Renewable energy policy database and support – RES-LEGAL EUROPE

National profile: Ireland

Client: DG Energy

Contact author: Ilze Upatniece, policy@eclareon.com

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eclareon GmbH

Luisenstraße 41
10117 Berlin
Germany
Phone : +49 30 246 86 90
Fax: +49 30 246 286 94
www.eclareon.com

Öko-Institut

P.O. Box 1771
79017 Freiburg
Germany
Phone : +49 761 45295-30
Fax: +49 761 45295-88
www.oeko.de

ECN

P.O. Box 1
1755 ZG Petten
The Netherlands
Phone : +31-224-564450
Fax: +31-224-568486
www.ecn.nl

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Ireland - summary text

In Ireland, electricity from renewable sources is mainly promoted through a feed-in-tariff scheme (REFIT). There is also a tax relief scheme for corporate investments in projects generating electricity from renewable sources (solar, wind, biomass, and hydro). Renewable energy sources for heating purposes are promoted through a grant and a tax return. The main incentive for renewable energy use in transport is a quota system.

Access of electricity from renewable sources to the grid shall be granted according to the principle of non-discrimination and renewable energy plants are connected under the so-called Group Processing Approach (GPA). Regarding the use of the grid, operators are obliged to provide an offer for use to every operator of an (renewable) energy plant. Grid operators are generally obliged to develop the grid system. However, individual plant operators do not have the right to demand grid expansion.

There are also policies in place that promote the use of RES installations.

RES-E support schemes

Summary of support schemes

Overview	In Ireland, electricity from renewable sources is mainly promoted through a feed-in-tariff scheme (REFIT) that operates as a floor price. The entities entitled to this tariff are those suppliers that purchase electricity from renewable sources from generators with whom they have entered into a commercially negotiated REFIT Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). This regulatory system incentivises the generation of electricity from renewable sources. Additionally, a tax relief scheme for corporate investments in projects generating electricity from renewable sources (solar, wind, biomass, and hydro) aims to encourage investments in RES. The scheme was introduced in 1998 and was recently extended until 31 December 2014 (section 486B TCA 1997 amended by section 25 Finance Act 2012).
Summary of support system	The **Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff (**REFIT) schemes support various renewable electricity generation technologies. The entities entitled to the feed-in tariff are those suppliers that purchase electricity from renewable sources from generators with whom they have entered into a commercially negotiated REFIT Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). This regulatory system incentivises the generation of electricity from renewable sources. Additionally, the **tax relief scheme** for corporate investments in certain renewable energy projects aims to encourage the growth of electricity generation capacity using RES technologies.
Technologies	Ireland first announced the REFIT scheme in 2006 to promote the construction of wind energy, biomass and hydro plants.. The scheme, now called 'REFIT 1' to distinguish it from the other schemes, obtained state aid clearance in 2007and allowed new applications to be accepted until 31/12/09. Currently, two new schemes (REFIT 2 and REFIT 3) obtained state aid clearance and opened in 2012 for new applications. REFIT 2 covers small and large scale onshore wind, small hydro (≤ 5MW), and biomass landfill gas whereas REFIT 3 covers only biomass technologies. Both schemes cover new projects built and operational between 2010 and 2015.

	Regarding the tax relief scheme, projects generating electricity from solar, wind, biomass, and hydro (including ocean, wave or tidal energy) are eligible for the support.
Statutory provisions	• ERA (Electricity Regulation Act 1999) • REFIT 1 (Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff 2006) • S.I. No. 158 of 2012 (Sustainable Energy Act 2002 (Section 8(2) Conferral of additional functions - Renewable Energy) Order2012). • REFIT 2 (Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff 2012) • REFIT 3 (Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff 2012) • Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (TCA) and its amending acts: Finance Act 1998 (inserted section 486B Relief for Investments in Renewable Energy Generation), Finance Act 2002, Finance Act 2004, Finance Act 2007, and Finance Act 2012 (extended the scheme until 2014).

Basic information on legal sources

Name of legal source **(original language)**	Electricity Regulation Act 1999 (ERA)	Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff 2006 (REFIT 1).	Statutory Instrument No 158 of 2012 (Sustainable Energy Act 2002 (Section 8(2) Conferral of additional functions - Renewable Energy) Order2012).
Full name		Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff 2006 (REFIT 1): A Competition for Electricity Generation from Biomass, Hydro and Wind	
Name (English)			
Abbreviated form	ERA	REFIT 1	S.I. No 158 of 2012
Entry into force	11.07.1999	23.12.2004	11.05.2012
Last amended on	31.12.2012.	13.11.2012.	
Future amendments	Annually		
Purpose	General law regulating the energy market.	The REFIT Terms and Conditions are non-statutory terms and conditions. REFIT is paid through a Public Service Obligation (PSO) set out in the ERA and Statutory Instrument (SI) 217 of 2002. On an annual basis, an	This regulation adds functions to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)

		Order is issued relating to REFIT which updates the list of projects that are eligible to be paid under the PSO. So far, the following Orders have been published: SI 217 of 2002 SI 284 of 2008 SI 444 of 2009 SI 532 of 2010 SI 513 of 2011 SI 438 of 2012 PSO Decision 2008/2009 PSO Decision 2009/2010 PSO Decision 2010/2011 PSO Decision 2011/2012 PSO Decision 2012/2013	
Relevance for renewable energy	Section 39 of the ERA constitutes the legal basis for the support schemes for renewable energy.	Supports the construction of renewable energy plants through a feed-in tariff.	The additional functions relate to information, training, and promotion of renewable technologies. The SEAI has to provide information to the public on support measures for renewables introduced by the Government.
Link to full text of legal source (original language)	*http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1999/en/act/pub/0023/index.html*	*http://www.dcmnr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/E260E316-B65A-4FDC-92F0-9F623BA18B55/0/REFITtermsandconditi*	*http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2012/en*

		ons.doc REFIT 1 Change Document (as of August 2012): *http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/F16044A6-B30C-4362-AF6A-E09AEDF7B848/0/REFIT1ChangeDocument.pdf*	*/si/0158.html*
Link to full text of legal source (English)			

Name of legal source **(original language)**	Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff 2012 (REFIT 2)	Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff 2012 (REFIT 3)	Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (TCA)
Full name	Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff 2012 (REFIT 2): A Competition for Electricity Generation from Onshore Wind, Hydro and Biomass Landfill Gas Technologies 2010-2015.	Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff 2012 (REFIT 3): A Competition for Electricity Generation from Biomass technologies 2010-2015.	
Name (English)			
Abbreviated form	REFIT 2	REFIT 3	TCA 1997
Entry into force	22.03.2012	27.02.2012	30.11.1997
Last amended on	24.08.2012	24.08.2012	02.04.2012
Future amendments			
Purpose	REFIT 2 sets the terms and conditions for the payment of the Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff to electricity produced from wind, small hydro and biomass landfill gas technologies. The scheme is funded through the Public Service Obligation (PSO).	REFIT 3 sets the terms and conditions for the payment of the Renewable Energy Feed in Tariff to electricity produced from biomass technologies. The scheme is funded through the Public Service Obligation (PSO) .	This act sets the main provisions for taxation in Ireland.

