularly scheduled.
7	Procure, consolidate and publish all relevant data to support the open sourcing of ocean data available for the protection of the marine environment and biodiversity during development of ORE.	DECC MI	No modification.
8	Conduct additional studies and data modelling to inform future ORE DMAP delineation given increasing frequency of weather extremes and future climate and environmental conditions.	DECC	No modification.
9	Commence development of a position on OBZs with the aim of maximising the efficient use of offshore renewable energy and potential hybrid interconnector capacity, taking into account the further development of this concept in the EU and by neighbouring countries.	DECC	Due to the nascent nature of the OBZ conception internationally, this action will require ongoing engagement with domestic and international partners. Until end 2026, this project will be continually monitored from which specific actions may arise in future.

Glossary

AA	Appropriate Assessment
ABP	An Bórd Pleanála
ACER	Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators
AMETS	Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site
CBF	Community Benefit Fund
CEER	Council of European Energy Regulators
CFD	Contract for difference
CPPA	Corporate Power Purchase Agreement
CRU	Commission for Regulation of Utilities
DECC	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
DETE	Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
DFHERIS	Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science
DMAP	Designated Maritime Area Plans
EI	Enterprise Ireland
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FLiDAR	Floating Light Detection and Ranging
GW	Gigawatt
IMDO	Irish Maritime Development Office
LCOE	Levelized Cost of Electricity

Lir-NOTF	Lir National Ocean Test Facility
MAC	Maritime Area Consents
MAP Act	Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act
MARA	Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
MI	Marine Institute
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MUL	Maritime Usage Licence
MW	Megawatt
OBZ	Offshore Bidding Zones
ORE	Offshore Renewable Energy
ORESS	Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme
OWDT	Offshore Wind Delivery Taskforce
PR6	Price Review Six
RD&D	Research, Development & Demonstration
SC-DMAP	South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
TRL	Technology Readiness Level

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