

Draft Investment Planning and Delivery Report 2025

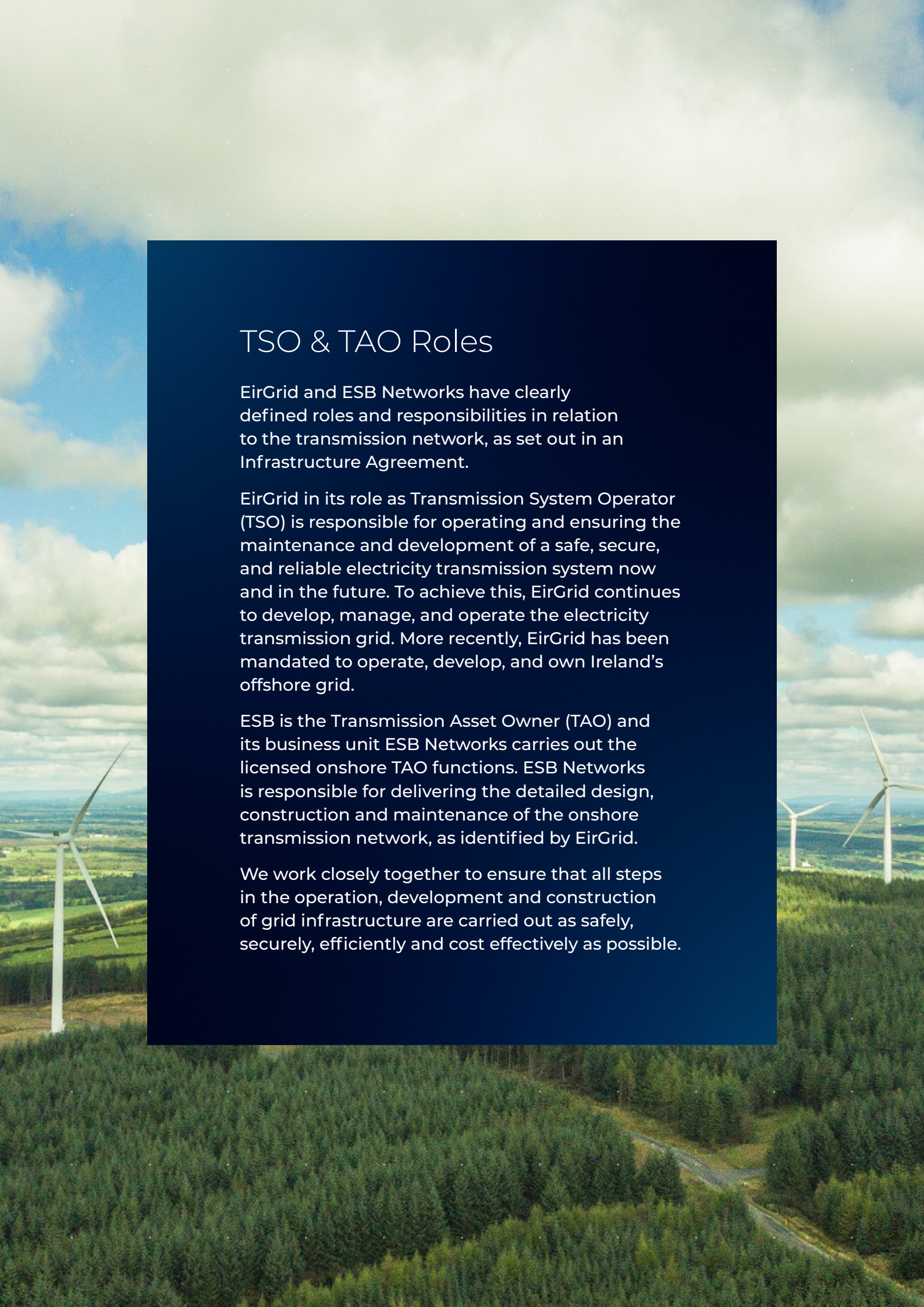


NETWORKS

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TSO & TAO Roles

EirGrid and ESB Networks have clearly defined roles and responsibilities in relation to the transmission network, as set out in an Infrastructure Agreement.

EirGrid in its role as Transmission System Operator (TSO) is responsible for operating and ensuring the maintenance and development of a safe, secure, and reliable electricity transmission system now and in the future. To achieve this, EirGrid continues to develop, manage, and operate the electricity transmission grid. More recently, EirGrid has been mandated to operate, develop, and own Ireland's offshore grid.

ESB is the Transmission Asset Owner (TAO) and its business unit ESB Networks carries out the licensed onshore TAO functions. ESB Networks is responsible for delivering the detailed design, construction and maintenance of the onshore transmission network, as identified by EirGrid.

We work closely together to ensure that all steps in the operation, development and construction of grid infrastructure are carried out as safely, securely, efficiently and cost effectively as possible.

1. Introduction

The Investment Planning and Delivery (IPD) Report provides stakeholders with an overview of the progress made by EirGrid and ESB Networks in planning and delivering electricity transmission infrastructure across Ireland.

EirGrid and ESB Networks work together to deliver on the Commission for Regulation of Utilities' (CRU) strategic objectives for the Price Review Five (PR5) period (2021–2025). These objectives focus on:

- Facilitating a secure, low-carbon electricity system to support Ireland's climate and energy targets;
- Addressing local security of supply needs to ensure reliable electricity for homes, businesses, and communities; and
- Improving efficiency and protecting customers, by delivering infrastructure in a cost-effective and planned manner.

This IPD 2025 report provides an overview of the transmission project portfolio as at the end of calendar year 2025, which represents the fifth and final year of the PR5 period. The portfolio represents all planned projects based on system needs before applying delivery or funding constraints. It explains how the development and delivery of grid infrastructure is progressing compared with what was originally planned at the start of the calendar year and describes a high-level transition to an integrated plan for the next five years from 2026 to 2030, which is Price Review Six (PR6).

The report is intended to give stakeholders transparency on how major transmission projects are advancing and how delivery is progressing against expectations.

The report includes:

- An overview of key infrastructure development highlights and benefits delivered in 2025 (Section 2);
- An assessment of progress across each of the six stages of EirGrid's project development and delivery framework, with comparisons to previous years and to expected delivery timelines (Sections 5-10);
- An explanation of how projects are prioritised within the overall portfolio (Section 11);

- An overview of climate change adaptation activities, outlining how the transmission network is being made more resilient (Section 12); and
- A summary of stakeholder engagement activities, describing how EirGrid and ESB Networks engaged with customers, industry, communities, landowners and stakeholders to support the development and delivery of transmission infrastructure (Section 13).

This report forms part of the enhanced PR5 reporting and monitoring requirements set out by the CRU in [CRU/20/154](#). It should be read alongside the Annual Electricity Transmission Performance Report 2025, which provides further detail on how the transmission system was operated, developed, and maintained during the year. EirGrid and ESB Networks look forward to continued engagement with stakeholders as we work to deliver the grid infrastructure required to meet Ireland's ambitious 2030 energy and climate targets.

1.1 Strategy for Planning and Delivering the Grid

EirGrid Group's Strategy¹ is shaped by climate change and the need for a secure, reliable, and sustainable transition of the electricity sector to low-carbon, renewable energy. The Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF)² initiative takes a whole of system approach and considers transmission network development, public and stakeholder engagement, evolution of system operations, and appropriately incentivising electricity markets. The updated Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF) Version 1.1³ reflects the prevailing electricity policy framework set out in the Government's Climate Action Plan 2025.⁴

Recent system performance highlights the progress being made, with renewable generation supplying approximately 41% of Ireland's electricity demand, including a growing contribution from solar. This reflects EirGrid's continued progress in enabling high levels of real-time renewable integration and advancing operational capability in support of future system requirements. EirGrid and ESB Networks continue to play a central role in enabling this transition through strategic grid development, renewable integration, and support for community microgeneration, contributing directly to Ireland's climate and energy targets.

1 [EirGrid Group Strategy 2025.pdf](#)

2 [Shaping Our Electricity Future Roadmap.pdf](#)

3 [Shaping Our Electricity Future Roadmap Version 1.1.pdf](#)

4 [DECC Climate Action Plan 2025 Main Report.pdf](#)

The updated Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF) Version 1.1 sets out a pathway for an electricity system that can deliver 80% of electricity demand from renewable sources by 2030. It outlines a dynamic plan for achieving these objectives, reflecting the best available information, including developments in climate and energy policy, and tracking progress against defined actions within the roadmap. Central to EirGrid's strategy for infrastructure delivery is our six-step approach for grid development.

This framework sets out how the public and stakeholders can influence the decisions that EirGrid makes on grid development projects. It is an agile and flexible framework which includes transmission infrastructure projects and programmes of different types and scales. Projects enter the framework once they are sufficiently developed whilst also taking account of the applicable project need and the project driver.

The framework provides structured governance points throughout the process, called Gateways. Each Step has an associated Gateway, which functions as a formal governance checkpoint. The Gateways generally occur at the end of a Step and sanction the project moving into the subsequent Step. The exception to this is in Step 5 – where the Gateway occurs prior to entering the statutory planning process, and Step 6 – where the Gateway occurs prior to Project Agreement (PA).

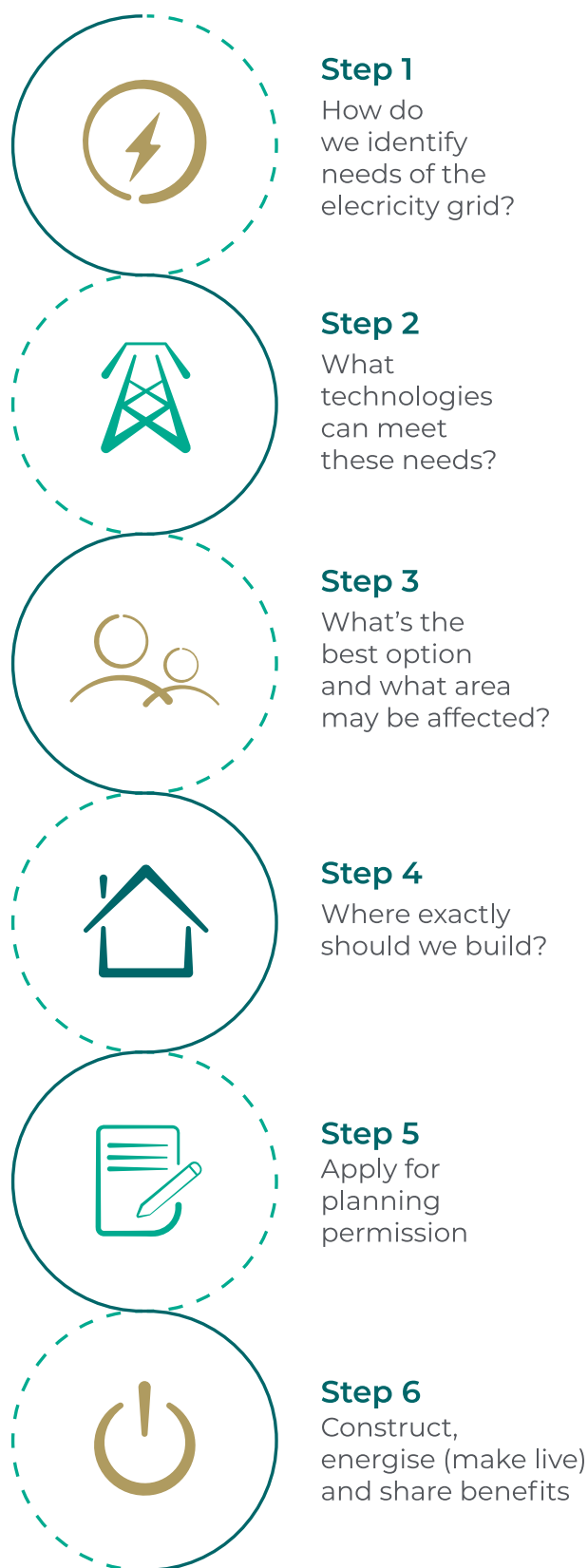


Figure 1: EirGrid Six-Step Framework for Grid Development

It is an agile and flexible framework as required for transmission infrastructure projects and programmes of different types and scales. Projects enter the framework once they are sufficiently developed whilst also taking account of the applicable project need and the project driver. Customer driven projects (e.g. renewable generation projects) enter the framework at Step 3 as they are initially developed via the customer connection agreement process. From an EirGrid perspective, these projects then progress directly from Step 3 to Step 6 as the activities typically carried out in Step 4 and Step 5 are managed directly by the Customer with EirGrid and ESB Networks in a support role only. For certain eligible transmission projects, EirGrid and ESB Networks at times combine and compress the grid development framework steps to enable faster project delivery as discussed in [Section 7.2](#).

More information on the activities at each step as well as the progress of projects during 2025 on each of the steps in the Framework for Grid Development is outlined in Sections 5–10 of this report.

PR5 Five-Year Summary (2021–2025)

As the final report for the PR5 period, this publication reflects on five years of transmission investment planning and delivery. Over this period, EirGrid and ESB Networks progressed a substantial portfolio of projects to support a secure, reliable and increasingly low-carbon electricity system, including customer connections, system reinforcements, asset refurbishment and major infrastructure programmes.

Delivery scale and maturity increased significantly over PR5, with strong growth in EirGrid Capital Approvals (CA), Project Agreements (PA), Energisations (EI) and overall investment. This enabled material progress in renewable and battery connections, network reinforcement in areas of rising demand, and advancement of strategic programmes such as Powering Up Dublin.

In total, approximately 1.4 GW of solar and 0.8 GW of wind capacity were connected, alongside 650 MW of Temporary Emergency Generation to support system resilience. Significant infrastructure was delivered, including extensive overhead line upgrades and refurbishment, new underground cables, substations and key network assets. Strategic outcomes included the energisation of the 500 MW Greenlink Interconnector, supporting system capacity equivalent to up to one million homes.

Delivery was achieved despite challenges including planning and consenting timelines, outage constraints, technical complexity, and supply chain and resourcing pressures. In response, EirGrid and ESB Networks strengthened coordination, integrated transmission programme planning, enhanced outage planning, increased early engagement, and implemented targeted delivery acceleration measures, supported by improved use of data and technology.

Overall, PR5 established a strong foundation for future delivery, with approximately €1.1 billion invested, representing c.91% of the regulatory allowance. The experience and lessons learned have informed the transition from the NDP to the PR6 Transmission Infrastructure Delivery (TID) Update, supporting a more coordinated, delivery-focused programme for the years ahead.

At the conclusion of PR5, the following headline outcomes demonstrate the scale, impact and maturity of transmission investment delivery over the five-year period:

- **Scale of Delivery:** 284 projects approved, 197 progressed to delivery, and 116 completed, reflecting a significant increase in programme throughput over the period.
- **Investment delivered:** Approximately €1.1bn invested in the transmission network, representing c.91% of the PR5 regulatory allowance.
- **Renewable Integration:** Over 2 GW of renewable capacity connected, including 1.4 GW solar and 0.8 GW wind, supporting Ireland's climate targets.
- **Infrastructure Outcomes:** Substantial network reinforcement delivered, including upgraded and refurbished lines, new substations, underground cables, and critical system assets.
- **System Impact:** Enhanced security of supply and system resilience, including delivery of the 500 MW Greenlink Interconnector, 650 MW of Temporary Emergency Generation and capacity to support ~one million homes.
- **Challenges and Response:** Delivery progressed despite planning, outage and supply chain constraints, with strengthened coordination, early engagement and targeted acceleration measures implemented across the programme.