Relevance for renewable energy	Promotes the construction of renewable energy plants through a feed-in tariff.	Supports the construction of renewable energy plants through a feed-in tariff.	A tax relief scheme for corporate investments in projects generating electricity from renewable sources (solar, wind, biomass, and hydro, including ocean, wave or tidal energy) was introduced to the TCA in 1998.
Link to full text of legal source (original language)	*http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/DF253F94-8366-4DE0-A2E6-DFA244E634DD/0/REFIT2TermsandConditionsMarch2012c.pdf* REFIT 2 Change Document (as of August 2012): http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/8C29B468-6509-428C-BF8B-BA78BC154B9F/0/REFIT2ChangeDocument.pdf	*http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/66F84902-6F06-49B8-8861-4AAE06641FFD/0/BiomassREFITTermsandConditionsTransferring.pdf* REFIT 3 Change Document (as of August 2012): http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/32CFCE87-22A7-409B-979F-527291B2C0B6/0/REFIT3ChangeDocument.pdf	*http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/pdf/1997/en.act.1997.0039.pdf* Link to Finance Act 2012: *http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2012/en/act/pub/0009/index.html*
Link to full text of legal source (English)			

Further information

Institution (name)	Website	Name of contact person (optional)	Telephone number (head office)	E-mail (optional)
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR)	http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/		+353 167 82 000	
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)	http://www.seai.ie/		+353 1 808 21 00	info@seai.ie
Commission for Energy Regulation (CER)	http://www.cer.ie/en/renewables-overview.aspx		+353 140 008 00	Info@cer.ie
EirGrid – transmission system operator	http://www.eirgrid.com/		+353 167 717 00	info@eirgrid.com
Revenue Commissioners (Revenue): Irish Tax and Customs	http://www.revenue.ie/en/index.html		+353 1 702 3011	

Support Schemes

Feed-in tariff (Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff - REFIT)

Abbreviated form of legal source(s)	• REFIT 1 • REFIT 2 • REFIT 3 • ERA	
Contact Authority	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR)	
Summary	In Ireland, electricity from renewable sources is promoted through a feed-in-tariff scheme. The entities entitled to the feed-in tariff are those suppliers that purchase electricity from renewable sources from generators with whom they have entered into a commercially negotiated REFIT Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). There are three REFIT schemes and they establish guaranteed support prices for various sources of energy, i.e. minimum prices for each category of electricity (5.1 REFIT 1, REFIT 2, and REFIT 3). The original scheme, known as REFIT 1, only had state-aid clearance to accept new applications until 31/12/09. After that date, no new applications have been accepted under REFIT 1, although projects were granted time extension to become operational. According to recent changes (as of August 2012), projects in REFIT 1 may be granted extensions until 30/09/13, but no further extensions will be granted beyond that date. In 2012, two new schemes (REFIT 2 and REFIT 3) received state aid clearance and were open for new applications. REFIT 2 covers onshore wind (small and large scale), hydro (small scale), and biomass landfill gas (4.1 REFIT 2) whereas REFIT 3 covers the biomass categories of anaerobic digestion, biomass CHP, biomass combustion and biomass co-firing (4.1 REFIT 3). Project developers under REFIT 1 that do not meet the deadline of 30/09/13 may apply to transfer their projects to REFIT 2 or REFIT 3 if they meet the terms and conditions of these schemes.	
Eligible technologies	**General information**	REFIT 1 is closed for new applications. REFIT 2 offers support for onshore wind, small hydro and biomass landfill gas and REFIT 3 offers support for biomass categories including anaerobic digestions, biomass CHP, biomass combustion and biomass co-firing.

	Wind energy	Eligible (REFIT 2). • Onshore wind-power plants (differentiation between plants above and equal to or less than 5 MW) (5.1 REFIT2).
	Solar energy	
	Geothermal energy	
	Biogas	Eligible (REFIT 2 and REFIT 3). • Landfill gas is eligible under REFIT 2 and anaerobic digestion is eligible under REFIT 3.
	Hydro-power	Eligible (REFIT 2). • Plants with a capacity of up to 5 MW (2.1 REFIT 2).
	Biomass	Eligible (REFIT 3: • Biomass (CHP) • Biomass Combustion (including co-firing with peat)
Amount	**General information**	The amount of payment is based on a reference price (5.1 REFIT 1, REFIT 2, and REFIT 3). According to the table provided at REFIT 2 and REFIT 3, the reference prices for each technology category in 2012 are as follows (prices in €ct per kWh):
	Wind energy	• **Large-scale wind-power plants (exceeding 5 MW):** €ct 6.9 per kWh (5.1 REFIT 2) • **Small-scale wind-power plants (up to and including 5 MW):** €ct 6.8 per kWh (5.1 REFIT 2)

	Solar energy	
	Geothermal energy	
	Biogas	• **Landfill gas:** €ct 8.5 per kWh (5.1 REFIT 2) • **Anaerobic Digestion (CHP, up to and including 500 kW):** €ct 15.6 per kWh (5.1 REFIT 3) • **Anaerobic Digestion (CHP, exceeding 500 kW):** €ct 13.6 per kWh (5.1 REFIT 3) • **Anaerobic Digestion (non-CHP, up to and including 500 kW):** €ct 11.5 per kWh (5.1 REFIT 3) • **Anaerobic Digestion (non-CHP, exceeding 500 kW):** €ct 10.4 per kWh (5.1 REFIT 3)
	Hydro-power	• **Hydro-electric power plants:** €ct 8.8 per kWh (5.1 REFIT 2)
	Biomass	• **CHP from biomass (up to and including 1.5 MW):** €ct 14.6 per kWh (5.1 REFIT 3) • **CHP from biomass (exceeding 1.5 MW):** €ct 12.5 per kWh (5.1 REFIT 3) • **Biomass combustion using energy crops:** €ct 9.9 per kWh (5.1 REFIT 3) • **Biomass combustion for all other biomass:** €ct 8.9 per kWh (5.1 REFIT 3)
Degression	**General information**	The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) annually adjusts the reference prices by the increase, if any, in the consumer price index (5.2 REFIT 1, REFIT 2, and REFIT 3).

