



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

The Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan II

The right offshore technologies,
in the right places

Have Your Say - Public Consultation
24 February to 20 April 2023



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[Gov.ie/OffshoreEnergyPlan](https://gov.ie/OffshoreEnergyPlan)

What and Why

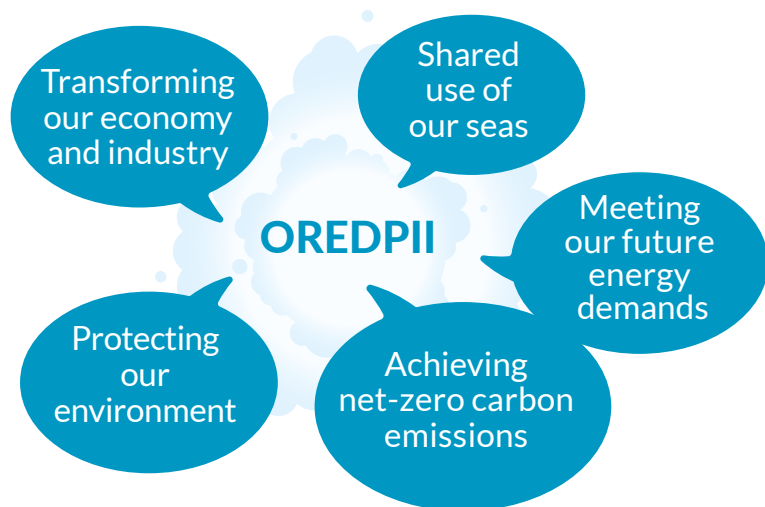
The OREDP II is a key building block towards the State-led Enduring Regime for offshore renewable energy.

The Government is developing the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan II (ORED P II) – Ireland’s new national spatial strategy for our offshore renewable energy future.

The OREDP II will provide a high-level framework for the long-term, sustainable, and planned development of Ireland’s immense wind, wave, and tidal renewable energy resources.

There are other key steps in building the Enduring Regime such as the Hydrogen Policy, Interconnector Policy, and Economic Assessment, which are currently in development.

The OREDP II is key to:



We all need energy to power our homes, offices, schools, factories, vehicles, hospitals etc.

Offshore renewable energy will be essential to transforming our energy supply with clean, green energy to ensure we achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Ireland’s maritime area is very large: in some places, it extends up to 370 km from the shoreline.

To find the most suitable areas for harnessing offshore renewable energy, we also need to consider how Offshore renewable energy development may interact with other maritime uses and biodiversity.

The OREDP II will set out a framework for where Offshore renewable energy will be developed in the future, as part of the Enduring Regime.



The **Enduring Regime** is our long-term vision for offshore renewable energy in Ireland. The State will ensure that the economic, environmental, and social benefits of offshore renewable energy are realised for everyone. This includes choosing the right offshore technologies to use in the right places through the OREDP II.

How and When

Broad Areas of Interest

In order to realise our energy and climate commitments, we must identify the most suitable areas in our seas for development of offshore renewable energy. This will involve consultation with communities and stakeholders to ensure we have all the right evidence and information available to us.

The draft OREDP II outlines the proposed criteria to identify these initial areas – known as Broad Areas of Interest – which will ensure that we plan to use the right technologies in the right places.

Broad Areas of Interest are areas of the Irish maritime space that have been identified as technically suitable for future offshore renewable energy development through the OREDP II assessment.

We have considered the approach that other countries have taken to identify where to build offshore renewable energy in proposing our planned approach.

