

Renewableŋi



DELIVERING ZERO CARBON

Strategic plan
2023 - 2028



INTRODUCTION FROM CHAIR



Garth McGimpsey
RES

As the voice of the renewable electricity industry in Northern Ireland, RenewableNI represents business leaders, technology innovators, and expert thinkers from across the sector. Engaged in wind, solar and battery storage, our members make up a large majority of the renewable industry supply chain.

With wind and solar we have proven technologies that can deliver low carbon electricity at lower cost to the consumer than any other new power generation.

These technologies will provide virtually all new renewable generation up to 2030, when offshore projects will begin to enhance our ability to deliver at scale. Battery storage and enhanced interconnection will provide the additional power and system services needed to operate a zero-carbon power system.

Our purpose is to support our members to provide dependable local generated renewable electricity. This strategic plan outlines how we will play a pivotal role in shaping the future. Our vision for a carbon zero Northern Ireland reflects our members' commitment to building our future energy system, powered by clean electricity.

Northern Ireland in 2035 will have a thriving renewables sector delivering significant additional installed capacity, revolutionising how we generate and use energy. To achieve this, we need sound policy and regulatory frameworks; public and political leadership; and a route to market that provides confidence, supporting investment for established and new technologies.

Critically, we need a planning system that facilitates the delivery of new renewable generation and associated infrastructure.

The energy price crisis has highlighted the need for greater energy independence. Locally produced renewable electricity can reduce consumer bills, power a green economic recovery and deliver net zero energy.

However, we must act with urgency. While other countries are turbo charging their renewable industry, Northern Ireland is dragging its feet. As a result, investment is going elsewhere. We can power change, but we have to act fast.

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WHO WE ARE



RenewableNI is the voice of the renewable electricity industry.

RenewableNI members are building our future energy system, powered by clean electricity.

We bring them together to deliver that future faster; a future which is better for industry, billpayers, and the environment.

We support member companies as we work together to achieve zero carbon electricity by 2035.

Our members are business leaders, technology innovators, and expert thinkers from right across industry.

RENEWABLENI VALUES



Trusted (How we are seen)

We are professional, confident and expert, and we hold ourselves to account.

Passionate (How we feel)

We are committed to the renewables sector, proud of what we achieve with and for our members, and stand by our beliefs.

Collaborative (How we behave)

We work together to build strong, supportive and diverse relationships, excellent member and customer service and clear communications.

Innovative (How we think)

We are intellectually curious, creative in our thinking, and willing to challenge the status quo.

THE AMBITION



ZERO BY 2035

The International Energy Agency (IEA) states that all advanced economies must achieve zero carbon electricity by 2035. This is now reflected in UK Government policy.

Northern Ireland has one of the greatest wind resources in the world and is well positioned to meet this target.

80 BY 30

We currently have a 1.8GW renewable capacity. The NI Climate Change Act set a target of 80% renewables by 2030. This will require more than doubling the renewable electricity generation to meet the growth in demand as we electrify heat and transport.





STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



System

securing a net zero system



Policy

shaping our public policy infrastructure



Members

supporting our members to thrive, lead and innovate



Organisation

growing a sustainable, trusted organisation

SYSTEM

- securing a net zero system



WHY IS IT A PRIORITY?

Climate change is happening now, with the impacts already being felt in Northern Ireland. Without immediate action it will be too late to prevent warming above 1.5 degrees.

Northern Ireland's energy system needs to match the ambition and capability of the renewables industry to meet decarbonisation goals. Realising the region's net zero potential requires collaboration across multiple sectors and partners; a route to market that values and incentivises innovation; and sustainable practices underpinned by principles of nature restoration and a just transition. It also needs to reflect the region's evolving transport and heat requirements.



HIGH LEVEL ACTION

The achievement of net zero must be at the heart of all planning decision making. We need a fast-track process for green infrastructure projects including renewables and related grid developments.

Market support and regulatory reform that will unlock private investment in new renewable generation, enabling our members to play a leadership role in building a net zero system.



HIGH LEVEL PRIORITIES

- Efficient renewable electricity support scheme
- Ahead of time grid investment
- Efficient planning system that facilitates net zero at all levels
- Stable market that provides investor confidence
- Collaboration.

Net zero electricity by 2035

Efficient renewable electricity support scheme that accelerates the transition from fossil fuels:

- A Northern Ireland index linked support scheme for all renewable generation above 1MW

Ahead of time grid investment:

- Grid that facilitates maximum uptake of renewable generation and minimises dispatch down
- Facilitates innovation including storage, hybrid connections and repowering

Planning system which facilitates net zero at all levels:

- Prioritisation of green infrastructure projects
- Timely decisions on regionally significant applications
- Statutory timelines which are adhered to
- Ensure the system is sufficiently resourced to deliver against timelines
- Planning policy should be aligned at all levels
- Facilitate the development of larger, more efficient turbines
- Provide for co-location of technologies and repowering
- Onshore and offshore consenting process should operate in parallel
- Accelerate renewables consents in line with RepowerEU

Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS):

- A flexible modern SPSS that facilitates net zero electricity generation

Electrification:

- Electrification first approach to heat and transport systems

POLICY

- shaping our public policy and regulatory framework



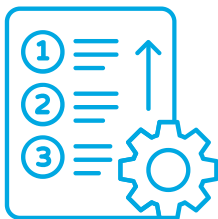
WHY IS IT A PRIORITY?

