

From: Sproule Ivan <Ivan.Sroule@seai.ie>
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To: rses
Subject: RSES Submissions

Energy Infrastructure and Climate Change Commitments

Noting that the North and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) alludes to the fact that the majority of direction on EU and National target and commitments on energy efficiency and renewable energy will come from National government, responsibility will also fall on the NWRA as well as local authorities (Climate Adaption Framework) to ensure that targets are being met. How we produce our energy is going to play a major role in determining how successful the country is in tackling climate change targets, specifically GHG emissions. In the 1980's and 1990's the region benefitted from the establishment of local energy agencies and facilitated by the Irish Energy Centre, now SEAI.

The Region benefits from the following:

- Large onshore and off shore potential for wind energy development
- Some potential to develop forestry for biomass production
- Local supply of feedstock from livestock farms and piggeries to develop a biogas facility
- The region has potential to become a net exporter of renewable energy

Energy efficiency

Energy efficiency programmes should be at the corner stone of any policy as this help businesses maintain competitiveness through cost reduction and also help consumers reduce the burden on rising fuel costs.

Regional Policy Objectives - Energy

The establishment of a Regional Energy Agency/Regional Energy Hub should be considered a priority to implement government policy on energy efficiency and maximise government supports, and investment in the sector to deliver on NWRA objectives. In the late 1990's for example there were four Local Energy Agencies covering counties Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal. Now there are none.

Large businesses would be attracted to a region rich in natural renewable resources as priorities now include emissions reduction rather than energy reduction.

I would be a strong advocate and supporter for the delivering on the objectives outlined including with reference to:

- 19 New housing and retrofitting of existing stock to low energy use
- 39 Identification of potential renewable energy sites
- 40 Developing the region as a net exporter of renewable energy and associated market opportunities
- 41 Development of transmission grids
- 42 Development of a renewable energy industry to support inward investment
- 43 Off shore wind energy production infrastructure
- 44 Promote bioenergy from biomass and also biogas
- 45 Innovative building retrofitting solutions to reduce demand, improve comfort and well being
- 46 , 47 Expansion of Natural Gas grid having due regard to developing a renewable energy supply chain
- 48 develop the offshore wave energy industry to be a leader in this area like Vestas, Denmark are in the wind energy industry

- 143 the development smart technologies to improve resource sustainability and develop job opportunities that the Internet of Things (IOT) can offer.
- 188, 189 and 190 Investment in the grid should be seen as a priority to maximise the renewable energy potential of the region
- 191 Having due regard for development of the renewable energy sector

Regional Policy Objectives (Transport)

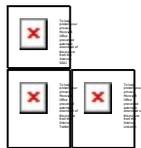
I strongly welcome and support Objectives

- 115 (a) and 115 (b) of the draft RSES Report which refer specifically to the re-opening of the Western Rail Corridor from Claremorris to Athenry and northwards from Claremorris to Sligo.

I believe the redevelopment of this infrastructure to be vital for the future of our region both from an economic and environmental perspective. It would provide a much needed boost to tourism and open other local amenities and opportunities for job creation at a local level. As we seek to decarbonise society and our electrical system, (119), electrification of the rail network will be a necessity.

Best wishes

Ivan Sproule



The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) has a mission to play a leading role in transforming Ireland into a society based on sustainable energy structures, technologies and practices. The Authority is partly financed by Ireland's EU Structural Funds Program co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union.