How we will identify the initial Broad Areas of Interest for future offshore renewable energy

- **Extensive data analysis**
- **Evidence-based decision making**
- **Consultation with key stakeholders**
- **Public consultation and participation**
- **Identifying opportunities for sharing the maritime space**
- **Considering environmental sensitivities**

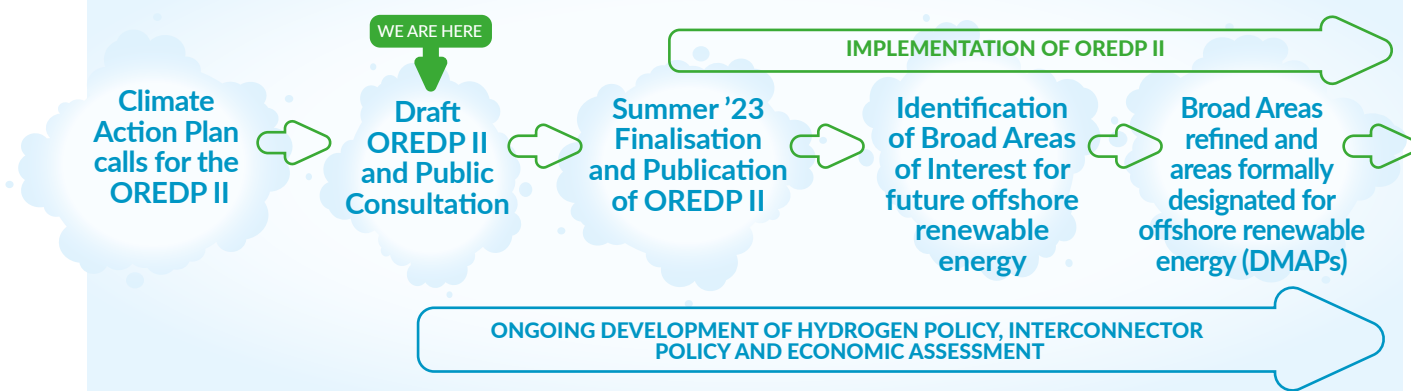
Further analysis will refine the Broad Areas of Interest into smaller geographical areas, ahead of formal designation for future offshore renewable energy developments.

This analysis may include environmental or economic assessments, and will involve consultation with stakeholders.

Formal designation of these areas for ORE will require the development of Designated Maritime Areas Plans (DMAPs). These will be statutory, regional spatial plans for offshore renewable energy.

Designated Maritime Area Plans are statutory plans under the Maritime Area Planning Act of 2021. DMAPs can be proposed for all maritime sectors or defined geographical areas. The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications will propose DMAPs for offshore renewable energy in particular areas based on best available evidence. DMAPs for the Enduring Regime will be based on the OREDP II. These DMAPs will form part of the basis for future planning decisions. They will be subject to environmental assessment and involve public participation.

Journey to the Enduring Regime



How You Can Get Involved

Citizen engagement and participation in decision-making is at the heart of Ireland's energy and climate transformation.

The draft OREDP II has been developed in collaboration with key stakeholders including representatives of the fishing sector, academia, offshore renewable energy developers, the environmental sector and many more.

We are now looking for your input to the draft OREDP II and associated environmental reports through this public consultation, running from 24 February to 20 April 2023.

Please visit our website to read the draft OREDP II and complete a short survey to submit your feedback to the consultation.

As well as gathering feedback related to the draft OREDP II, it is also envisaged that the results of this public consultation will provide an insight into attitudes towards offshore renewable energy at a local and national level.

For full consultation information and to have your say in the development of Ireland's offshore renewable energy future, visit gov.ie/OffshoreEnergyPlan



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On our website you can access:

- [The draft OREDP II](#)
- [Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment](#)
- [Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Digital Tool – user friendly visualisation of the draft SEA](#)
- [Draft Natura Impact Statement](#)
- [Consultation Survey](#)
- [Details of all consultation events and outreach activities and how to register](#)

