



# Irish Planning Institute

## MSP - Webinar

---

Colm Ryan MIPI

24<sup>th</sup> November 2023



# Presentation Overview

- Introduction
- MKO
- Role of the Planner
- Pre-Planning
- Policy Support
- Site Surveys
- Landscape & Visual
- Community Engagement Piece
- Construction Operational Phase
- Feedback & Discussion



# About MKO

Planning and Environmental consultancy

- **200+** experienced professionals
- Planning
- Environmental
- Ecology
- Ornithology
- Project Management
- Land solutions
- Project Communications
- GIS



# About MKO

Our team of **200+ experienced professionals** work across the planning, environmental, ecology and related fields. We deliver **challenging and complex** projects for our clients and have an **unrivalled track record** of success. We add real value to our clients' projects through our multidisciplinary expertise and broad range of nationwide experience.

Our **success and growth** rests entirely on the knowledge, skills, ambition and integrity of **our people**, and we value these qualities most highly. We are forward-thinking and work with a can-do attitude, which nurtures people, ideas and opportunities to help maximise potential.

Through our work, we aim to leave a legacy we can all be proud of.

# How it All Starts ?

- Inquiry comes into the Office – Offshore Wind Project
- Mobilizing of Key members of Team (Initially)
- Key members can comprise of
  - Applicant & Engineering Services
  - MKO ( Planning & Environmental Services)
  - Offshore Environmental Services
  - Landscape & Visual Services
- Scoping Meeting Held – Usually with the Lead Planner (Agenda prep. & delivery)
- What is Discussed at this initial meeting ?



# Initial Items to Be Considered



- Site Location
- Status of Foreshore Lease
- Update on Maritime Area Consent
- High Level Overview of the Project for example some of the main elements of the project are
  - Indicative Number of Turbines
  - Indicative details of Offshore Substation
  - Indicative Location of Inter-Array Cables
  - Export Cables
  - Landfall Infrastructure
  - Onshore Substation & Compound
- Scope of Services Defined
- Applicant requests a Scope
- Environmental Coordinator working closely with the Lead Planner Prepares the Scope

# What's Involved ?

## - Offshore Wind Farm Planning & EIAR

- Project Brief
- Relevant Experience
- Proposed Project Team – Internal or External
- Environmental Assessment Services (Onshore & Offshore)
- Planning Services
- Consultation & Stakeholder Engagement
- Project Management





# Planning Services – Insight

- Pre-Planning Services

- Pre-planning consultations with An Bord Pleanála
- Pre-planning consultations with relevant Local Authorities
  - Review of Relevant Planning Policy Context
  - Planning Strategy

- Planning Application

## Project Management of Planning Application

- Planning Discussions/Consultations/Meetings with relevant authorities
- Consultation with all statutory authorities and relevant third-party stakeholders
- Preparation of Public Notices
- Preparation of Planning Application Forms
- Preparation of planning application reports/planning support statements;





# Pre-Planning Engagement – What’s Involved ?

- Planning Consultant Acts as Primary Contact (ABP/Local Authority)
- Preparation of Initial Submission/Briefing Documents
- Coordinates preparation of Maps & Documentation for Presentation
- Attends & Leads Meetings with ABP/Council
- Post meeting Review with Applicant & Team



# Pre-Planning Engagement – What's May be Presented ?

- Project Background & Description
- Policy Overview (European, National, Regional, Local)
- Legislative Overview
- Site Location & Selection
- Proposed Development
- Grid Connection Route
- Site Surveys & Investigations
- Constraints Assessment, Design Process and Key Project Elements
- Landscape & Visual Amenity incl. Photomontages
- Construction & Operational Overview



# Policy Overview

## EU Policy

- REPowerEU
- EU Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy

## National Policy

- National Marine Planning Framework
- Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (& II draft)
- National Planning Framework
- Climate Action Plan 23
- 2020 Programme for Government

