

Cork Offshore Renewable Industry Forum (CÓRIF)

An All-Island Opportunity led by Cork

Ireland has immense potential to support a thriving offshore renewable energy (ORE) industry and Cork has the capacity to become the first of the national hubs for the sector.

Cork is uniquely positioned to become a leading hub for ORE thanks to its existing infrastructure, strategic location, and the presence of major energy stakeholders across the region.

Growing offshore renewables capacity in Cork will help to secure future social and economic benefits for the country as a whole. Investment in critical infrastructure must be prioritised by Government now to support the development of the sector into the future.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Energy Hub

Recognise Cork as the first renewable energy hub in Ireland, leveraging its existing infrastructure, including gas networks and pilot projects.

Future-proof the talent pool in the region by investing in a centre of excellence dedicated to the ORE sector and providing upskilling and reskilling opportunities.

Ports

Ports and suitable port infrastructure are essential for the successful delivery of offshore wind projects.

The Port of Cork has commenced a significant expansion to facilitate ORE and is the only port in Ireland with the planning permission to do so. Ongoing government investment in ports is needed to support ORE into the future.

Repurposing Existing Infrastructure

Support the energy transition by repurposing existing infrastructure, e.g. gas networks, offering a cost-effective strategy that aligns with sustainable practices.



ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Job Creation

The growth of the ORE sector will create new jobs and demand for new skill sets in new sectors.

Tax Base

Development of the ORE sector can broaden and support the existing tax base, which relies considerably on large energy users (LEUs).

Attracting FDI

Ireland's commitment to ORE enhances its attractiveness for foreign direct investment, particularly from companies prioritising sustainability and energy security.



POLICY SUPPORT

DMAP Delivery

Adopt a consistent approach to DMAP policy, delivering clear timelines for progress on the South Coast and National DMAPs in order to instill investor confidence.

Streamline Planning

Address delays in the planning system by increasing funding and staffing for planning authorities to ensure timely approvals and adherence to environmental standards.

Supportive Market Mechanisms

Implement competitive auctions and other mechanisms on a clear timeline to create a stable environment that encourages investment and demonstrates long-term government commitment.



ENERGY SECURITY & SUSTAINABILITY

Energy Independence

Prioritise the development of domestic renewable energy sources to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, ensuring economic stability and resilience against geopolitical risks.

Quality of Life

Developing the ORE sector will help maintain and improve quality of life by reducing reliance on finite fossil fuels.

Social License to Operate

Gaining support from the public is critical for the successful development of the ORE sector.

Investing in renewable energy sources supports a sustainable energy future, aligning with environmental and climate goals.

CORIF is a Cork Chamber initiative, which brings together representatives of the offshore renewables industry in Cork to identify and advocate for key policy and infrastructure enablers that will ensure Cork and Ireland capitalise fully on the development of offshore renewables.