



Delivering Energy Independence, Powering Growth

Noel Cunniffe, CEO, Wind Energy Ireland

Energy West - Security & Indigenous Energy

16 April 2026



Members across existing assets, development & supply chain for onshore & offshore wind:

- Wind farm developers
- Turbine manufacturers
- Construction companies
- Supply companies
- Accountants
- Insurance
- Consultancy
- Legal firms
- Banks
- Small local businesses



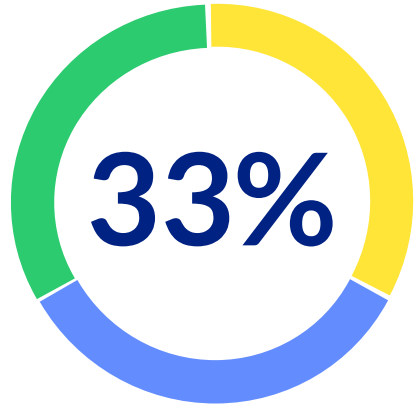
Wind energy is Ireland's greatest asset to stabilise energy prices and drive economic growth.

Ireland will be energy independent.

The decisions we make **now**
will decide **when**.



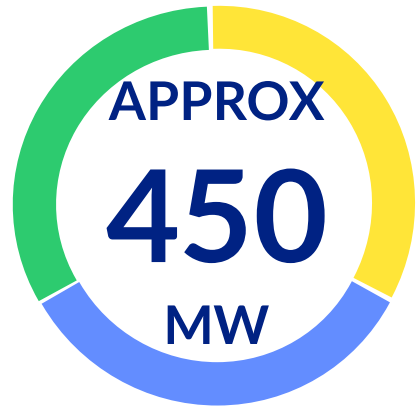
What does wind energy contribute
to Ireland today?



of Ireland's
electricity from
wind in 2025



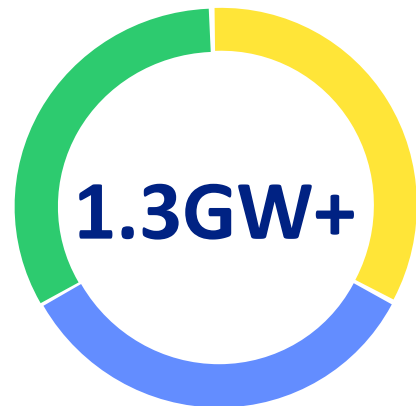
Wind energy
saved €1.2 billion
in gas costs for
Ireland in 2025



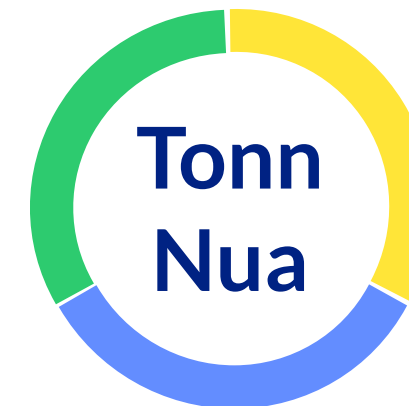
of onshore wind
farms reached
financial close and
began construction



Phase 1 wind
farm projects
now in the
planning system



of new onshore
wind farms entered
the planning system

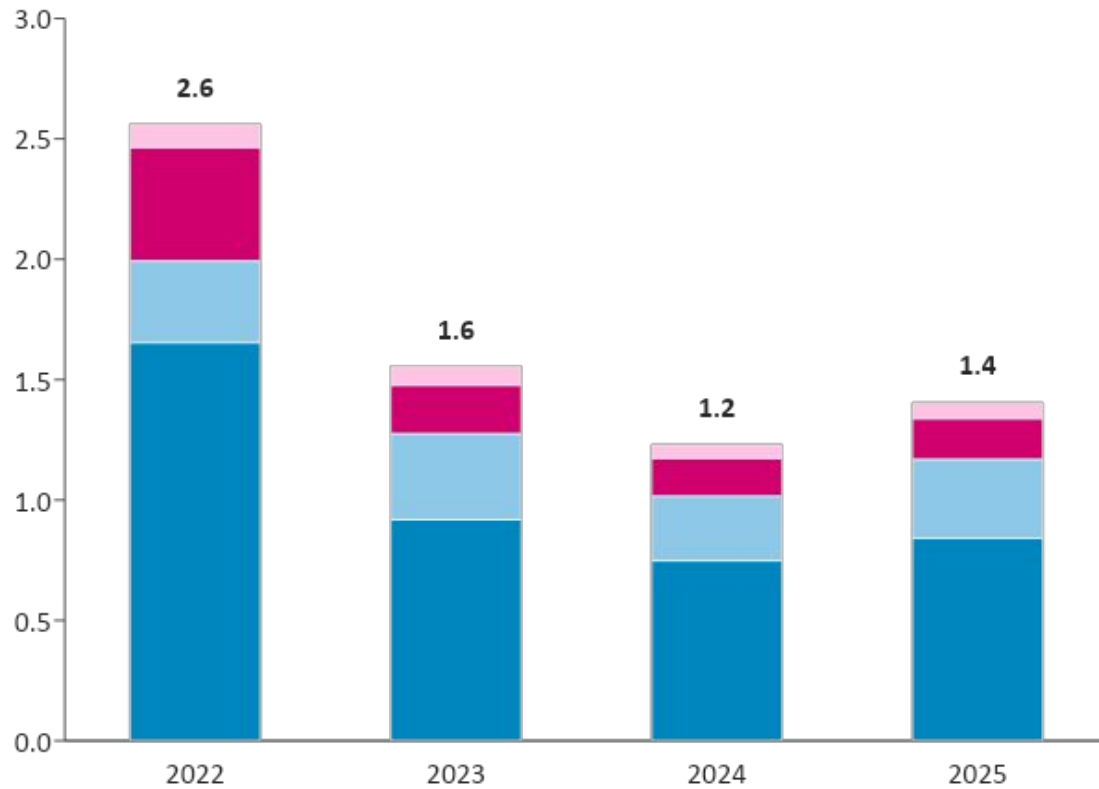


Competitive second
offshore auction
held and 900MW
contracted

Last year wind saved the equivalent annual emissions of 1.2 million homes

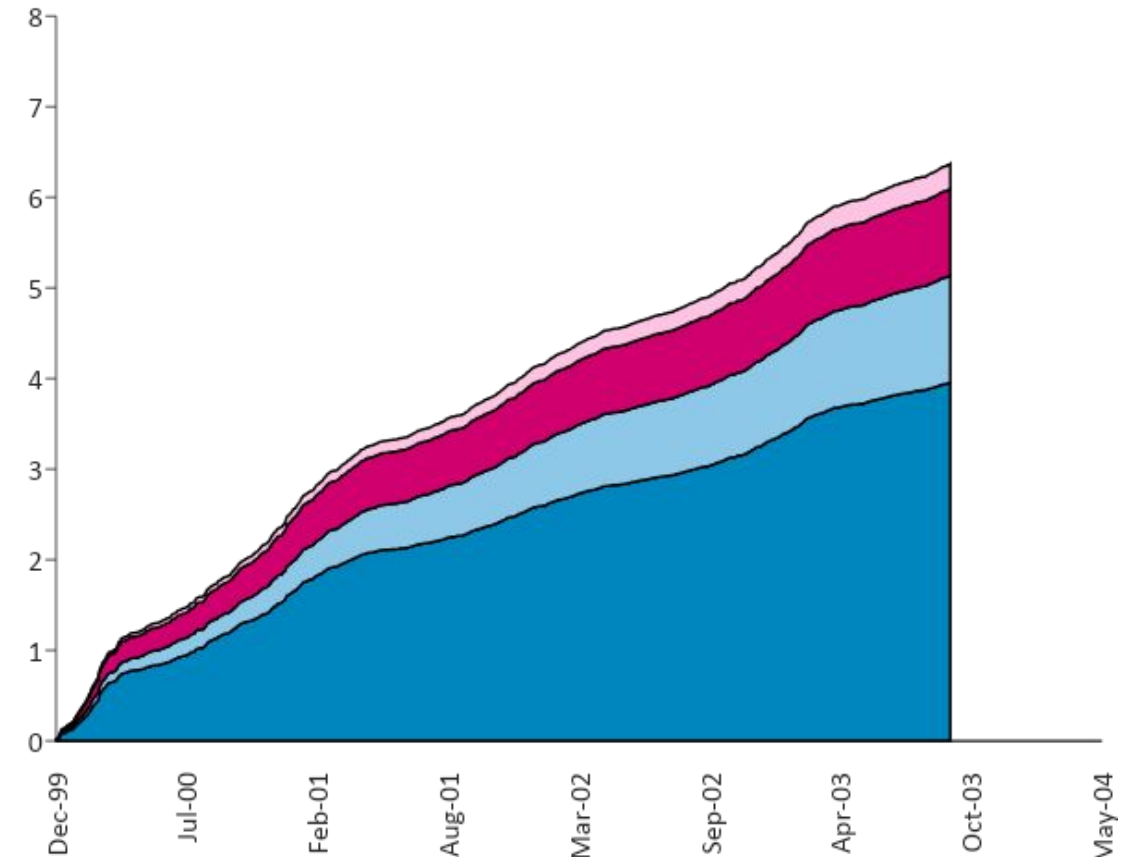
Annual Avoided Costs from Wind since 2022

€bn, nominal



Cumulative Avoided Costs from Wind since 2022

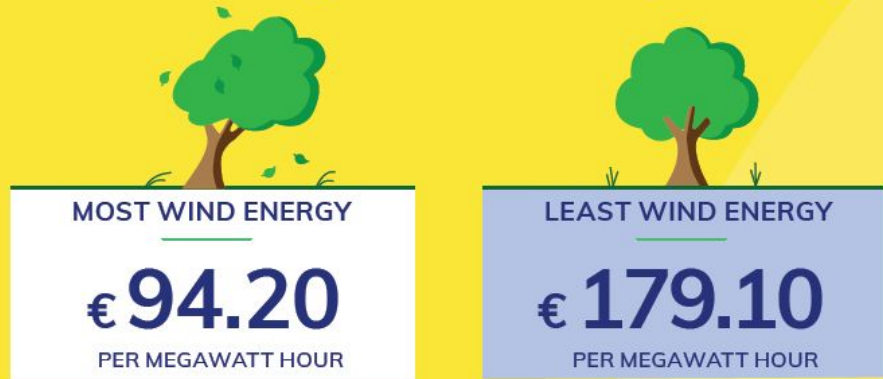
€bn, nominal



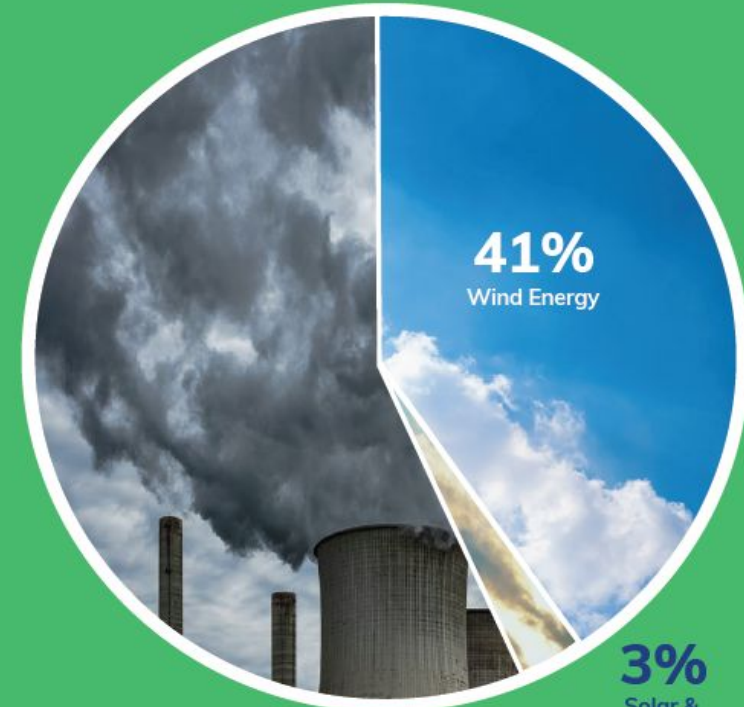
■ Ireland - Gas
 ■ Ireland - Carbon
 ■ Northern Ireland - Gas
 ■ Northern Ireland - Carbon

