

Manifesto 2011

WHO WE ARE?

The Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) is the national association for the wind industry in Ireland. IWEA represents onshore and offshore wind and has over 100 company members employing thousands of people in the Irish economy.

Our membership ranges from small indigenous investors to larger energy companies and multinationals, all active in the Irish energy market. We have developed detailed policies based on extensive consultation with members and stakeholders. We have commissioned detailed studies into key areas like the jobs and investment potential of wind energy and the ability of wind to reduce electricity prices.

WHAT WILL OUR POLICIES ACHIEVE?

28,000 jobs

The IWEA Deloitte Study showed how over 10,000 jobs can be created from simply meeting our targets. By developing an export industry and integrating enterprise policy with energy policy an additional 18,000 jobs could be created.

€14 billion investment

There is a substantial pipeline of investors actively examining the Irish market. Managed correctly, this could deliver €14bn of investments in the next 10 years.

11% Reduction in Wholesale Electricity Prices

As the fuel for wind generation is free it reduces the wholesale price of electricity. A recent IWEA study has confirmed that this effect provides greater savings to consumers (up to €300m in 2020) than the cost in the PSO levy (approximately €41m in 2020).

€2 billion reduced Imports per year

Ireland depends on imports for around 90% of its energy needs. Siemens has demonstrated that if fossil fuel prices rise, this unusually high dependence could lead to a 7.5% fall in GDP by 2025. IWEA believes that by developing our wind resources for our own needs and exports we can reduce our net exposure by over €2bn per year.

The Smart Economy

Changing technologies for energy production, consumption and trade will be one of the fastest growing industries in the world over the next ten years. The more effectively Ireland implements our policies the greater share of this sector we can attract.

27% Reduction in CO2 Emissions

SEAI has shown that an integrated strategy could result in a 27% reduction in energy related emissions from 2005 levels by 2020. This is mainly achieved through the increasing use of wind energy in electricity generation.



IWEA Recommended Energy Priorities for Government

BUILD A ROBUST MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE INDUSTRY

- Ensure all relevant state agencies and authorities are effectively co-ordinated.
- Appoint a project manager for the National Renewable Energy Action Plan.
- Align Enterprise, Research and Energy Policy to ensure that job creation and the development of the smart economy are not frustrated by red tape.
- Prioritise critical research topics such as the impact of large renewable penetration and best practice in the development of renewables in sensitive habitats.
- Introduce joined up thinking and communication between planning, grid and other consenting bodies.
- Promote communication and involvement of key stakeholders with local communities.

PURSUE EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES

- Ireland has substantial Natural Energy Resources. We can produce Renewable Energy cheaper and faster than other countries, we must lead the development of EU markets for our products.
- Develop bilateral renewable trading arrangements with other EU countries such as the UK.
- Ireland has a significant knowledge industry in renewable energy, we must help our companies to develop their business at home and abroad.

DEVELOP OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

- Introduce strong accountability and clear responsibility for Grid Delivery.
- Promote the development of other infrastructure, such as ports, that enable broader industrial development.
- Enable effective local participation in renewable projects and microgeneration.
- Provide visible government support for Infrastructure Development.

STABILISE OUR MARKETS

- Define a policy pathway that highlights possible changes to the energy and renewables market over a 5 year term.
- Ensure all decisions on market issues have regard to the risks they create for investors.
- Deliver adequate and effective support systems for renewable generation.
- Develop a policy on broader geographic market integration.
- Facilitate the participation of consumers in the electricity market.

Where are we now?

There is a very positive strategic framework in Ireland and Europe but investment is at risk. Securing project finance, achieving planning consents and securing a robust grid connection are all becoming more difficult.

Our potential remains tremendous. IWEA believes that a well implemented and coherent policy platform will deliver a substantial industry and benefit Irish Consumers.

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