	Wind energy	
	Solar energy	
	Geothermal energy	
	Biogas	
	Hydro-power	
	Biomass	
Cap	State-aid clearance for REFIT 1 was for 400 MW of new renewable generation (4.1 REFIT 1). State-aid clearance for REFIT 2 is for 4000 MW of new renewable generation in the onshore wind, biomass landfill gas and small hydro categories (4.1 REFIT 2). REFIT 3 covers 310 MW of certain biomass-related categories, divided as follows: 50 MW of anaerobic digestion (including AD CHP), 100 MW of biomass CHP, and 160 MW of biomass combustion (including biomass co-firing with peat) (4.1 REFIT 3). In the period 2012/2013 1,380 MW of renewable energy capacity will be supported.	
Eligibility period	Eligibility to the REFIT scheme is limited as follows: • **Limited eligibility period.** The duration of support is limited and depends on the term of the individual Power Purchase Agreement (PPA); however, the term of the agreement shall not exceed a period of 15 years (8.1 REFIT 1, REFIT 2, REFIT 3). The PPA shall include the purchasing terms, such as the price and the minimum amount of electricity to be purchased. • **Premature termination.** An applicant may withdraw the project from the schemes (REFIT 2 and REFIT 3) and leave the PPA for the open market by giving a notice (12 months prior to the date of the withdrawal) to the Minister and the supplier (8.7 REFIT 2 and REFIT 3).	
Addressees	**Entitled party.** The persons entitled are the electricity suppliers that have concluded a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with an eligible renewable generator. Renewable generators are eligible if they have been accepted by and received a	

	"letter of offer" (7.3 REFIT 2 and REFIT 3) from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR). In order to receive the letter of offer, the applicant (a developer of new renewable generation) is obliged to provide the following evidence to the Department (7.4 of REFIT2): • a proof of planning permission for the proposed new renewable generation plant; • the grid operator's connection offer; the indicative date of construction. In the case of CHP technologies, another requirement must be fulfilled (7.4 REFIT 3): • developers must demonstrate that their projects meet the High Efficiency CHP standard under Directive 2004/08/EC) and have been certified by the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER); **Obligated party.** The electricity consumer is obliged to pay REFIT costs through the PSO under the relevant legislation. The CER (Commission for Energy Regulation) calculates and certifies the PSO related to REFIT and is responsible for the ex ante calculation and ex post correction of amounts payable to suppliers, i.e. the CER provides an estimate which will be adjusted later.	
Procedure	**Process Flow**	New renewable electricity producers shall apply to the Department of Communications to be accepted into the REFIT schemes. Amongst other documents, they shall supply proof of grid access as well as planning permission. Within 60 working days of receipt of a letter of offer, they shall enter into a REFIT Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with a licensed supplier (9.10 REFIT 2 and REFIT 3).
	Competent authority	The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources administers the REFIT schemes and processes REFIT applications. The energy regulator (CER) is responsible for the calculation and certification of the PSO REFIT payments.

Flexibility Mechanism		
Distribution of costs	**State**	
	Consumers	The REFIT schemes are funded through the Public Service Obligation (PSO) and charged to all electricity consumers (6.1 REFIT 2). Thus, the consumers bear the costs of the support system, which are included in the electricity prices.
	Plant operator	The CER calculates and certifies the PSO REFIT payments and is responsible for the ex ante calculation and ex post correction of amounts payable to suppliers. Anyone in receipt of REFIT payments must be listed in the annual REFIT statutory instrument (6 REFIT 2 and REFIT 3). The payments are sent to the suppliers by the transmission system operator (EirGrid).
	Grid operator	
	European Union	
	Distribution mechanism	

Tax regulation mechanisms (Taxes Consolidation Act 1997)

Abbreviated form of legal source(s)	• Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (TCA) and its amending acts.	
Contact Authority	Revenue Commissioners	
Summary	Section 62 of Finance Act 1998 introduced section 486B at the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 and provided for a scheme of tax relief for corporate investments in certain renewable energy projects. The scheme aims to facilitate the growth of electricity generation capacity using RES. The scheme has been periodically extended and was recently extended until 31 December 2014 (section 486B TCA 1997 amended by section 25 Finance Act 2012). The scheme is open for applications on a continual basis.	
Eligible technologies	**General information**	In general, projects generating electricity from renewable sources (solar, wind, biomass, and hydro, including ocean, wave or tidal energy) are eligible.
	Wind energy	Eligible
	Solar energy	Eligible
	Geothermal energy	
	Biogas	
	Hydro-power	Eligible (including ocean, wave or tidal energy)
	Biomass	Eligible
Amount	The tax relief is based on part or the entire sum invested by a company in new shares of a renewable energy project. The capital expenditure, for the purpose of calculating the amount admissible for the tax relief, is capped at 50% of such expenditure	

	(excluding lands) or at € 9.5 million on any individual project, whichever is the lesser (section 486B (5) TCA). Additionally, investments by a company or group is capped at € 12.7 million per annum and the shares shall be held for at least 5 years by the corporate investor, otherwise the tax relief shall be withdrawn (section 486B (6) TCA).	
Addressees	**Entitled Party**: Companies investing in certain renewable energy generation projects. **Obligated Party**: The Irish Revenue Commissioners process the application for tax relief.	
Procedure	**Process flow**	To qualify for the tax relief, the energy project must be approved by the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (MCENR). The process flow can be summarised as follows: • First, the renewable energy electricity generator (i.e. a qualifying company) must apply and obtain a certificate from the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (MCENR) certifying the project as a "qualifying energy project". • Afterwards, this company must also obtain a certificate from the Revenue Commissioners certifying that the company and the project are in compliance with the requirements of section 486B TCA. • In the sequence, the qualifying company and the investment company agree on the terms of the investment. • Finally, the investment company submits an application for tax relief to the Revenue Commissioners.
	Competent authority	The Revenue Commissioners process the application for tax relief.