■ Ireland - Gas
 ■ Ireland - Carbon
 ■ Northern Ireland - Gas
 ■ Northern Ireland - Carbon

In March 2026 the Average Price of Electricity on the days with:



MONTHLY PRICE COMPARISON — 2025 — 2026

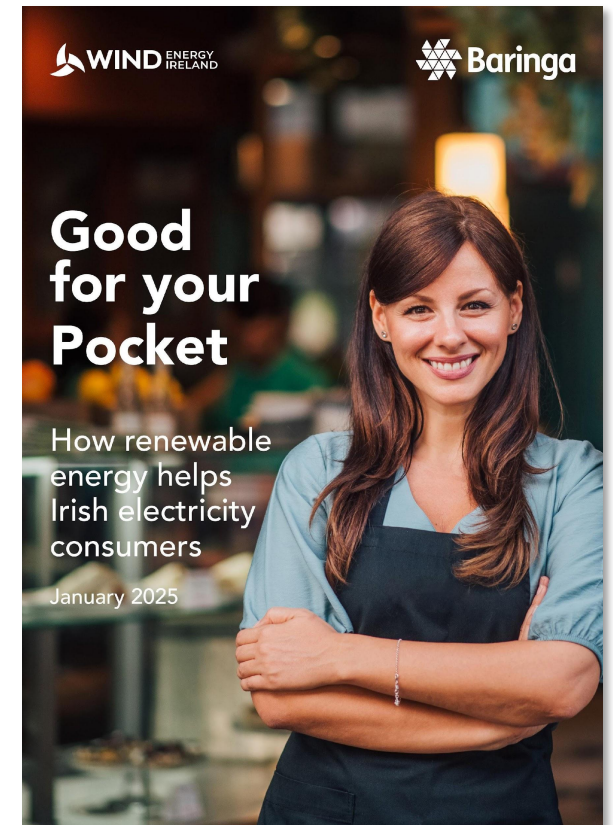


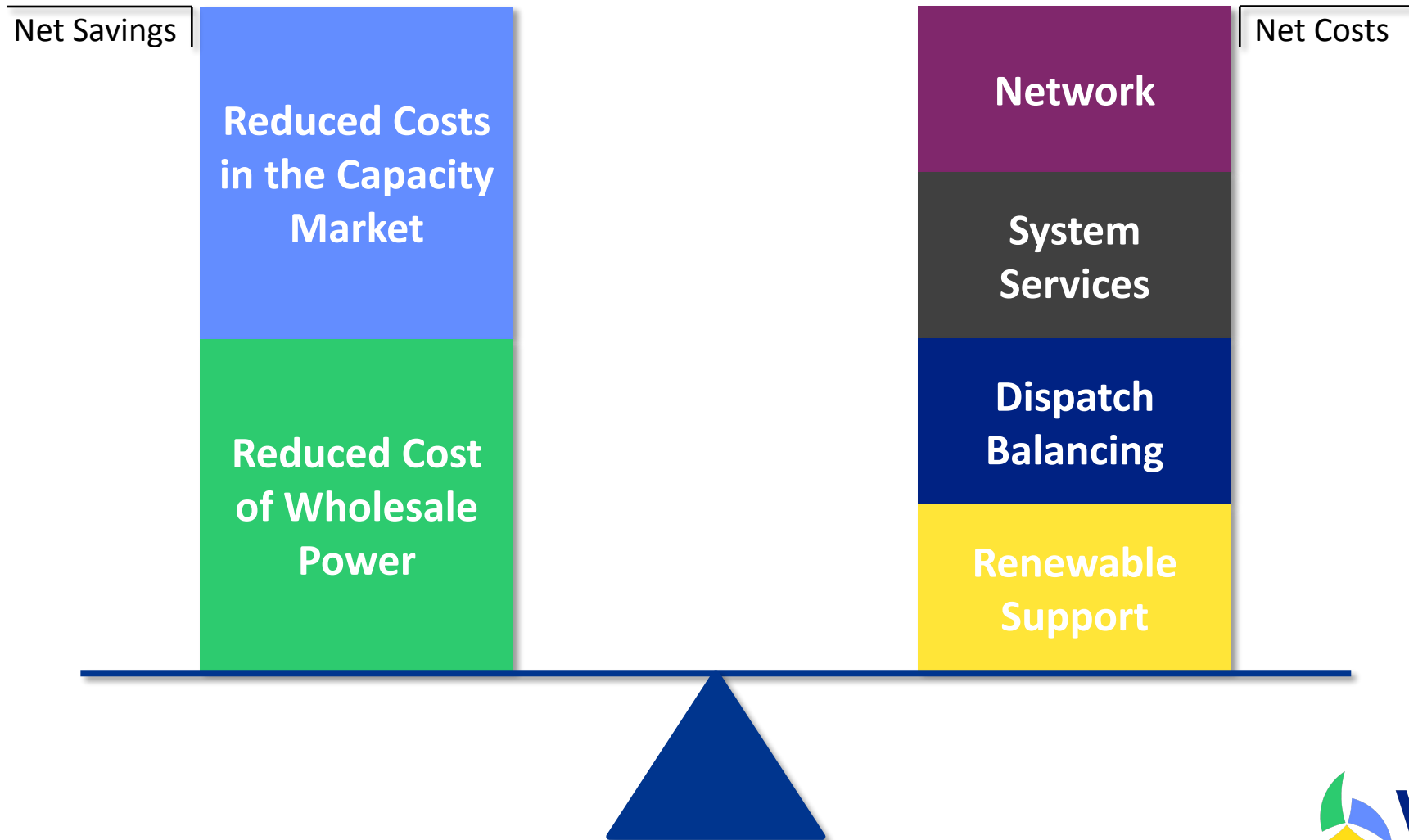
WIND ENERGY PROVIDED 41% OF IRELAND'S ELECTRICITY IN MARCH 2026.



In 2019's *Wind for a Euro*, Baringa estimated that the development of wind capacity would cost Irish consumers around €65 million by 2020, a total of **less than €1 per person per year**

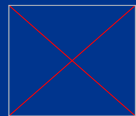
In *Good for your Pocket*, they have updated their analysis for 2018-2023 and have turned their attention forward, to project the further savings that could be unlocked by **achieving 80% renewable electricity**





To date, wind and solar farms have lowered the cost of electricity for everyone in Ireland by an

***average of €165 per person
- that's €840 million in total***



***Renewables could unlock additional
savings of €610 million per year***

if Ireland continues to invest in wind & solar generation, storage and grid – and achieves 80% renewable electricity

Cumulative consumer costs & savings in Ireland – 2000 to 2023

€ million (real 2024)





Powering Ireland's Future, County by County

Discover County-Level Energy Statistics





Galway

Here is how Galway is playing its part in making wind energy, saving carbon emissions, and benefitting from wind farm community funds and commercial rates.



326 MW

Installed Wind Energy Capacity (MW)



833 GWh

Of Energy Generated



5.53%

Share of Ireland's Installed Wind Energy



269,233 tonnes

Of Carbon Emissions Saved



€605,043

Invested in Local Community Benefit Funds



€2,302,081

Of Galway's Commercial Rates Income



7.26%

Wind Farm Rates as % of Total County Rates

What does the future of electricity
look like in Ireland?



Delivering Energy Independence, Powering Growth

Wind Energy Ireland Strategy
2026 – 2030



windenergyireland.com





Ember – The Electrotech Revolution

EMBER

The Electrotech Revolution

The shape of things to come

Daan Walter
Sam Butler-Sloss
Kingsmill Bond, CFA
September, 2025



Michael Liebreich – The Pragmatic Climate Reset – Parts I & II

ARTICLE

Liebreich: The Pragmatic Climate Reset - Part I

[Clean Energy](#)

ARTICLE

Liebreich: The Pragmatic Climate Reset - Part II: A Provocation

[Clean Energy](#)

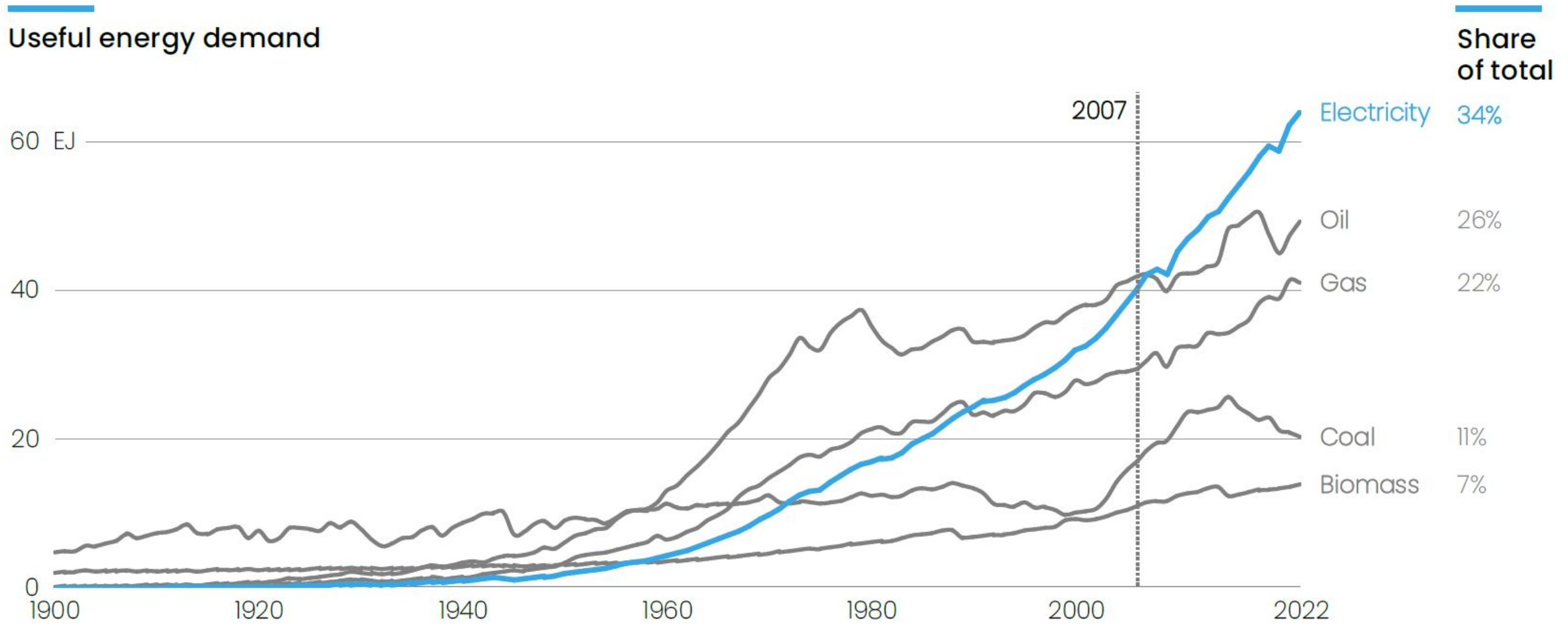


Highly recommended reading for a realistic view on the trends in global energy
Next slides are some of the key messages relevant for Ireland from global trends

Electricity is the king of energy

Electricity overtook oil as largest supplier of useful energy in 2007

Useful energy demand



Sources: IIASA, IEA, Ember analysis. All figures exclude feedstock use. Useful energy demand refers to the amount of energy used to perform a specific task, after accounting for energy losses in the process