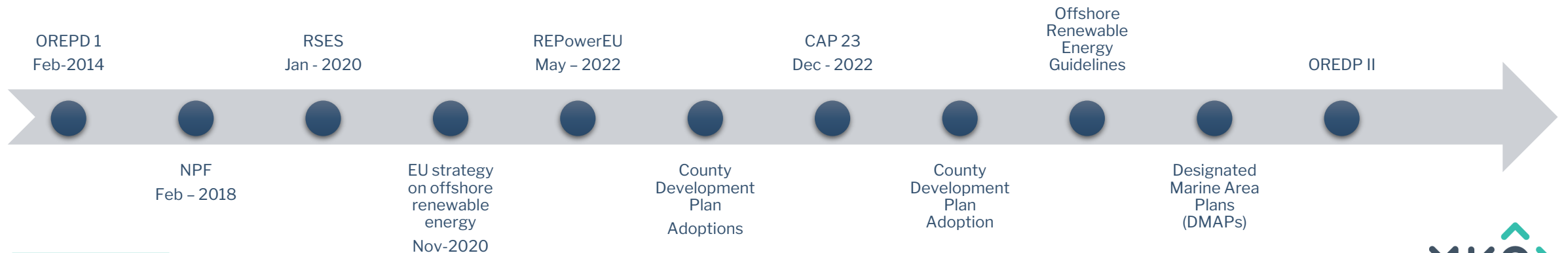
## Regional Policy

- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020 -2032

## Local Policy

- County Development Plans

## Policy Timeline



# European Policy Context

## REPowerEU

- Increase 2030 target for renewables from 40% to 45%.
- Accelerate the permitting process for the renewable energy projects
- Recognise renewable energy as an overriding public interest.

## EU Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy

- 60 GW of offshore wind by 2030, and 300 GW by 2050.

## Trans-European Networks for Energy (TEN-E) Policy Revision

- New chapter added on Offshore renewable energy grids
- New regional non-binding targets: 109-112 GW by 2030, 215-248 GW by 2040, and 281-354 GW by 2050.

Member State	Goal 2030 (GW)	Goal 2040 (GW)	Goal 2050 (GW)
Ireland	0.5 - 1	7	15



# National Policy Context

## 2020 Programme for Government

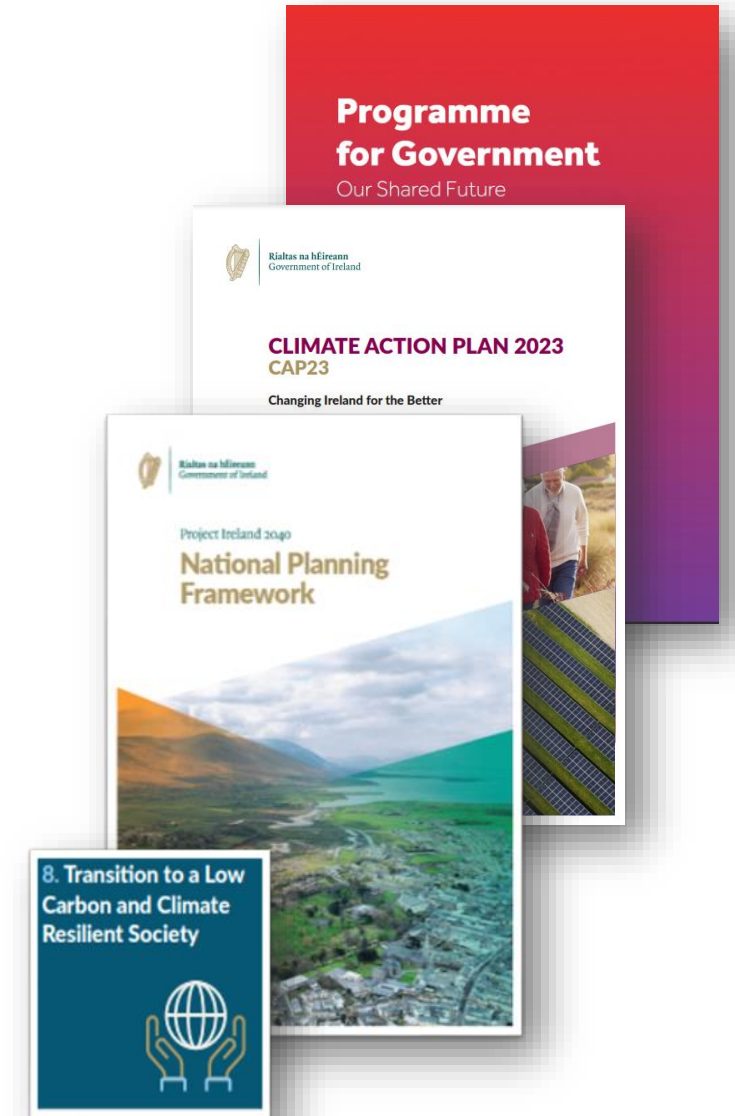
- Commitment to a longer-term plan to realise the potential of at least 30GW of floating offshore wind in Ireland's deeper waters off the west coast.