Flexibility Mechanism		
Distribution of costs	**State**	The costs are borne by the State.
	Consumers	
	Plant operator	
	Grid operator	
	European Union	
	Distribution mechanism	

RES-E grid issues

Overview

Overview of grid issues	In Ireland, access of electricity from renewable sources to the grid is subject to the provisions of Statutory Instrument 147 of 2011 and direction from the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER). The Gate 3 process provides a level of priority connection for RES. However, renewable energy plants are connected according to a special procedure ("Group Processing Approach"), which aims to increase the reliability of the connection procedure for the plant operators. The rollout and implementation of Gate 3 by the regulator, TSO and DSO is designed to ensure that Ireland can reach its 40% RES-E target.
Connection to the grid	Under the Group Processing Approach ('Gate') connection capacity has been reserved for renewable generation, including enough to specifically meet the 40% RES-E target in the context of the overall target addressed to Ireland under Directive 2009/28/EC. To date, there have been three 'Gates.' Gate 1 was finalised in December 2004 and processed applications equating to 373 MW of renewable capacity. Gate 2 processed applications equating up to 1300 MW and in 2008, the Commission for Energy Regulation approved Gate 3, which provides for 3900 MW of new additional renewable generation. There is also a policy that aims to facilitate renewables by providing for grid connections outside the gate process for certain small, renewable, low carbon generators.
Use of the grid	Under S.I. 147 of 2011 the transmission system operator and distribution system operator shall ensure that electricity generated from renewable sources is transmitted and distributed. Moreover, electricity from renewable sources shall be given priority dispatch unless this poses a risk to the security and stability of the grid.
Grid development	The grid operators are generally obliged to operate and develop the grids in accordance with the applicable legislation. The base transmission network is planned and controlled by the TSO. The costs of the base transmission and distribution network are recovered through tariffs imposed on the use of both the transmission and distribution system, by all users including generators.

Statutory provisions	• ERA (Electricity Regulation Act 1999) last amended by S.I. No. 630 of 2011 European Communities (Internal Market in Natural Gas and Electricity) Regulations 2011. • S.I. No. 445/2000 (European Communities (Internal Market in Electricity) Regulations, 2000) • S.I. No. 147/2011 (European Communities (Renewable Energy) Regulations, 2011) • CER/04/381 (Direction on Resuming Connection Offers to Wind Generators) • CER/05/049 (Group Processing Approach for Renewable Generator Connection Applications. Connection and Pricing Rules. Direction to System Operators) • CER/08/260 (Criteria for Gate 3 Renewable Generators Offers & Related Matters. Direction to the System Operators) • CER/09/099 (Treatment of Small, Renewable and Low Carbon Generators outside the Group Processing Approach) • CER/09/192 - Direction on Detail for Allocating Scheduled Firm Access in Gate 3 ITC Programme

Basic information on legal sources

Name of legal source (original language)	Electricity Regulation Act 1999 (ERA)	Statutory Instrument 445 of 2000 – European Communities (Internal Market in Electricity) Regulations, 2000	Statutory Instrument 147 of 2011 - European Communities (Renewable Energy) Regulations, 2011
Full name			
Name (English)			
Abbreviated form	ERA	S.I. 445 of 2000	S.I. 147 of 2011
Entry into force	11.07.1999	20.12.2000	28.03.2011
Last amended on	31.12.2012.		
Future amendments			
Purpose	General law regulating the energy market.	This regulation includes provisions to regulate the energy market.	This regulation transposes European Directive 2009/28/EC into Irish law.
Relevance for renewable energy	Section 39 of the ERA constitutes the legal basis for the support schemes for renewable energy.	It also applies to the use of the grid by electricity from renewable sources.	This regulation applies to renewable energy only.
Link to full text of legal source (original language)	*http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1999/en/act/pub/0023/index.html*	*http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2000/en/si/0445.html#parti*	*http://www.attorneygeneral.ie/esi/2011/B28381.pdf*

	S.I. 630 of 2011: *http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2011/en/si/0630.html*		
Link to full text of legal source (English)			

Name of legal source **(original language)**	CER/04/381 – Direction on Resuming Connection Offers to Wind Generators	CER/05/049 - Group Processing Approach for Renewable Generator Connection Applications. Connection and Pricing Rules. Direction to System Operators	CER/08/260 – Criteria for Gate 3 Renewable Generators Offers & Related Matters. Direction to the System Operators
Full name			
Name (English)			
Abbreviated form	CER/04/381	CER/05/049	CER/08/260
Entry into force	23.12.2004	06.04.2005	16.12.2008
Last amended on			
Future amendments			
Purpose	This CER direction abolishes the grid connection procedure applicable until 2004 and introduces the so-called Group Processing Approach for wind power plants.	This direction includes implementing regulations for the Group Processing Approach to the connection of renewable energy plants.	This direction specifies rules to implement the latest round of connection offers ("Gate 3") issued under the Group Processing Approach.
Relevance for renewable energy	This decision introduces the group processing approach to the connection of wind power plants.	This direction applies to the connection of renewable energy plants only.	This direction sets out rules for the connection process for renewable energy plants under Gate 3.

Link to full text of legal source (original language)	*http://www.cer.ie/GetAttachment.aspx?id=dab4d3f3-354d-465d-908f-23f0f7df2b3a*	*http://www.cer.ie/GetAttachment.aspx?id=2c308364-7459-4bdd-943a-6e5de23a749f*	*http://www.cer.ie/GetAttachment.aspx?id=54270766-56dc-4ddf-b0a1-d3be66a23df1*
Link to full text of legal source (English)			

Name of legal source (original language)	CER/09/099 – Treatment of Small, Renewable and Low Carbon Generators outside the Group Processing Approach	CER/09/192 - Direction on Detail for Allocating Scheduled Firm. Access in Gate 3 ITC Programme	
Full name			
Name (English)			
Abbreviated form	CER/09/099	CER/09/192	
Entry into force	24.07.2009	18.12.2009	
Last amended on			
Future amendments			
Purpose	This decision document specifies the situations in which small renewable energy plants may be processed outside the Group Processing Approach.	The CER/09/192 refers to the allocation of scheduled firm capacity in the ITC (EirGrid's Incremental Transfer Capacity) Programme, which is part of Gate 3.	
Relevance for renewable energy	In accordance with this decision, small renewable energy plants may be treated outside the Group Processing Approach if they meet certain requirements.	The CER/09/192 refers to the allocation of scheduled firm capacity to both renewable and conventional applicants in the ITC Programme.	
Link to full text of legal source (original language)	*http://www.cer.ie/GetAttachment.aspx?id=eda74811-2364-4ec4-865e-7c3d84023114*	*http://www.cer.ie*	
Link to full text of legal source (English)			

