

Offshore Wind Grid Delivery Model Option Consultation

It seems that the Irish Government has regrettably already decided to go ahead with a plan to develop wind energy at sea through the use of wind turbines and that this public consultation is to decide which of four types to use.

This public consultation should be about whether wind energy from turbines at sea is economically viable or environmentally damaging to marine wildlife such as fish, cetaceans, seabirds etc. Wind turbines on land and especially at sea are not economically viable as they do not produce enough energy to make a profit, they also require high and costly maintenance, are susceptible to damage from storms at sea. Take away the grant aid and no one in their right mind would touch them with a barge pole.

Vibrations, noise and other emissions from wind turbines at sea will have a detrimental effect on fish/mammal migrations and may cause cetaceans to beach themselves and die. Sea birds have been known to die in large numbers as a result of strikes with wind turbines both on land and at sea. The scenic beauty of our west coast will be destroyed which could effect tourist numbers coming to Ireland.

The Covid 19 lockdown proved that harmful emissions into the environment can be greatly reduced if proper and sustained action is taken. We must abandon our reliance on cars etc and focus more on public transport. We must also stop our reliance on jobs that pollute to produce. It is vital that DCCAIE ensures that the provisions of all relevant EU Directives, and Local, National and EU guiding plans and policies relating to the proposed development of wind energy at sea are fully satisfied. End