Northern Ireland's public policy and regulatory framework needs to meet the challenge of the climate emergency, maximise renewables contribution to meeting our decarbonisation targets and support the growth of our net zero economy.



HIGH LEVEL ACTION

Deploy the expertise and insights of our members and partners to shape the public policy and regulatory frameworks to deliver a future energy system, powered by clean electricity which is better for industry, consumers, and the environment.



HIGH LEVEL PRIORITIES

- An Energy Bill that will support the achievement of decarbonisation targets, supporting the transformation of planning, grid and market design to meet the challenge of the climate emergency
- The introduction of the full suite of supporting strategies outlined in the Energy Strategy – The Path to Net Zero Energy
- Offshore leasing round in place in 2025 to enable us to connect offshore projects by 2030.

Net zero electricity by 2035

Single Electricity Market (SEM):

- Strengthen the SEM through greater interconnection and increased collaboration between governments and regulators for the benefit of Northern Ireland consumers
- Align renewable energy targets, support and infrastructure in Ireland and Northern Ireland to support lower costs across the island
- Establish systems to monitor and mitigate the impact of the UK's exit from the EU on the operation of the SEM

Onshore wind:

- Plan for repowering of existing sites
- Facilitation of small scale
- 2030 capacity target of 2,500MW onshore wind

Solar:

- 2030 capacity target of 1,000MW solar
- Hybrid connections to maximise co-location opportunities

Offshore:

- Northern Ireland to be included in future Crown Estate leasing
- Offshore wind policy
- Capacity target for 2030 of 1GW offshore wind
- Target should be kept under review to reflect industry momentum

Energy Storage :

- Ensure that there is an appropriate framework in place to support the continued development of energy storage in Northern Ireland

Electrification of heat:

- Adoption of an electrification first model
- Require the provision of renewable generation as part of the building regulations for new housing
- Set a minimum energy efficiency rating for the rental or sale of existing housing by a specified date
- Direct financial support for micro renewables

Hydrogen:

- Increase the investment certainty for hydrogen-based technologies, driving down the overall cost of both producing and consuming hydrogen

Net zero electricity by 2035

Regulatory reform:

- Incorporate “facilitating the delivery of a net zero energy system” into the Utility Regulator’s mandate
- Incorporate a duty to promote the development of the renewables industry into the Utility Regulator’s mandate
- Remove the requirement of the Energy Order (Northern Ireland) 2003 to “promote the development and maintenance of an efficient, economic and co-ordinated gas industry in Northern Ireland”
- Further alignment of regulatory approach across the island
- Greater focus on value to the consumer; move away from assessing cost only
- Additional powers to include rebating for connection charges/ continuous change and improvements to connection policy

R&D:

- A clear plan for support and budget for research and development is needed for early commercial technology like Floating Solar and Floating Wind
- Research and development into how hydrogen can be used most efficiently in sectors such as electrification and transport, should underpin a clear strategy for where hydrogen is best deployed.
- Collaborate with universities on research and innovation.
- Getting more from existing technologies while always seeking new, and better, ways to generate energy

Sustainable Energy Organisation:

- The establishment of a trusted, consumer focused, sustainable energy organisation that is adequately resourced to deliver support to consumers and advice to government



MEMBERS

- supporting our members to thrive, lead and innovate



WHY IS IT A PRIORITY?

As the voice of the renewable electricity industry in Northern Ireland, RNI members make up a large majority of the renewable industry supply chain.

RNI's role is to ensure that current members are supported to lead the way on decarbonisation and to grow the membership to meet the needs of the clean energy sector of the future.



HIGH LEVEL ACTION

Working with our members we will engage, educate and stimulate debate in the renewable electricity industry to increase public, political and investor support for the delivery of the net zero infrastructure Northern Ireland needs.



HIGH LEVEL PRIORITIES

- Represent business leaders, technology innovators, and expert thinkers from right across industry
- Bring together expertise from across our membership to deliver better policy to facilitate increasing levels of low-carbon electricity generation
- Promote responsible development, support good community engagement and the delivery of low-cost electricity generation from renewable sources such as wind and solar, backed up by battery storage, using our greatest natural resources.

