

Climate Action Economic Opportunities

Local Authorities Supporting Enterprise



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



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Introduction

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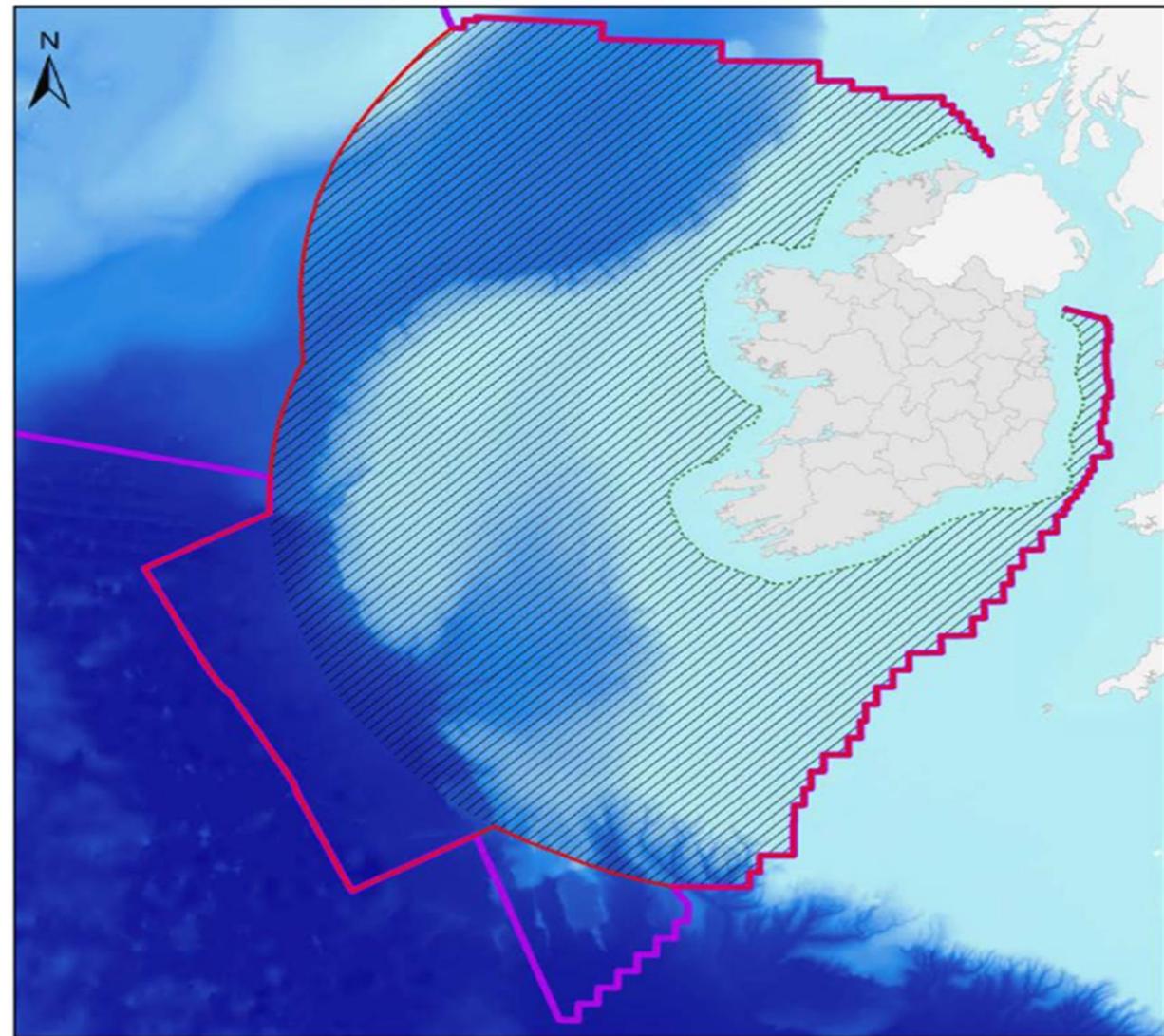
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Ireland's Maritime Boundary



This map is to be used for reference only. Please refer to the www.marineplan.ie to explore the most up to date National Marine Planning Framework data.

