

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland invites you to

Regional Wind Energy Workshop

Devon Inn Hotel, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick Wednesday 7th July 2010

Harlequin Hotel, Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Thursday 8th July 2010

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland is hosting a series of regional wind energy workshops for local authority planners, officials and members. The first two of these workshops, combining seminar with site visit, take place in the Munster and Connaught regions on Wednesday 7th July and Thursday 8th July respectively.

Much has been achieved in the past few years to overcome obstacles in relation to planning, designing, grid-connecting and operating wind farms in Ireland. However, significant challenges still face the wind energy sector and decision makers if we are to achieve the unquestionable power potential blowing in the wind!

The FREE workshops will provide delegates with up-to-the-minute information on how Ireland's wind energy sector is developing and introduce some of the topical, planning design, grid and operation of wind farm in Ireland. The workshop will also provide developers and decision makers at a local and national level, the rare opportunity to exchange and share experiences in dealing with wind energy applications and inform how applicants might better address planners' needs going forward.

Ireland has connected a large amount of wind energy over the past number of years and has very ambitious targets for the next decade and beyond. Connecting an increasing capacity of wind energy is a major challenge for all stakeholders who are essential to the process ranging from developers to designers, from planners to policy makers, from grid operators to local communities.

Workshop Topics

European and National Renewable Energy Policy

We will set the context for renewable energy targets both nationally and on a European level – 'the why' we need to meet our renewable energy obligations. We will also briefly introduce delegates to the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) which is required to be delivered to the European Commission by our Government before 30th June 2010. The NREAP sets out 'the how' we intend to meet our energy obligations.

Wind Energy in Ireland

The Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) will introduce wind energy's status at present and key topics of most relevance to planners and local authority officials. They will focus on wind farm design topics and environmental impacts. The proposed revisions to the planning legislation will also be discussed.

Steps in Developing a Wind Energy Project

Engineering and planning consultancy, RPS Group will outline the key steps in developing a wind energy project. Topics which will be covered include planning requirements and guidelines, stakeholder consultation, authorisations and licences and grid connection applications. The focus of this talk will be the pre-construction phase of a project.

Grid Infrastructure - Ireland's Central Nervous System

ESB Networks and EirGrid will set out their own targets and goals over the next few years. Renewable energy is a national resource which is often at its most abundant a distance from population centres. Transferring the harnessed energy from the wind farm to the demand in industry and homes requires grid infrastructure. EirGrid and ESB Networks will further set out why grid renovation and expansion is a vital link in the chain of supply of renewable energy and a sustainable economy.

Large Scale Wind Energy in Industry

This is referred to as 'Autoproduction'. Autoproducers install generators onsite to reduce the amount of electricity they import from the grid. If a feasibility study shows that electricity can be generated onsite for less than it costs to buy from an electricity supplier companies may adopt such an arrangement. Wind turbines have the benefit of not requiring fuel and so are becoming increasingly attractive to large energy users. This talk will focus on large scale generators rather than the micro-generators which might be installed by a home owner or farmer.

Discussion Forum

All speakers will be expecting and welcome questions on the topics they cover throughout the morning. However, to finish the workshop we will hold a discussion forum where delegates and speakers will be able to interact and all in attendance learn from each other. Speakers and their colleagues will learn from local authority officials' experience and local authority officials will learn more about the topics they wish to focus on.

Wind Farm Visit

The IWEA and two of its member companies have kindly arranged for a site visit to an operational wind farm close by. This will be an unusual opportunity to visit a wind farm with permission and with a guide to answer any questions you might have. Delegates will be transported to and from the site by bus. The visit will be preceded by a presentation on the wind farm.

The event will be of particular interest and benefit to:

- County and City Managers;
- Local authority officials and county planners with responsibility for renewable energy projects and county development plans;
- Local authority members;
- Community group leaders and representatives;
- State agencies and NGOs with responsibilities in the areas of environment, energy, climate change and/or planning;
- Potential and existing developers;
- Consultants and landscape architects;
- Energy utilities;
- Wind turbine manufacturers and service engineers;
- Financial institutions.

08.45	Registration with Tea/Coffee
09.15	Welcome and Introduction, Martin McCarthy, SEAI REIO
09.20	Sustainable Energy Policy, Europe and Ireland, John McCann, SEAI
09.35	Introduction to Wind Energy in Ireland, Catriona Diviney, COO, IWEA
09.55	The Grid - Ireland's Central Nervous System Transmission: Deborah Meghen, Manager, Trans. Projects West, EirGrid Distribution: Bart Moriarty, ESB Networks
10.35	Panel Q & A followed by Tea/Coffee
11.00	Large scale wind in industry – Autoproduction, Dave McNamara, MD, RPG
11.20	Developing a wind project to construction, Jim Gannon, RPS Group
11.40	Environmental Considerations in Wind Farm Development, Kieran O'Malley, Fehily Timoney & Co.
12.00	Host Wind Farm Presentation Facilitated discussion session including a focus on key topics Followed by light lunch
13.00	On the day the bus departs for wind farm visit to either: · Knockawarriga Wind Farm, Limerick on July 7th or · Raheen Barr, Castlebar, Co. Mayo on July 8th
15.00	Arrive back at venue and close.

Registration

Places at each event are strictly limited to just 50 delegates with pre-registration required.

To book your place please email renewables@reio.ie with your full contact details indicating a preference for Limerick or Mayo.

* If you require wheelchair access please let us know when registering and we can arrange the facilities to suit.

If you have any further or specific questions please contact **Martin McCarthy** email martin.mccarthy@reio.ie

For details on the locations of the workshops please visit the venue websites by clicking on the links below:

Devon inn: <http://www.sheehanhotels.com/thedevoninn.html>

Harlequin: <http://www.harlequinhotelcastlebar.ie/hotels-mayo>