



IFA

Communities & Renewables

Living together

Thomas Ryan
Environment & Infrastructure Executive

Energy Cork
Ireland's Solar Energy Conference
Clarion Hotel, Cork

29th January 2016

Communities and Renewables Living together ?

“To know your future you must
know your past.”

George Santayana.

2014

- 54% of 2020 renewable energy targets delivered
- Principally by *Big Wind*
 - 2,300MW (aprox)
 - Range 1 – 70 turbines

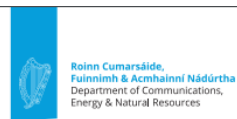




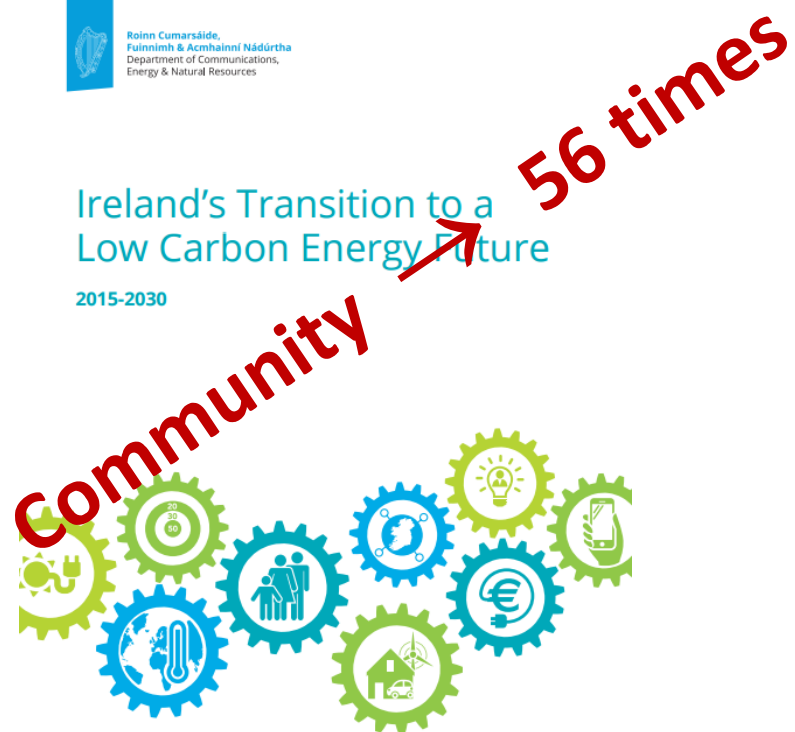
2016 – 2020

- 46% of renewable energy targets to be delivered

Energy White Paper



Ireland's Transition to a
Low Carbon Energy Future
2015-2030



Energy White Paper

- "citizens and communities will be active participants in the energy transition"
- "supporting community participation in renewable energy"
- "facilitating access to the national grid for designated renewable electricity projects"
- "examining shared-ownership opportunities for renewable energy projects in local communities"
- "ensure that grid connection policy will have due regard to current and future renewable energy policy, including in relation to community renewable energy projects; this policy, will be defined using criteria such as scheme size and degree of community ownership"



**Review of Connection and Grid Access Policy:
Initial Thinking & Proposed Transitional
Arrangements**

DOCUMENT TYPE:	Consultation
REFERENCE:	CER/15/284
DATE PUBLISHED:	11 th December 2015
CLOSING DATE:	29 th January 2016
RESPONSES TO:	Electricityconnectionpolicy@cer.ie

The Commission for Energy
Regulation,
The Exchange,
Belgard Square North,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.

www.cer.ie

Community Based Schemes

- “Are there any specific issues the CER should take into consideration regarding community based schemes?”



Transition

- Low carbon economy
- Community gain → Community participation

Community gain Community participation

- All projects - community contribution
 - Minimum – 1% of annual turnover
 - Administered by Community Council
- Favourable discrimination for community participation
 - Tariff premium for community projects
 - Grid preference for community projects
 - Community quota – ring fence proportion of heat and electricity schemes for community projects

policy certainty



Policy Certainty

- Implementation plan – for White Paper
 - Clear policy support for community participation in renewable
 - Commencement of the National Energy Forum
- Clarity for communities
 - Pre-planning community consultation - mandatory valid planning application
 - Grid connection and planning - interlinked
 - Set back distances on wind projects
- Farm Scale Energy Production
 - Auction mechanism not appropriate



Summary

Communities and Renewables Living together

Community gain  Community participation



Policy certainty



Thank you