2. Infrastructure Development & Delivery Highlights 2025

EirGrid manages a complex programme of transmission capital projects at various stages of development.

ESB Networks has the responsibility for efficiently and safely managing the delivery of these projects, including aspects such as procurement and construction.

Projects are planned and delivered in line with the system needs identified by EirGrid and jointly agreed work programmes. The continued delivery of transmission infrastructure is essential to maintaining a secure and resilient electricity system and to supporting the objectives set out in the Government's Climate Action Plan 2025.⁵

Summarised in Figure 2 below are the Transmission Infrastructure Development and Delivery Highlights 2025.

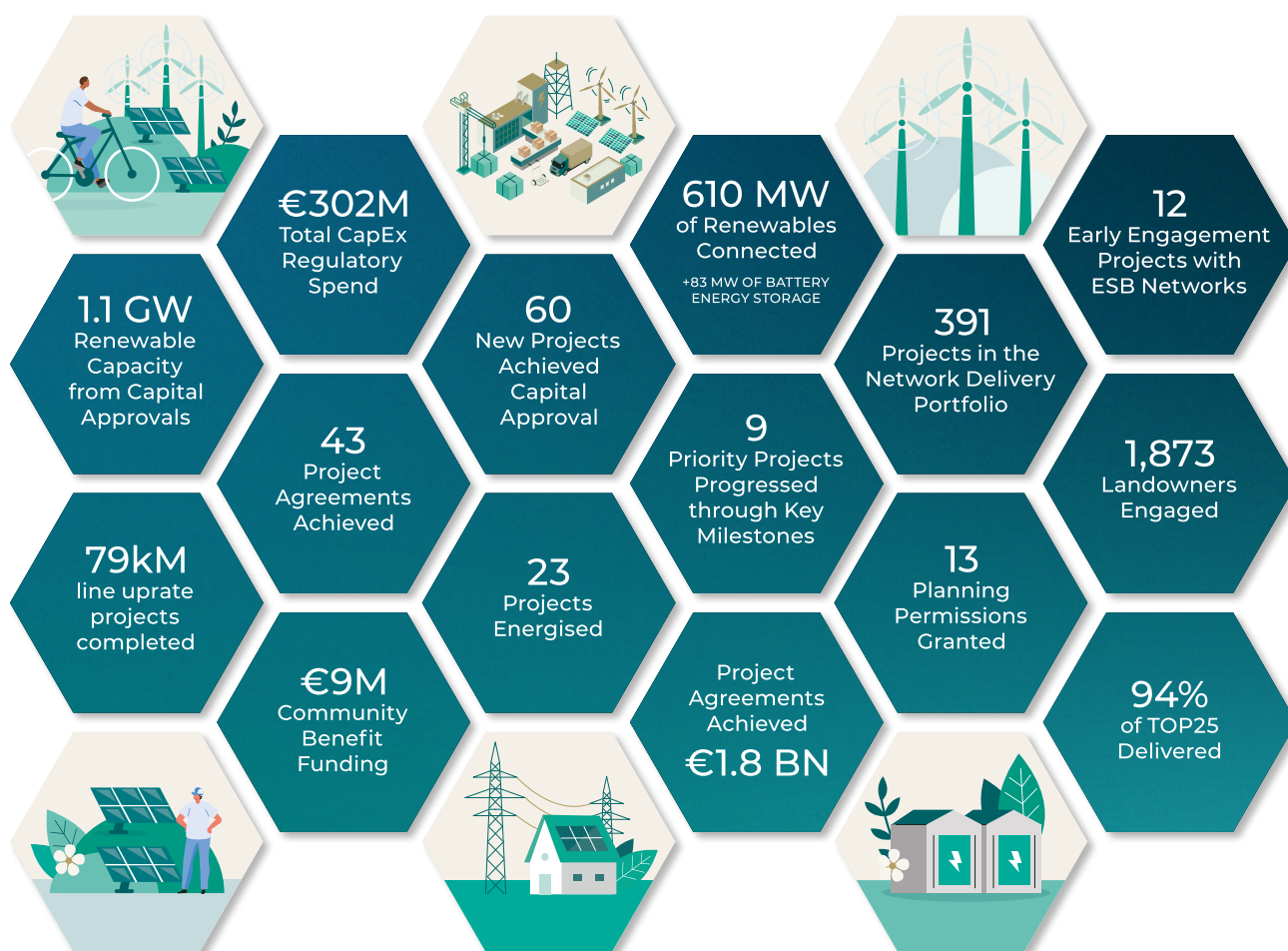


Figure 2: Transmission Development Highlights 2025.

In 2025, strong progress was made by EirGrid and ESB Networks in terms of project development and delivery across the six steps of the Framework for Grid Development with 60 projects achieving EirGrid Capital Approval and 43 projects achieving Project Agreement and thus moved into the detailed design and construction stages. This robust development pipeline establishes a solid foundation for delivery in PR6, covering the period 2026 to 2030. A total of €302 million was invested in the transmission network in 2025, supporting continued advancement of key infrastructure initiatives. In addition, 23 projects valued at €195 million were energised reflecting sustained momentum in project execution and delivery. The outcomes delivered by these projects are discussed in the highlights section and in section 10 of this report.

EirGrid publishes a quarterly report called the Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP)⁶ which gives stakeholders and industry a regular status update on the progress of approximately 390 projects through the six-step process towards completion. Further details on the NDP are included in Section 4 of this report.

Looking ahead to PR6, delivery will transition to the Transmission Infrastructure Delivery (TID) Update⁷. The TID programme represents a coordinated, multi-year approach to managing transmission projects, providing greater visibility, prioritisation, and alignment across EirGrid and ESB Networks, while supporting the delivery of an unprecedented level of investment in the electricity network.

⁶ [Eirgrid Network-Delivery-Portfolio](#)

⁷ [Transmission Infrastructure Delivery \(TID\) Update](#)

2.1 Renewable Connections and Battery Energy Storage

The connection and completion of new renewable generation projects to the transmission network is vital to achieving the 2030 Climate Action Plan targets.

In 2025, we progressed a diverse set of renewable and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) projects through the Six-Step Framework.

BESS technologies facilitate renewable energy on the grid by supporting system reserve provision, generation adequacy, and congestion management. The battery technology captures the electrical energy at one time for it to be used at times of higher demand. Notably, significant capacity has been added to the grid this year, with additional capacity planned over the next couple of years (Figure 3).

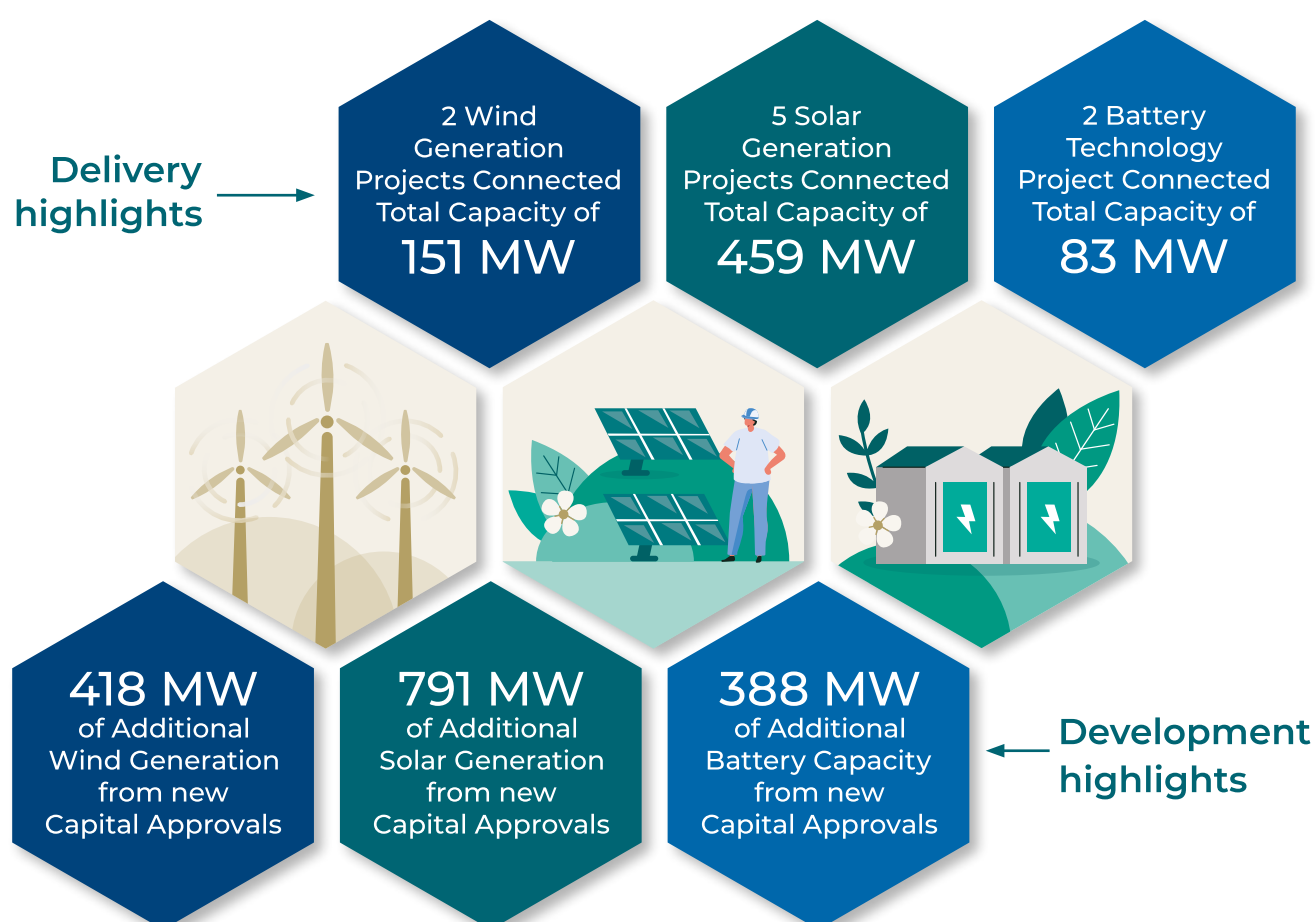


Figure 3: Renewable Connections and Battery Energy (BESS) Storage Highlights 2025

Renewable Projects which Achieved EirGrid Capital Approval

13 renewable projects, three BESS projects including one hybrid development, such as the Kildinan (Coom Green Energy Park) project received EirGrid Capital Approval and progressed through Step 3 in 2025. More information on these projects can be found in Section 7. These projects are expected to provide significant benefits to the grid by 2030, including:

- Approx. 338 MW of Wind Generation
- Approx. 791 MW of Solar Generation
- Approx. 310 MW of Battery Energy Storage Systems

A new 110 kV substation, which is a hybrid project that will provide approx. 156 MW of wind and battery energy.

Renewable Projects Energised

In 2025, a total of 23 projects were energised, including a mix of wind, solar and BESS developments, delivering approximately 693 MW of new capacity across renewable generation and associated storage technologies.

Wind and Solar Generation (610 MW)

Seven renewable generation projects were completed and connected to the system, comprising:

- Two wind projects, including Knockdrin 110 kV Station (Yellow River Wind Farm) and Philipstown 110 kV Station (Cushaling Wind Farm), which together delivered approximately 151 MW of renewable generation.
- Five solar projects, including Timahoe 110 kV Station (Timahoe North Solar Farm), Timoney 110 kV Station (Erkina Solar Farm), and Deenes 110 kV Station (Gaskinstown Solar Farm), contributing a combined approximately 459 MW.

Battery Energy Storage (83 MW)

Two⁸ new BESS projects were energised:

- Raghra 220 kV Station (Shannonbridge B), delivering 63 MW of storage capacity, supporting system flexibility and renewable integration.
- Philipstown 110 kV Station (Cushaling BESS), delivering 20 MW of storage capacity and enhancing the ability of the transmission system to integrate and utilise renewable energy.

⁸ This figure includes the energisation of Cushaling BESS (20 MW), which shares a connection with Cushaling Wind Farm and is reported separately as Battery Energy Storage capacity.

2.2 Powering Up Dublin Programme

EirGrid launched the “Powering Up Dublin” Programme in May 2022 which involves replacing and upgrading older underground cable infrastructure that is reaching the end of its life and to facilitate future renewable electricity connections, specifically offshore generation. This programme will help ensure the security of supply in the Dublin region and improve the overall resilience of the transmission system. In 2025, the programme continued to progress a large portfolio of reinforcement and replacement projects across the Greater Dublin Area, supporting demand growth and enhancing network capability.

Since the launch of the Powering Up Dublin Programme, EirGrid has completed the programme masterplan and developed proposals for major cable circuit replacement and upgrade projects. Following the confirmation of the Best Performing Route Option (BPRO) for three of the key 220 kV cable replacement projects-Carrickmines to Poolbeg, Finglas to North Wall, and North Wall to Poolbeg in January 2024, these projects continued to progress through subsequent development and planning stages during 2025, with ongoing stakeholder engagement and preparation for statutory consent processes.