Guide to the OREDP II

1	Executive Summary
2	Introduction - Introduces the draft OREDP II
3	Maritime Spatial Planning and OREDP II – How the draft OREDP II links with maritime planning policies and the key principles of the draft OREDP II
4	National and European Policy Context - Overview of policies that have influenced the draft OREDP II, and how it aligns with current government objectives along with energy and climate targets
5	Overview of approaches in other Jurisdictions – Compares approaches to planning for offshore renewable energy in other countries
6	Approach to the OREDP II – Sets out the overall approach to developing the draft OREDP II
7	Data Assessment – Sets out the data review process including criteria used to decide which data to include in the assessment of Ireland's Maritime Area
8	ORED II Assessment – How Ireland's Maritime Area was assessed, including maps showing the outputs of a multi-criteria analysis
9	Technical Resource Energy Potential – Presents the technical potential for offshore renewable energy in the Irish maritime area
10	Environmental Assessments – Overview of the environmental assessment processes undertaken, and how they have informed the development of the draft OREDP II
11	Broad Areas of Interest – Overview of the proposed approach for identifying the initial Broad Areas of Interest for offshore renewable energy, to be assessed in greater detail at a regional scale
12	ORED II Adoption and Implementation – How the OREDP II will be implemented, updated, and governed going forward
13	Conclusions – Sets out the steps to be taken following the finalisation of the OREDP II

IRELAND'S OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY FUTURE

ORED P II AT A GLANCE

HAVE YOUR SAY – Public Consultation 24 February – 20 April, 2023

The Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan II (ORED P II) is the new national spatial strategy for Ireland's offshore renewable energy future, to ensure we develop the right offshore technologies in the right places.

Ireland's Climate Action Plan:



Called for the ORED P II



Aims to increase the production of renewable energy



Aims to reduce emissions

ORED P II is one of the key building blocks in our State-led Enduring Regime:



- Meeting our future energy demands
- **Transforming** our economy and industry
- Achieving **net-zero** carbon emissions
- **Protecting** our environment
- **Shared use** of our seas



Other key steps in building Ireland's Enduring Regime are underway, including:

- Hydrogen Policy
- Interconnector Policy
- Economic Assessment

Timeline to date

2014

ORED P I published

2021

Maritime Area Planning Act, National Marine Planning Framework, Policy Statement on the Framework for Ireland's Offshore Energy Transmission System

◀ Update of ORED P I begins

2021 Climate Action Plan

2023

Draft ORED P II consultation

Summer 2023 – final ORED P II

WE ARE HERE



Proposed criteria to identify Broad Areas of Interest

- Amount of potential for floating wind
- Water depth
- Amount of local information available
- Level of local domestic and industrial demand for energy
- Availability of local infrastructure, such as ports, to support offshore renewable energy development
- The proximity of existing or planned interconnectors

Implementation

- Defined review period (5 years at minimum)
- Continuous update of evidence base
- Robust governance structure
- Adaptive approach to management



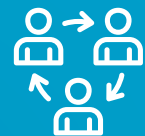
Energy generation technologies covered



- Fixed offshore wind
- Floating offshore wind
- Wave energy
- Tidal energy

Developed in collaboration with stakeholders including:

- Environmental Sector
- Fisheries
- Academia
- Industry
- Government



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Next Steps

Analysis and consideration of all submissions
to the public consultation

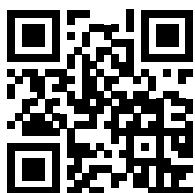
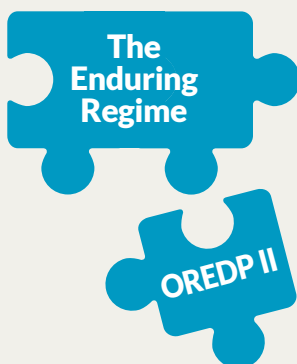
Finalisation and publication of the OREDP II
and associated environmental reports

Identification and assessment of initial Broad Areas
of Interest

Refinement of initial Broad Areas of Interest

Designated Maritime Area Plan proposals with Public
Participation Statement to Minister for Housing,
Local Government and Heritage for approval

Designated Maritime Area Plan development
involving stakeholder and public engagement



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