Further information

Institution (name)	Website	Name of contact person (optional)	Telephone number (head office)	E-mail (optional)
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR)	http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/		+353 167 82 000	Customer.service@dcenr.gov.ie
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)	http://www.seai.ie/		+353 1 808 21 00	renewables@reio.ie
EirGrid – transmission system operator	http://www.eirgrid.com/		+353 167 717 00	info@eirgrid.com
ESB Networks – distribution system operator	http://www.esb.ie/esbnetworks/en/home/index.jsp		+353 21 49 47 260	esbnetworks@esb.ie
Commission for Energy Regulation (CER)	http://www.cer.ie/en/renewables-overview.aspx		+353 140 008 00	Info@cer.ie
The Association of Irish Energy Agencies (AIEA)	http://www.aiea.ie/home		+353 52 744 30 90	info@aiea.ie
Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA)	http://www.iwea.com/		+353 45 899341	office@iwea.com

Grid issues

Connection to the grid

Abbreviated form of legal sources	• ERA • CER/04/381 • CER/05/049 • CER/08/260 • CER/09/099 • CER/09/192	
Contact Authority	**EirGrid**	
Overview	The Irish grid operators are obliged to provide a connection offer to every operator of a (renewable) energy plant if the plant operator has applied for such a connection (Sec. 34 (1) ERA). A plant operator's contractual claim for connection arises when the connection agreement is concluded. **Entitled party.** The entities entitled are the plant operators (4 CER/05/049). **Obligated party.** The parties obligated to establish connection are the grid operators (distribution/transmission system operator) (Sec. 34 (1) ERA). Since 2004, renewable energy plants have been connected within the so-called Group Processing Approach according to a decision by the Irish regulatory authority CER (CER/04/381, Section 4 of CER/05/049). Under this approach, grid connection applications are processed in groups, through a series of so-called "Gates", and plants are connected in groups as well. The current Group Processing Approach (GPA), Gate 3, is processing applications equating to 3.900 MW of renewable capacity. Small plants (in general below 5 MW; wind energy plants below 0.5 MW) may be treated outside the Group Processing Approach if their connection is in the public interest and the regulatory authority agrees to grant exemption (4.4 CER/05/049, CER/09/099).	
Procedure	**Process flow**	The connection process for renewable energy plants usually comprises the following steps: • The plant operator applies to the grid operator (Eirgrid (TSO) or ESB Networks

		(DSO)) for connection. • The grid operator makes a connection offer. • The plant operator must accept the offer within 50 working days. • Group Processing Approach: The connection application joins the application queue. Applications are processed and plants are connected in groups. • Small-scale plants: Small plants are treated outside the Group Processing Approach if they meet certain requirements. The currently applicable procedure is defined in the ERA and in a decision by the regulatory authority (CER/08/260). EirGrid runs the ITC (Incremental Transfer Capacity) Programme to identify the scheduled firm transmission capacity to be provided to Gate 3 projects for each year from 2010 to 2025 (CER/08/260). CER/09/192 provides for the allocation of scheduled firm capacity in the ITC Program.
	Deadlines	The grid connection offer shall specify a term for connection or a deadline by which the plant shall be connected to the grid (CER/04/319, 4.2. CER/05/049). Offers for connection to the transmission grid may include "milestones" which the plant operator has to achieve within the period from the connection agreement to the establishment of connection (4.2. CER/05/049). The possibility to define milestones does not exist for offers for connection to the distribution grid. A plant operator must accept the grid operator's connection offer within 50 working days (7.5 CER/08/260).
	Obligation to inform	
Priority to renewable energy **(qualitative criteria)**	( ) Priority to renewable energy (x) Non-discrimination	• **Non-discriminatory connection.** The grid operator is obliged to connect renewable energy plants without discriminating between any persons or classes of persons (Sec. 34 (8) ERA). The regulatory authority may decide that the connection of renewable energy plants shall be given priority (Sec. 9 (5) (e) ERA). So far, the regulatory authority has not taken such a decision.

		• **Group Processing Approach.** However, renewable energy plants are connected under the so-called Group Processing Approach (GPA). The GPA aims to speed up the connection of renewable energy plants by providing standardised procedural steps, and to increase connection security. This procedure was especially designed for RES plants (1 CER /05/049). • **Processing outside the Group Processing Approach:** Small plants may be treated outside the GPA. In general, this rule applies where plants have a capacity of up to 5 MW (wind energy plants are considered small if they have a capacity of up to 0.5 MW), connection is in the public interest, a connection can be established faster outside the GPA, and the regulatory authority has granted exemption from the GPA (4.4 CER/05/049, CER/09/099).
Capacity limits **(quantitative criteria)**	The total capacity of newly connected plants is limited, as the Gates have a planned maximum size. Gate 3 (current iteration) provides for connection offers for 3.900 MW of renewable capacity. This capacity will be sufficient to reach Ireland's renewable target of 40% of electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2020 (4.4 CER/08/260). It should be noted that the applicants for Gate 3 have already been selected. New applications will be processed only when all connection offers under Gate 3 have expired (50 working days after the connection offer was sent to the applicant) and Gate 3 can thus provide additional connection capacity, or when a new selection process ("Gate 4") is initiated (5.13, 7.5 CER/08/260). The maximum gate capacity does not apply where small plants are processed outside the GPA.	
Distribution of costs		
	State	
	Consumers	
	Grid operator	
	Plant operator	The plant operators are to bear the costs of connecting their plants to the grid (Sec. 34 (2) (d) ERA in conjunction with 4.8 (2) CER/05/049).
	European Union	

	Distribution mechanism	

Use of the grid

Abbreviated form of legal sources	• ERA • S.I. No. 147/2011 • CER/05/049	
Contact Authority	**EirGrid**	
Overview	The Irish grid operators are obliged to provide an offer for use to every operator of a (renewable) energy plant if the plant operator has applied for use of the grid (Sec. 34 (1) ERA). A plant operator's contractual claim for use of the grid arises when the grid use agreement is concluded. **Entitled party.** The entities entitled are the plant operators (4 CER/05/049). **Obligated party.** The entity obligated is the grid operator (Sec. 34 (1) ERA). In accordance with Sec. 9 (5) (e) ERA and Sec. 4 (1) (a), (b) S.I. No. 147/2011, renewable energy shall be given priority dispatch.	
Procedure	**Process flow**	In order to be able to use the grid, a plant operator shall apply to the grid operator for use of the grid (Sec. 34 (1) ERA). The grid operators are obliged by law to make an offer for use of the grid (Sec. 34 (1) ERA). Where a plant operator accepts this offer, this operator is contractually entitled against the other party to use the grid. Connection to and use of the grid are usually covered by a single agreement.
	Deadlines	The period of entitlement to use of the grid is defined in the grid use agreement between the plant operator and the grid operator.
	Obligation to inform	
Priority to renewable energy	(x) Priority to renewable energy	According to Sec. 9 (5) (e) ERA and Sec. 4 (1) (a), (b) S.I. No. 147/2011, renewable energy shall be given priority dispatch unless giving priority to renewable energy poses a risk to