Electrotech is 3x more efficient

It offers a leap in energy efficiency across the economy

Supply

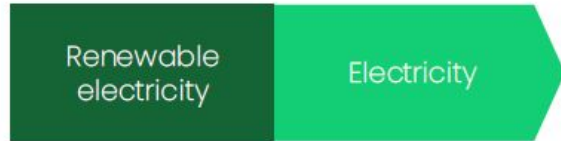
Electricity generation

Fossil thermal



30-40% efficiency

Wind & solar



100% efficiency

2-3x

as efficient

Demand

Transport

Internal combustion engine



25-40% efficiency

Electric vehicles



80-90% efficiency

2-4x

as efficient

Heating

Gas boiler



85% efficiency

Heat pumps



300-400% efficiency

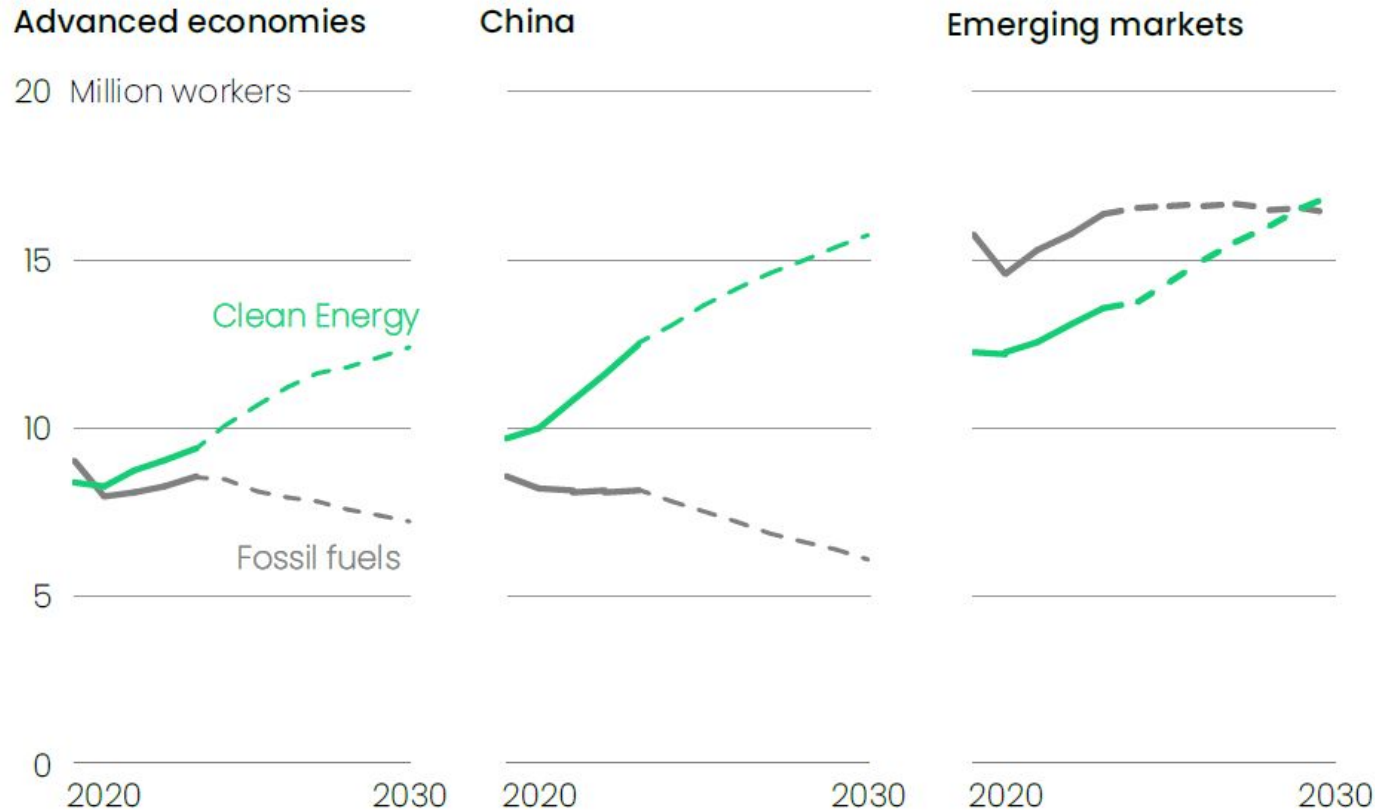
3-4x

as efficient

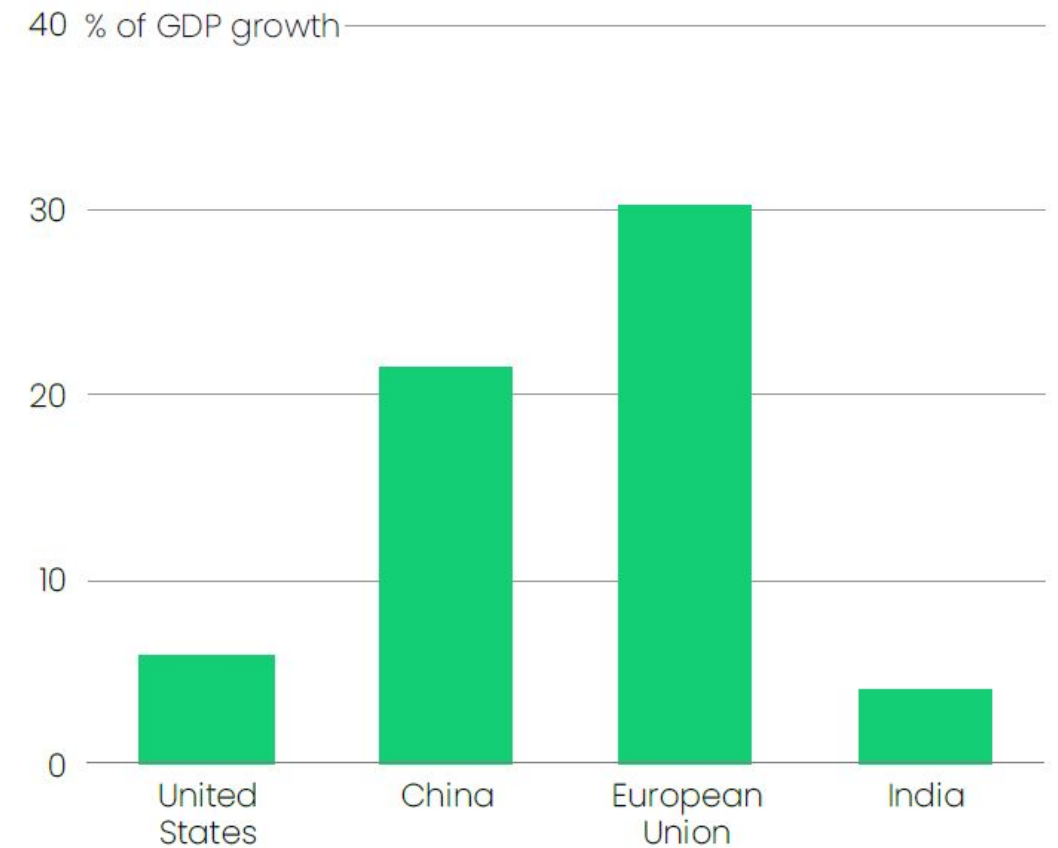
To the victor go the spoils

Winning at electrotech means gaining cheap energy, jobs, growth, and future industries

Change in energy employment, 2019-2030



Contribution of cleantech to GDP growth, 2023



Electrotech offers a path to permanent energy security

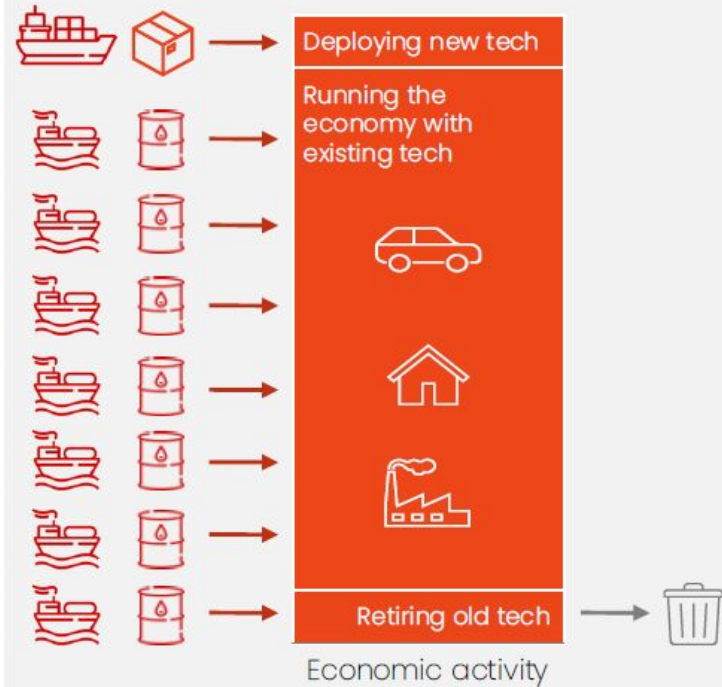
When fossil flows stop, the economy stops. When electrotech flows stop, only growth is at risk

From fossil import dependency...

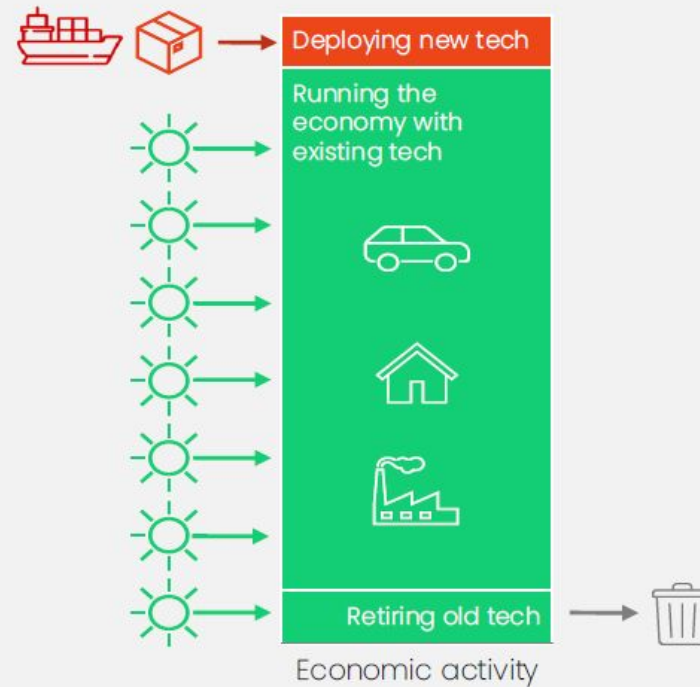
→ ...to electrotech import dependency...

→ ...to full circular energy independence.

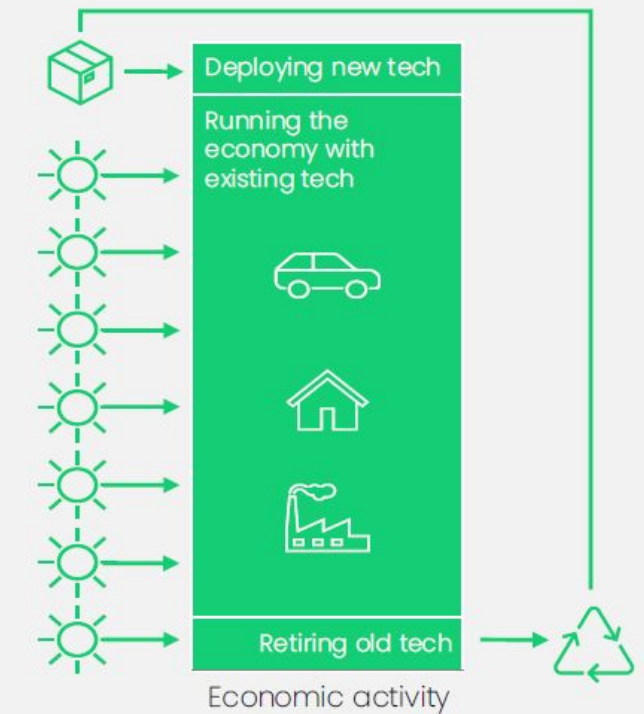
In an economy running on fossil imports, when imports stop, all activity stops



In an economy running on imported electrotech, when imports stop, only growth is inhibited.