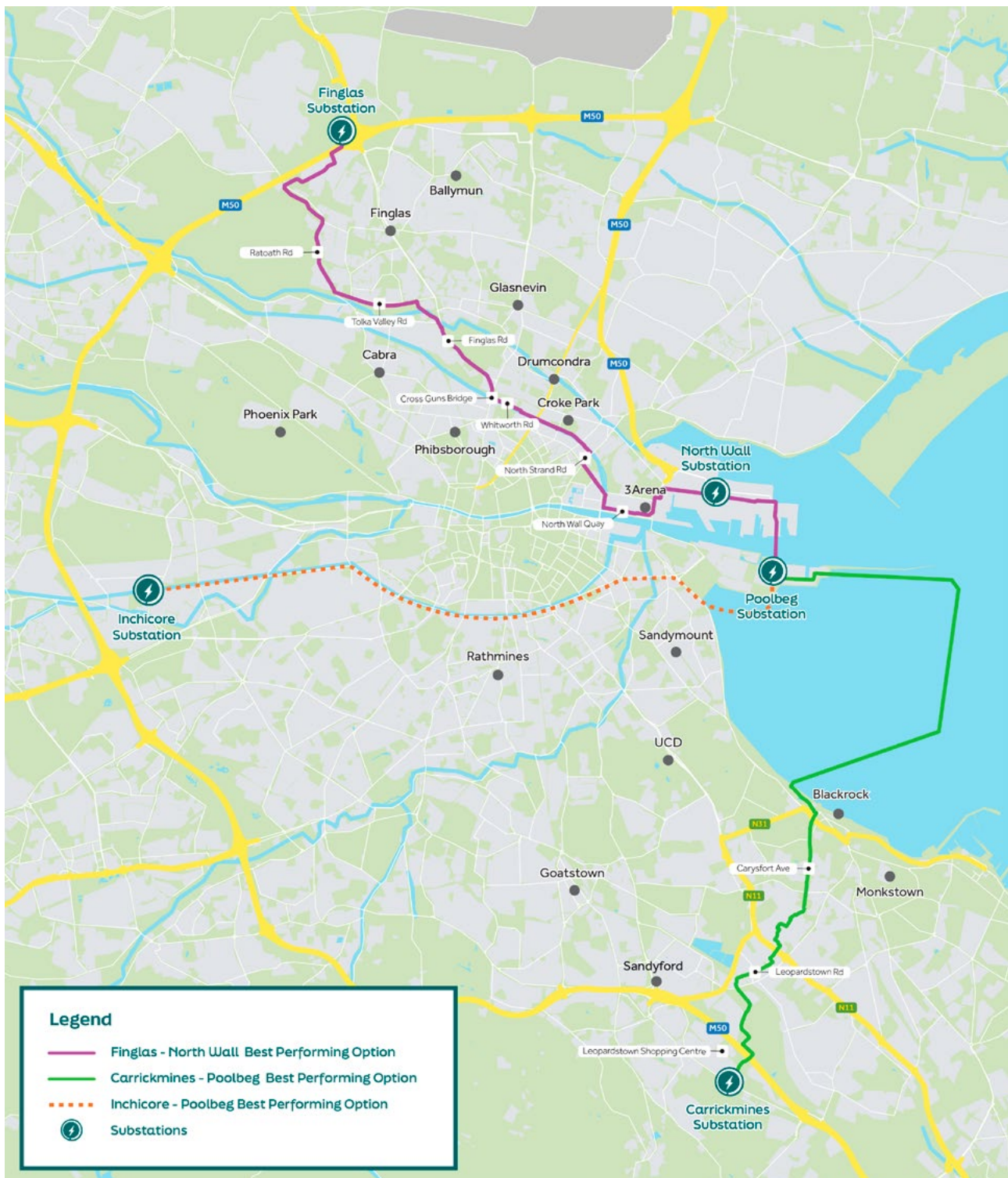


Figure 4: Dublin Programme – Emerging Best Performing Options

During 2025, the Finglas to North Wall circuit continued to progress following entry into PA, with ESB Networks advancing planning, design and delivery activities to support energisation by 2030. The Carrickmines to Poolbeg and North Wall to Poolbeg routes have sections that cross Dublin Bay and are therefore subject to both marine and onshore consenting processes. The consenting requirements, particularly for marine surveys, environmental assessments and statutory approval processes, introduce additional complexity and schedule risk that can impact project delivery timelines. During 2025 the applications for a Marine Usage Licence required to undertake marine surveys on Carrickmines/Poolbeg and a Marine Area Consent for this project and one for North Wall Poolbeg remained under evaluation by the Marine Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) contributing to delays in project timelines. Consent-related delays are being mitigated through early engagement with MARA, parallel progression of design and procurement, and close coordination with delivery partners.

Identifying the BPRO for the two remaining cables between Inchicore and Poolbeg is well advanced with route selection, cable type and installation technology solution approved in June 2025. This milestone reflects the approval of a micro tunnel installation solution following detailed technical and environmental assessment. During the remainder of 2025 the tunnel technical specifications, planning and consenting strategy and procurement of specialist technical advisors was progressed.

On the Poolbeg 220 kV Substation project, planning consent was achieved in November 2023; the project was further developed to the point where it reached Project Agreement with ESB Networks in December 2024, with initial energisation planned for the end of 2028. In 2025, the project progressed further through procurement, including the appointment of an Engineering, Procurement and Construction contractor to support delivery. Planning consent for the Belcamp 220 kV Substation project was granted in October 2023. The project was further developed throughout 2024, and all elements of the Project Agreement between EirGrid and ESB Networks were finalised. In 2025, the Project Agreement was formally signed, and the project progressed towards construction, with initial energisation expected in 2029.

The Dublin Central Bulk Supply Point (BSP) project will deliver a new 220 kV substation that will connect the transmission network to the distribution network in the East Wall area of Dublin City Centre. An EirGrid Capital Approval was achieved September 2024, and the planning application was subsequently submitted in August 2025 and granted in December 2025, representing a key milestone in advancing the project.

In 2025, Fingal–East Meath progressed through Best Performing Option (BPO) activities and stakeholder consultation, while Kildare–Dublin experienced schedule adjustments with EirGrid Capital Approval now expected in 2026, reflecting programme complexity and evolving delivery strategy.

Progress during 2025 demonstrates continued advancement across planning, consenting and delivery stages, alongside enhanced coordination with stakeholders and delivery partners. More information on the Programme can be found on EirGrid's Website.⁹

2.3 Security of Supply

Security of supply continued to be an important area of focus for EirGrid in 2025 with several workstreams in operation across the company. This includes the development and implementation of operational measures, fast-tracking certain infrastructure delivery and market innovations to advance security of supply solutions. During 2025, these activities were supported by enhanced operational planning, improved risk management processes, and ongoing coordination with key stakeholders to ensure system stability in the context of increasing demand and evolving generation patterns. The CRU published its most recent update on the Electricity Security of Supply Programme of Work in April 2025.¹⁰

EirGrid has been tasked by the CRU to deliver on elements of the CRU's Security of Supply Programme of Actions as set out in CRU21115.¹¹ In addition, the CRU's PR5 Local Security of Supply TSO Incentive, as set out in CRU/20/154,¹² obliges EirGrid to develop Local Security of Supply specific plans for the greater Dublin region for the PR5 period. In 2025, EirGrid continued to deliver against these requirements, achieving an overall "Acceptable" performance under the PR5 Local Security of Supply Incentive, supported by progress across infrastructure delivery, market measures and operational initiatives.

⁹ www.eirgrid.ie/dublin

¹⁰ [CRU Electricity Security of Supply Programme of Work Update April 2025](#)

¹¹ [CRU Security of Electricity Supply Programme of Actions.pdf](#)

¹² [CRU PR5 Regulatory Framework Incentives and Reporting 1.pdf](#)

The 2025 outturn demonstrates continued implementation of the Local Security of Supply Plan, including delivery of key infrastructure milestones, achievement of market delivery targets (including generation capacity connections), and advancement of operational measures such as demand response mechanisms and emergency generation readiness. All Temporary Emergency Generation (TEG) units were made available during the period, providing additional resilience to the system where required, while new capacity supported through the programme has begun to energise.

Electricity demand also reached new peak levels in January 2025, exceeding 6,000 MW for the first time, reflecting increasing system requirements and reinforcing the importance of continued delivery across infrastructure, market and operational measures.

Further information on the outturn performance for the Local Security of Supply incentive in 2025 can be found in the Annual Electricity Performance Report 2025.

2.4 Demand Connections and Data Centres

In 2025, two demand connection projects (totalling approximately 62 MVA) were energised, supporting increased electricity demand and enabling ongoing economic and digital infrastructure development. One notable development included the connection of a new 42 MVA data centre at Barnageeragh 110 kV station in the Dublin region, demonstrating the continued growth in high capacity demand connections and the importance of transmission infrastructure in supporting these requirements.

The delivery of these projects' forms part of a broader portfolio of customer connections progressed through the investment lifecycle in 2025, including a strong pipeline of new projects receiving EirGrid Capital Approval and advancing through development stages.

2.5 New Technology

In 2025, as per the Joint TSO/TAO Incentive, EirGrid and ESB Networks advanced the use of innovative grid technologies to increase network capacity, improve operational flexibility and support a more secure, reliable and lower-carbon electricity system. Progress was made both in deploying proven solutions and in assessing emerging technologies for wider use across the transmission network.

Technologies such as Dynamic Line Rating (DLR), Power Flow Controllers (PFC), Static Synchronous Compensators (STATCOM) and Distributed Temperature Sensing (DTS) enable more efficient use of existing assets, improve system resilience and support renewable integration. These technologies help reduce constraints, enhance reliability and defer the need for traditional network reinforcement.

During 2025, progress included further deployment of Dynamic Line Rating, the first operational use of Dynamic Busbar Rating, wider adoption of Distributed Temperature Sensing standards, and continued operation of STATCOM technology. Trenchless cable installation techniques were also further developed to support future delivery in constrained urban locations. The Binbane Power Flow Controller project was discontinued following review and will inform future technology assessment.

Non-wire solutions remain an important part of EirGrid's approach to network development. Through the Shaping Our Electricity Future roadmap, a range of candidate reinforcements have been identified where technologies such as Dynamic Line Rating and Power Flow Controllers may offer alternatives or complements to traditional network reinforcement.

Dynamic Line Rating

Dynamic Line Rating (DLR) enables overhead lines to carry more power when conditions allow, unlocking additional capacity on the existing network and supporting new connections without traditional uprating works. DLR has progressed across a growing number of candidate reinforcements identified through SOEF, with 2025 seeing a continued transition from trial to operational deployment. By the end of 2025,

- DLR systems had been installed on Corraclassy–Cathleen’s Fall 110 kV line
- DLR Sensors data were captured on Cashla–Dalton 110 kV line
- DLR projects advanced Gateway 1-3 approvals, including Deenes–Drybridge 110 kV, Baltrasna–Corduff 110 kV, Crane–Wexford 110 kV and Great Island–Waterford #1 110 kV Circuit.

Operational data gathered during 2025 improved understanding of DLR performance and supported future rollout decisions. Innovative deployment methods, including drone-based installation, were also trialled to reduce outage requirements.

Dynamic Busbar Rating

Dynamic Busbar Rating (DBR) extends the principles of DLR to substation busbars, allowing real-time monitoring of temperature and current to support better asset utilisation. In 2025, DBR at Dalton 110 kV station moved into operational use within the Energy Management System, marking the first application of dynamic rating at substation level and demonstrating the potential for greater operational flexibility.

Power Flow Controllers (PFC)

Power Flow Controllers (PFCs) can help direct power flows across circuits and improve how the network is used. They remain under consideration within future reinforcement options; however, the Binbane project was discontinued in 2025 following a review of cost and outage constraints. The learning from this work will inform future assessment of PFC deployment. Future network planning will continue to consider where this technology may be appropriate and deliver value.

Distributed Temperature Sensing (DTS)

Distributed Temperature Sensing (DTS) provides continuous temperature monitoring along underground cables, improving asset visibility and supporting safer, more effective network operation. In 2025, a joint TSO/TAO report established DTS as the standard approach for all 220 kV and 400 kV underground cables and selected critical 110 kV circuits. Updated specifications were issued to support wider rollout, helping to strengthen monitoring capability and improve long-term asset management.

Innovative Installation Techniques (Trenchless)

Trenchless installation techniques, including micro-tunnelling and horizontal directional drilling, are being developed to support underground cable delivery in constrained environments, particularly urban locations where traditional open-cut construction can be difficult and disruptive. During 2025, EirGrid and ESB Networks further developed specifications for trenchless approaches and undertook international engagement to inform future delivery. These methods are expected to reduce disruption, improve constructability and support more efficient delivery of major cable projects.

Further details on the Technology Tool box developments and the Joint TSO/TAO Incentive performance for 2025 are included in the Annual Performance Report 2025.

3. Capital Expenditure

Every five years the CRU determines the revenue price control for the TSO (EirGrid) and the TAO (ESB Networks). The CRU sets a revenue envelope to cover the development of the national transmission grid.

This is referred to as network capex, under which EirGrid and ESB Networks carry out capital works programme over a five-year period. This envelope can be adjusted during the five years to allow for changing needs. The costs associated with development of the national transmission grid are recovered over a 50-year period consistent with the expected network asset life.

The total TSO and TAO network capex allowance for the PR5 period was determined by CRU in the PR5 Final Determination, CRU/20/152, as €1,048 million (2019 Prices), of which €172 million was allocated to 2025. Further information on the PR5 final determination can be found in the determination paper on CRU's website.¹³ The PR5 programme evolved in 2025 as projects were completed, progressed, added, rescheduled, or removed in line with delivery requirements and updated programme assumptions. The total network capex regulatory spend for 2025 was €302 million. The 2025 outturn exceeds the PR5 determination allowance of €172 million¹⁴ by 76% and also represents an increase of €81 million (~37%) when compared to 2024.

Table 1: Actual Total Regulatory Spend PR5 2025 vs PR5 Allowance for 2025

(*Note: expressed in nominal 2025 money)

	PR5 TSO & TAO Network Capex Determination Allowance 2025	PR5 Programme 2025 TSO & TAO Outturn	Variance PR5 Outturn 2025 vs PR5 Allowance
Total Network Capex Regulatory Spend	€172m*	€302m*	+€130m* (+76%)

¹³ [CRU20152 TSO and TAO Transmission Revenue 2021-2025.pdf](#)

¹⁴ €172 million is expressed in 2025 monies.

The Network Capex spend profile is largely shaped by the pace at which major projects progress through development and delivery. As shown in the graph below, capital expenditure increased significantly over the five-year period to 2025, with the highest level of spend recorded in the final year of PR5.

This reflects the advancement of major projects and the resulting increase in delivery activity and investment across the transmission portfolio.

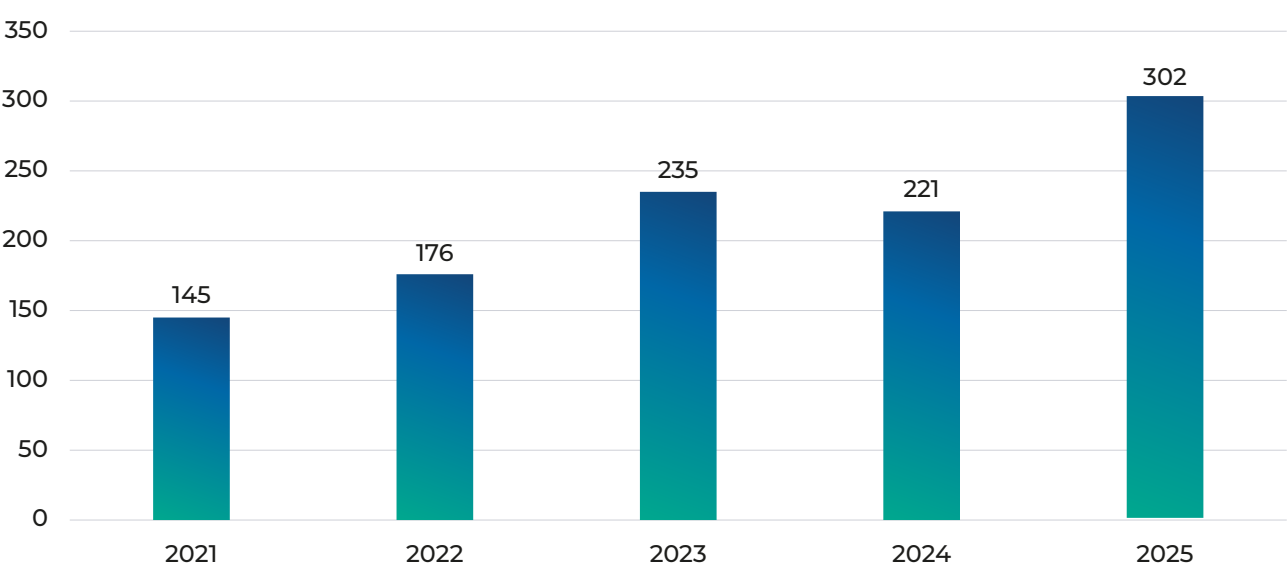


Figure 5: TSO/TAO total Network Capex Regulatory Spend by year (€M)

4. Network Delivery Portfolio

EirGrid publishes a quarterly Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP) update for stakeholders and industry to meet CRU reporting requirements, as set out in CRU/20/154. The NDP contains an up-to-date programmatic view of the ongoing and pipeline transmission capital projects which span the period 2021–2030, covering the PR5 and PR6 periods.

