

NEWSLETTER

North Celtic Sea is a proposed renewable energy project by Energia off the south 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 April to May this year (subject to weather conditions) will provide important information on the seabed conditions and the ecology of the sea area.

Energia has appointed Irish surveying and data services firm, Green Rebel, to carry out the geophysical surveys (see survey vessel on Page 2).

Energia and Green Rebel 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 which 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

North Celtic Sea is a renewable energy project proposed to be located a minimum of 10km and up to 25km off the Co. Waterford coast.



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.





Left - Geophysical survey vessel. Right - Peter Baillie, Managing Director, Energia Renewables and Kieran Ivers, CEO, Green Rebel.

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 North Celtic Sea project is accessible to local residents, we are holding information clinics at locations along the Waterford coastline.

The first clinics will be held on **Thursday 7th April 2022** at the following locations and times:

Tramore

Riverstown Community Centre, 10am - 1pm

Dungarvan

The Park Hotel, 4pm - 7pm

These clinics provide the opportunity for members of the public to meet with the project team, ask questions, and receive an update on North Celtic 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@northcelticseawind.ie



Energia Group, Waterford Chamber and Char.gy install first lamp-post attached electric vehicle charging points at Waterford Airport Business Park

As Waterford Chambers' sustainable energy partner, Energia Group is supporting the 'Waterford Green Deal' initiative which aims to make Waterford carbon neutral by 2040. Access to EV charging is a key enabler of sustainable transport solutions and Energia Group is proud to be involved in this partnership. Integrating the charging points into existing street infrastructure such as lamp-posts is an efficient way of increasing the coverage of EV charging points in our towns and cities.

We are delighted to be involved in this project with Waterford Airport Business Park.

First Public Consultation Report Published



Energia has published the introductory phase public consultation report for the proposed offshore renewable energy project in the North Celtic 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 7,690 views of the project website and 1,110 visits to the online exhibition room, culminating in a total of 121 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 North Celtic 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 northcelticseawind.ie/publications/ to view the report.



Youth Reach Dungarvan

In January, we were delighted to meet virtually with the Dungarvan Youth Reach Class of 2022 as they prepare for their Leaving Certificate module on Marine Biodiversity.

Our presentation and discussions focused on marine biodiversity; the role of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to detail any possible impacts of the project on the environment; and how projects like North Celtic Sea can be designed to enhance the biodiversity. The students were keen advocates for the sea, biodiversity and climate action, and we look forward to meeting again as the project progresses.

We wish them all the best in their upcoming assessments!



Seachtain na Gaeilge le Energia 2022

The biggest Irish language festival across the world took place 1st -17th March. Seachtain na Gaeilge is an international Irish language festival proudly sponsored by Energia, celebrating our native language and culture. After kicking off the launch in Galway at the beginning of March, Seachtain na Gaeilge ran for two weeks and this year's festival was a mixture of online and in person events that showed off our #TraidisiúnNua!

The 2022 ambassadors for the festival included: Séaghan Ó Súilleabháin, better known as 'The Kerry Cowboy' on TikTok; Cormac Ó hEadhra, co-host of 'Drivetime' on RTÉ Radio One; and international rugby player, Sene Naoupu.



Team members on a recent pier visit in Dunmore East to discuss the project with the local fishing community.

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

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Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)

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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, cliceáil ar:
www.northcelticseawind.ie/publications