In an economy running on local circular electrotech, trade shocks have little impact



■ At immediate risks without imports ■ Not at immediate risk

Electricity 2.0 is here

Electrification will speed up driven by cheaper, more efficient, local and digital electricity

Electricity 1.0



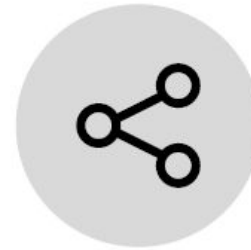
Driven by inefficient burning



Reliant on imported fuels



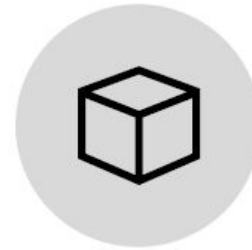
Volatile costs set by commodities



Centralised generation



Analogue, static demand



Non-fungible



Electricity 2.0



Directly from the sun, without combustion



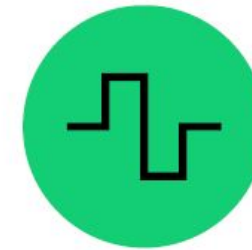
Local



Falling costs set by technologies



Decentralised generation



Digital, adaptive demand



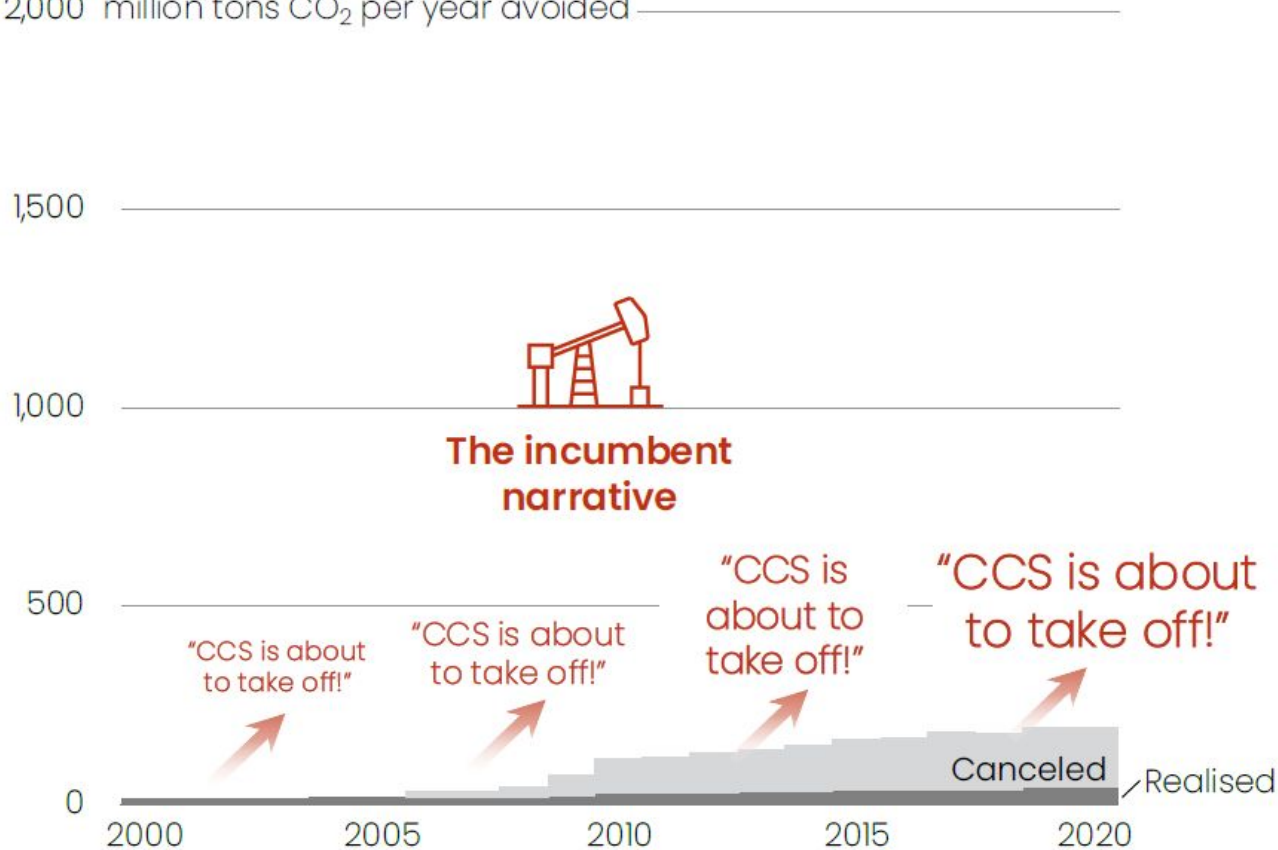
Fungibility from batteries

Avoid the distractions

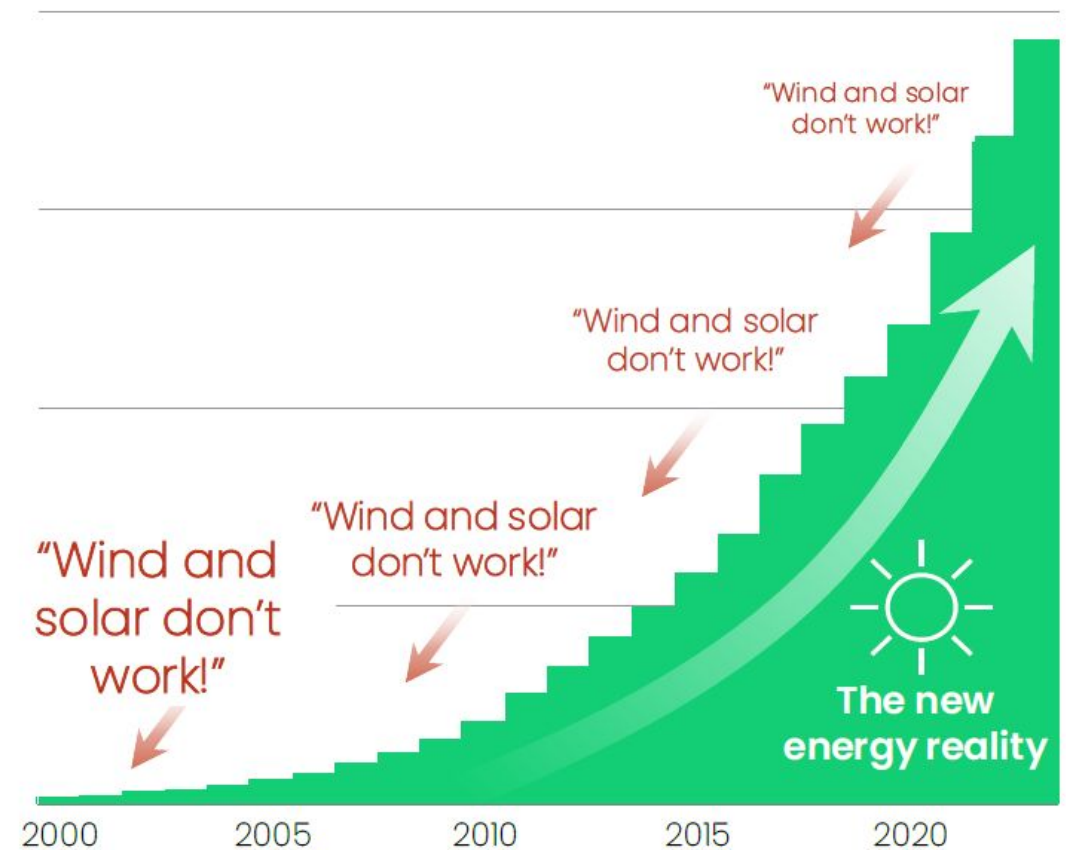
Some cleantech only gets louder; electrotech actually delivers