The quarterly NDP publication is an agile unconstrained¹⁵ programme which contains the projects from the PR5 submission, newly added pipeline projects and additional requirements identified by the analysis carried out as part of the SOEF studies. The NDP provides a quarterly status update on the three major project milestones of EirGrid Capital Approval, Project Agreement with ESB Networks and energisation for circa 390 projects.

The objective of the NDP is to support the delivery of the EirGrid Group Strategy¹⁶ to transform the power system by 2030, in accordance with the Climate Action Plan 2025.¹⁷ EirGrid does this by providing a clear and transparent programme over multiple years which maximises the amount of project related work that can take place to reinforce the system, connect customers and ensure the required level of maintenance of the transmission system while ensuring a safe and secure system. The information in this report is based on Q3 2025 NDP milestone data¹⁸ and subsequent TSO/TAO outturn reporting for 2025.

¹⁵ Project dates and timelines provided in the NDP are based on an unconstrained scenario and are, therefore, indicative in nature and subject to change for a variety of reasons.

¹⁶ [EirGrid Group Strategy 2020-25](#)

¹⁷ [DECC Climate Action Plan 2025 Main Report Final Web](#)

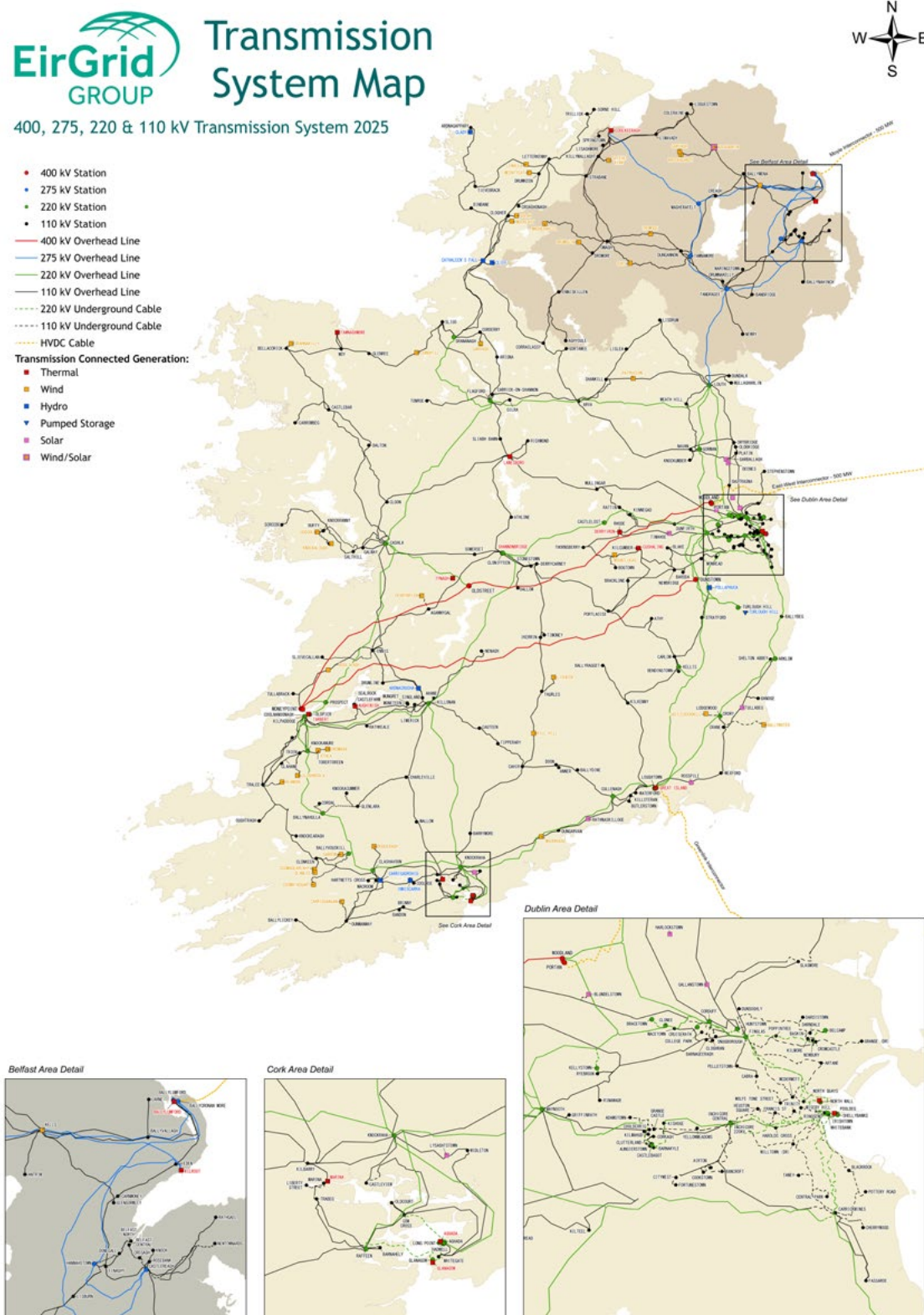
¹⁸ [Network Delivery Portfolio Publication Q3 2025.pdf](#)

4.1 Transition from NDP to PR6 Transmission Infrastructure Delivery (TID)

The Network Delivery Portfolio (NDP) served as the principal quarterly programme publication throughout the PR5 period, providing stakeholders with a forward-looking view of transmission projects across development and delivery stages, without reflecting delivery constraints. With the conclusion of PR5 at the end of 2025, the NDP publication has also concluded, marking the end of the PR5 portfolio reporting framework and its transition to the PR6 Transmission Infrastructure Delivery (TID) Update.

From Q1 2026, the TID Update will commence as part of the PR6 regulatory framework. The TID has been developed jointly by EirGrid and ESB Networks to provide a more delivery-focused, sequenced and constrained view of the transmission portfolio, taking account of project readiness, system needs, outage availability and delivery dependencies.

Quarterly TID Update reports will provide enhanced visibility of delivery performance under PR6, including progress against key milestones, outputs and expected outcomes. In this way, the TID will succeed the NDP from Q1 2026, providing stakeholders with greater certainty on delivery timelines and a clear reporting baseline for the forthcoming regulatory period.

Figure 6: All Ireland Transmission System Map¹⁹¹⁹ [EirGrid-Transmission-System-Map-February-2025.pdf](#)

4.2 Network Delivery Portfolio Trends in 2025

In the fifth and final year of PR5, EirGrid and ESB Networks continued to deliver steady progress across the Transmission Outage Programme (TOP), alongside improvements in planning, coordination and the consenting process.

During 2025, key developments included a strong progression of projects achieving EirGrid Capital Approvals, the advancement of nine out of 29 priority projects through major milestones, and continued delivery of renewable connections. This progress was further supported by mitigation and acceleration measures arising from government-led engagement on infrastructure delivery.

Together, these trends demonstrate an increased volume of projects progressing through the Six-Step Process towards completion, reflecting greater throughput from development into delivery stages compared with the earlier years of PR5. This ongoing advancement of the portfolio contributes to achieving key objectives, including security of supply, 2030 climate targets, and meeting growing customer demand.

EirGrid Capital Approvals

60 projects achieved EirGrid Capital Approval in 2025 continuing a steady throughput of projects at the investment stage. Two GW3 Priority Project investment decisions reached this milestone in 2025 representing a major programme of reinforcement in the Northwest region, these projects will be further developed in PR6 and delivered in PR7.

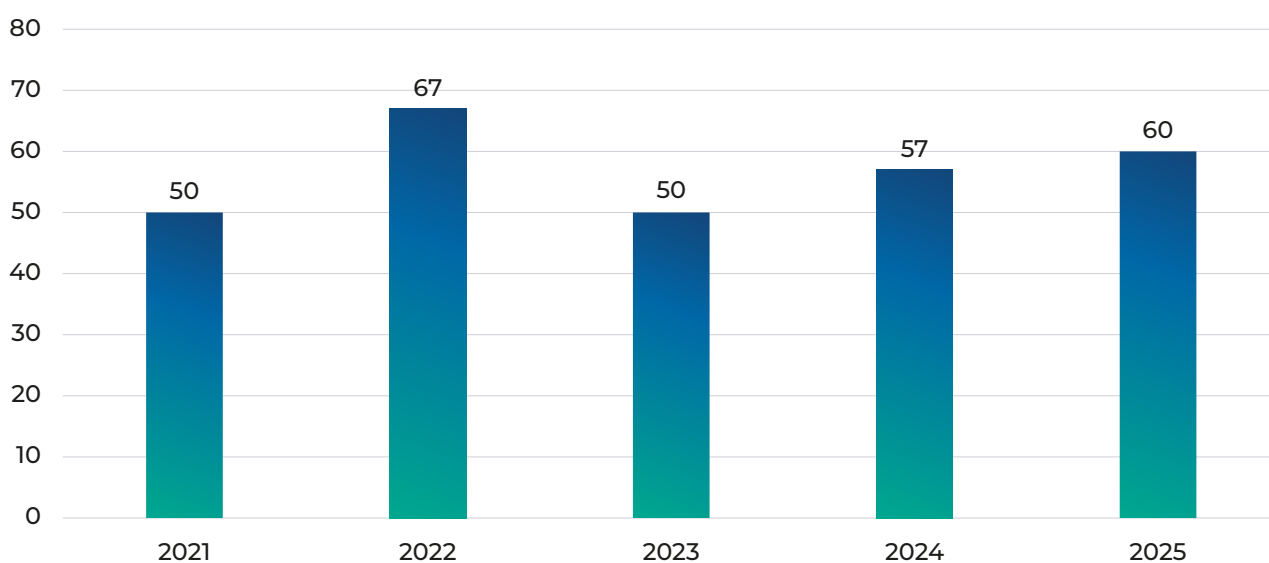


Figure 7: Number of new EirGrid Capital Approvals – 5 year period

Project Agreements

43 PAs were concluded between EirGrid and ESB Networks in 2025.

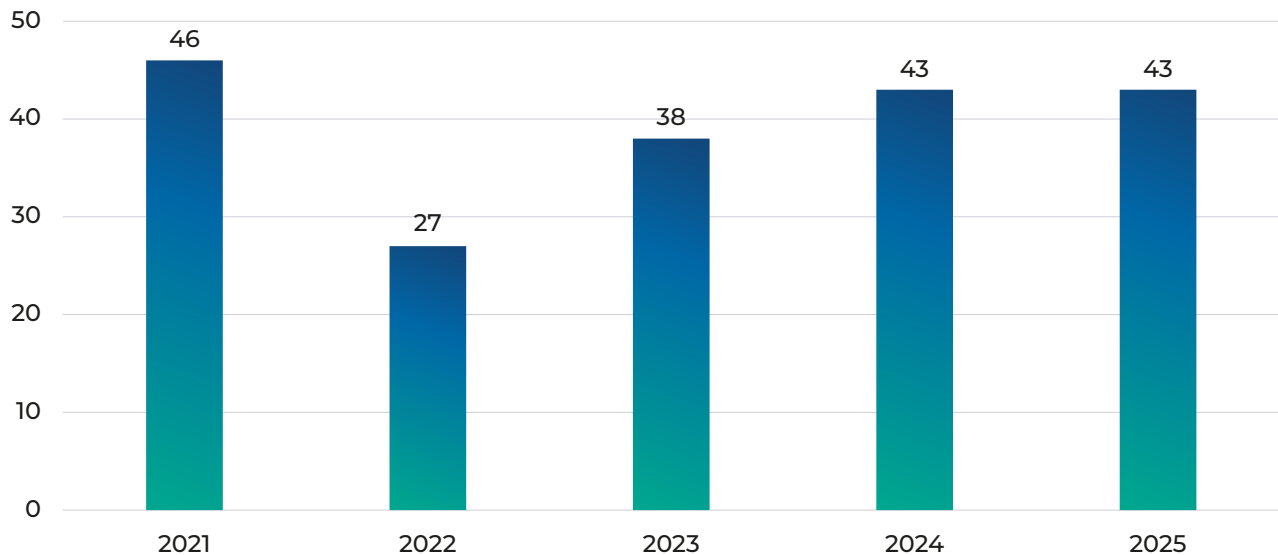


Figure 8: Number of new Project Agreements signed – 5-year period

Energisations and Completions

23 projects were energised and/or completed in 2025 including one TEG project.

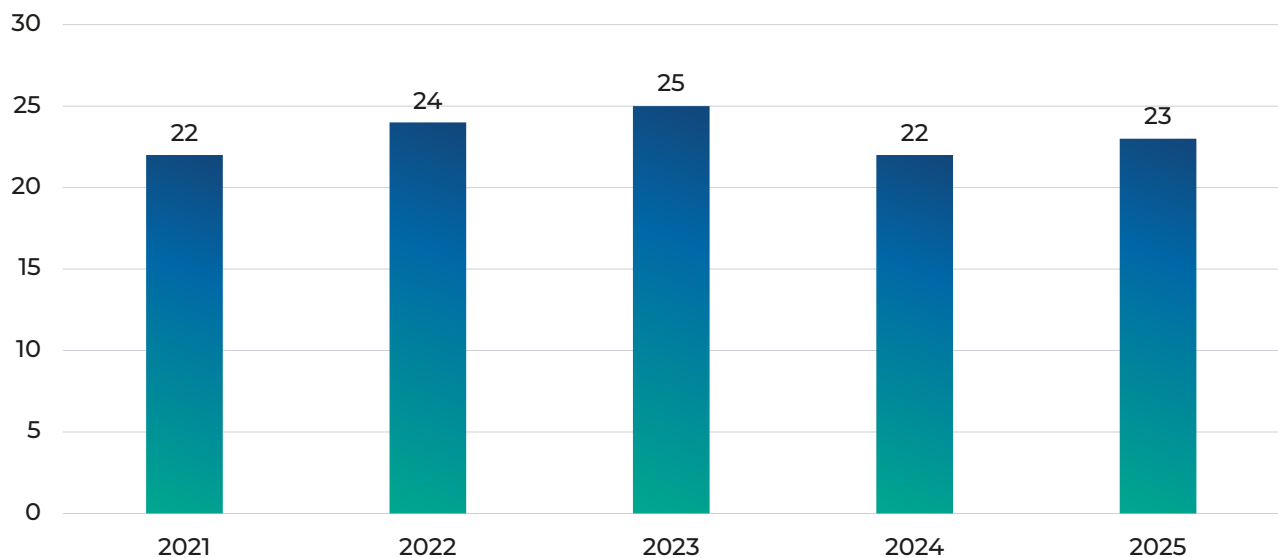


Figure 9: Number of project energised/completed – 5-year period

Further details on the benefits associated with these projects is outlined in Section 7 of this report.

