

## GRID WORKING GROUP

### 2022 Terms of Reference

#### FOCUS

The Irish Solar Energy Association (**ISEA**) wishes to continue the 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
  - TUOS charging for solar
  - Alternative connection methods
- Delivery of grid connection works
- Constraint / Curtailment and firm access policy
- Opportunities for connection cost reductions

#### AGENDA 2022

Key specific areas to be addressed by this group over 2022 include:

1. Connection Costs
2. ECP 2.2 & Future Policy Development
  - a. EirGrid - Shaping Our Electricity Future
  - b. Constraint Reports
  - c. ESBN - National Networks, Local Connections
  - d. Constraint Reports
  - e. MLEs and MEC Sharing
  - f. Sub-Station standards
  - g. Private Wire connections
3. Grid Delivery
  - a. Keep industry and ESBN/EirGrid informed on pace of solar connections
  - b. Identify and address common project issues that arise

#### GROUP DELIVERABLES 2022

In 2022, this group will produce the following deliverables:

- a) Consultation Responses (Scheduled & Ad-Hoc)
- b) Informed responses to key interactions with stakeholders & delivery bodies i.e. CRU, EirGrid, ESB Networks.

## **WORKING GROUP OPERATIONS**

The WG will be chaired by Donal Smith and will meet on a monthly basis. Minutes are to be kept of the meetings and shared with attendees and the CEO by the Policy Officer. The CEO & Policy Officer will report directly to the Board on the WG's activities.

## **MEMBER OBLIGATIONS**

- Participation in monthly meetings and best endeavours to find a substitute when they can't attend and/or inform the Policy Officer when attendance is not possible.
- Commitment to contribute to the work of the group, of the order of 1 hour per week.
- Input to consultation responses when requested.

## **GROUP MEMBERSHIP**

Group participants will be comprised of a range of participants with specific skillsets.

## **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
- ESBN

## **BEHIND THE METER WORKING GROUP**

### **2022 Terms of Reference**

#### **FOCUS**

There is a need for widespread low carbon generation behind-the-meter, to achieve a net zero energy system. Given the potential scale of the emerging behind the meter sector both in commercial and domestic applications, ISEA is continuing the Behind The Meter Working Group to shape and guide the association's activities around behind the meter solar. The overall objective of this group is to influence the direction of this sector and enable the Government to achieve their goals in this sector.

#### **AGENDA 2022**

Key thematic areas to be addressed by this group include:

1. The forthcoming microgeneration policy maximises deployment of solar behind the meter, ensuring that the structure of any incentive mechanism is suitable
2. Planning standards appropriately balance social goods without unduly impeding behind the meter solar roll out
3. Behind the meter grid policy facilitates greater decentralisation of the Irish electricity system.

#### **GROUP DELIVERABLES 2022**

In 2021 this group will produce the following deliverables:

- a) Policy document outlining views on key policy issues
- b) ISEA's response to the Government's Microgeneration Policy and inform/participate lobbying around same
- c) Public-facing information sheets on the following topics:
  - i. Domestic behind the meter solar
  - ii. Commercial behind the meter solar
  - iii. Behind the meter solar for local authorities
  - iv. Agricultural behind the meter solar
- d) Behind the meter - research paper
  - i. Scope out paper and topics to be addressed
  - ii. Oversee procurement of consultant, and oversee their work
- 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 small scale installations – could be shared with policymakers, media and on ISEA website

#### **WORKING GROUP OPERATIONS**

The Working Group will be chaired by Gerhard Heyl and meet on a monthly basis. Minutes are to be 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.

### **MEMBER OBLIGATIONS**

- Participation in monthly meetings and best endeavours to find a substitute when they can't attend and/or inform the Policy Officer when attendance is not possible.
- Commitment to contribute to the work of the group, of the order of 1 hour per week.
- Input to consultation responses when requested.

### **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:

- ESB Networks
- EirGrid
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Agricultural bodies – IFA, Dairygold, Glanbia
- Shortlisted local authorities
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

## **PLANNING WORKING GROUP**

### **2022 Terms of Reference**

#### **FOCUS**

There is a continuing need for planning and legislation changes, to support the growth of a net zero energy system. Given the increasing project pipeline of ground mount utility solar, particularly in large scale at transmission level through the planning system at local authority level, ISEA is continuing the Planning 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 Plan goals in the renewable sector for solar PV.

#### **AGENDA 2022**

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. Local Authority / An Bord Pleanala Engagement
3. Changes to Planning legislation that could negatively impact the solar industry.
4. Rates revaluation under the Valuation Acts 2001 to 2020 for reasonable PV commercial rates

#### **GROUP DELIVERABLES 2022**

In 2022 this group will produce the following deliverables:

- a) Best Practice planning document (February – October)
- b) Lobbying efforts on Climate Action Plan & consultation responses on county & regional level
- c) Responses to regulatory consultations that the group (in consultation with the CEO & Policy Officer) identify as important
- d) At least one webinar related to the above
- e) Briefing document for planning objections.
- f) Case studies highlighting success and considerations for planning and legislation change – could be shared with policymakers, media and on ISEA website  
-Engage with international solar trade associations & member foreign branch offices to discuss planning rules in other jurisdictions.

#### **WORKING GROUP OPERATIONS**

The Working Group will be chaired by Maeve O'Callaghan and meet on a monthly basis. Minutes are to be kept of the meetings by the Policy Officer, with minutes to be shared with the CEO and all attendees. The chairperson will report back to the Board on the group's activities.

#### **MEMBER OBLIGATIONS**

- Participation in monthly meetings and best endeavours to find a substitute when they can't attend and/or inform the Policy Officer when attendance is not possible.
- Commitment to contribute to the work of the group, of the order of 1 hour per week.

- Input to consultation responses when requested.

### **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
- Wind Energy Ireland (previously IWEA)
- Agricultural bodies – IFA, Dairygold, Glanbia
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
- Shortlisted local authorities, An Bord Pleanala
- Regional Assemblies
- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

## ROUTES TO MARKET WORKING GROUP

### 2022 Terms of Reference

#### FOCUS

The Irish Solar Energy Association (**ISEA**) is continuing Routes to Market (RtM) Working Group (WG). This subject area is crucial to the commercial viability of future solar assets in Ireland.

#### AGENDA 2022

Key specific areas to be addressed by this group over 2022 include:

1. RESS
  - a. Competition Ratio
  - b. Capital Acquisitions Tax
2. Clean Energy Package (CEP)
  - a. Decisions on Article 12 & 13
3. Private Wires – Commercial
  - a. Corporate Power-Purchase Agreements
  - b. Private Wire Consultation Response
4. Shaping Our Electricity Future
  - a. Recalibration to enable least cost blend of renewables
  - b. Construction of new connection infrastructure
5. Commercial Viability
  - a. Sustainable RESS Bids
  - b. Post-Subsidy Solar Market

#### GROUP DELIVERABLES 2022

In 2022, this group will produce the following deliverables:

- a) Consultation Responses
- b) BoxMedia Webinars

#### WORKING GROUP OPERATIONS

The WG will be chaired by John Pollard and will meet on a monthly basis. Minutes are to be kept of the meetings by Oisín Joyce and shared with attendees and the CEO. Oisín Joyce will report directly to the Board on the WG's activities.

#### MEMBER OBLIGATIONS

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- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- EirGrid
- Wind Energy Ireland