Global installed CCS capacity

2,000 million tons CO₂ per year avoided



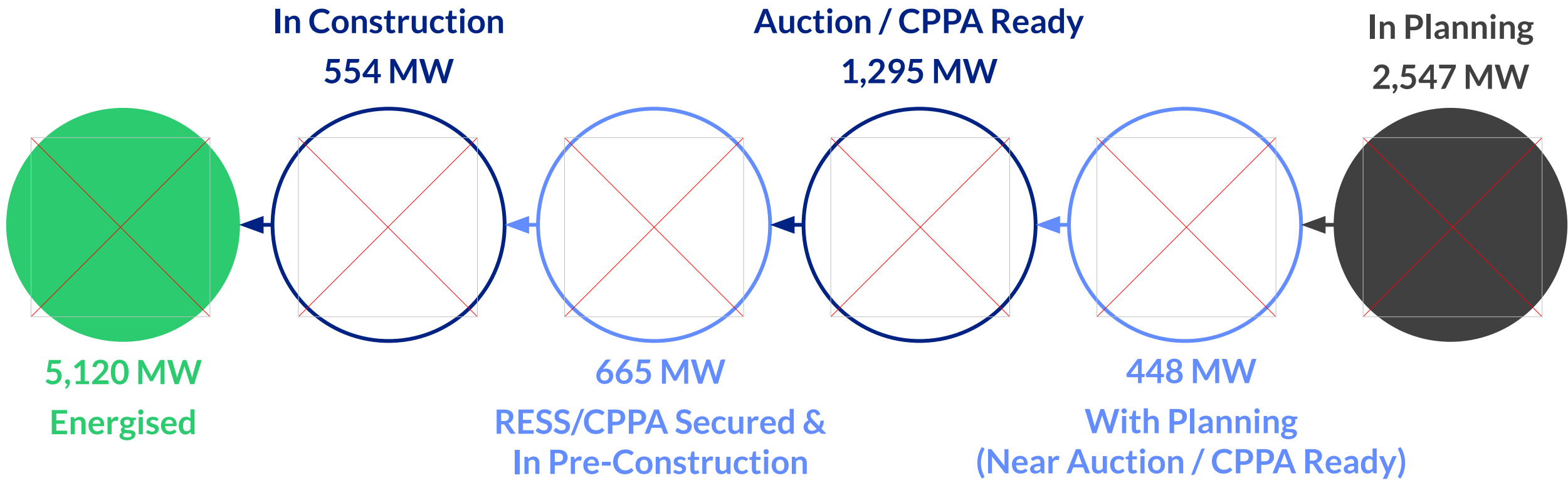
Wind and solar avoided emissions





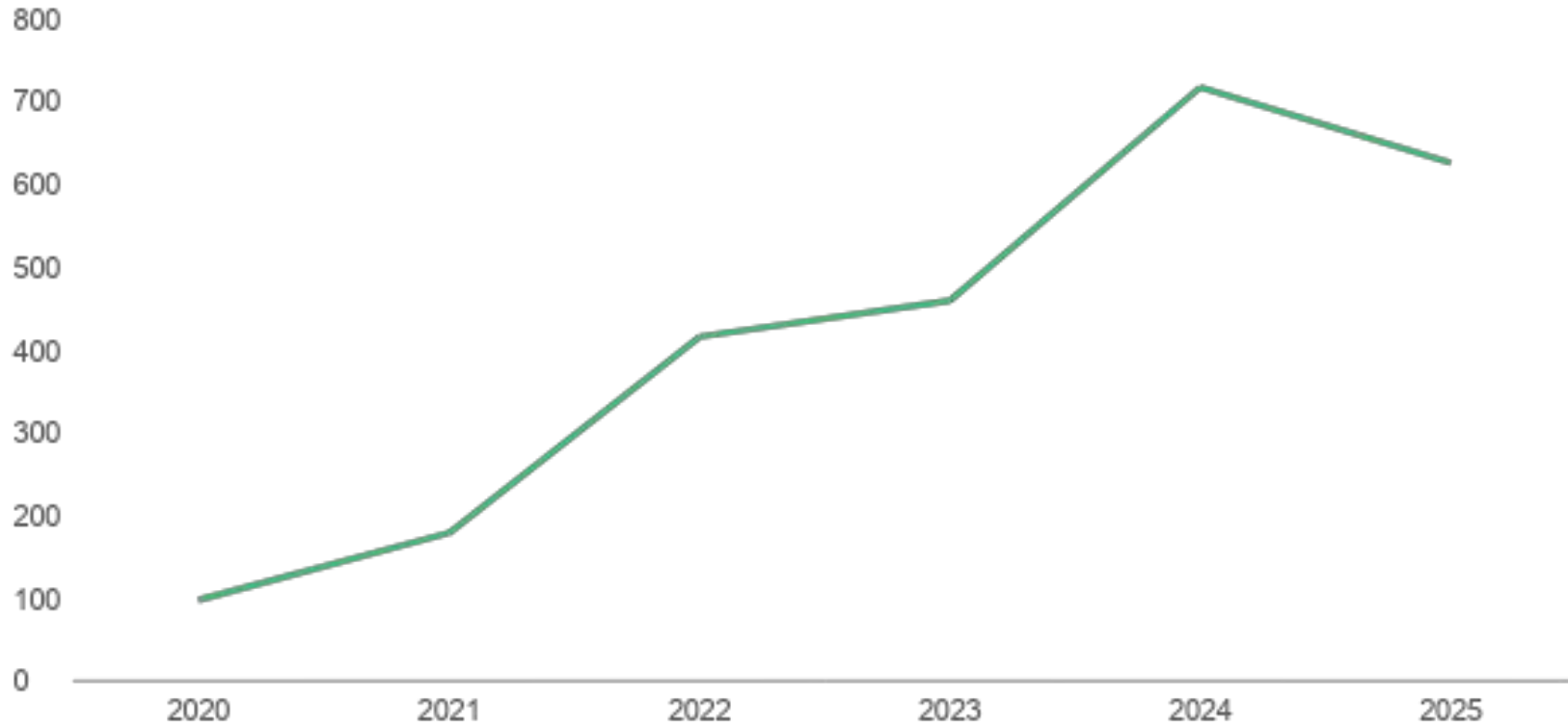
Delivering Wind Power at Scale

- Deploy **cost-effectively** at **scale** and at **pace**
- Remove **bottlenecks** in delivery policy
- Provide **evidence & research** to inform
- Uphold Ireland's credibility as a **safe, professional, and resilient** industry

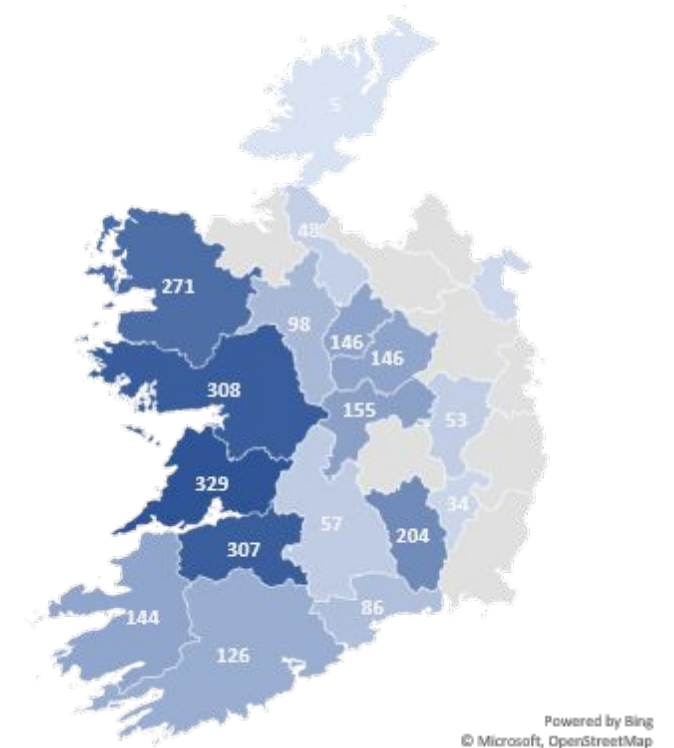


Installed onshore wind capacity passed 5,000 MW in 2025 – a huge milestone for the sector!
3GW of onshore wind now consented and a further 1.5GW+ will enter the planning system this year
 Removing grid and route-to-market bottlenecks is key to financing projects and starting construction

Wind Energy Generation Granted Planning Permission Per Year (MW)



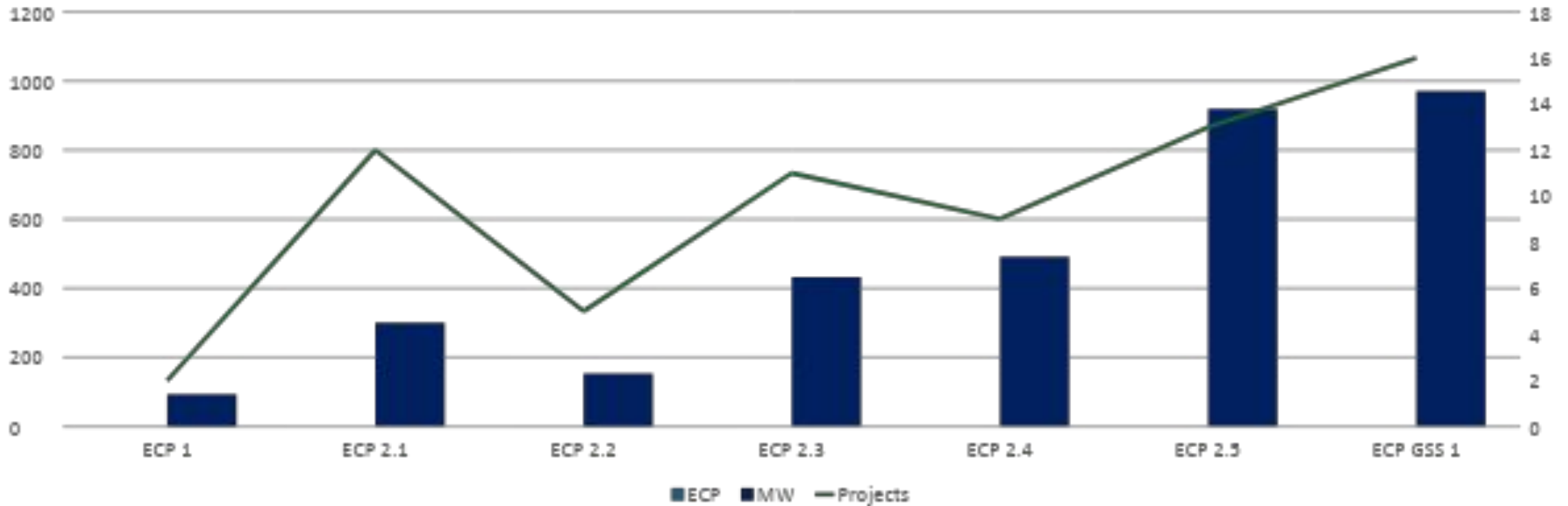
Wind Energy Capacity (MW) in Planning



Powered by Bing
© Microsoft, OpenStreetMap

2024 and 2025 were the best years for onshore wind granted planning.
There has been a slowdown in past 12 months due to ACP timelines.

Enduring Connection Process (Grid Connections Process)



The ECP Process has been a real success for the renewables industry. Timelines to connect to the grid are growing longer – 4 to 5 years typically.



This year onshore wind will have more projects auction ready than ever. RESS6 could be Ireland's biggest auction and CPPA market very healthy.

WEI Offshore Wind Action

Four Key Areas



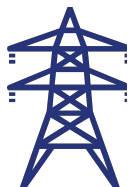
1. Deliver the Phase One Projects



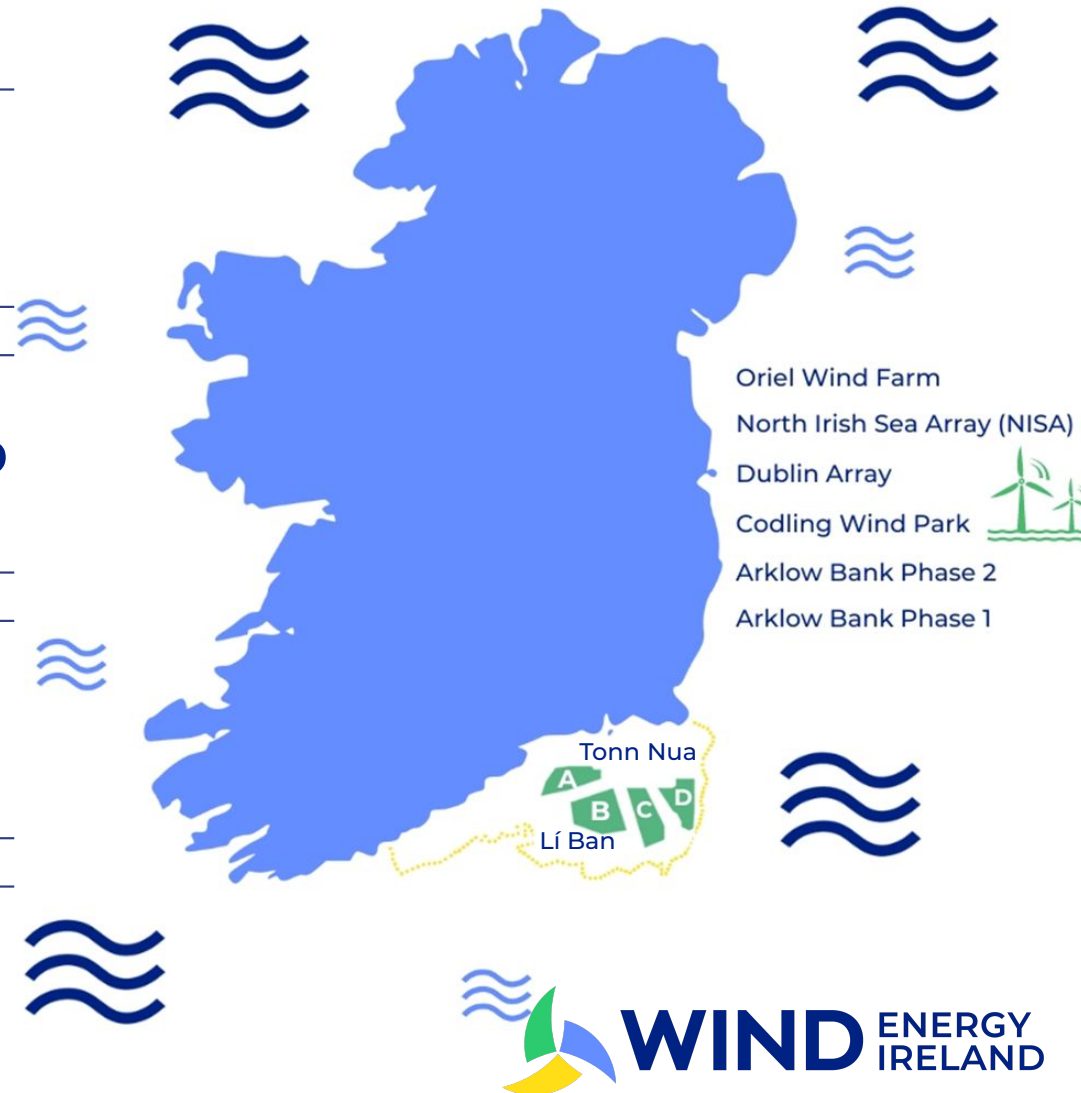
2. Maximise the South Coast DMAP



3. Enable our Industry's Future
- The National DMAP Process



4. Build the enablers



Our Taoiseach and Minister have established an Offshore Wind Clearing House to deliver projects