4.3 Project Delivery Dependencies & Challenges

EirGrid and ESB Networks maintained close and proactive collaboration throughout 2025 to manage the increasing scale and complexity of the transmission portfolio. With the level of investment and programme activity reaching its highest point in the final year of PR5, particular focus was placed on strengthening coordination, improving sequencing, and managing delivery risks across the full project lifecycle. Early engagement and end-to-end project management were central to identifying challenges early and implementing timely mitigation measures, while any changes to energisation timelines continued to be transparently reflected in EirGrid's regular publications.

Delivering transmission infrastructure at this scale and pace is inherently complex and is influenced by a wide range of interdependent factors. These include planning and consenting processes, outage availability, technical and engineering challenges, resourcing and supply chain constraints, stakeholder and land access considerations, and dependencies on third-party projects. Outage management in particular remains a critical and challenging area, given the need to balance system security with the delivery of new infrastructure. In 2025, these risks were actively managed through enhanced coordination, integrated planning, and targeted mitigation measures, ensuring the continued and efficient progression of projects across the portfolio.

5. The Six-Step Grid Development Process: Step 1

How do we identify the future needs of the electricity grid?

Step 1 of EirGrid's Six-Step Framework focuses on identifying and confirming the need for a project. This is driven by expected changes in how electricity is generated, stored and used, as well as wider shifts in demand and network conditions.

To assess this, EirGrid identifies:

- **Future system needs**, arising from changes in demand, generation (including renewables), storage, interconnection and asset condition
- **System reinforcement requirements**, based on the application of technical planning standards
- **Asset management needs**, informed by condition assessments and maintenance policies

A key input to this process is EirGrid's Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios (TES),²⁰ which uses scenario planning to model how the power system may evolve over time. The latest TES (published in 2023) extends the planning horizon to 2050 and reflects updated policy ambitions, including increased electrification and higher levels of renewable generation. These scenarios inform the System Needs Assessment (SNA), which identifies long-term electricity network requirements and highlights where additional infrastructure investment might be needed. If the existing grid cannot meet future needs in line with EirGrid's Transmission System Security and Planning Standards (TSSPS),²¹ as approved by the CRU, further network development is required.

²⁰ The updated 2023 version of TES can be found at <https://www.eirgrid.ie/industry/tomorrows-energy-scenarios-tes#tes-2023>

²¹ [EirGrid Transmission System Security and Planning Standards TSSPS Final May 2016 APPROVED](#)

EirGrid's Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF) roadmap complements this process by setting out how the system will evolve to meet Government climate targets. The latest roadmap²² reflects the ambition to deliver up to 80% renewable electricity by 2030, alongside significant growth in demand. Projects identified through TES and SOEF are considered alongside existing programmes of work. Each project must then progress through the Six-Step Framework, which ensures that technical assessments, planning requirements and stakeholder engagement are completed before construction begins.

Once a system need is confirmed, a project formally enters development. At this stage, only the need has been defined the specific solution has not yet been selected. A range of possible options is then assessed, using scenario planning to test whether the existing grid can accommodate future electricity needs or whether targeted investment is required.

5.1 What happened in Step 1 during 2025?

In 2025, EirGrid continued to apply the Six-Step Framework to assess system requirements, ensuring that needs related to renewable integration, asset renewal, security of supply and increasing demand were clearly defined before progressing to solution development.

Projects progressed through Step 1 during the year were distributed across the transmission network and reflected a mix of system reinforcement and asset refurbishment drivers. This stage remains critical in confirming the need for investment and ensuring that projects entering the framework are supported by a robust technical and strategic rationale. EirGrid set a target of one Gateway 1 approval in 2025, which was achieved with:

- **Cow Cross 110 kV Station Refurbishment (Southwest region).** Confirming the need to refurbish ageing infrastructure and enabling progression to the next stage of development, supporting improved network reliability and future offshore generation flows.

Table 2: Step 1 Project Progress		
Milestone	Target	Delivered
Total GW1 Approvals	1	1

22 [Shaping Our Electricity Future Roadmap Version-1.1_07.23](#)

Completion of Gateway 1 provides a clear and evidence-based justification for future investment, reduces uncertainty in project development, and enables projects to progress efficiently into the option assessment and solution development stages.

In parallel, early engagement between EirGrid and ESB Networks continued to play an important role in shaping future projects. During 2025, 12 new capital projects entered early engagement, while a further 15 completed this phase of early project development. This process enhanced scope definition, strengthened coordination, and supported more efficient progression through the framework.

To support accelerated delivery, Step 1 activities are often undertaken alongside subsequent steps, particularly where the project need and potential solutions are already well understood. This approach enables more streamlined progression of projects and supports the timely delivery of critical infrastructure.

5.2 Step 1 Challenges and Opportunities

Step 1 continues to present challenges in the context of rapidly evolving system needs, including rising electricity demand, accelerated renewable integration, asset replacement requirements and changing policy expectations. EirGrid must assess these needs in a dynamic environment, where the timing, location and scale of generation, storage and demand are uncertain, while ensuring that all identified requirements are supported by robust technical analysis and aligned with national strategic objectives.

To address this, EirGrid applies a structured and evidence-based approach to needs assessment. This includes the use of scenario planning, power system studies, asset condition analysis and ongoing coordination with ESB Networks and wider stakeholders. Enhanced early engagement in 2025 further strengthened this approach, improving project definition at an earlier stage and enabling clearer scoping, better sequencing and more efficient progression from identified need to solution development.

6. The Six-Step Grid Development Process: Step 2

What technologies can meet these needs?

Step 2 focuses on identifying and assessing potential solutions to meet the needs confirmed in Step 1. During this stage, EirGrid works with stakeholders to gather feedback on a range of possible options and uses this input, alongside technical, cost and environmental considerations, to develop a shortlist for further assessment.

In compiling this shortlist, EirGrid seeks to balance stakeholder preferences with overall feasibility. Options must meet the Transmission System Security and Planning Standards (TSSPS), while also considering deliverability and environmental impacts. The issue of overall suitability is studied in more detail when progressing to Step 3. If a major new line is shortlisted, an underground cable option will also be considered subject to design and deliverability. Technologies that are available now can be considered as potential solution options straight away. New technologies that are ready for trial use may also be considered depending on their level of maturity.

We place new technologies into three broad categories:

- 1. New Technology at Research and Development Stage
- 2. New Technology Ready for Trial Use
- 3. Technology Available Now

6.1 What happened in Step 2 during 2025?

In 2025, one project achieved a Gateway 2 approval, against a target of seven. This reflects the iterative nature of Step 2, where option development and assessment often form part of broader, multi-stage studies and may require additional time to align with regional or strategic network planning.

Table 3: Step 2 Project Progress		
Milestone	Target	Delivered
Total GW2 Approvals	7	1

Three GW2 projects achieved a combined GW2/3 so have been counted in the GW3 figures in section 7.1, two of these were targeted approvals. The GW2 approval project that achieved its targeted gateway was the M20 Cork to Limerick Advanced Ducting project. This project progressed through a combined Gateway 1 and Gateway 2 approval, advancing a strategic opportunity to develop approximately 80 km of transmission ducting alongside planned transport infrastructure, supporting future network development and providing optionality for strengthening the system in the region.

Four baselined Step 2 projects did not achieve their targeted milestone in 2025. This was primarily due to ongoing assessment of optimal solutions, interdependencies with other projects, and the need to align with broader network and strategic studies. These projects are expected to progress in subsequent years once these assessments are complete.

Overall, Step 2 activity in 2025 reflects a continued focus on robust and comprehensive option identification and evaluation, ensuring that projects progress with well-defined and optimised solutions prior to advancement through the development framework.

6.2 Step 2 Challenges and Opportunities

Step 2 remains a complex stage in the project lifecycle. Increasing regulatory and environmental requirements often necessitate detailed technical, environmental and economic assessments. This can extend timelines, particularly where there is a need to manage consenting risk and potential legal challenge. In addition, coordination across multiple stakeholders and approval processes can create further complexity.

To address these challenges, EirGrid continues to strengthen early-stage development through structured option assessments, enhanced coordination and, where possible, parallel working approaches. Greater emphasis on early engagement with stakeholders and regulators helps to build alignment on feasible solutions, reduce rework in later stages and support more efficient progression through the framework.

7. The Six-Step Grid Development Process: Step 3

What's the best option and what area may be affected?

Under EirGrid's Six-Step Framework, Step 3 builds on earlier stages by identifying the preferred solution to address the need confirmed in Step 1 and shortlisted in Step 2. It also defines the study area within which the project could be developed. The completion of this step is marked by Gateway 3 approval, which represents a key investment decision and marks the transition of a project from the development pipeline into active delivery.

During Step 3, EirGrid reconfirms the underlying need for the project and assesses its overall complexity, including technical, environmental and consenting constraints within the study area. This ensures that potential risks and limitations are clearly understood before progressing further.

Stakeholder engagement remains central at this stage, with consultation focused on the preferred technology and proposed study area. This engagement provides important insights into local conditions and stakeholder priorities, helping to inform decision-making.

A structured multi-criteria decision-making process is applied to identify the preferred option. Each option is assessed against a defined set of criteria, supported by detailed technical analysis. The final decision considers stakeholder feedback alongside economic, technical, environmental and social considerations, ensuring a balanced and robust outcome.

7.1 What happened in Step 3 during 2025?

In 2025, EirGrid set a target of 40 Investment Decision Capital Approvals in Step 3.²³ This target was significantly exceeded, with 60 projects achieving Gateway 3 approval during the year. This represents strong performance and demonstrates continued momentum in advancing the transmission capital programme.

These projects comprise 32 customer connections, 11 system reinforcements, 15 asset refurbishments and two diversion projects and will deliver the following outputs once completed:

- 349 km of line uprate/line refurbishment;
- Two new DSO stations;
- One new 220/110 kV station.

These projects will deliver significant benefits across the electricity system, including over 1.1 GW of renewable generation capacity and more than 300 MW of energy storage, while also strengthening the network to support future demand and system flexibility.

Significant progress was also achieved across priority projects, with Gateway 3 approvals secured for two such priority projects, supporting enhanced system capacity and resilience in the Northwest region:

- CP0982 Flagford Sligo Capacity Needs
- CP1233 Donegal-Srananagh Corridor

The connection of new renewable generation is critical to achieving Ireland’s 2030 Climate Action Plan targets. At the same time, demand for electricity from large energy users—such as ICT companies, high-tech manufacturing and data centres—has grown significantly in recent years. In response, new policies have been introduced to ensure the coordinated and sustainable connection of these customers to the transmission system.

To facilitate both renewable and demand connections, Steps 1 to 3 of the Six-Step Framework are typically progressed through the Customer Connections process. This process identifies the most appropriate connection solution, taking account of system capacity, location and technical requirements. Once a connection agreement is executed, the project progresses through Step 3 governance and into delivery. An EirGrid Project Manager is assigned to oversee implementation, working closely with the customer and ESB Networks to ensure the connection is delivered efficiently and in line with agreed timelines.

Table 4: Step 3 Project Progress		
Milestone	Target	Delivered
Total EirGrid Capital Approvals	40	60

23 The targets outlined reflect EirGrid’s agreed business targets for the 2025 calendar year and are not derived from the PR5 submission to the CRU in 2019.

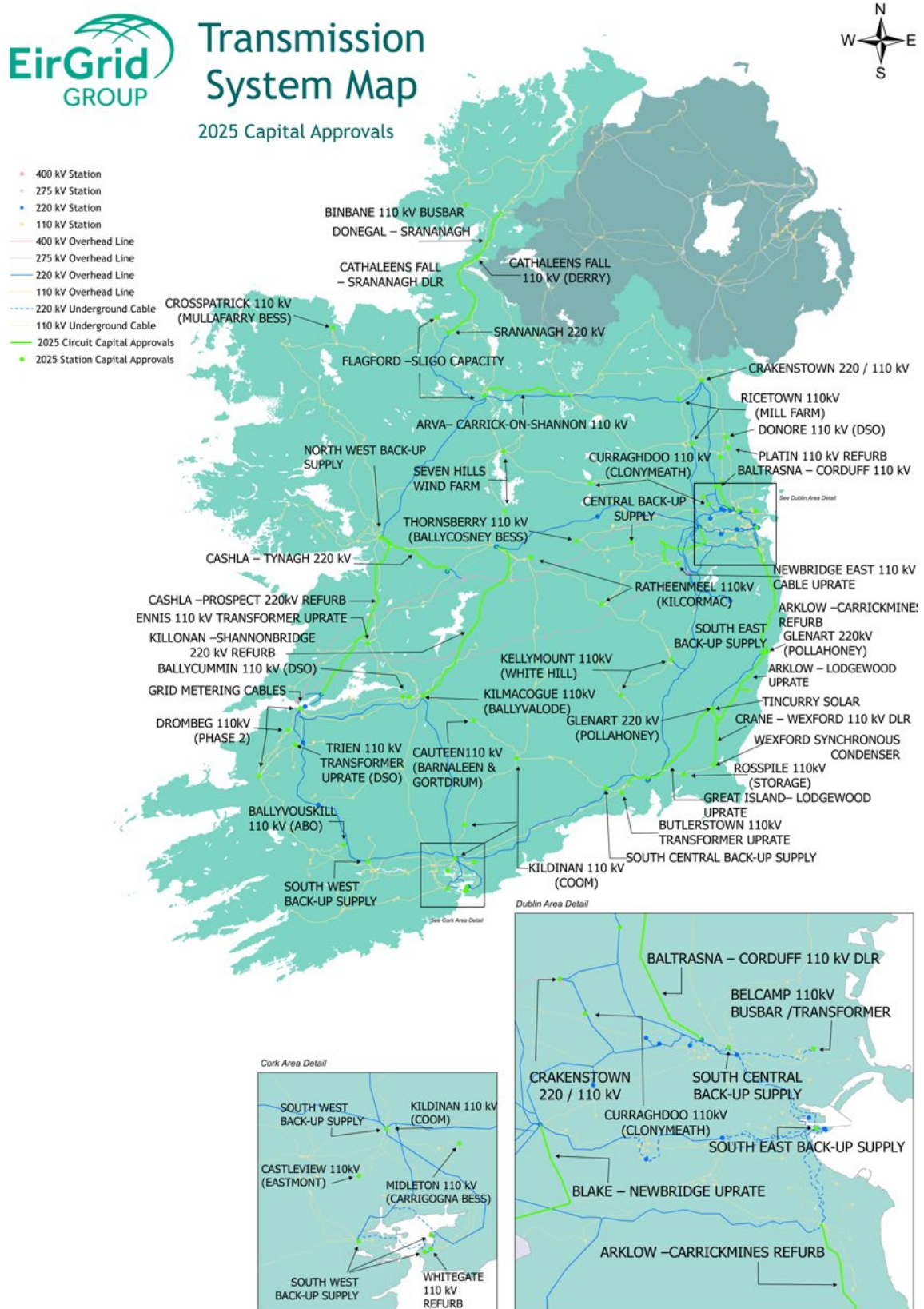


Figure 10: 2025 EirGrid Capital Approvals

7.2 Accelerating Delivery in Steps 1, 2, & 3

EirGrid and ESB Networks combine and compress the grid development framework steps for suitable transmission projects to facilitate accelerated project delivery. This approach involves completing activities in parallel, particularly during the early stages of investment planning. It reduces the time between development steps by enabling earlier engagement with ESB Networks on project scoping, the use of joint specialist teams, and improved coordination and planning of outage activities.

