

# National Energy Policy Framework

# Energy Policy in the Programme for Government 2011-2018





# Energy

- We will legislate to support the geothermal energy sector.
- We will provide efficient foreshore licensing and leasing process for marine energy.
- We will ensure that future wind farms are built in locations where wind regime is best and that they are built in large numbers or in clusters to reduce cost of connection to grid under new 'planned' Gate 4 process, as opposed to existing 'developer led' system.
- We will incentivise and promote off-shore drilling and streamline planning and regulatory process for bringing ashore these reserves and seek to maximize the return to the Irish people.



# Energy

- We will review and reform the PSO levy to ensure that only most cost-effective projects are supported by ReFIT tariff and that consumer can benefit from claw-back when market prices exceed tariff or where appropriate, share of profits or royalty.
- We will appoint an independent international expert commission to review and report, within six months, on a case for, and cost of, undergrounding (all or part of) Meath-Tyrone 400KV power lines.
- We will provide ReFIT for micro-generators wishing to produce electricity for their own homes, farms and businesses and facilitate them to sell surplus electricity to the grid. The tariff will not be significantly above single energy market price for electricity.

# Green jobs



- We will double funding for home energy efficiency and renewable energy programmes until the end of 2013, after which time these schemes will be ended.
- After 2013, we will roll out a 'pay as you save' scheme to continue home energy efficiency retrofitting work without recourse to public funding.
- We will explore the use of funding options such as an Energy Efficiency Obligation on energy suppliers.
- We will tender for a 'pay as you save' contract to insulate all public buildings in the state, where the contractor provides the capital.

# Green jobs



- We will seek to establish Ireland as a **renewable manufacturing hub** to attract international and domestic investment.
- We will also position Ireland as a leading player in the global carbon market, and a centre of excellence in the management of carbon.
- We will **facilitate the development of energy co-operatives** to make it easier for smallscale renewable energy providers to contribute to our renewables target.

# NewERA



- The Government will put in place a parallel, commercially-financed investment programme in key networks of the economy to support demand and employment in the short-term, and to provide the basis for sustainable, export-led jobs and growth for the next generation.
- Under the NewERA plan, streamlined and restructured semi-States will make significant additional investments, over and above current plans, over the next four years in “next generation” infrastructures in energy, broadband, forestry and water.
- These investments – and the accompanying semi-state restructuring process will be financed and pro-actively managed by a New Economy and Recovery Authority (NewERA), which will absorb the National Pension Reserve Commission programme.



Subject to finalisation in the National Development Plan, we propose to make additional investments in the following areas:

## **A 21st century “Smart Grid”:**

Beginning with the hand-over of ESB’s transmission assets to Eirgrid, we will create a new ‘Smart Grid’ company with ultimate full ownership and responsibility for the development of Ireland’s electricity and gas networks.

## **Bio-Energy and Forestry:**

To accelerate the development of Ireland’s forestry and bioenergies, NewERA will merge together Bord na Mona and Coillte to create a new State company called BioEnergy Ireland to become a global leader in the commercialisation of next generation bio-energy technologies, including an annual 14,700 hectare afforestation programme.

# Climate Change



- We will publish a Climate Change Bill which will provide certainty surrounding government policy and provide a clear pathway for emissions reductions, in line with negotiated EU 2020 targets.
- We will further improve energy efficiency for new buildings, with a view to moving towards zero carbon homes in the longer term.
- All new commercial buildings will be required to significantly reduce their carbon footprint

# National Holding Company

- In order to ensure that public enterprise plays a full role in Ireland's economic recovery, we will create a holding company to manage the state's holdings of the semi-states, and to coordinate investment in key priority areas identified by the Government, including energy, water and forestry.

# What is Policy?

*“At the end of the day, the formulation of public policy involves a process of making good decisions – for the public good”*

Sherri Torjman, 2005

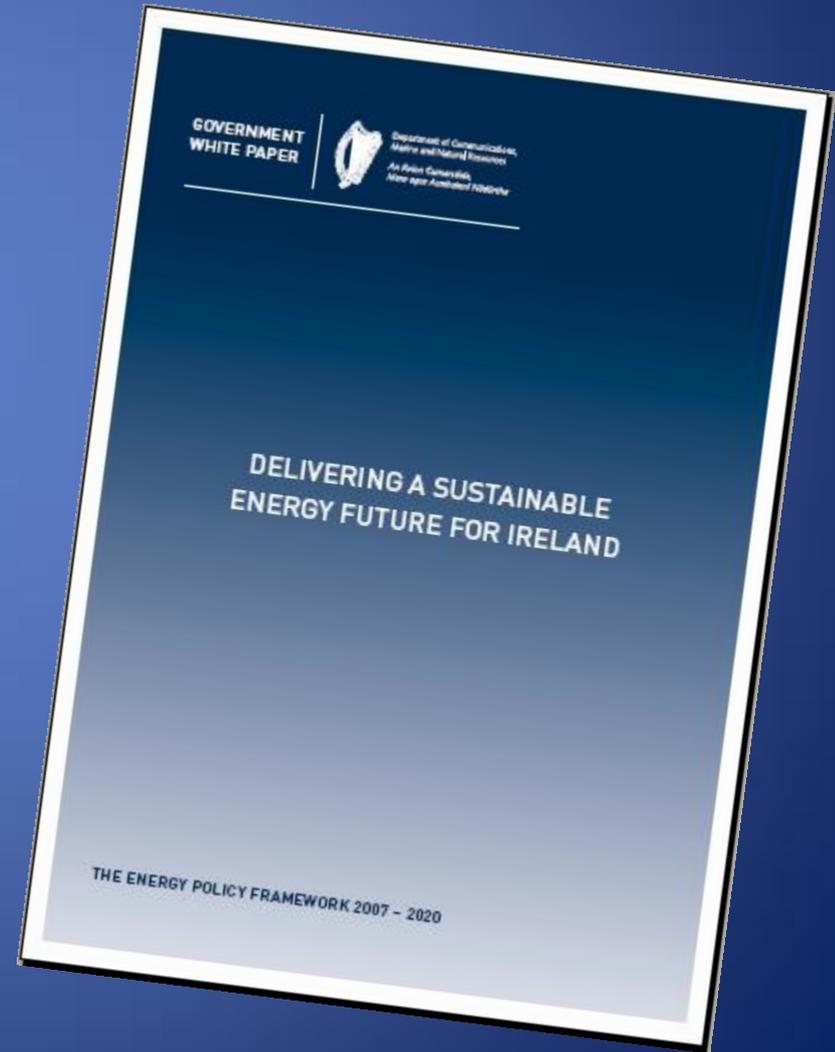
# Irish Energy Policy - Overview

1. Electricity Regulation Act (1999)
2. Commission for Energy Regulation (1999)
3. Sustainable Energy Ireland (2002)
4. Renewable Energy Feed-In Tariff [REFIT] (2006/2009/2012)
5. Bioenergy Action Plan for Ireland (2007)
6. Government White Paper – Delivering a Sustainable Future for Ireland (2007)
7. National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012 (2007)
8. National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)
9. Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012)
10. [S.I. 147 of 2011](#) and [S.I. 158 of 2012](#) on the Renewable Energy Directive
11. National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (1 & 2)

# Energy White Paper 2007

- **Key Goals**

- Energy Security
- Environmental Sustainability
- Competitiveness



# Policy by Numbers

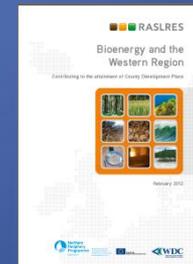
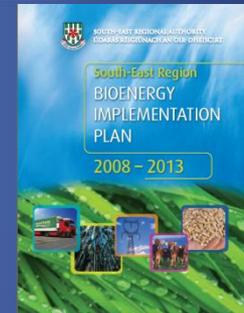
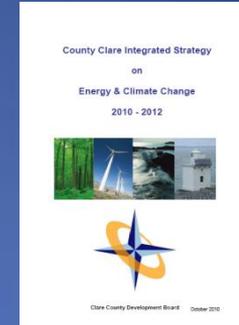
- 20% Reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
  - Across All Sectors
- 20% Reduction in Energy Consumption
  - Focus on Buildings
- 16% Supply of Energy from Renewable Energy
  - Driven by Wind and Renewable Heat



# Regional/Local Examples

- Clare Climate Change Strategy
- South East Regional Authority Bioenergy Action Plan
- Bioenergy in the Western Region

**Different structures,  
focuses, context for each  
strategy**



# Regional/Local Policy

- Regional Planning Guidelines
- County Development Plans
- Both set the boundaries for development and guide potential investment
- SEAPs and CoM activities need to compliment
- SEAPs should influence CDP revisions and amendments

# Conclusion

- Policy Framework is positive
- Driven by EU, Transposed Nationally, Targets in place
- Local/Regional Action is key to implementation
- At a time of limited resources coordination, targets and action planning is vital
- The SEAP/CoM originally had a city/urban focus but the principles apply regionally/locally