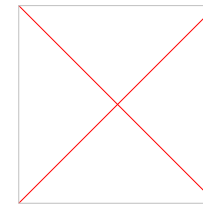
Taoiseach and Minister O'Brien announce establishment of Offshore Wind Energy Clearing House



Key focus areas:



Ensuring timelines are met across Government



The planning system & associated resourcing



Port infrastructure investment & readiness



Certainty of grid capacity & route-to-market for projects

Growing Clean Energy Demand

- Drive electrification, storage, & industry to maximise societal benefits
- Use wind to meet demand growth & minimise waste
- Ensure clean electricity is cost-competitive with fossil fuel alternatives
- Utilise events to build networks & partnerships

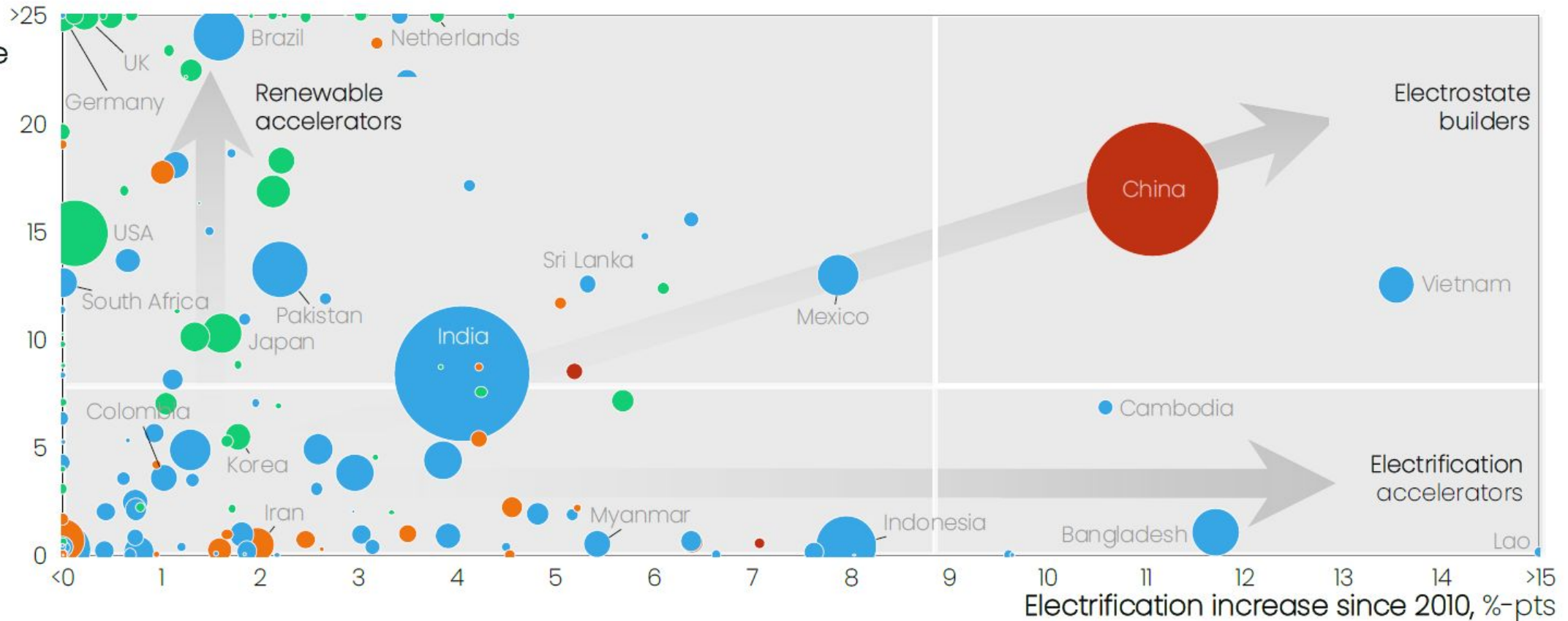


The electrification imperative

Many countries are building renewables; few an electrostate

Direction of travel in the two races of the energy transition

Wind & solar generation share increase since 2010, %-pt

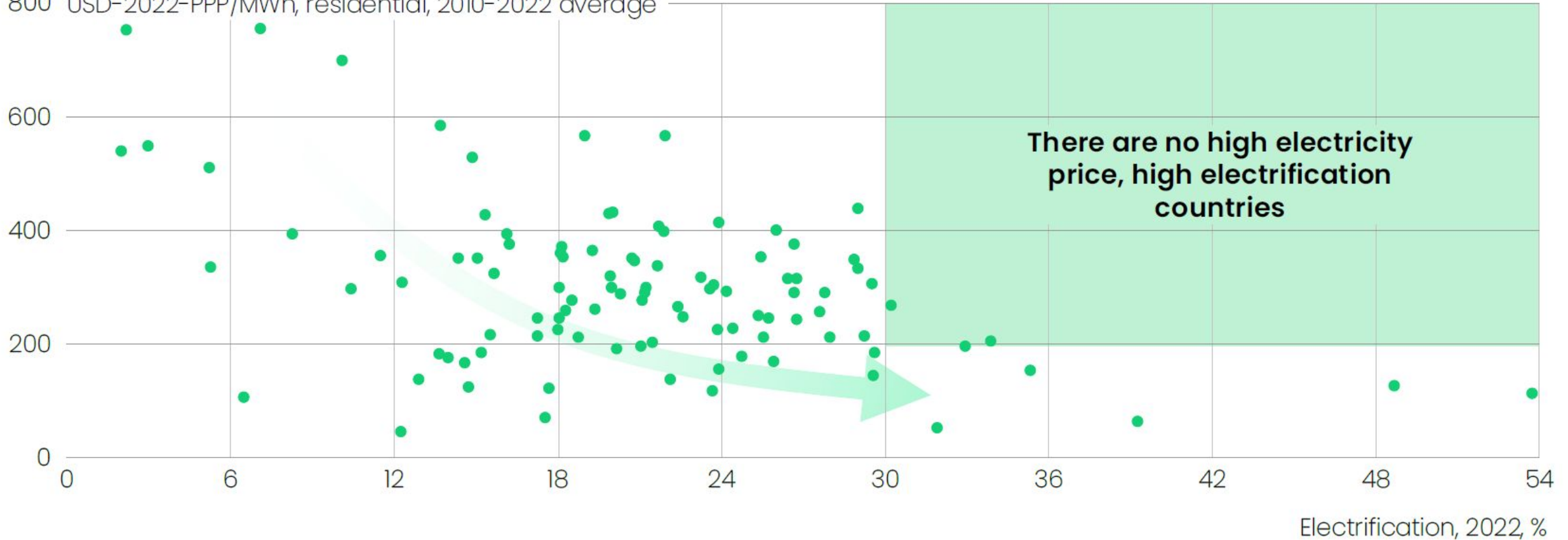


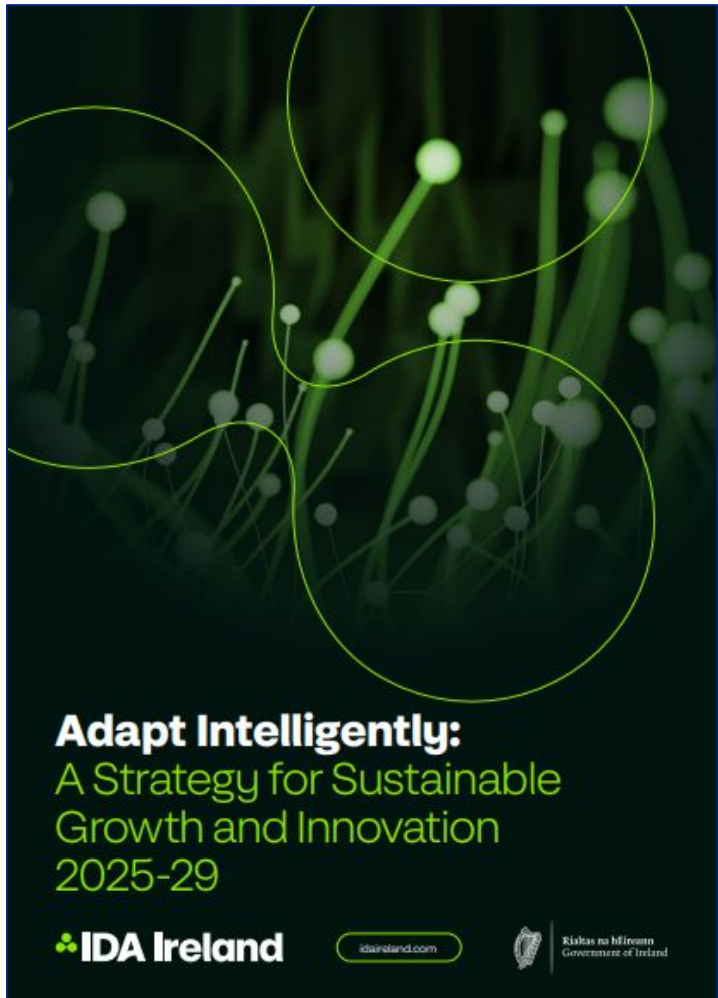
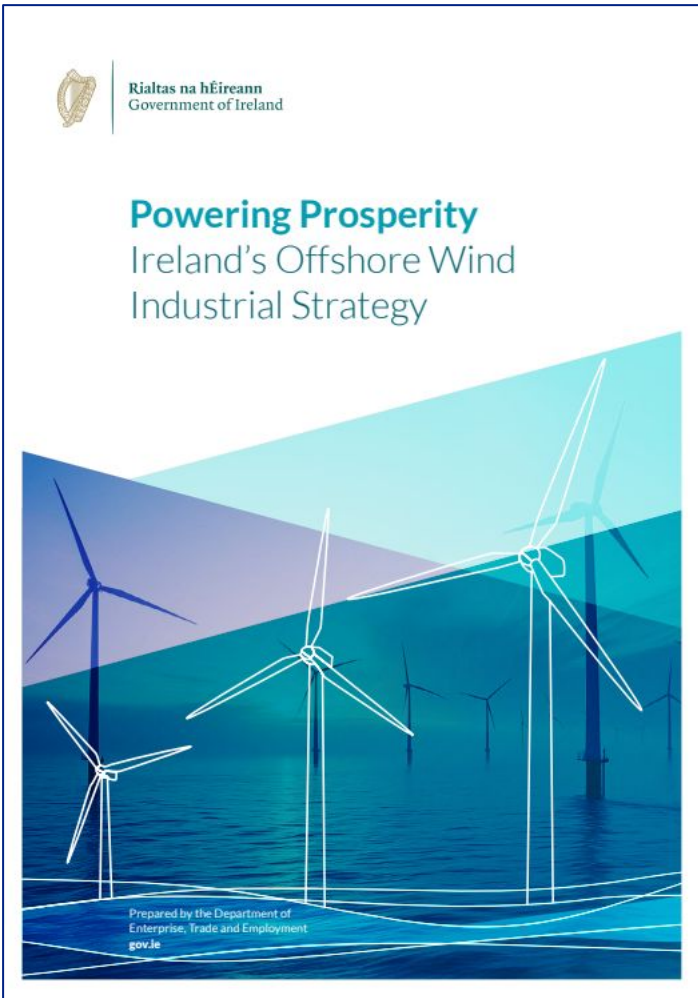
Econ 101