This agility and flexibility, particularly for projects where the technology, solution or route is well established, supports timely progression through the framework and delivery of projects in line with programme targets.

The diagram below illustrates the number of projects that achieved Gateway 1, Gateway 2, and /or Gateway 3 approval in 2025, which is 62. Combined Gateway approvals are indicated in the overlapping areas of the Venn diagram.

In 2025:

- One project achieved a Gateway 1
- One project achieved a combined Gateway 1 & 2
- Five projects achieved a combined Gateway 2 & 3
- 19 projects achieved a combined Gateway 1, 2, & 3

Overall, delivery across Steps 1–3 in 2025 was strong, approximately 69% of baselined projects progressed as planned, reflecting a positive outcome given the need for flexibility in early-stage investment planning, where new system needs and customer-driven projects can emerge throughout the year.

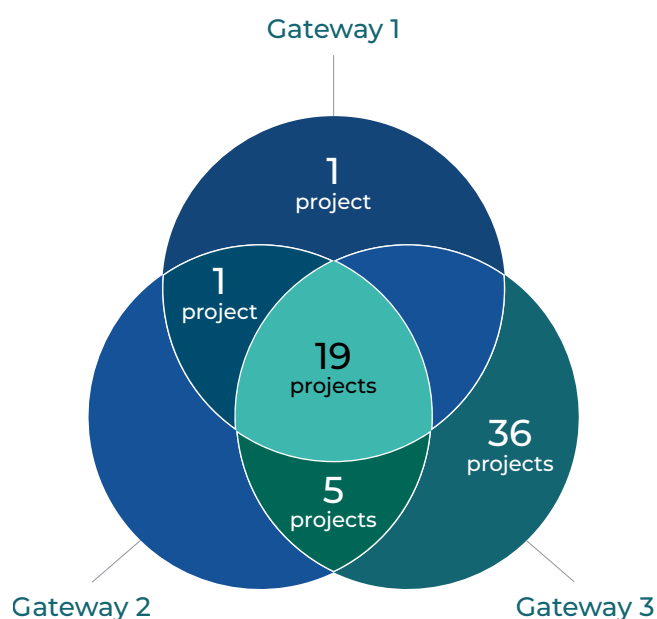


Figure 11: Projects with combined steps in 2025

7.3 Progression of 2024's EirGrid Capital Approval Projects

In 2024, EirGrid approved 57 new projects in Step 3 with a total capital cost of €976 million. By the end of 2025, 49% of the projects achieving EirGrid Capital Approval in 2024 had progressed into Step 6 (Project Agreement) in 2025, representing approximately half of the cohort and demonstrating strong progression through the development framework. 29 Projects in Steps 4/5 will be progressed to Step 6 Project Agreement in due course.

The summary of 2024 investment decision performance shows that TAO/TSO exceeded the established targets for this period, reflecting a strong commitment and high performance. Through diligent planning, effective collaboration, and proactive risk management, this area surpassed expectations, reinforcing a culture of continuous improvement to facilitate the delivery of ambitious portfolio targets over the coming decade.

The investment approvals progressed in 2024 and 2025 establish the project pipeline required to support a more than doubling of joint TSO/TAO capital delivery under PR6, from approximately €300 million in 2025 to over €750 million–€800 million per annum by 2028–2029.



49%

of projects approved in 2024 progressed from Step 3 to Step 6 by the end of 2025

7.4 Step 3 Challenges and Opportunities

Step 3 represents the point at which projects progress to the EirGrid Capital Approval stage, requiring well-developed business cases, greater cost certainty and clear alignment with system priorities. A key challenge at this stage is managing uncertainty in project scope, costs and timelines, particularly for more complex projects with evolving technical or planning requirements. This is further compounded by detailed governance and approval processes, which can extend timelines due to sequential reviews, extensive documentation requirements and the need to balance value for money with timely delivery. Broader factors, including risk aversion and coordination across multiple stakeholders, can also influence the pace of decision-making.

To address these challenges, EirGrid continues to enhance decision-making through streamlined governance, improved coordination and, where appropriate, the use of parallel processes. Early engagement with stakeholders and clear alignment on project scope support more efficient progression to Capital Approval, while strengthened collaboration with delivery partners improves consistency and reduces delays. Together, these measures enable more timely investment decisions, support a stronger project pipeline and facilitate the transition of projects into delivery in line with system and policy objectives.

8. The Six-Step Grid Development Process: Step 4

Where exactly should we build?

Following consultation in Steps 1, 2 and 3, EirGrid has identified the preferred technology and defined the study area for the project. Where new circuits are required, both overhead line and underground cable options continue to be considered.

Step 4 focuses on identifying the most suitable location for the project within the defined study area. This may include the siting of new stations, routing of circuits, or both. Some projects such as uprates or works on existing infrastructure may not require Step 4, as the location is already established.

Building on the preferred solution identified in Step 3, this stage involves detailed environmental, social and technical assessments to evaluate feasible siting and routing options. These assessments combine local, on-the-ground information with the broader analysis carried out in earlier stages, ensuring that the selected option is both deliverable and aligned with the surrounding environment.

Stakeholder engagement remains a key part of Step 4. EirGrid continues to seek input through a range of engagement methods, tailored to the scale and complexity of each project, including public consultations and online platforms. This ensures that local knowledge and stakeholder perspectives are fully considered in identifying the most appropriate project location.

8.1 What happened in Step 4 in 2025?

In 2025, EirGrid targeted two projects to progress through Step 4 and in total three projects achieved GW4 approval, including one additional project. This reflects strong progression through the development framework, supported by effective advancement of project design, planning readiness and stakeholder engagement activities.

Step 4 focuses on identifying the most suitable location and configuration for new infrastructure and is primarily required for greenfield or complex projects. As a result, not all projects require standalone Gateway 4 approval, particularly where location is already established. In 2025, only one project progressed through Step 4 as a standalone step, with the remaining projects reflecting progression of complex or priority investments through this stage.

Table 5: Step 4 Project Progress		
Milestone	Target	Delivered
Total GW4 Approvals	2	3

In 2025, three projects achieved GW4 approval which approves the site location. Two of these projects (Inchicore–Poolbeg 1 & 2) are designated Priority Projects, underlining their strategic importance to Ireland’s evolving electricity network:

- Inchicore–Poolbeg 1 & 2 220 kV Cable Replacement Projects.** These projects will replace the existing Inchicore to Poolbeg 220 kV cable circuits, which have reached end of life due to age and condition. The upgrades will introduce modern XLPE (cross-linked polyethylene) cable technology, increasing capacity to approximately 570 MVA (summer rating) per circuit. As part of the GW4 process, detailed technical reviews and route assessments highlighted significant constraints associated with traditional trenching methods in a dense urban environment. Following a comprehensive multi-criteria analysis, a tunnel-based solution was identified as the preferred option. Achieving GW4 approval confirms this solution and allows the projects to move forward to the next phase of development.

- **Arklow 220 kV Station Redevelopment.** Arklow station is a key node on the transmission network, supporting the coastal corridor between Dublin and the southeast. Much of its infrastructure—including air insulated switchgear (AIS) from the late 1960s/early 1970s and gas insulated switchgear (GIS) commissioned in the early 1980s—is approaching the end of its operational life. Through the GW4 stage, the scope of the redevelopment was further refined and expanded to address both asset replacement needs and future capacity requirements, ensuring the station can accommodate planned connections. Approval at GW4 also included additional funding to support the enhanced redevelopment scope, enabling progression to the next stage.

Achieving GW4 approval across these projects represents a significant step forward, confirming robust, evidence-based decisions on preferred solutions and locations. It demonstrates EirGrid's commitment to developing resilient, efficient, and future-ready infrastructure to support Ireland's growing electricity demand and transition to a low-carbon energy system.

8.2 Step 4 Challenges and Opportunities

Step 4 focuses on identifying the preferred location and configuration for transmission infrastructure within the defined study area. This stage can present significant challenges, particularly where projects must navigate complex environmental, technical and land-use constraints, including interactions with existing infrastructure, transport networks and environmentally sensitive areas. Balancing technical feasibility with environmental and community considerations often requires detailed assessment and can extend project timelines. Public and stakeholder engagement also plays a key role, particularly where local impacts are more concentrated than the wider system benefits.

To address these challenges, EirGrid applies a structured and evidence-based approach to project development. This includes detailed technical and environmental assessments, supported by early and ongoing stakeholder engagement. A multi-criteria assessment framework is used to identify the most appropriate solution, while proactive engagement helps to address concerns and improve project acceptability. This approach supports the selection of solutions that are technically robust, environmentally responsible and aligned with long-term system needs, enabling progression to the planning and consenting stage.

9. The Six-Step Grid Development Process: Step 5

Apply for planning permission

Step 5 focuses on securing the required statutory consent for a project. Where statutory consent is not required, this is formally confirmed and documented. At this stage, detailed plans and supporting documentation are prepared to support the planning application or, where applicable, a Declaration of Exempted Development.

For projects requiring planning permission, EirGrid submits a planning application to the relevant authority, either An Coimisiún Pleanála or the local planning authority. In some cases, confirmation may be obtained that the project is exempt from planning requirements, removing the need for a full application.

Public consultation is a key part of this stage. EirGrid is legally required to publish notices of proposed developments, outlining how stakeholders can make submissions to the planning authority. Project information is also made available and updated on the EirGrid website to ensure transparency.

Step 5 concludes when a decision is issued by the planning authority. This may result in permission being granted, granted with conditions, or refused.

9.1 What happened in Step 5 during 2025?

Step 5 represents the stage at which projects progress through planning and consenting, enabling transition from development into delivery. This includes submission of planning applications, securing approvals, and finalising project scope in preparation for construction.

In 2025, EirGrid set a target of 11 projects to progress through Step 5. Following an ex-post adjustment to reflect external factors outside of EirGrid's control, 10 projects were targeted, with six projects achieving Gateway 5 approval during the year. These included:

1. Maynooth–Turlough Hill 220 kV Line refurbishment
2. Cushaling–Portlaoise 110 kV Line uprate
3. Dublin Central Bulk Supply Point 220 kV Substation
4. Rinawade–Dunfirth Tee–Kinnegad 110 kV Circuit Thermal Capacity
5. Cashla Dalton 110 kV Thermal Capacity Increase
6. Castlebar Dalton 110 kV Thermal Capacity Increase

Step 5 represents a critical phase of project delivery due to the complexity of planning and consenting requirements. Despite these challenges, steady progress was achieved across a number of projects, reflecting strong engagement with planning authorities, stakeholders and consenting bodies. The table below shows the target following the ex-post adjustment and this reflects delays associated with external dependencies, including third-party consenting authorities. This approach ensures performance is assessed fairly while maintaining transparency in delivery reporting.

Table 6: Step 5 Project Progress		
Milestone	Target	Delivered
Total GW5 Approvals	10	6

- Significant progress was made across a number of complex projects during Step 5:
- **Maynooth–Turlough Hill 220 kV Line Refurbishment.** Planning approval was secured for refurbishment works across challenging terrain within the Wicklow Mountains National Park. Despite environmental sensitivities and multiple constraints, including proximity to watercourses and public access routes, the project successfully achieved consent with minimal conditions following detailed environmental assessment and robust planning material production.
 - **Dublin Central Bulk Supply Point Substation.** This strategic infrastructure project progressed through the planning process, receiving approval from An Coimisiún Pleanála within the same year. Strong early engagement and a comprehensive consultation process supported timely approval, with limited public observations and no challenges at the time of reporting.

Across Step 5, progress was supported by extensive stakeholder engagement, detailed environmental and technical assessments, and continued refinement of project designs to meet planning requirements and ensure timely consent. For the projects which didn't achieve the targeted GW5 in 2025 this was due to a combination of changes in project scope, evolving technical solutions, and external consenting timelines.

For the Inchicore–Poolbeg 220 kV cable replacement project delays arose after the preferred solution changed from a traditional trenched solution installation to an innovative trenchless approach, requiring a revised consenting strategy. The Poolbeg–North Wall project was impacted by extended regulatory review timelines, as progression to planning is dependent on securing a Maritime Area Consent, which had not yet been approved. At Arklow 220 kV Station, multiple scope enhancements during the year delayed preparation of the planning submission. Finally, the Athy–Carlow 110 kV project experienced delays due to additional technical information requests and design updates, which extended the time needed to finalise documentation for planning.

9.2 Step 5 Challenges and Opportunities

Step 5 represents a critical stage in the development framework, where projects must secure planning and environmental consent before progressing to delivery. This phase is inherently complex and can be influenced by external factors such as regulatory timelines, stakeholder engagement requirements and dependencies on third-party approvals. Projects at this stage often require detailed environmental assessments and coordination with multiple stakeholders, which can extend timelines but are necessary to ensure robust, compliant and deliverable solutions. These challenges are particularly evident for larger or more complex projects in constrained or environmentally sensitive locations.

To support efficient progression, EirGrid continues to focus on early engagement with planning authorities and stakeholders, comprehensive technical and environmental assessments, and strong coordination across teams. This approach helps to minimise risks, improve planning outcomes and ensure projects are well-positioned to move into delivery once approvals are secured.

10. The Six-Step Grid Development Process: Step 6

Construct, energise (make live),
and share benefits

In Step 6, EirGrid and ESB Networks agree a construction programme. ESB Networks has responsibility for efficiently and safely managing the delivery of these projects, including aspects such as procurement and construction. Projects are jointly monitored and refined as the project progresses.

During Step 6, a project is under detailed design, procurement and construction and depending on scope and complexity this can take approximately 1 to 5 years.

Outages are a crucial component to the delivery and energisation of projects in Step 6. Outages are required to complete system reinforcement, refurbishment, and customer connection projects in a safe manner. These outages are planned, prioritised, and delivered through the TOP on an annual basis. Transmission system outages are a valuable and scarce resource therefore outage planning is a core activity for EirGrid in collaboration with ESB Networks. This is discussed in more detail in Section 11.

10.1 What happened in Step 6 in 2025?

The primary objective of Step 6 is the conclusion of Project Agreements between EirGrid and ESB Networks, enabling projects to progress into the project delivery phase.

In 2025, EirGrid set a target of 40 Project Agreements, with 43 projects achieving Gateway 6 approval.²⁴ This target reflects a constrained assessment of the portfolio, considering project readiness, planning dependencies and delivery capacity.

Despite challenges associated with the planning and consenting process, steady progress was achieved across the portfolio, demonstrating continued advancement of projects into delivery.

In 2025, 43 Project Agreements were concluded between EirGrid and ESB Networks. These represent a total forecast capex project cost of €1.8 billion to be achieved between 2025 and 2030. The projects that reached Project Agreement include 15 customer connection projects, 14 system reinforcement projects, eight asset refurbishment projects and six land acquisitions.

These approvals represent a significant advancement of the portfolio into delivery, providing greater certainty on project scope, costs and programme timelines. Progression to Project Agreement enables detailed design, procurement and construction activities to commence, while strengthening the pipeline of projects available for delivery during PR6.