Ireland's Maritime Boundaries

0 50 100 200 Kilometres

- National Marine Planning Framework Area
- Currently Designated Continental Shelf Boundary
- Local Authority Area
- Indicative 12NM Territorial Sea Limit
- //// Exclusive Economic Zone

Sea-floor depth below mean sea level (m)



Credits: DECC: Designated Continental Shelf (2014), Exclusive Economic Zone (2014); DHLGH: NMPF Area (2016); DFA: 12nm Territorial Sea (2004); GEBCO Group: GEBCO Grid (2020); Office for National Statistics (UK): Countries (2020); OSI, Local Authority Areas (2017); OSNI, Largescale Land Boundary (2020).

A Local Authority Perspective

- An existential challenge which also offers substantial opportunities for the island of Ireland.
- The role of the local authority in activating and animating the enabling actions to maximise the offshore renewable resource.
- Acknowledge the valid concerns expressed by key stakeholders, based on previous developer led investment in this area.
- The challenge of squaring the circle of these; Landowners, Rural Dwellers, Fishers, Investors, Statutory Bodies, Elected members, Environmental bodies.



The Really Big Picture

- Climate change and our obligations to contribute to carbon neutral targets.
- Energy Security – both on the island and in an EU context.
- Economic opportunities- Energy exports, Supply chain opportunities for regional business, Sustainable employment in the regions
- A future for our children....



Government Targets

- 70% renewable electricity in Ireland by 2030 formally adopted in the Government's Climate Action Plan
- Target increased to 80% in 2021, including :
 - 8GW of onshore wind capacity
 - 5GW of offshore wind capacity
- 8GW of onshore wind target will almost double existing wind capacity.
- Programme for Government aims to take advantage of at least 30GW of offshore floating wind power by 2050.
- OREDP outlines the possibility of 27 GW of floating wind in Irish waters – 7GW on the West Coast
- And of course, the impact of the war in Ukraine and associated energy risk, inevitable that all existing targets will look to accelerate

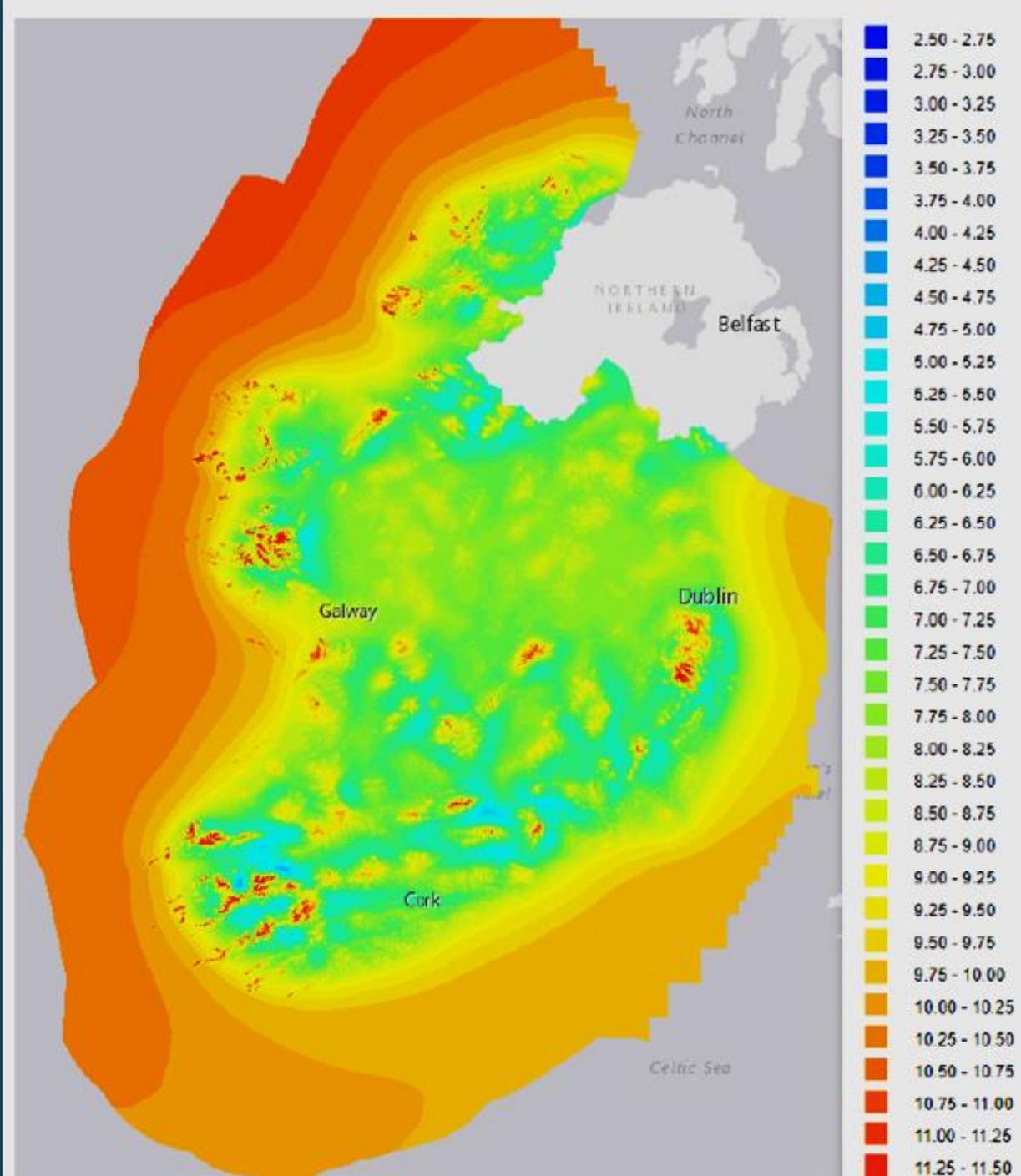
So what does a Local Authority do ?