(qualitative criteria)	( ) Non-discrimination	the security and stability of the grid.
Curtailment		
Distribution of costs		
	State	
	Consumers	
	Grid operator	
	Plant operator	The costs arising from the use of the grid are borne by the plant operators, who have to pay service charges (34 (4) ERA in conjunction with 4.8 (5) CER/05/049).
	European Union	
	Distribution mechanism	

Grid development

Abbreviated form of legal source	• ERA • S.I. No. 445/2000	
Contact Authority	**EirGrid**	
Overview	The Irish grid operators are generally obliged to operate and develop the grid system (Sec. 8 (1), Sec. 22 (2) S.I. No. 445/2000). However, this obligation does not confer to individual plant operators the right to demand from the grid operator that he should expand or develop his grid to connect a given plant to the grid or to export the electricity produced by a given plant to the grid. As far as connection to the grid is concerned, the grid operator shall bear the so-called „deep costs“, i.e. the costs related to a development of the grid which is required to connect additional renewable energy plants to the grid. **Obligated party.** The obligated entities are the grid operators (Sec. 8 (1), Sec. 22 (2) S.I. No. 445/2000).	
Procedure	**Process flow**	The plant operators are not entitled to the development of the grid.
	Enforcement of claims	
	Deadlines	
	Obligation to inform	
Regulatory incentives for grid expansion and innovation		
Distribution of costs		

	State	
	Consumers	
	Grid operator	The grid operator shall bear the costs arising from grid development works required to connect additional renewable energy plants to the grid and to ensure the proper operation of the grid.
	Plant operator	
	European Union	
	Distribution mechanism	
Grid studies	The 2008 All-Island Grid Study comprised of four work streams (Renewable Energy Resource Assessment, High Level Assessment of Suitable Generation Portfolios for the All-Island System in 2020, Wind Variability Management Studies, and Analysis of Impacts and Benefits) is available at: www.dcenr.gov.ie/Energy/North-South+Co-operation+in+the+Energy+Sector/All+Island+Electricity+Grid+Study.htm The Government White Paper - "Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland" with the strategy and the energy policy framework from 2007 to 2020 is available at: http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/54C78A1E-4E96-4E28-A77A-3226220DF2FC/30374/EnergyWhitePaper12March2007.pdf The Irish transmission system operator EirGrid published the "Grid 25-Report", which was officially acknowledged by the Irish government and provides an overview of which reinforcement works to the Irish transmission grid are required to meet the national renewable target of 40% by 2020: www.eirgrid.com/media/Grid%2025.pdf. According to Sec. 38 ERA and Condition 7 of its licence, the Irish TSO is obliged to publish a so-called "Transmission Forecast Statement", which analyses how the transmission grid will develop during the next seven years and describes the reinforcement	

	works to be implemented: www.eirgrid.com/aboutus/publications/transmissionforecaststatement2011-2017/

RES-H&C support schemes

Summary of support schemes

Overview	In Ireland, there are two main support schemes for RES-H: a €800 grant to homeowners for the installation of solar thermal installations through the Better Energy Homes scheme and a tax return to Irish companies of 100% of the purchase value of certain energy efficient equipments through the Accelerated Capital Allowance scheme.
Summary of support schemes	• **Subsidy**: The Better Energy Homes scheme allows homeowners of dwellings built before 2006 to apply for a € 800 grant aid for the installation of a solar thermal installation. • **Tax regulation mechanism**: The Accelerated Capital Allowance (ACA) scheme aims to encourage investments in energy efficient equipments and allows companies to write off 100% of the purchase value of qualifying energy efficient equipments against their profit in the year of purchase.
Technologies	• **Subsidy**: Solar thermal installations are eligible for the grant aid. • **Tax regulation mechanism**: A list of the eligible equipments can be found at the Triple E Products Register at the **Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (**SEAI). The ACA currently covers 10 different equipment categories and 52 associated technologies. With regards to RES, solar thermal collectors and heat pumps are covered.
Statutory provisions	• Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (TCA) and its amending acts. • Statutory Instrument 259 of 2011.

Basic information on legal sources

Name of legal source (original language)	Statutory Instrument (S.I) 259 of 2011	Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (TCA)	
Full name	Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 259 of 2011: Building Regulations (Part L Amendments) Regulations 2011		
Name (English)			
Abbreviated form	S.I. 259 of 2011	TCA 1997	
Entry into force	01.12.2011	30.11.1997	
Last amended on		02.04.2012	
Future amendments			
Purpose	This regulation amends Part L (Conservation of Fuel and Energy) of the Second Schedule to the Building Regulations 1997 - 2008 to set higher thermal performance / insulation standards for domestic buildings.	This act sets the main provisions for taxation in Ireland.	
Relevance for renewable energy	This regulation sets higher thermal performance / insulation standards for	The Accelerated Capital Allowances scheme was introduced to the TCA in	

	domestic buildings.	2008, which allows companies to write off 100% of the purchase value of certain energy efficient equipments.	
Link to full text of legal source (original language)	*http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2011/en/si/0259.html*	*http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/pdf/1997/en.act.1997.0039.pdf* Finance Act 2012: *http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2012/en/act/pub/0009/*	
Link to full text of legal source (English)			

Further information

Institution (name)	Website	Name of contact person (optional)	Telephone number (head office)	E-mail (optional)
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR)	http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/		+353 167 82 000	
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)	http://www.seai.ie/		+353 1 808 21 00	info@seai.ie
Revenue Commissioners (Revenue): Irish Tax and Customs	http://www.revenue.ie		+353 1 702 3011	

Support schemes

Subsidy (Better Energy Homes Scheme)

Abbreviated form of legal source(s)		
Contact Authority	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)	
Summary	Through the Better Energy Homes Scheme, homeowners of dwellings built before 2006 can apply for a € 800 grant aid for the installation of a solar thermal installation.	
Eligible technologies	**General information**	Solar thermal installations are eligible for the grant aid.
	Aerothermal	
	Hydrothermal	
	Biogas	
	Biomass	
	Geothermal energy	
	Solar Thermal	Eligible
Amount	Grants under the Better Energy Homes Scheme vary according to the type of measure adopted. For solar heating installations, for example, the amount is € 800. There is a minimum grant amount for the first application (€ 400) in order to encourage homeowners to consider more comprehensive energy efficiency solutions.	
Addressees	All homeowners of dwellings built before 2006 may apply.	