Table 7: Step 6 Project Agreement Progress		
Milestone	Target	Delivered
Gateway 6 Approvals	40	43

Four Priority Projects achieved Project Agreement in 2025:

- Great Island–Kellis 220 kV Line Uprate
- Kildare Meath Grid Reinforcement
- East Meath–North Dublin Reinforcement
- Belcamp 220 kV Busbar Extension

Together, these projects play a vital role in reinforcing the network and safeguarding security of supply, enabling the demand growth expected in Dublin, Greater Dublin, the East Coast, and throughout Ireland.

24 The targets outlined reflect EirGrid’s agreed business targets for the 2025 calendar year and are not derived from the PR5 submission to the CRU in 2019.

10.2 Energisation Performance against Plan

For 2025, the TSO and TAO targeted 31 Energisations and achieved 23, this maintained a steady level of delivery across PR5.²⁵ Project energisations (EIs) remain a challenge due to system and resource constraints. To improve this, the TSO and TAO are advancing a joint outage transformation programme to address the underlying issues and improve the performance in this area.

Table 8: Energisation Progress

Milestone	Target	Delivered
Energisations	31	23

The delivery of projects in Step 6 is closely linked to the availability and effective utilisation of transmission outages. The Transmission Outage Programme (TOP) is published to all stakeholders in February of each year. In 2025, 94.2% of the TOP was delivered representing a strong outturn performance for the calendar year as shown in Table 9 below.

This includes an ex-post-delivery percentage which accounts for third-party delays and includes additional works included over and above the baseline TOP25 programme. 62.7% of the baseline TOP25 programme was delivered in 2025. The lower unadjusted performance of 62.7% is largely attributable to factors outside the TSO/TAO control.

Table 9: Step 6
TOP25 Outturn Summary

Category	Weeks	%
TOP25 Baseline	789	
TOP25 Completed	495	62.75%
Total Adjustments		31.5%
TOP25 Final Outturn Performance		94.2%

A summary of the TOP performance for 2021–2025 can be found in figure 12 below, showing the Ex-Post Adjustment by year as well as the 90% CRU Incentive Target for strong outage performance.

²⁵ The target outlined reflects EirGrid's agreed business target for the 2025 calendar year and is not derived from the PR5 submission to the CRU in 2019.

TOP25 was issued to delivery teams in Q3 2024, providing the TAO with increased certainty and additional time to plan projects and mobilise resources effectively. In 2025, outage constraints continued to play a significant role in shaping project timelines, with outage availability and scheduling remaining key drivers of programme adjustments.

To address these challenges, EirGrid and ESB Networks further strengthened coordination by developing a more integrated and structured outage programme. This improved alignment across the project portfolio and supported more efficient delivery.

In contrast to previous years, when the outage season typically ran from February to November, the TSO and TAO utilised the full calendar year. Nearly 100 outage weeks were scheduled during the winter period alone, representing approximately 13% of the overall programme.

Evolving customer requirements, unplanned or forced outages across the transmission and generation systems, and delays from 2024 extending into 2025 presented ongoing challenges. Despite these pressures, established decision-making processes ensured impacts were effectively managed and that the outage programme was delivered as efficiently and safely as possible.

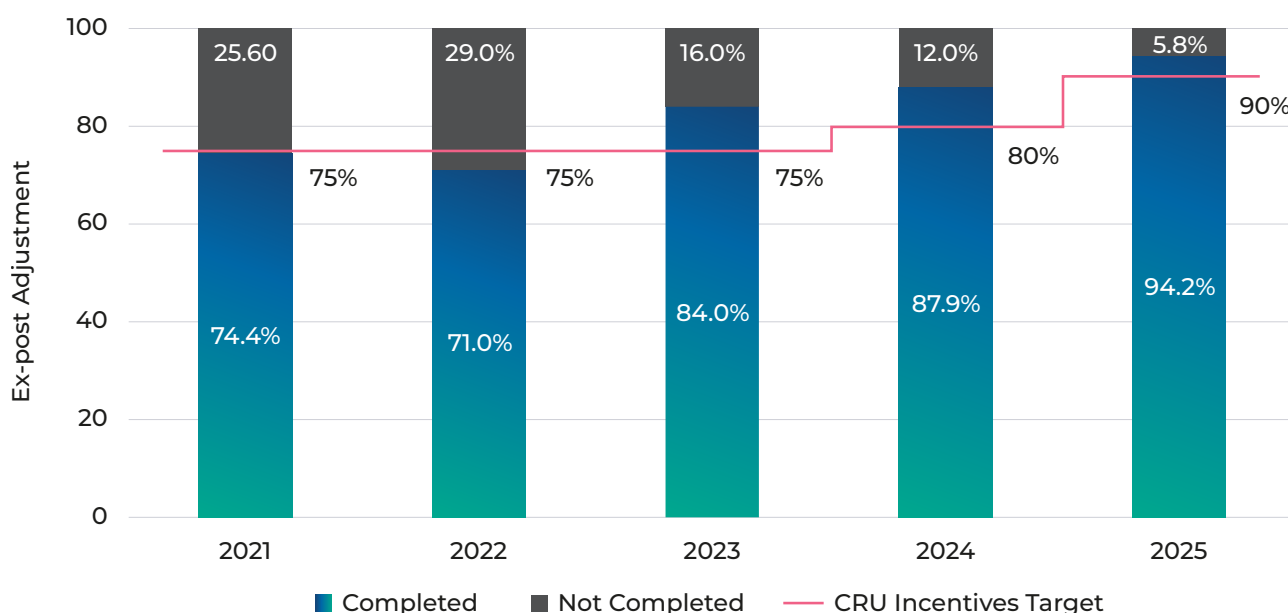


Figure 12: 2021–2025 Ex-post Adjustment of Outage Performance

10.3 Projects Energised and/or completed in 2025

By the end of 2025, 23 projects were energised, representing a total lifecycle capital investment of €195 million. These included customer connection, system reinforcement, asset refurbishment, and customer-driven projects. The €195 million represents the total value of the projects energised in 2025. This differs from the €302 million reported in Section 3, which reflects total portfolio expenditure during 2025. As projects are delivered over multiple years, the two figures are not directly comparable.

Key outcomes delivered include:

- 610 MW of renewable energy connected
- 79 km of transmission lines uprated
- Redevelopment of one 110 kV station
- Installation of one new 110 kV transformer
- Delivery of two new Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects providing a combined 83 MW of storage capacity

Progress in renewable generation was strong, supporting 2030 Climate Action Plan targets. This included the connection of two wind farms (151 MW) and five solar farms (459 MW). Two Battery Energy Storage System projects providing a combined 83 MW were connected, comprising Raghra (63 MW) and Cushaling BESS (20 MW). This enhances network flexibility, supports system reliability, and facilitates greater integration of renewable energy.

Additional project delivery in 2025 included:

- System reinforcements, including 110 kV line uprating and increased network capacity
- Asset refurbishment works across stations and infrastructure
- A Temporary Emergency Generation project
- Circuit alterations and new demand connections (62 MVA) to meet growing electricity demand

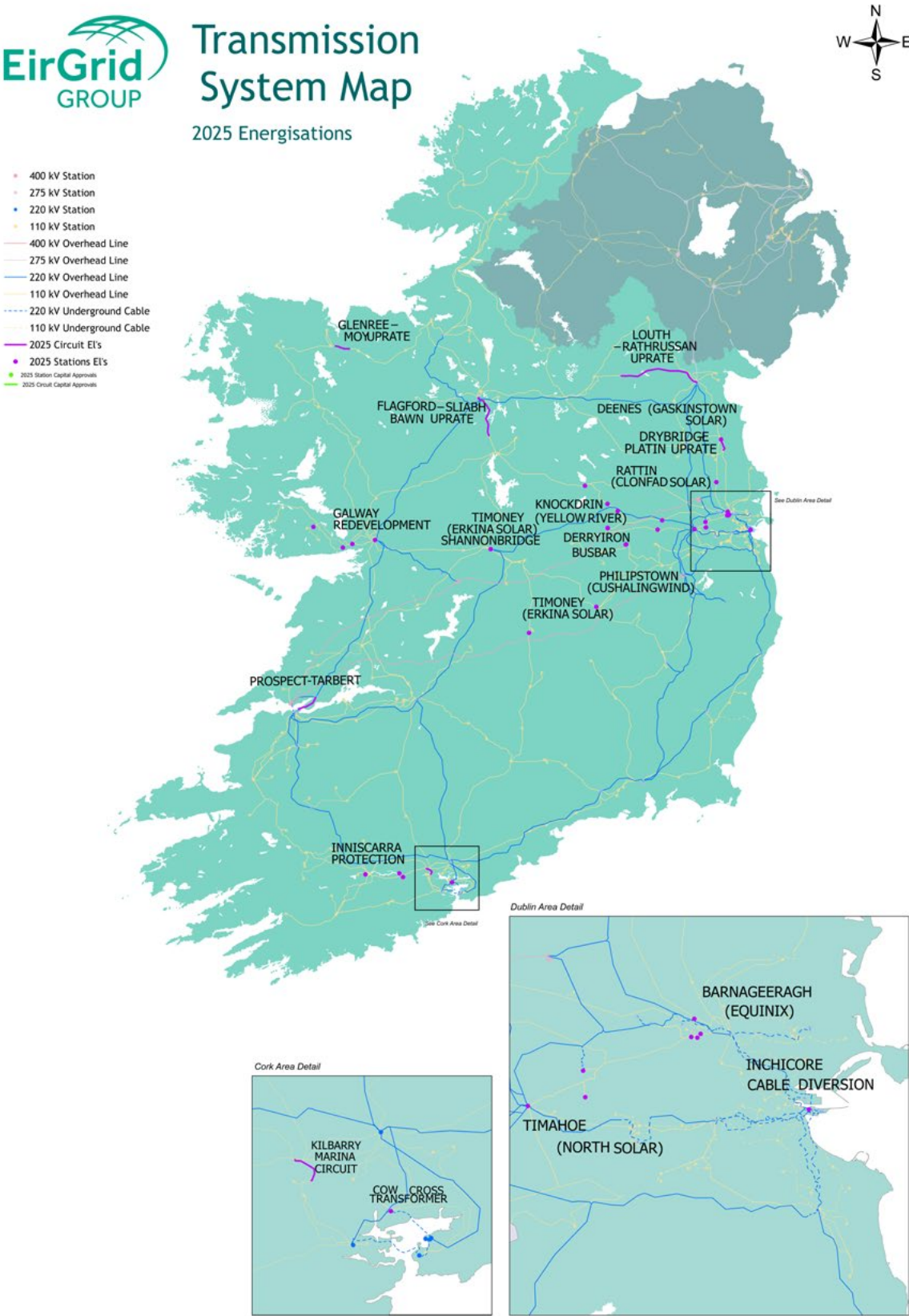


Figure 13: All Ireland Transmission System Map – 2025 Energisations

10.4 Step 6 Challenges and Opportunities

Step 6 marks the transition of projects into delivery, including detailed design, procurement, construction and final energisation. This stage can present significant challenges, particularly for large and complex transmission projects. Delivery is influenced by factors such as construction site constraints, international supply chain pressures, contractor and OEM availability and the need for specialised skills and materials, all of which can impact timelines and sequencing across a very large portfolio. Projects also remain dependent on earlier stage progress, including planning consent conditions, land access conditions and the discharge of these conditions, which can introduce residual uncertainty as construction begins. Coordination across multiple interdependent external and internal projects and key stakeholders further adds to the complexity, particularly in constrained or sensitive environments.

External factors including market conditions, procurement challenges and evolving project requirements can also affect delivery performance, requiring flexibility while maintaining overall programme objectives. To address these challenges, EirGrid continues to strengthen delivery capability through enhanced programme management, early contractor engagement and improved alignment between development and construction stages. Greater emphasis is placed on ensuring projects are well-defined and de-risked before entering construction. Improved coordination with development and delivery partners supports efficient execution, while proactive planning enables better sequencing and management of dependencies.

In addition, the increasing maturity of the project pipeline supported by improvements in earlier stages has contributed to stronger delivery outcomes. This enables a more efficient transition from investment approval to construction, supporting the timely delivery of infrastructure and the realisation of system capacity needed to meet Ireland's energy and climate objectives.

11. Prioritisation and Delivery

A major part of the delivery and completion of each project involves the transmission network outages required to complete the construction. Outages required for maintenance work must also be included.

There are a number of steps in the annual outage planning process, including:

- Identification of outage requirements, including the sequence of work, expected timing, duration and the plant required for these outages,
- Assessment of readiness for outages in a given year; and the sequences of work, expected timing, duration and plant required for these outages,
- Consultation with impacted stakeholders and the Distribution System Operator (DSO), where appropriate, and,
- Prioritisation of works to maximise the delivery of projects within the annual outage programme.

11.1 Programme Prioritisation Approach

The sequencing and delivery of electricity transmission infrastructure is complex as it involves incorporating multiple interacting outages, and where it is not possible to accommodate all proposed infrastructure works in the period requested, prioritisation decisions may be required. EirGrid's Outage Prioritisation Guidance Document is published on our website.²⁶

The objective of the transmission outage planning process is to maximise the volume of work delivered within available outage windows, in order to reinforce the system, connect customers, and maintain the transmission network while ensuring a safe and secure system. This process must be completed in accordance with the [Operating Security Standards](#) (OSS). All outages are scheduled on the basis that the OSS are not breached for any outage or combination of outages.

26 [EirGrid Outage Prioritisation Guidance Document Final.pdf](#)

Where the need to prioritise work does arise, the following guide is used by EirGrid in determining which works should be prioritised as shown in Table 10 below.²⁷ EirGrid has formed this guide by objectively assessing the prioritisation of outages in a proportionate and reasonable manner and, importantly, in a manner that protects the security of the system.

When deciding on outage prioritisation, EirGrid will consider and seek to balance its licence and statutory obligations with customers' requirements, cognisant of security of supply issues, the need to develop the power system, our Climate Action Plan targets, and other relevant factors. Priority is given to works that align with delivering on EirGrid's Group Strategy to transform the power system by 2030.

Table 10: Outage Priority

	Project/Project activity categories
1	Works to ensure safety of People, Plant, Equipment & Operating Security Standards (OSS) including Priority Maintenance.
2	Works to connect new useable generation greater than 50 MW, which do not fall within the category above
3	New generation, refurbishments, or general backbone transmission reinforcement of existing assets, not associated with the categories above
4	Works to connect new demand
5	Other (diversions etc.)

²⁷ Table as per [EirGrid-Outage-Prioritisation-Guidance-Document-Final.pdf](#) – ATR projects are no longer a specific category of project considered in the prioritisation hierarchy. This follows the conclusion of the Firm Access methodology as requested by the SEM committee and CRU in the SEM Committee Decision Paper [SEM-23-004](#).

11.2 Joint Outage Transformation Programme

In 2025, the TSO and TAO made significant progress in outage management to support Ireland's 2030 goals. Building on improvements in recent years, the Transmission Outage Programme (TOP) process was further enhanced through structured planning, earlier engagement, and improved coordination across stakeholders, contributing to increased predictability and more efficient delivery of outage programmes.