- Regional Enterprise Plans – Dublin Offshore Report on opportunities and Irish supply chains feasibility, a joint initiative of the local authorities and partners along the western seaboard.



Wind Energy Resource Map

- Continental shelf / comparatively shallow depth
- Substantially greater financial returns on investment due to higher wind speeds



Economic and Employment Impact

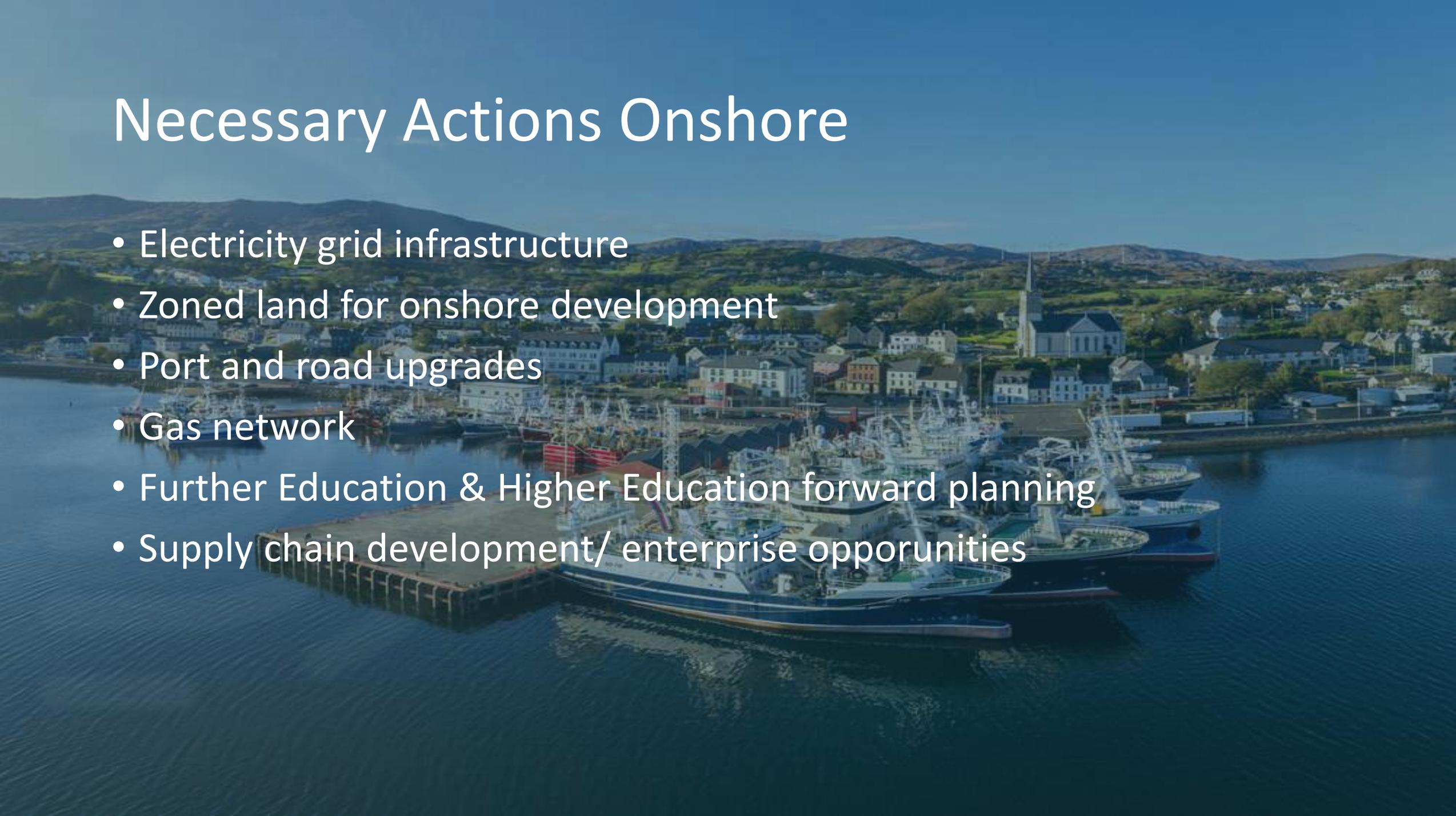
- It is estimated that in the Rapid build out scenario the combined GVA of onshore and offshore wind in the Atlantic Region will be €2.85bn to 2037.
- Each region is expected to secure between 15 – 30% of the capital expenditure of projects built in their area.
- Atlantic Region Wind Energy & Supply-Chain Feasibility Study indicates that the wind industry can support over 3,000 FTE jobs from 2028 to 2037.

Marine Area Planning Act 2021

- Development of a structured, planned approach to offshore development.
- Establishment of Marine Area Regulatory Authority.
- DMAPS, prepared on an evidenced basis.
- A means to address existing concerns on on-shore wind farm developments
- A full stakeholder engagement on a balanced resource utilisation (fisheries, environmental, local and national government, tourism and amenities etc.)

Necessary Actions Onshore

- Electricity grid infrastructure
- Zoned land for onshore development
- Port and road upgrades
- Gas network
- Further Education & Higher Education forward planning
- Supply chain development/ enterprise opportunities



Recommendations

Lobby Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a national strategy to coordinate activities.• Provide a road map to 2050 and post 2030 capacity.• Upgrade of grid in the West and North West.• Ensure benefits are captured.
Enable Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify new industrial development opportunities in the value chain.• Identify supply chain ramp up opportunities• Establish route to market – grid upgrades or alternative fuels.
Cluster Formation and Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop an offshore wind port strategy.• Provide cluster supports.• Exploit synergies in analytics between wind activities and established specialisations.
Educational Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise awareness of offshore wind to ensure pipeline of skilled personnel available to support the industry.• Develop new courses and wind energy centres focusing on FOW skills.• Progress recognition of transferrable skills to allow for transfer of personnel from other industries.
Stakeholders and Planning Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop support to facilitate dialogue between developers and stakeholders.• Establish supporting Planning Framework.

Conclusions

- Actions needed at national level to address the structural gaps the industry is facing.
- Wind energy can be a solution to Irelands climate change commitments whilst establishing as an energy exporter.
- Disadvantaged areas will benefit from employment opportunities arising from the scale and distribution of Irelands wind resource.
- The challenge of convincing a sceptical range of stakeholders should not be underestimated, but the prize is worth the effort.
- The cross cutting nature and roles of each local authority is ideal to allow them to exercise the necessary vision and leadership in their areas to achieve a fair and equitable outcome to the benefit of all parties.

Thank you

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