## Climate Action Plan 2023

- Key Targets
  - 5GW Offshore Wind by 2030 (with an additional 2GW offshore wind for green hydrogen production).
  - 50% Renewable Electricity Share by 2025, 80% by 2030.

## Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework

- **National Strategic Outcome 8:** Transition to a Low Carbon And Climate Resilient Society.
- **National Policy Objective 42:** To support, within the context of the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA) and its successors, the progressive development of Ireland's offshore renewable energy potential, including domestic and international grid connectivity enhancements.



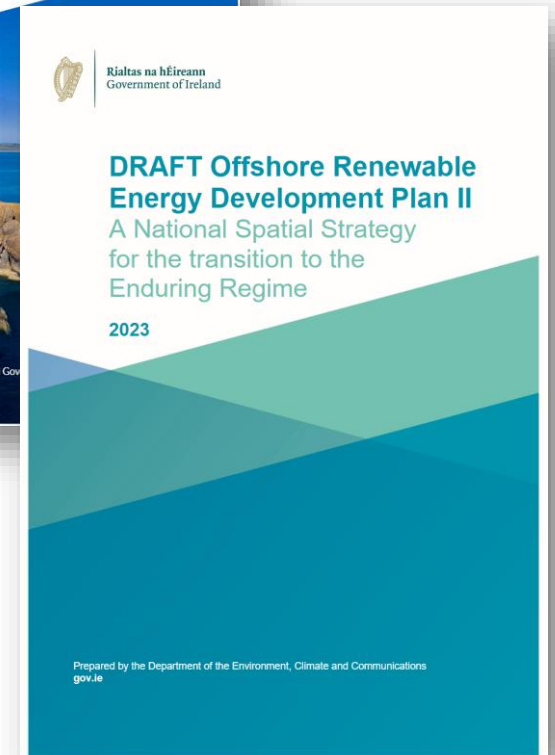
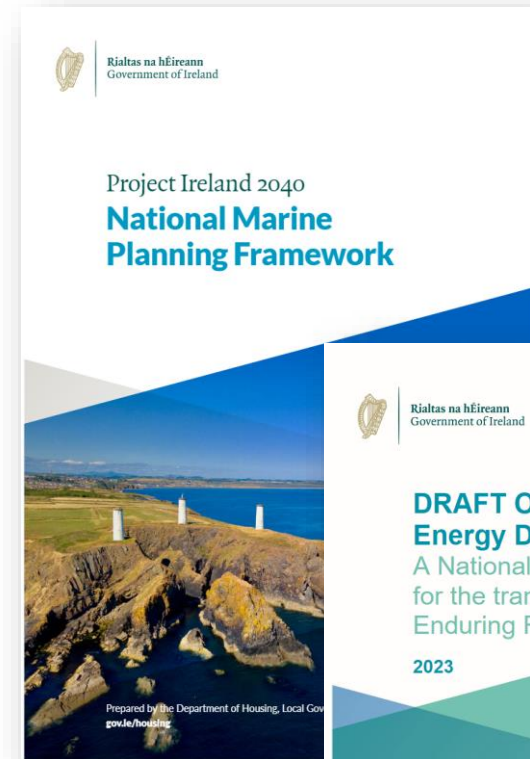
# National Policy Context

## National Marine Planning Framework

- **ORE 1:** “Proposals that assist the State in meeting the Government’s offshore renewable energy targets, including the target of achieving 5GW of capacity in offshore wind by 2030....”

## Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan

- **OREDPA:** A framework for the delivery of offshore renewable energy.
- **OREDPA II Draft:**
  - Identifies areas most suited for the development of renewable energy.
  - Supports the implementation of DMAPS.