Net zero electricity by 2035

Skills:

- An innovative portfolio of events that supports members' learning, knowledge exchange and best practice development in new and emerging areas including biodiversity
- Strengthen cross energy industry links with other key stakeholders
- Engage with FHE sector to develop courses that meet the needs of a growing renewable energy company

Just Transition:

- Embedding Just Transition principles, encouraging take up and 'showcasing' of good practice across the industry
- Work with industry, representative groups and government to deliver similar solutions for transitioning industries operating in Northern Ireland
- Work with partners to share the benefits of decarbonisation and support the most vulnerable consumers

Communication:

- Support public campaigns on the transformational benefits of a net zero energy system
- Support members to increase public support by showcasing project benefits, engagement, and innovative practice
- Support policy makers and politicians to communicate the need for investment in major infrastructure change

Competitive advantage:

- Build a programme of activity to maximise the deployment of renewable energy as the leading technology for decarbonisation
- Work with partners and stakeholders to influence policy at UK and Irish government levels

ORGANISATION

- securing a sustainable trusted organisation



WHY IS IT A PRIORITY?

Making up a large majority of the renewable industry supply chain, RenewableNI represents business leaders, technology innovators, and expert thinkers from right across the renewable electricity industry.

With wind and solar, we have proven technologies that can deliver low carbon electricity at lower cost to the consumer than any other new power generation. While these technologies will provide virtually all new renewable generation up to 2030, investment and innovation to meet future climate and biodiversity challenges requires a confident thriving industry.



HIGH LEVEL ACTION

- Continue to improve our support to current members and established technologies
- Grow our membership and expertise to support additional sectors and new technologies in the net zero space
- Establish RenewableNI as the 'voice of clean energy'.



HIGH LEVEL PRIORITIES

- Raise RNI media profile to reflect the industry's central role in delivering local, UK wide and global decarbonisation agenda
- Raise RNI thought leadership profile to reflect the industry's central role in Northern Ireland's net zero economy
- Deliver high quality strategic communications to support members' growth and advocacy objectives
- Become the voice of clean energy.

Net zero electricity by 2035

Communications:

- Establish RNI as the 'go to' source for media and stakeholders with insight-driven analysis, policies and strategic intervention to support the growth of renewables
- Development and delivery of a strategic communications plan supported by members
- Profiling of Director as face of the organisation
- Benchmark profile and impact

Driving growth through membership development:

- Secure support for key policy development interventions through member engagement
- Reflect balance of interests of all members - including different sizes, technologies and sectors
- Develop collaborations with other representative bodies in the clean energy sector

Partnerships:

- Strengthen partnerships with trade bodies, campaigning organisations and representative groups
- Develop strategic partnerships at local government level
- Build on relationships with universities and FE colleges to drive research and skills agenda

Impact:

- Secure policy and advocacy resourcing for NI market specific issues
- Ensure NI voice reflected in RenewableUK and Wind Energy Ireland research, policy development and advocacy
- Appropriate systems and structures to ensure members play a full role in all aspects of the organisation
- Grow income to meet needs and ambitions of members

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.

At RenewableNI we have put these goals at the heart of our Strategy. As an organisation focused on achieving a future powered by clean energy, Sustainable Development Goals 7 and 13 have the greatest impact.



Sustainable Development Goal 7

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Sustainable Development Goal 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Increasing Northern Ireland's renewable electricity to 80% by 2030 will help to achieve "affordable and clean energy" for our citizens. It is vital "climate action" that will reduce carbon emissions and help NI become net zero by 2035.

We are also committed to working towards Goals:

14 - Life Below Water
5 - Gender Equality
11 - Sustainable Cities and communities
12 - Responsible Consumption and Production
9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
3 - Good Health and Well-being

15 - Life on Land
10 - Reduced Inequalities
4 - Quality Education
8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth
16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
17 - Partnerships for the Goal

You can read the targets for each goal that RenewableNI is implementing at www.RenewableNI.com/Sustainable-Development-Goals

IMPORTANT CONTACTS



STEVEN AGNEW

Director

07837-291-699

Steven.Agnew@RenewableNI.com



GARTH MCGIMPSEY

Chair

c/o

web@RenewableNI.com



JUDITH RANCE

Communications and
Events Manager

07875-681-794

Judith.Rance@RenewableNI.com



JENNIFER CONDRON

Policy Analyst
(Markets and Grid)

+353 87-429-6468

Jennie.Condron@RenewableNI.com



PAUL CARSON

Deputy chair

c/o

web@RenewableNI.com



DAGNY AHREND

Policy Analyst
(Planning and Offshore)

07961-159-536

Dagny.Ahrend@RenewableNI.com

For membership enquires, please email membership@RenewableNI.com

www.RenewableNI.com



RenewableNI

THANK YOU



Email
web@RenewableNI.com



Website
www.RenewableNI.com

RenewableNI, Arthur House, 41 Arthur Street, Belfast, BT1 4GB