



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Strategic Objectives Compliance Details

DCEE Marine Usage Licence  
Application

**2026**

Prepared by the Department of  
Climate, Energy and the Environment  
[gov.ie](http://gov.ie)

## 4.11 National Strategic Objective Compliance

- **Climate Action Plan 2025:** CAP25 is building on commitments from previous years to enable the share of electricity generated from renewable sources up to 80% where achievable and cost effective, without compromising security of electricity supply. Among the wide range of actions designed to assist in the achievement of this target the CAP 2025 also includes a suite of actions to realise Ireland's offshore renewable energy potential and commits to the achievement of at least 5GW of offshore wind by 2030.
- **Government approved the Policy Statement on the Framework for Phase Two Offshore Wind:** Ireland has moved to a plan-led system and away from the existing developer-led system. As part of this policy, the timelines for establishing the first DMAPs for ORE development were accelerated, including for the future ORESS auctions. To support this auction process and to de-risk the site selection process for ORE development, it is essential that the State undertake surveying of the proposed locations and undertake a data procurement exercise. Failure to do so could result in delays to the auction process, ORE deployment, and a failure to achieve Ireland's binding carbon budgets.
- **DMAP establishment process:** A key objective of the National Planning Marine Framework (NMPF) is to ensure that future ORE developments in Ireland's maritime area take place in a sustainable and strategic way, with consideration for environmental protection and with comprehensive opportunities for public engagement, most importantly including the engagement of local communities. All surveys will take place in the South Coast DMAP.
- **Under National Strategic Outcome 8 (Transition to a Climate-Neutral and Climate-Resilient Society),** of the **National Development Plan 2021-2030**, the Government lays out a clear priority for investment in renewable energy and

research to ensure that Ireland can achieve the ambitious climate and energy targets set by the European Commission for 2030 and 2050. In particular, a Strategic Investment Priority was identified as “Energy research funding to accelerate diversification away from fossil fuels to green energy, including wind, wave, solar, biomass, biofuels, biogas and hydrogen”. Data collated from offshore surveys, which will prove vital in the further development of the offshore wind industry in Ireland, is clearly aligned with this priority as it provides an analytical basis to de-risk investment and encourage funding for developers of offshore energy projects. In a scenario where we do not provide the required data for ORE developers to confidently participate in ORESS auctions, potential bidders may decide that the risk is too high to bid for project sites. In this scenario, it is very unlikely that Ireland will meet its EU targets on emissions reductions or renewable energy deployment, which have become even more ambitious under the Fit for 55 package, introduced since the NDP was published.

- Ireland’s updated **National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030** points out that under current projections, Ireland will not meet its EU targets on renewable energy and states that “This is primarily due to the fact that large projects, particularly offshore wind projects, cannot be constructed in shorter timeframes and will not be fully operational by the end of the decade”. Any further delays to offshore wind projects could have an even more detrimental effect on these projections, so it is clear that Government needs to ensure that the necessary investment and plans are in place to allow projects to move forward as fast as possible. The provision of high-quality research data removes a further barrier for ORE project developers and will be vital to preventing further delays or reluctance from developers to engage in the auction process.
- As well as the NDP priorities, the development of the offshore energy industry is also fully aligned with the **National Planning Framework**. The NPF highlights the importance of climate ambition in all elements of spatial policy. The themes highlighted in the NPF are focused on the role of spatial policy in influencing where we live, where we work, and how we travel. These are all

directly relevant to the pattern of energy use and in particular the current level of harmful greenhouse gas emissions to which Ireland is committed to achieving substantial reductions.