Early issuance of outage programmes remains a key enabler of improved delivery performance, supporting enhanced planning certainty, resource mobilisation, and coordination between projects. This approach, while beneficial, continues to require robust change management processes to accommodate evolving system and project requirements. These improvements form part of the broader Joint Outage Transformation Programme (JOTP), which continued to deliver tangible process enhancements in 2025. In particular, targeted regional outage planning workshops were introduced in areas with complex delivery requirements, including the Midlands and Cork regions. These workshops enabled TSO and TAO stakeholders to collaboratively sequence outages and maximise delivery within available outage windows, resulting in more efficient scheduling and improved coordination.

Further enhancements were also made to the processes supporting the energisation of new high voltage assets. In 2025, pre-energisation processes were formally defined and jointly implemented by the TSO and TAO, improving clarity around technical reviews and reducing the risk of delays that could otherwise impact outage schedules and wider programme delivery.

Collectively, these actions demonstrate continued refinement of the Transmission Outage Programme, strengthening outage sequencing, improving coordination, and reducing programme delivery risk. These improvements have contributed to enhanced delivery confidence for 2025 and future years.

Further information on the progress of individual interventions in the JOTP during 2025 is provided in the 2025 Transmission Annual Performance Report.

11.3 Early Engagement with ESB Networks, Industry, & Stakeholders

During 2025, EirGrid and ESB Networks continued to strengthen collaboration through the JOTP, introducing early-stage engagement across the project lifecycle. This proactive approach enabled more informed planning, improved coordination of outage requirements, and enhanced alignment between development and delivery activities.

A total of 12 new capital projects commenced the pre-CPP early engagement process between EirGrid and ESB Networks in 2025. This reflects a continued strengthening of collaborative project initiation processes within the project programme pipeline. As of the end of 2025, these projects remained actively engaged in the pre-CPP early engagement phase. In addition, a further 15 projects successfully completed their early engagement activities during 2025, demonstrating sustained progress between EirGrid and ESB Network in this area. This ongoing activity supports improved project definition and readiness, enabling more efficient progression to Project Agreement and reducing the risk of delays at later stages.

11.4 Planning and Environmental Compliance

As outlined in Step 5, Section 9 of this report, EirGrid consults all stakeholders and relevant agencies in the planning application process. During 2025, this structured approach supported the progression of multiple projects through statutory planning and environmental processes, with a number of key planning permissions granted and exempted development determinations achieved.

On successful grant of planning, ESB Networks teams undertake strict measures via project management procedures to comply with and discharge all planning and environmental conditions associated with the network development in a timely and effective manner during the project's pre-construction and construction phases. Construction access is managed in consultation with all relevant authorities and landowners in compliance with the agreed access arrangements. Disruption during the construction phases is kept to a minimum and full reinstatement is arranged in compliance with the access agreements and fair compensation is negotiated when necessary.

For customer related projects, effective three-way communication is maintained between EirGrid, the Connecting Customer and ESB Networks to ensure that the project timelines and detailed programmes are aligned to ensure optimal delivery dates and to ensure availability and utilisation of outage dates in the annual TOP.

12. Climate Change Adaptation

During 2025, EirGrid continued to build on its climate adaptation commitments, embedding awareness and consideration of climate risks within planning and design processes. This included the identification of risks and areas vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, as well as the development and implementation of appropriate adaptation measures.

EirGrid, through a multi-faceted approach including climate resilience studies, grid infrastructure assessments, technology upgrades and stakeholder collaboration, has identified the assets most vulnerable to climate change and developed targeted plans to enhance resilience and mitigate potential climate change issues. The identified projects to enhance climate resilience are currently underway under the CP1300 Climate Adaptation Programme. A planning consultant, appointed to support optioneering and the preparation and submission of planning applications, continued to progress the development of flood resilience measures across the identified sites. The projects include adaptation work across the following substations, focusing on flood resilience options to support the long-term security and resilience of the transmission system:

- **Dungarvan 110 kV Substation.** EirGrid continued to assess flood resilience options to identify a suitable long-term solution. Further modelling is being progressed to support final decision-making and ensure the preferred approach is proportionate, deliverable and aligned with climate adaptation objectives.
- **Flagford 220 kV Substation.** EirGrid progressed the preferred flood resilience approach, with a preferred solution identified for planning-stage design.
- **Shannonbridge 220 kV Substation.** EirGrid agreed an alternative access-based approach with ESB, meaning no additional construction works are currently required under CP1300.

Key outcomes in 2025 included the agreement of Best Performing Options for Flagford and Shannonbridge, identification of feasible flood resilience pathways across the three substations, agreement on preferred approaches with key stakeholders, and progression of Flagford towards planning-stage design. Next steps include completing further assessment at Dungarvan, progressing the preferred approach at Flagford through the planning process, and reflecting the agreed Shannonbridge approach in relevant project documentation.

12.1 Engagement with DCEE and Sectoral Adaptation Planning

Throughout 2025, EirGrid continued to engage with the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) and other electricity and gas network stakeholders in the development of the [Electricity and Gas Networks Sectoral Adaptation Plan](#). This engagement included participation in risk assessment workshops, working groups and review processes designed to support a coordinated sector-wide approach to identifying climate risks, developing adaptation objectives and defining actions to strengthen the resilience of Ireland's electricity and gas networks.

EirGrid's contribution to the plan was informed by its ongoing assessment of physical climate risks to the transmission system. Through this process, EirGrid provided input on the role of the transmission system in maintaining a secure and resilient energy supply, the importance of managing flooding and other weather-related risks, and the need to ensure that adaptation considerations are reflected in infrastructure planning, asset management and future investment decisions.

Following publication of the Sectoral Adaptation Plan, EirGrid's engagement is expected to continue through the implementation of relevant actions and associated reporting structures, including the Electricity and Gas Networks Sectoral Adaptation Plan Steering Group.

In addition to the development of the Sectoral Adaptation Plan, EirGrid participated in broader adaptation knowledge-sharing activity through the Climate Ireland Adaptation Network. This engagement supports the development of internal adaptation capability by providing access to external expertise, emerging climate risk approaches and opportunities to share learning with other organisations facing similar adaptation challenges. It also supports a more consistent and evidence-based approach to embedding climate adaptation considerations into EirGrid's planning, asset management and resilience activities.

13. Stakeholder Engagement and Community Benefit

EirGrid and ESB Networks are committed to stakeholder and public engagement. Through working together with stakeholders, customers, industry, the public and local communities, we make better decisions.

With the conclusion of EirGrid's 2020–2025 corporate strategy, launched in September 2019, stakeholder engagement remains a foundational element of how we deliver network infrastructure and support the transition to a low-carbon energy system. Throughout the strategy period, engagement has continued to evolve, with expanded interactions across a diverse range of stakeholders and increased emphasis on transparency, collaboration and responsiveness.

Following the launch of revised corporate strategy²⁸ in June 2026, which builds on the progress achieved to date and reflecting the increasing scale and complexity of infrastructure delivery, EirGrid's focus will be on sustaining and deepening engagement practices, while continuing to adopt innovative approaches that enhance the quality and effectiveness of our interactions. This will ensure that stakeholder perspectives are embedded in decision-making and continue to support the delivery of better outcomes for customers and communities.

Throughout 2025, EirGrid commenced public engagement on a number of critical infrastructure projects, including our first public consultation on the Powering Up the Northwest project and the Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project. We also continued to progress engagement on a number of ongoing projects, such as Powering Up Offshore South Coast and Powering Up Dublin. These campaigns marked significant milestones in progressing our programme of infrastructure projects, ensuring transparency and meaningful engagement with local communities and stakeholders.

Further details regarding EirGrid and ESB's Stakeholder Engagement activities are included in the Annual Performance Report 2025.

28 [EirGrid-Strategy-2026.pdf](#)

13.1 Engagement Approach

EirGrid uses a consistent, six-step public engagement process to explore options and make decisions. The level of stakeholder engagement is dependent on the type of project. Large infrastructure projects such as the Dublin Programme, North Connacht, and the Interconnector projects involve a much wider range of stakeholders with larger numbers of landowners and communities

affected by the proposed development. Supporting this approach is our Public Engagement Strategy.²⁹ Although decision-making may be influenced by regulatory and various external factors, we remain committed to fostering an environment of collaboration. We actively seek and support joint efforts with our stakeholders to innovate and devise solutions collectively.

4. Collaborate

- Partnering with community organisations and local authorities
- Community benefit funds
- Energy citizen roadshows
- Young social innovators

1. Inform

- Accessible information
- Public awareness campaigns
- Media campaigns



3. Engage

- Industry workshops
- Public workshops
- Community forums
- Business forums
- Infrastructure forums
- Open days

2. Consult

- Formal consultation
- Surveys
- Focus groups
- Events

Figure 14: Stakeholder Engagement Approach

29 [EirGrid Public Engagement Strategy](#)

13.2 Landowner Engagement

Throughout 2025, our landowner team actively engaged with landowners across a wide range of transmission infrastructure projects ranging from works on existing lines to proposals for new circuits. Approximately 1,873 landowners were engaged with by our team throughout 2025. For those landowners who host existing overhead lines which have been identified for refurbishment and/or uprating, we explain the works required, anticipated timeframes and seek access to carry out survey works on the lands to help inform the extent of works required.

For new build projects, we engage with potential landowners at the earliest stage possible. For example, on new circuits, where we have a number of potential options proposed, early landowner engagement and feedback forms an important part of the overall consideration in the evaluation of options. This approach ensures that the specific local knowledge of the land and any associated constraints can be understood ahead of any further decision making. The landowner team are also involved in discussing proposals with landowners in relation to requirements for the development of new substations or the enhancement of existing stations.

13.3 Dublin Infrastructure Forum

The Dublin Infrastructure Forum was established by EirGrid, with an independent Chair, to enable effective collaboration with ESB Networks as DSO, other state-owned utilities, transport providers and local authorities. The objective of the Forum is to coordinate the planning, development, implementation, and monitoring of relevant projects across the programme of works being carried out to strengthen key electricity infrastructure in Dublin and the surrounding areas. It is made up of the following members: Bord Iascaigh Mara, CRU, CIE, Dublin Airport Authority, Dublin Bus, Dublin City Council, Dublin Port Company, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, EirGrid, EPA, ESB Networks, Fingal County Council, Fáilte Ireland, Gas Networks Ireland, Irish Rail, Land Development Agency, National Transport Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, SEAI, Uisce Éireann, and Waterways Ireland.

Throughout 2025, EirGrid, as part of the Dublin Infrastructure Forum continued to look for opportunities for collaboration across other infrastructure developers which will aid ESB Networks in the later stages of the Powering Up Dublin Programme as they will undertake the associated construction work. Our participation in the Dublin Infrastructure Forum and associated technical working groups has been beneficial in terms of collaboration with other utility operators, such as gas and water, and other State bodies, such as TII and relevant local authorities. In 2025, EirGrid presented the proposed plan to build a micro tunnel as the best performing solution for the two cables required to connect the Inchicore substation to the Poolbeg substation. This allowed EirGrid to consult directly with other members with projects and infrastructure in the Dublin area such as Irish Rail, as well as learn from previous tunnelling projects undertaken by Uisce Eireann which will help to guide our approach. The Forum's membership was extended to include South Dublin County Council and Metrolink in 2025, opening a direct line of communication between the Powering Up Dublin cable replacement team and the Metrolink project team.

13.4 Benefits Sharing

As EirGrid undertakes the development and expansion of the transmission grid, we acknowledge the potential impacts on nearby communities. These effects may range from visual changes to the environment to temporary disruptions during construction, as well as the necessity for land access to facilitate project delivery. Despite these challenges, the enduring advantages of a reliable, safe, and eco-friendly energy supply are significant. Our commitment is to work in harmony with communities and stakeholders to reduce inconvenience and enhance benefits. In 2025, EirGrid invested €821,265.50 in community groups and voluntary organisations in East Cork, in line with projects advancing in these areas. In addition, significant advancements have been made to progress Community Benefit Funds associated with the North Connacht, Kildare Meath, and East Meath-North Dublin grid projects, where the administration of funding in excess of €8,000,000 across these communities will commence in the years to come.

EirGrid's Community Benefit Policy³⁰ is designed to leave a lasting, positive impact on communities that support grid infrastructure projects, fostering enduring partnerships. This policy comes into effect once a project receives planning approval, establishing a scheme that reflects the project's magnitude. In collaboration with the Community Forum, we ensure that the scheme is crafted with local insight, by the community, for the community. The strategy is built upon three foundational pillars: biodiversity, community, and sustainability, and is implemented in three phases: at the start of construction, during cabling or stringing, and upon project completion. The scheme offers grants to local groups, aiming to complement other funding sources and promote cooperative efforts.

Throughout 2025, the Community Benefit Strategies for the Kildare Meath and East Meath-North Dublin projects was developed by the Independent Fund Administrator, in close collaboration with the Community Forum, ensuring that the principles surrounding the allocation of this funding have the communities hosting this infrastructure at its centre. More information about EirGrid's Community Benefit policy and fund is available on our website.

At the core of EirGrid's ethos is our dedication to community-centric engagement. We strive to minimise disruptions and maximise benefits for those affected by our projects. The Community Benefit Fund scheme is a testament to this, empowering Community Forums to direct funds towards local improvement and wellness projects. This initiative not only supports the physical and mental well-being of residents but also allows us to contribute positively to the communities that accommodate our operations.

30 [EirGrid Community Benefit Policy Brochure](#)

14. Acronyms

AIS	Air Insulated Switchgear	KM	Kilometre
ATR	Associated Transmission Reinforcement	kV	Kilovolt
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System	MARA	Marine Area Regulatory Authority
BPO	Best Performing Option	MVA	Megavolt Amperes
BPRO	Best Performing Route Option	MW	Megawatt
BSP	Bulk Supply Point	NDP	Network Delivery Portfolio
CA	EirGrid Capital Approval	OEM	Original Equipment Manufacturer
CAP	Climate Action Plan	OSS	Operating Security Standards
CAPEX	Capital Expenditure	PA	Project Agreement
CPP	Committed Project Parameters	PFC	Power Flow Controller
CRU	Commission for Regulation of Utilities	PR5	Price Review 5 (2021–2025)
DBR	Dynamic Busbar Rating	PR6	Price Review 6 (2026–2030)
DCEE	Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment	SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
DLR	Dynamic Line Rating	SNA	System Needs Assessment
DSO	Distribution System Operator	SOEF	Shaping Our Electricity Future
DTS	Distributed Temperature Sensing	STATCOM	Static Synchronous Compensator
EI	Energisation	TID	Transmission Infrastructure Delivery
EPC	Engineering, Procurement and Construction	TAO	Transmission Asset Owner
GIS	Gas Insulated Switchgear	TEG	Temporary Emergency Generation
GW(x)	TSO Six-Step Framework Gateways	TES	Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios
GW	Gigawatt	TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
HV	High Voltage	TOP	Transmission Outage Programme
ICT	Information, Communications and Technology	TSO	Transmission System Operator
IPD	Investment Planning and Delivery	TSSPS	Transmission System Security and Planning Standards
JOTP	Joint Outage Transformation Programme	XLPE	Cross-Linked Polyethylene



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