Procedure	**Process flow**	There are two ways to apply for grants from the Better Energy Homes Scheme: • **Online at the SEAI site** (response within 3 working days): http://www.seai.ie/Grants/Better_energy_homes/homeowner/How_to_apply/. - After the login, the user will fill the form with specific information, such as the Meter Point Reference Number (MPRN), the year the house was built (must be prior to 2006), the measure to be undertaken, and so on; - Afterwards, the applicant will receive per e-mail a Grant Offer and will have 72 hours to accept and validate the offer by e-mail. Once accepted, the Grant Offer is valid for 6 months from the date of issuance. • **Per post to the SEAI** (response within 20 working days). - After submitting the application form per post to the SEAI, a Grant Offer will be sent to the postal address and the homeowner will have 30 days to accept and validate it by returning the acceptance. Once accepted, the Grant Offer is valid for 6 months from the date of issuance. The scheme is a cash grant scheme and the payment is made by Electronic Funds Transfer to the applicant's bank.
	Competent authority	The **Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) administers the scheme.**
Flexibility mechanism		
Distribution of costs	**State**	The costs are borne by the State.
	Consumers	
	Plant operator	
	Grid operator	

	European Union	
	Distribution mechanism	

Tax regulation mechanism (Accelerated Capital Allowance scheme)

Abbreviated form of legal source(s)	• Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 (TCA 1997) • Accelerated Capital Allowance (ACA) scheme	
Contact Authority	Revenue Commissioners, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	
Summary	Section 46 of the Finance Act 2008 introduced section 285A to the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, which refers to the Accelerated Capital Allowance (ACA) scheme. The ACA scheme allows companies to write off 100% of the purchase value of certain energy efficient equipments against their profit in the year of purchase. Eligible criteria and eligible products are regularly updated through Statutory Instruments (e.g. S.I. 107 of 2012). Eligible equipments are listed in the Triple E Products Register at the **Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (**www.seai.ie/aca). The costs covered include acquisition, transport and installation of the equipment if they are directly related to the provision of the equipment. The scheme aims to encourage investments in energy efficient equipments and has been extended until 31 December 2014 by section 38 of the Finance Act 2011.	
Eligible technologies	**General information**	A list of the eligible equipments can be found at the Triple E Products Register at the **Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland** (SEAI). The ACA currently covers 10 different equipment categories and 52 associated technologies (Schedule 4A TCA 1997).
	Aerothermal	Eligible (Heat Pumps)
	Hydrothermal	Eligible (Heat Pumps)
	Biogas	
	Biomass	
	Geothermal energy	Eligible (Heat Pumps)
	Solar Thermal	Eligible (Solar Thermal Collectors)

Amount	The ACA allows companies to claim for the entire allowance (100% of the purchase value of specified energy efficient equipments) in the first year, instead of claiming for the standard capital allowance, which is generally given over an 8-year period and at an annual rate of 12.5% of the capital expenditure (section 285A(2) TCA 1997). There is a minimum expenditure to qualify for the ACA, which is € 1,000 for heating equipments (section 285A(6) TCA 1997).	
Addressees	**Entitled Party:** Companies paying corporation tax in Ireland. **Obligated Party:** The Irish Revenue Commissioners.	
Procedure	**Process flow**	The procedure to claim the ACA is similar to the way to claim the standard annual tax return. The steps can be summarized as follows: • First, the company decides on the equipment to be purchased and ensures that the equipment is listed on the Triple E Products Register. • Afterwards, the company claims the ACA for the purchased equipment on its tax return of income (form CT1) along with other wear and tear allowances for plant and machinery.
	Competent authority	The Irish Revenue Commissioners receives the claim for the ACA and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland maintains the list of qualifying equipments (section 285A(1),b TCA 1997).
Flexibility Mechanism		
Distribution of costs	**State**	The costs of the scheme are borne by the State.
	Consumers	
	Plant operator	
	Grid operator	
	European Union	

	Distribution mechanism	

RES-T support schemes

Summary of support schemes

Overview	In Ireland, the support scheme for renewable energy sources used in the transport sector is a quota system. This scheme obliges suppliers of fuels to ensure that biofuels make up to a defined percentage of the company's total annual sale of fuel.
Summary of support schemes	The Biofuels Obligation Scheme (BOS) obliges fuel suppliers to include a certain percentage (currently 6% by volume) of biofuels in their annual fuel sales. The scheme is administrated by a state agency (the National Oil Reserves Agency - NORA).
Technologies	The quota system applies to biofuels only.
Statutory provisions	• BOS 2010 (Energy (Biofuel Obligation and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2010 • NORA 2007 (National Oil Reserves Agency Act 2007 (Biofuel Obligation Rate) Order 2012)

Basic information on legal sources

Name of legal source (original language)	Energy (Biofuel Obligation and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2010	National Oil Reserves Agency Act 2007 (Biofuel Obligation Rate) Order 2012	
Full name	Energy (Biofuel Obligation and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2010	National Oil Reserves Agency Act 2007 (Biofuel Obligation Rate) Order 2012	
Name (English)			
Abbreviated form	BOS 2010	NORA 2007	
Entry into force	09.06.2010	13.03.2007.	
Last amended on	02.02.2012	21.12.2012.	
Future amendments			
Purpose	This act regulates the obligation to use a certain amount of biofuels in the transport sector in Ireland.	This act regulates the obligation to use a certain amount of biofuels in the transport sector in Ireland.	
Relevance for renewable energy	This act aims to promote the use of biofuels and sets a quota of biofuels to be used in the transport sector.	This act aims to promote the use of biofuels and sets a quota of biofuels to be used in the transport sector.	
Link to full text of legal source (original language)	*http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2010/en/act/pub/0011/index.html*	http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2007/en/act/pub/0007/index.html S.I. No. 562 of 2012:	

		http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/NR/rdonlyres/DC3F11A0-A1DF-48FB-ABFC-D6C1DEC68E34/0/B296264dlly.pdf	
Link to full text of legal source (English)			

Further information

Institution (name)	Website	Name of contact person (optional)	Telephone number (head office)	E-mail (optional)
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR)	http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/		+353 167 82 000	
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)	http://www.seai.ie/		+353 1 808 21 00	info@seai.ie
National Oil Reserves Agency (NORA)	http://www.nora.ie/		+ 353 1 676 9390	enquiries@nora.ie or bos@nora.ie