Lower prices incentivise uptake

Electricity price

800 USD-2022-PPP/MWh, residential, 2010-2022 average





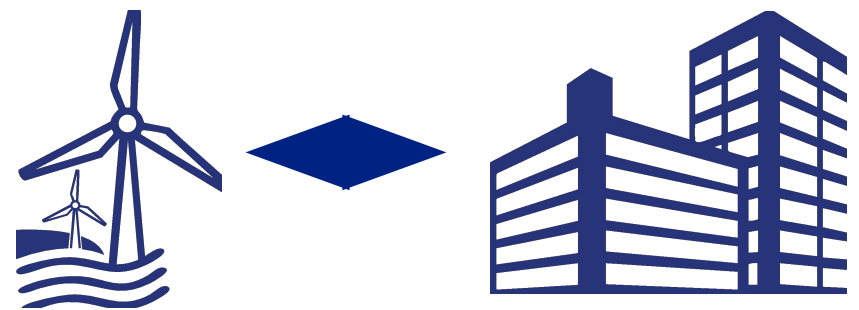
Home / Business

IDA chief says 'next generation' industrial parks are needed to win battle for investment

Economy

IDA Ireland to spend 'very significantly more' than €100m on site for FDI

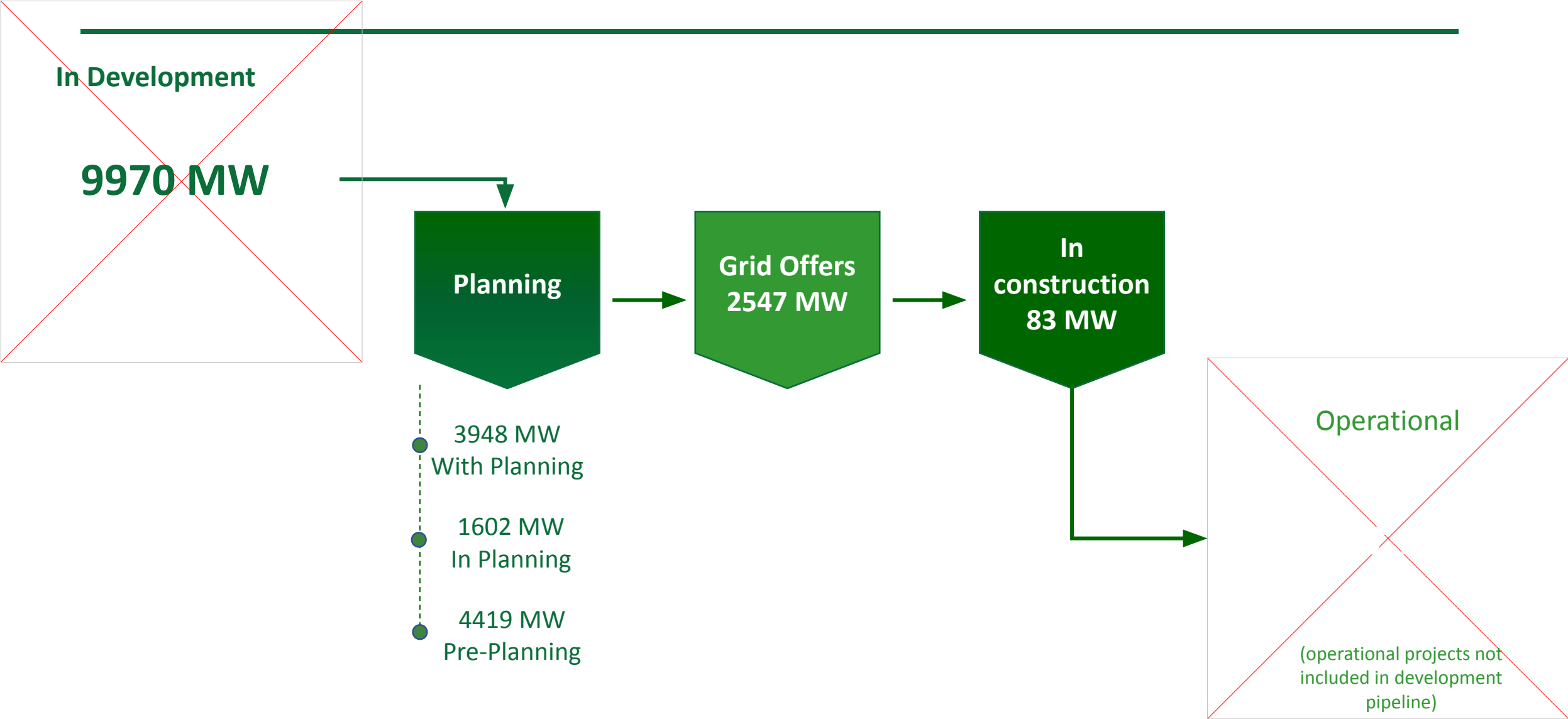
Yet to be identified site in the west of Ireland is understood to be targeting investment from computer chip manufacturer

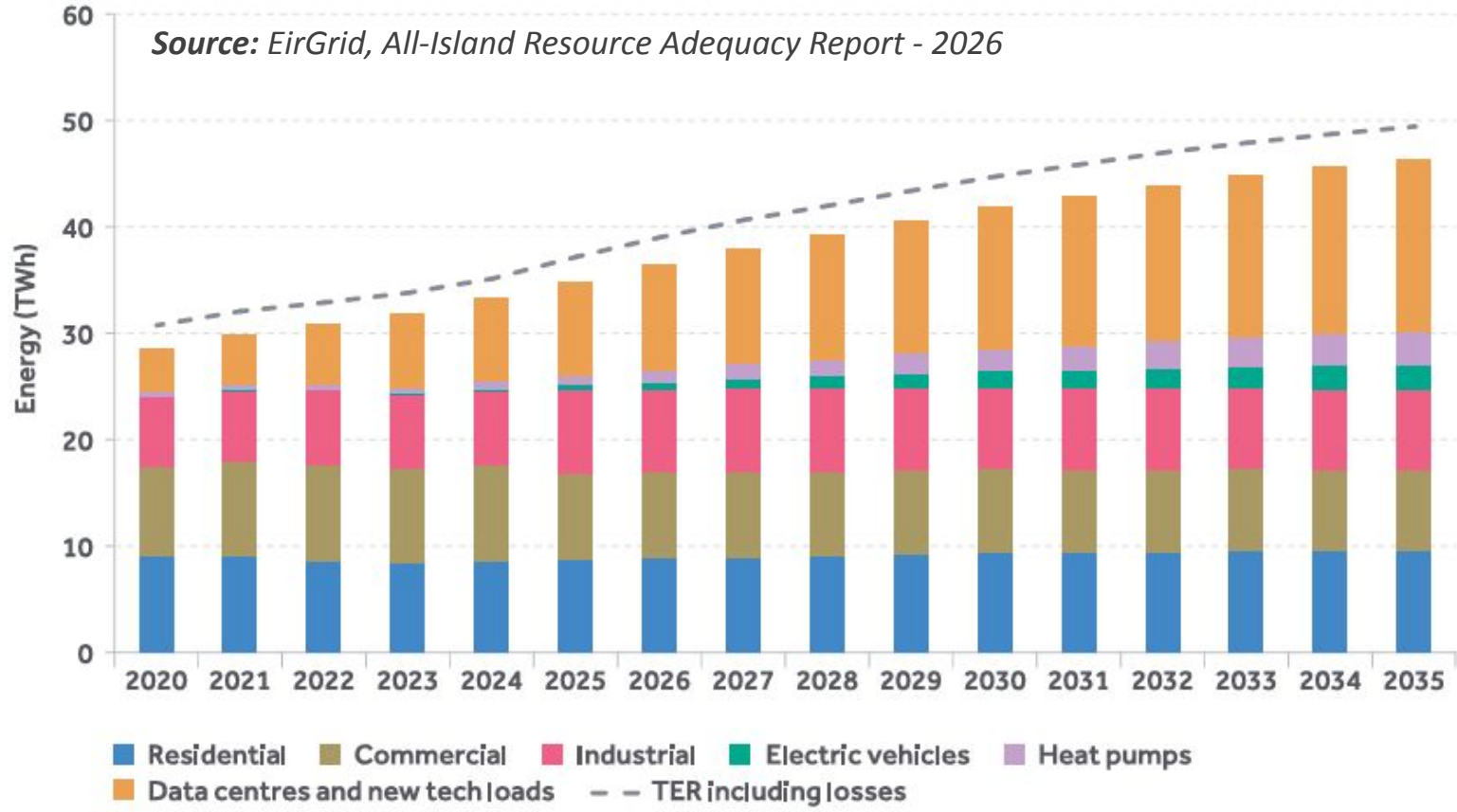


Wind energy will drive the transition, grow the economy, and deliver value.



All-Island Energy Storage Development Pipeline





ireland electrified

Electrify Heat & Transport



Build New Industry



Long-Duration Energy Storage



We believe in a clean, affordable
electrified future.

We believe Ireland will be **energy independent.**

We're looking forward to working with
you to build an **Irish electrostate.**



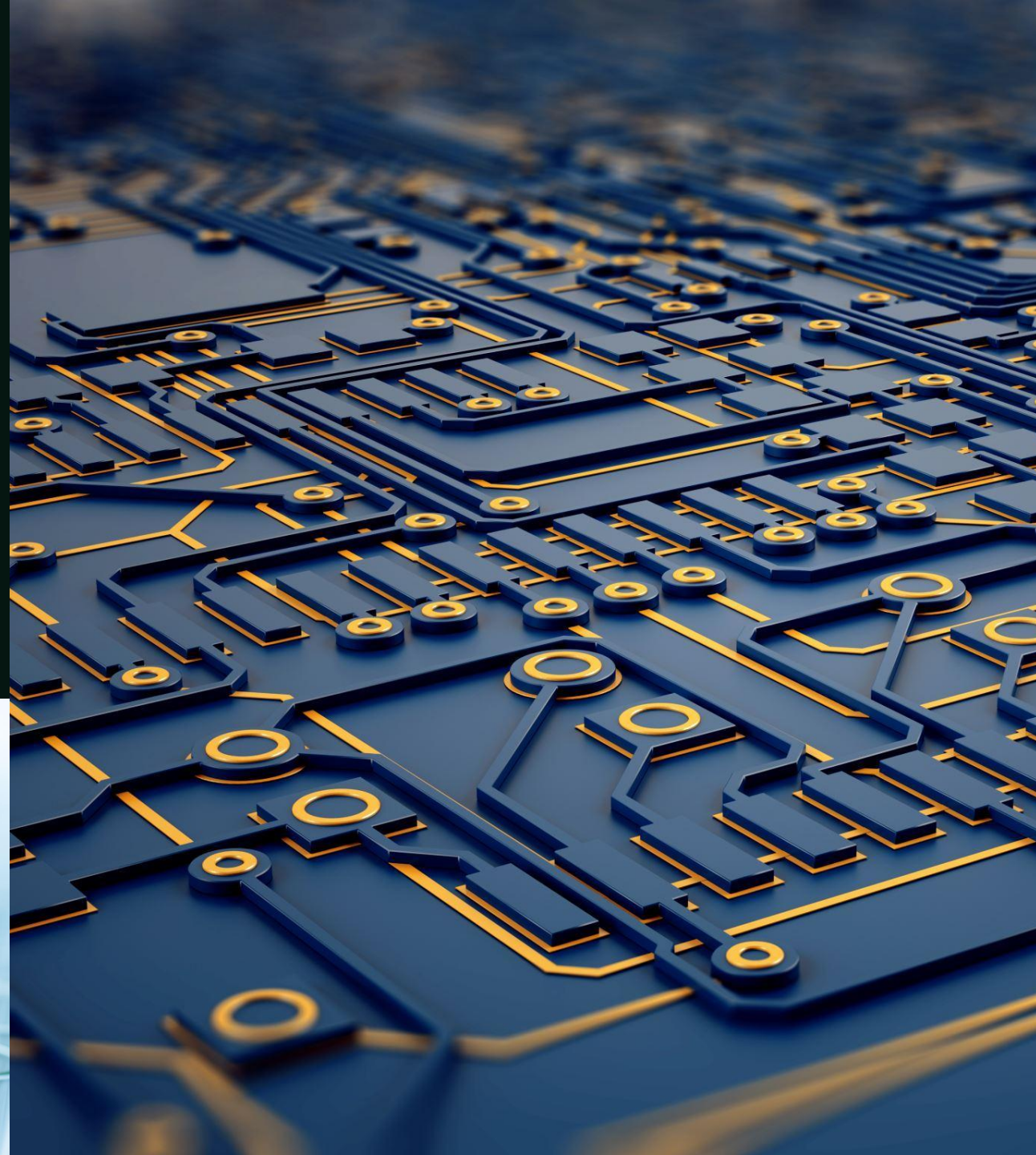


**WIND ENERGY
IRELAND**

windenergyireland.com

Policy environment & Next Generation Sites

Dr. Matt Kennedy, 16.4.2026



Drivers

The three main drivers of industrial energy demand are:

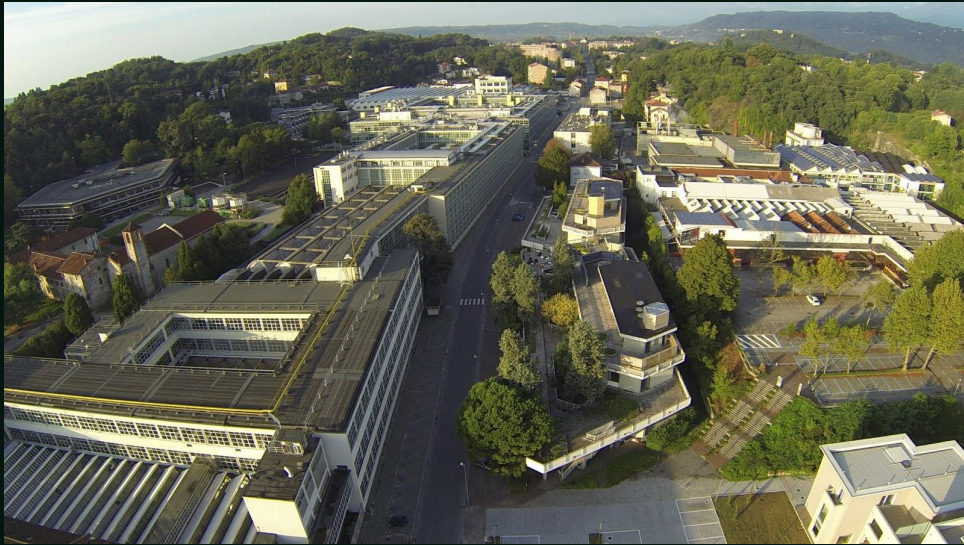
- Decarbonising established industry, requiring access to reinforced grid capacity to replace fossil fuels with cleaner electric technologies.
- Supporting the growth of existing operations, which increases energy needs and necessitates a shift to renewable solutions.
- Attracting new investments, as companies increasingly require access to clean, cost competitive, secure, and scalable energy

Rich policy environment



- The latest CRU Price Review 6, enabling a record investment in the transmission and distribution grid
- Publication of the CRU review of Large Energy Users Connection Policy
- Commencement of the Celtic Interconnector project with France
- New Private Wires policy statement
- Critical Infrastructure Bill 2026
- Recent offshore wind auction

The What



Large-scale and
development-ready

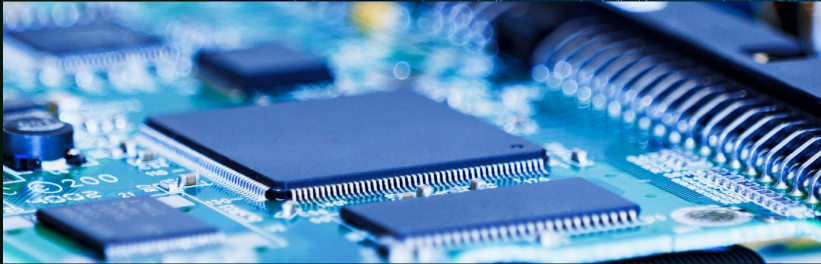
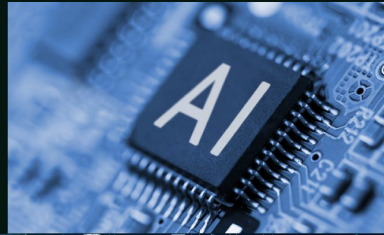
Fully serviced with essential
utilities

Targeted at strategic
high-growth industries

Forward planned to attract
mega-projects

Next Generation Sites

The Why



 IDA Ireland

Adapt Intelligently Growth Drivers

Silicon Island and the EU Chips Act

Competitiveness & Productivity

National Life Sciences Strategy

The Where



Strategic Locations

Urban Adjacency

Public Transport Accessibility

Serviceable

Scalability

Renewable Opportunities

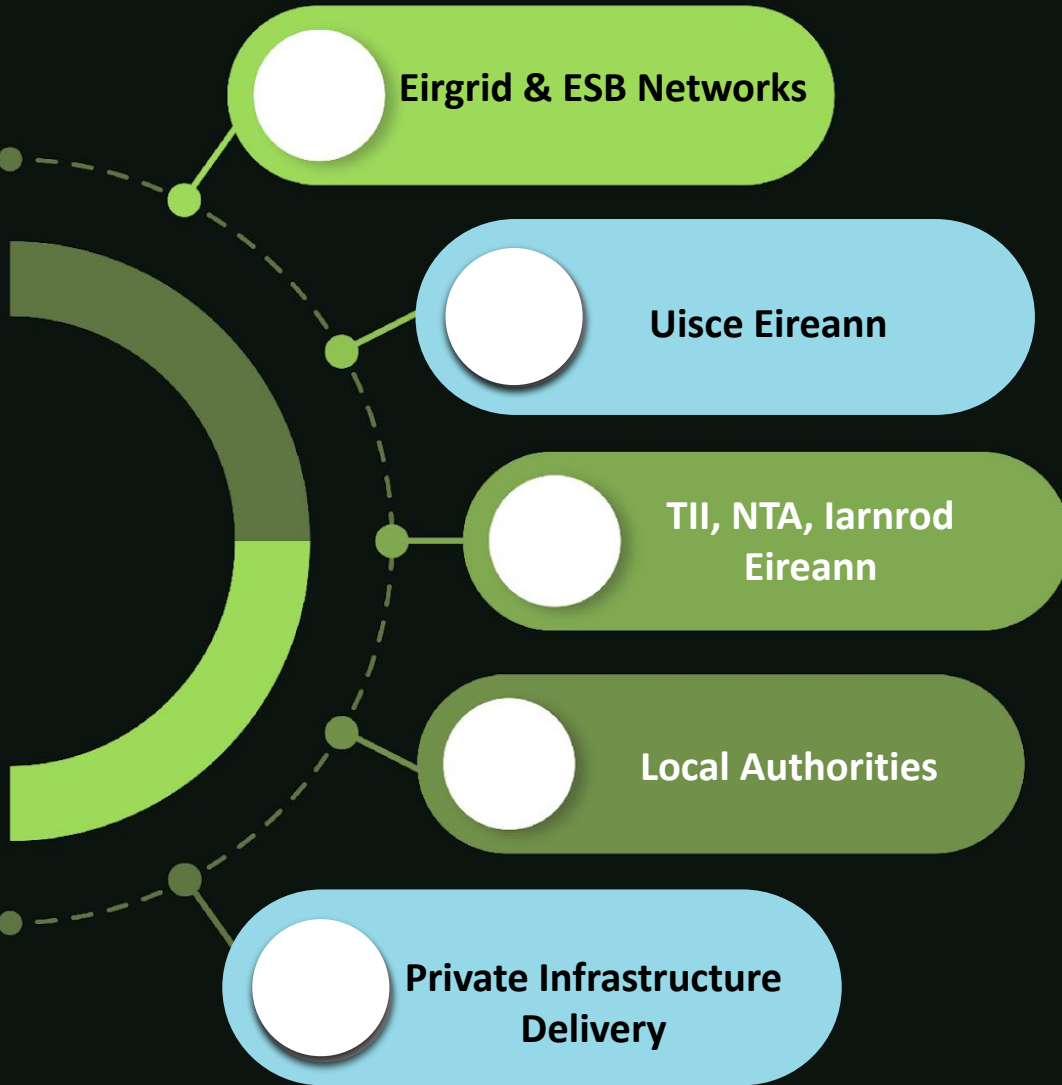
Availability

Viability

The How



The How

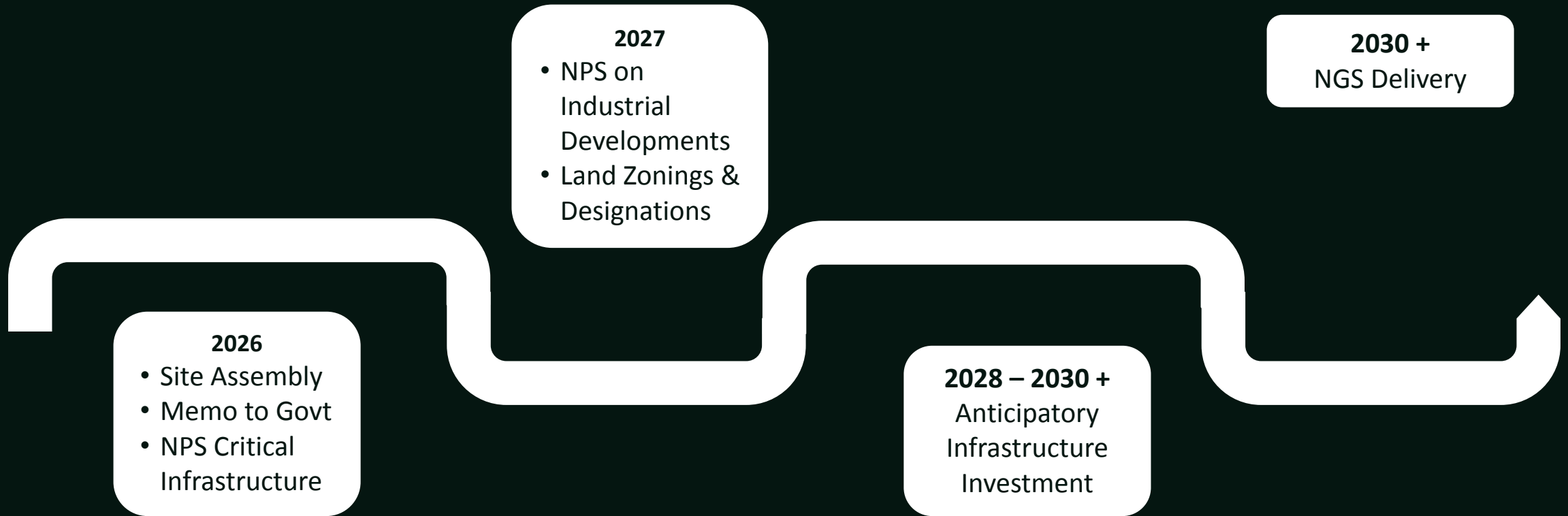


Next Generation Sites

Infrastructure Readiness

- **National Development Plan**
- **Departmental Sectoral Plans**
- **Accelerating Infrastructure**
- **Stakeholder Engagement**
- **Private Delivery**

The When



Having a secure, competitive energy supply is fundamental to retaining and expanding our FDI base and driving success across the enterprise sector.

Maintaining a sharp focus on delivering increased grid capacity and competitive energy costs in 2026 and beyond is critical for Ireland's ongoing economic success and its ambition to lead in the green economy

Thank you