# Site Surveys and Investigations Update

## Onshore Surveys and Site Investigations

- Noise surveys
- Geotechnical surveys carried out at potential landfall sites
- Terrestrial walkover and site-specific mammal surveys
- Bat Surveys
- Hydrological survey to include survey of watercourse crossings
- Topographic survey
- Archaeological walkover survey
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- Transport Assessment





# Site Surveys and Investigations Update

## Offshore Surveys and Site Investigations

- Maritime Traffic Surveys
- Geophysical surveys carried out at the array site and along export cable corridor
- Bird and Marine Mammal surveys
- Bat Surveys
- Geotechnical, Metocean and Benthic habitat surveys

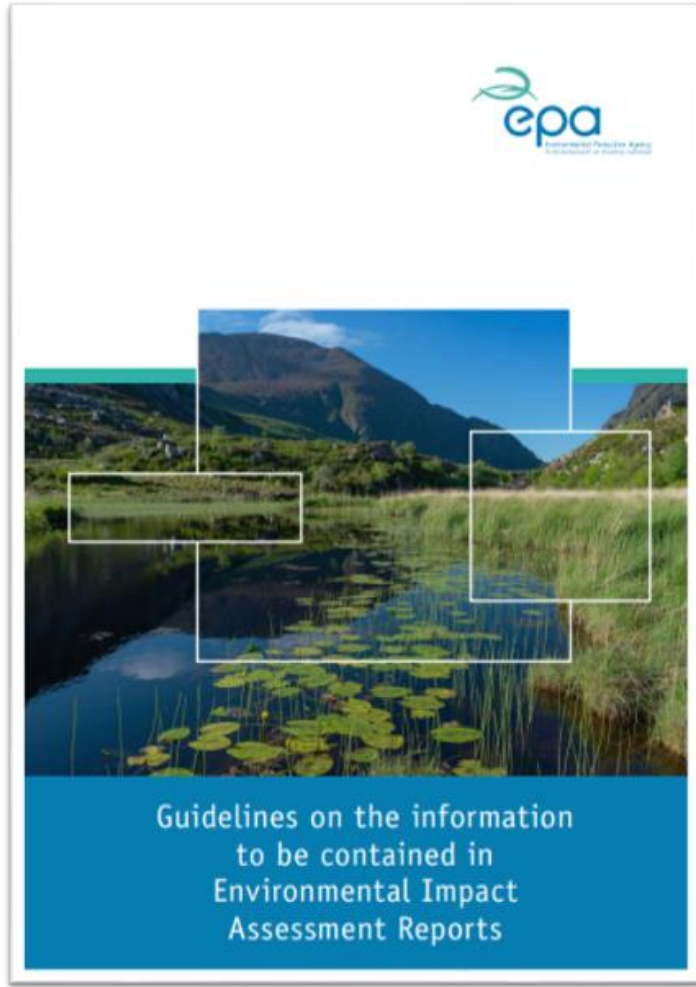


# Landscape and Visual Amenity

- Confirm the radius study area.
- Identify the number of Viewpoints.
- The selected viewpoints are to represent a range of coastal and inland receptors including relevant scenic designations and settlements.
- Develop a series of Verified Views and Associated Photomontages



# Environmental Impact Assessment



- Volume 1-4: Main Environmental Impact Assessment Report, including all figures
  - Non-Technical Summary
  - Part 1 – General
  - Part 2 – Offshore Chapters
  - Part 3 – Onshore Chapters
- Volume 5: Photomontages
- Volume 6-7: EIAR Appendices

# Community Consultation Stakeholder Engagement

- **Engagement with the Local Community**

- Community Liaison Officer
- Website live with contact details
- Meet with a number of community organisation groups, residents and stakeholders in local area
- Introductory and Informative articles

- **Engagement with Local Business**

- **Engagement with the local press**

- Community Benefit Fund
- Supplier Business Information day
- Careers, Training and Skills information event
- Virtual exhibition



# Construction & Operational Phase – What's discussed ??

- How long will it take to construct the offshore elements ?
- What Port is being considered for the turbines during the Construction ?
- How long will it take to construct the onshore elements of the project?
- Operation & Maintenance Facility (O&M) required to support the operational phase ?
- Identify any construction activities required within Third Party Lands / Public Road Network
- What types of vessels will be used during the offshore construction phase ?
- Details of the Foundation Concept



# Thank you

Discussion & Feedback

091735611

[info@mkoireland.ie](mailto:info@mkoireland.ie)

[www.mkoireland.ie](http://www.mkoireland.ie)

