

ISEA Working Group Terms of Reference

April 2021

Introduction

OVERVIEW

This document contains the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the operational ISEA Working Groups. These ToR will be reviewed at least annually and amendments submitted to the Board for approval.

The ToR are developed by the Working Group chair and agreed with the CEO prior to submission.

STRUCTURE

This document is structured as follows:

- Section 1 – Routes to Market Working Group
- Section 2 – Behind the Meter Working Group
- Section 3 – Grid Working Group
- Section 4 – Planning Working Group

Routes to Market Working Group

Terms of reference

FOCUS

The Irish Solar Energy Association (**ISEA**) has constituted a Routes to Market (RtM) Working Group (WG). This subject area is crucial to the commercial viability of future solar assets in Ireland. The key relevant areas to be considered by this group include:

- Inputs into commercial revenues (e.g. PPAs)
 - Wholesale pricing
 - Pertinent Single Electricity Market (SEM) rules
 - Pricing structures
 - Cannibalisation
 - Solar subsidy mechanisms such as the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS)
 - Structures and rules
 - Subsidy free
- Corporate PPAs
- Opportunities for cost reduction

AGENDA 2021

Key specific areas to be addressed by this group over 2021 include:

1. RESS
 - a. Outcomes of RESS-1 deployment
 - b. Inputting into RESS-2 rule formation
 - c. Aiming to shape DECC's thinking on RESS-3
2. Clean Energy Package (CEP)
 - a. Review of policy and regulation to implement the compensation structures around the CEP, especially in relation to the Balancing Market and system services
3. PSO
 - a. Reviewing key policy and regulation around PSO structuring and calculation

GROUP DELIVERABLES 2021

In 2021, this group will produce the following deliverables:

- a) Messaging and lobbying off the back of the KPMG and AFRY reports
- b) Response to the Government consultation on the RESS-2 Terms and Conditions
- c) Response to CRU consultation on PSO variability
- d) Engagement and develop submission around CEP implementation and the associated consultations
- e) Develop and refine scope for KPMG update to Brighter Futures report
- f) Responses to regulatory consultations that the group (in consultation with the CEO) identify as important
- g) Research proposal for policy intern to undertake

WORKING GROUP OPERATIONS

The WG meets on a monthly basis. Actions/minutes are to be kept from the meetings and shared with attendees and the CEO. The chairperson reports directly to the Board on the WG's activities.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT – KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The Working Group will liaise with ISEA in relation to engaging key external stakeholders

The WG will liaise with ISEA in relation to engaging key external stakeholders. Important bodies with whom they will engage include:

- Commission for Regulation of Utilities
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- EirGrid
- Wind Energy Ireland

Behind the Meter Working Group

Terms of reference

FOCUS

The Climate Action Plan published in June 2019 sets out Ireland's 2030 ambitions and puts the state on the right trajectory to meet net zero emissions by 2050.

ISEA's mission is to 'Deliver a Brighter Sustainable Future for Ireland' by working towards a significant increase in the demand and installation of solar PV.

The objective of the Behind the Meter Working Group is to influence the direction of this sector and to enable the Government to achieve their goals by addressing a number key thematic areas

AGENDA

Key thematic areas to be addressed by this group include:

1. Development of a Behind the Meter policy that supports the optimum deployment of solar
2. Ensure that the structure of any incentive mechanism is suitable, attractive and fair to encourage a significant increase in demand for solar PV
3. Remove legislative and regulatory barriers currently impeding Behind the Meter deployment
4. Influence planning standards to ensure they are appropriately balanced for the social good without unduly impeding behind the meter solar roll out
5. Support a behind the meter grid policy which will facilitate a greater decentralisation of the Irish electricity system.

Working Group action plan - 2021

In 2021 the Working Group aims to:

- a) Produce a policy document outlining views on key Behind the Meter policy issues
- b) Develop ISEA's response to the Government's Microgeneration Policy
- c) Develop 'Behind the meter' stakeholder & influencer map for key government /political / Industry and media relationships and utilise ISEA members to inform/participate & lobby around same
- d) Identify regulatory barriers to behind the meter deployment and address these with relevant authorities
- e) Develop a communications strategy and create public-facing information sheets on the following topics:
 - i. Domestic & Commercial behind the meter solar
 - ii. Behind the meter solar for local authorities, & agricultural
- f) Initiate a 'Behind the meter' - research paper & infomercial highlighting the opportunity & benefits case
 - i. Scope out paper and topics to be addressed
 - ii. Oversee procurement of consultant, and oversee their work
- g) Paper on lessons learned for policy makers – drawing on experiences from other jurisdictions

- h) Prepare Responses to regulatory consultations that the group (in consultation with the CEO) identify as important
- i) Hold industry / public webinar session related to the opportunities available
- j) Case studies highlighting success and considerations for small scale installations – could be shared with policymakers, media and on ISEA website

WORKING GROUP OPERATIONS

The Working Group meets on a monthly basis. Minutes/actions are kept of the meetings, with minutes/actions to be shared with the CEO and all attendees. The chairperson will report back to the Board on the group's activities.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT – KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The Working Group will liaise with the CEO in relation to engaging key external stakeholders. Key bodies with whom the association will interface in relation to behind the meter include:

- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities
- ESB Networks & EirGrid
- Chambers of Commerce, Large Electricity User Association, Demand Side Users Associations
- Agricultural bodies – IFA, Dairygold, Glanbia
- Shortlisted local authorities
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

Grid Working Group

Terms of reference

FOCUS

The Irish Solar Energy Association (**ISEA**) has constituted a Grid Working Group (WG). This subject area is crucial to the connection of and commercial viability of future solar assets in Ireland. The key relevant areas to be considered by this group include:

- Connection policy and grid access
 - Including ECP policy development
 - Connection costs
 - Development of technical standards for connection works
 - DLAF/TLAF/TUOS
 - Alternative connection methods
- Delivery of grid connection works
- Grid code compliance
- Constraint and Curtailment
- Opportunities for solar to contribute to DS3
- Opportunities for cost reduction

AGENDA 2021

Key specific areas to be addressed by this group over 2021 include:

1. Grid delivery
 - a. Smooth delivery of RESS-1 solar deployment
 - b.
2. ECP 2.1 implementation
 - a. Review of members issues as offer processing is conducted
 - b. Development of policy for ECP 2.2
3. Grid Code Compliance
 - a. Ensuring the first grid connected solar projects are compliant with latest grid codes
 - b. Aid developers and manufactures with achieving compliance and ensuring interpretation of codes is consistent with ESBN/EirGrid requirements.
4. Connection Cost
 - a. Respond to CRU consultation on ESBN GSCs
 - b. Work with EirGrid/ESBN on development of technical standards to promote lower cost solutions

GROUP DELIVERABLES 2021

In 2021, this group will produce the following deliverables:

- a) Messaging and lobbying off the back of the KPMG and AFRY reports
- b) Response to the Government consultation on the RESS-2 Terms and Conditions
- c) Response to CRU consultation connection costs

- d) Engagement and develop submissions for EirGrid Flextech and ESNB innovation programs
- e) Responses to regulatory consultations that the group (in consultation with the CEO) identify as important
- f) Research proposal for policy intern to undertake

WORKING GROUP OPERATIONS

The WG meets on a monthly basis. Minutes are to be kept of the meetings and shared with attendees and the CEO. The chairperson or their nominee reports directly to the Board on the WG's activities.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT – KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The Working Group will liaise with ISEA in relation to engaging key external stakeholders

The WG will liaise with ISEA in relation to engaging key external stakeholders. Important bodies with whom they will engage include:

- Commission for Regulation of Utilities
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- EirGrid
- ESNB

Planning Working Group

Terms of Reference

FOCUS

There is need for planning and legislation changes, to support the growth of a net zero energy system. Given the increasing project pipeline of the ground mount utility solar, particularly the growth in large scale at transmission level through the planning system at a local authority or SID (for context, over 400 submitted applications at various stages of planning totalling circa 4-5GW), ISEA has constituted a Working Group to shape and guide the association's activities around planning for solar. The overall objective of this group is to influence the direction of the planning and legislative environment to enable the Government to achieve their Climate Action 2019 goals in the renewable sector – solar PV.

AGENDA

Key thematic areas to be addressed by this group include:

1. Update to planning guidelines by ISEA and Future Analytics in 2016/17, into a best practice manual taking account considerations for communities, larger scale solar and lessons learnt
2. Private Wire Legislation to meet Climate Action Plan 2019 (Action Point 22) on direct lines and private networks for commercial solar farms to connect to off takers via 3rd party lands
3. Exemptions under Planning and Development Act for residential/commercial roof sizing/area
4. Rates revaluation under the Valuation Acts 2001 to 2020 for reasonable PV commercial rates

GROUP DELIVERABLES – 2021

In 2021 this group will produce the following deliverables:

- a) Best Practice planning document
- b) Lobbying efforts on Climate Action Plan (Action Plan 22)
- c) Public-facing info sheets and Research Paper on the following topics:
 - i. Domestic / Residential Roof Planning Exemptions
 - ii. Commercial / Industrial Roof Planning Exemptions
- d) Revaluation Office
 - i. Meeting / Correspondence with Valuation Office
 - ii. Clarification on remaining six county participants
- e) Paper on lessons learned for policy makers – drawing on experiences from other jurisdictions
- f) Responses to regulatory consultations that the group (in consultation with the CEO) identify as important
- g) At least one webinar related to the above
- h) Case studies highlighting success and considerations for planning and legislation change – could be shared with policymakers, media and on ISEA website

WORKING GROUP OPERATIONS

The Working Group meets on a monthly basis. Minutes/actions are kept of the meetings, with minutes to be shared with the CEO and all attendees. The chairperson will report back to the Board on the group's activities.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT – KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The Working Group will liaise with the CEO in relation to engaging key external stakeholders. Key bodies with whom the association will interface in relation to planning / legislation include:

- Department of Finance
- Valuations Office, Irish Life Centre
- Wind Energy Ireland (previously IWEA)
- Agricultural bodies – IFA, Dairygold, Glanbia
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
- Shortlisted local authorities, An Bord Pleanála
- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications