



County Development Plan 2011-2017



Clare County Council

3. Promoting Energy Efficiency

Objective 10.13

'Reduce the County's dependence on imported fossil fuels and to develop a low carbon economy by:

- a) ...innovative new building design and retrofitting of existing buildings...energy conservation, energy efficiency ... national regulations and policy requirements;*
- b) ...development and use of alternative energy vehicles ...smarter travel*



County Development Plan 2011-2017



Clare County Council

4. Facilitating Improvement to Electricity Network

Objective 10.9

- a) *...improvements in energy infrastructure and encourage the expansion of infrastructure...*
- b) *...future alternative renewable energy developments and associated utility infrastructure...*
- c) *collaborate with Eirgrid in accordance with the Grid 25 Strategy to facilitate the delivery of quality connection, transmission and market services to electricity generators, suppliers and customers utilising the high voltage electricity system in County Clare;*
- d) *collaborate with Eirgrid over the lifetime of the Plan to ensure that the County's minimum target of 550MW renewable energy generation is achieved and can be accommodated on the electricity network in County Clare*
- e) *regard to environmental & visual considerations.*

County Development Plan 2011-2017



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5. Promoting Energy Security

Objective 10.7

'To promote and facilitate the achievement of a secure and efficient energy supply and storage for County Clare.'





County Development Plan 2011-2017



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6. Supporting and Facilitating Energy Storage

Objective 10.12

a) support and facilitate the development of secure, appropriately scaled, energy storage facilities, particularly pumped freshwater hydro storage, at suitable locations

...

b) ...undertake an assessment of the potential of PHES...as part of the preparation of a County Renewable Energy Strategy. ...subject to the requirements of all environmental legislation, including SEA and Habitats Directive.



County Development Plan 2011-2017



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7. Supporting all Renewable Options – Bioenergy, Waste to Power/CHP, Hydro-electric

Objective 10.6

'To support and encourage the development of the bio-energy sector and facilitate its development for energy production, heat storage and distribution.'

Objective 10.7

'To facilitate the development of waste to energy/combined heat and Power schemes at appropriate locations throughout the County, subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive.'

Objective 10.5

"To facilitate the development of appropriately scaled hydroelectric power generation, in particular when developed in combination with other forms of energy infrastructure, such as wind farms.



County Development Plan 2011-2017



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8. Facilitating Wind Energy

Objective 10.3

- a) promote and facilitate wind energy production in the County. ..reference to the County Wind Energy Strategy and the associated SEA and HDA.*
- b) ...appropriate balance between facilitating wind energy development and protecting the residential amenity of neighbouring property...*
- c) ...full compliance with the Habitats Directive*



County Development Plan 2011-2017



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9. Promoting Wave/Tidal Energy

Objective 10.4

"To promote and facilitate wave and tidal energy production ...seek to undertake a study ...to investigate ocean/wave energy production in County Clare with a long term objective of facilitating such development along the County's coastline"





Foreshore Consent

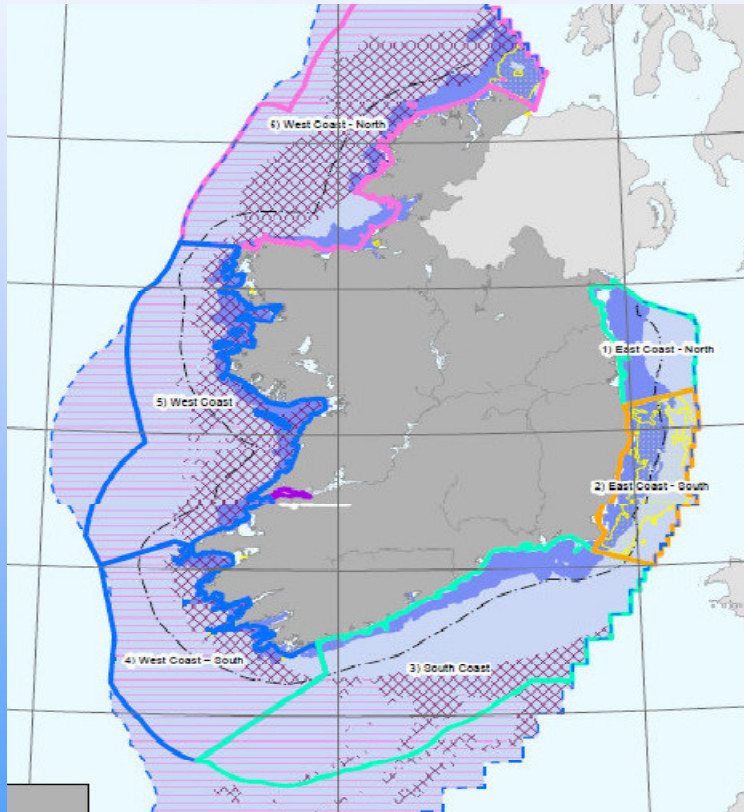


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Offshore marine renewable energy projects are governed by the Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2009. The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the relevant Minister prior to undertaking any works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of, or removal of material from state-owned foreshore (including any offshore renewable energy projects such as wind, wave or tidal technologies).

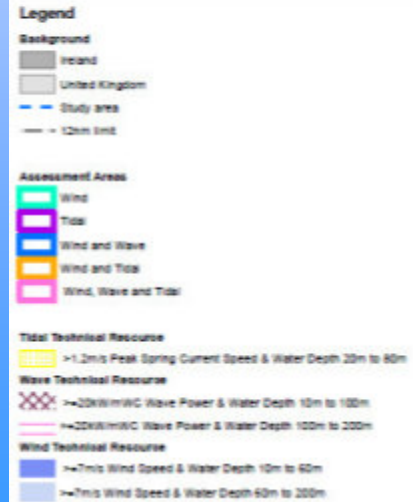


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Strategic Environmental Assessment of Wave, Tidal and Offshore Wind Development in Irish Waters

Figure 11.4: Assessment Areas - All Resource





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Zones of wave/tidal influence



Marine Renewables Industry Association – White Paper August 2010



Strategic Integrated Framework for the Shannon Estuary



Clare County Council

10. Prepare a Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for Shannon Estuary

Aims:

- To diversify the economy through the promotion of marine related industrial/business and employment opportunities, energy, environmentally friendly aquaculture, maritime, water-related recreation and tourism industries in a sustainable manner
- To properly protect, manage and enhance the natural coastal environment, cultural and built heritage

- Subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and EU Habitats Directive Assessment
- Steering Group now in place. Consists of Kerry County Council, Limerick City and County Council, Clare County Council, Shannon Development, Shannon Foynes Port Company, LCEA, DoEHLG, MWRA. Tender to be sought shortly for consultants to undertake plan.
- To be incorporated as variation to Kerry, Clare, Limerick City and County Development Plans on completion



Bottlenose Dolphins on
Shannon Estuary



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Assessment Area 5a: Shannon Estuary

Summary of Cumulative Effects (Including Mitigation)

It is likely that any commercial scale tidal development in the Shannon Estuary is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the Lower Shannon Estuary SAC and a number of SPA sites that are also associated with the estuary. There are also likely to be significant adverse effects on shipping and navigation due to the high intensity of vessels within the estuary. Potential effects on seascape are likely to moderate to slight, particularly for tidal devices that can be fully submerged. There are also likely to be adverse effects on commercial fisheries within the estuary.



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3. What are the Challenges

Challenges



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Key Challenge: Getting the Balance Right

A development Plan shall set out an overall Strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. The Clare County Development Plan defines Proper Planning & Sustainable Development as follows:

'achieving the correct balance of economic, social, cultural and environmental considerations in the interests of the common good and securing long term benefits for County Clare'





Challenges



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...balancing the competing consideration in the marine environment

1. Transportation
2. Off Shore Gas & Petroleum Resource
3. Fishing Industry and Aquaculture
4. Landscape & Seascape
5. Tourism and Recreation
6. Piers, Harbours and Marinas
7. Coastal Erosion and Flooding
8. Islands
9. Shellfish Designation
10. Other Ecological/Environmental/European sites (last but certainly not least!)

Challenges



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...addressing the Challenge

1. Reduce potential for 'conflicts' between different government Departments e.g. Economy V's Environment
2. Need for Marine Spatial Plan
3. Reconcile grid connectivity issue
4. Better integration between onshore and offshore planning
5. Advance reform of Foreshore consent procedure
6. Integrate with Tourism
7. Engage fully with Communities
8. Promote related manufacturing
9. Lead on R&D
10. Have no regrets...





2017



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4. Where we aim to be by 2017

2017 – Achieved our Goal



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A County Clare which maximises and manages the economic, social and recreational potential of the Atlantic Coastline and Shannon Estuary while protecting the coastal zone and its resources and adapting to and managing the challenges of climate change including flooding and sea-level rise.

Goal XIV - Clare County Development Plan 2011 - 2017

2017 – Achieved our Goal

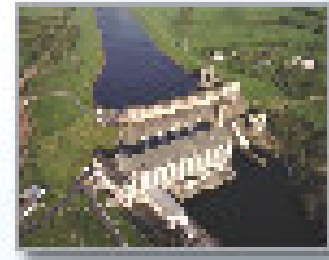
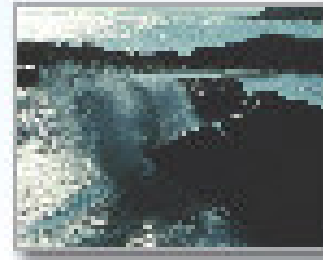
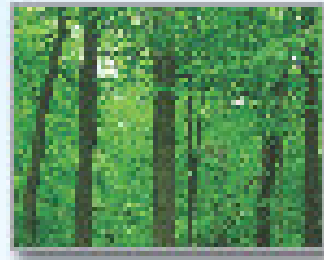


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“A County Clare that is the National leader in renewable energy generation which supports energy efficiency and conservation, achieving balanced social and economic development throughout the county and Ireland’s Green Energy Target”

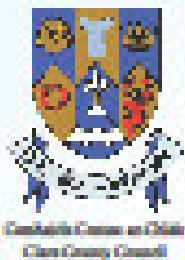
Turbine at Moanmore, Kilrush, Co. Clare

Clare County Council Supporting Renewable Energy



Clare County Council has a strong and proud tradition in supporting energy development in Ireland. Ardacrusha has been providing hydroelectric power since the 1920s and Moneypoint, one of the largest electricity generating stations in the country, has played a vital role in the Irish economy for over twenty years. County Clare possesses world class renewable energy potential in the form of wind, wave, tidal, hydro and biomass natural resources and an excellent grid distribution network. It is the aim of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 & the Clare Wind Energy Strategy 2011 – 2017 that County Clare will advance Ireland's economic recovery and achieve the national green energy target by establishing the county as:

- A national leader in renewable energy generation, storage and distribution
- A low carbon county
- A strong supporter of energy efficiency & conservation



For more information or for any questions please contact: Forward Planning Unit, Planning, Land Use and Transportation Directorate, Clare County Council, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

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