Support schemes

Biofuel quota (Biofuels Obligation Scheme - BOS)

Abbreviated form of legal source(s)	• BOS 2010 • NORA 2007	
Contact Authority	National Oil Reserves Agency (NORA)	
Summary	The National Oil Reserves Agency Act 2007 was amended by the Energy (Biofuel Obligation and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2010, or simply Biofuels Obligation Scheme (BOS), which introduced the Part 5A - Biofuel Obligation - to the Act 2007. The BOS came into effect in 2010 and compelled fuel suppliers to include a certain percentage of biofuels in their annual fuel sales. In 2012 the rate of biofuel obligation were increased from 4% by volume to 6% by volume (or 6.383 per cent by reference to petroleum products) as of 1 January 2013. The scheme is administrated by a state agency (the National Oil Reserves Agency - NORA).	
Eligible technologies	**General information**	Subject to the obligation are only biofuels.
	Biofuels	Biofuels have to meet the requirements defined in the European RES-Directive (section 44G(4) BOS). The biofuel sustainability criteria were regulated in Ireland through the S.I. 33 of 2012.
	Electricity	
	Hydrogen	
Amount	**Amount of quota and period of application**	The suppliers of fuels have to ensure that biofuels make up at least 6% by volume (4.8% by energy) of the company's total annual sale of fuel (section 44D(1) BOS). The Minister (DCENR) may, from time to time, review the percentage rate (section 44D(2) BOS).

		According to the information provided by the government to the questions from DG ENER on the Irish NREAP (Ref. ENER C1/TH/pd D(2011) 102445), the biofuel obligation quota will be increased as follows: • From start 2015: 8% by volume (6.4% by energy); • From start 2018: 10% by volume (8% by energy); From 2019: 10.5% by volume (8.4% by energy). NORA issues certificates for each liter of biofuel placed on the market. Generally, one certificate is issued for each liter of biofuel. However, two certificates will be awarded instead of one for biofuels produced from biodegradable waste, residue, non-food cellulosic material, ligno-cellulosic material or algae (section 44G (1) BOS).
	Adjustment of quotas	The percentage will be increased periodically.
	Fees and penalty charges	An obligated party who has a shortfall in the number of certificates at the end of the obligation period shall pay to the NORA a non-compliance fee, calculated in accordance with the formula X multiplied by Y, where X is the number of certificates short and Y is the price per liter of biofuel prescribed (currently € 0.45) (section 44J (1) BOS).
Addressees	The Biofuel Obligation applies to companies that supply fuels to the market.	
Procedure	**Process flow**	• The Agency (NORA) opens an account ('biofuel obligation account') to each obliged party (section 44E (1) BOS) to manage the issuance, transference and cancellation of

		biofuels certificates. The Agency might also open an account to a biofuel producer who is not an obliged party (section 44E (3) BOS). • NORA issues certificates for each liter of biofuel placed on the market. • The certificates are tradable amongst account holders and NORA issues quarterly statements of accounts (section 44H (1) BOS). • The first obligation period run from 1st July to 31st December 2010. Afterwards, the obligation period corresponds to the calendar year. • By the end of each calendar year, account holders have to ensure that they have enough certificates to comply with their biofuel obligation (section 44I BOS).
	Competent authority	The National Oil Reserves Agency (NORA) is responsible for the administration of the Biofuels Obligation Scheme (BOS). The NORA was established by the National Oil Reserves Agency Act 2007 as a state agency under the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR).
Flexibility Mechanism		
Distribution of costs	**State**	
	Consumers	The costs are borne by the consumers.
	European Union	

	Others	
	Distribution mechanism	The obliged companies pass on the costs arising from the quota obligation to the consumers by adding a surcharge to their fuel.

Policies

Summary of policies

Overview	In Ireland, a RD&D program to stimulate the deployment of renewable energy and training programs for installers of renewable energy plants are already in place. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland provides lists with qualified installers and certified products to inform consumers and public authorities, considering that public bodies are required to purchase energy efficient products. With regards to policies in the building sector, new buildings are required to comply with renewable energy requirements of Part L of the Building Regulations.
Summary of policies	• **Training Programmes for Installers**: An installer must complete a training course and obtain the appropriate qualification in order to be registered as an installer of renewable energy plants. • **Certification Programmes**: Public bodies shall only procure equipments and vehicles that satisfy certain energy efficiency criteria or are listed on the Triple E Products Register (Register) maintained by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). • **Exemplary role of Public Authorities**: Public bodies are required to achieve energy savings and purchase efficient products and vehicles. • **RD&D Policies**: The Renewable Energy RD&D Programme encourages the development of renewable energy technologies in Ireland. The Program grants funding to policy studies, field researches, feasibility studies and technology RD&D. • **RES-H Building**: New buildings are required to comply with renewable energy requirements of Part L of the Building Regulations, increasing the use of installations for sanitary hot water. • **Support of RES-H infrastructure**: District heating has played a limited role in Ireland.
Statutory provisions	• Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 259 of 2008 - Building Regulations (Part L Amendment) Regulations 2008 • Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 542 of 2009 - The European Communities (Energy End-use Efficiency and Energy Services) Regulations 2009 and its amending regulation S.I. 151 of 2011. • Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 158 of 2012 - Sustainable Energy Act 2002 (Section 8(2)) (Conferral of

	Additional Functions - Renewable Energy) Order2012. • Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 259 of 2011 - Building Regulations (Part L Amendment) Regulations 2011.

Basic information on legal sources

Name of legal source (original language)	Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 259 of 2008	Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 542 of 2009	Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 158 of 2012
Full name	Statutory Instrument 259 of 2008 - Building Regulations (Part L Amendment) Regulations 2008	Statutory Instrument 542 of 2009 - The European Communities (Energy End-use Efficiency and Energy Services) Regulations 2009	Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 158 of 2012 - Sustainable Energy Act 2002 (Section 8(2)) (Conferral of Additional Functions - Renewable Energy) Order2012.
Name (English)			
Abbreviated form	S.I. 259 of 2008	S.I. 542 of 2009	S.I. 158 of 2012
Entry into force	10.07.2008	18.12.2009	11.05.2012
Last amended on	01.12.2011	23.03.2011	
Future amendments			
Purpose	This regulation amends the Building Regulations 1997 (S.I. 497 of 1997)	This regulation sets energy efficiency saving targets.	This regulation confers additional functions to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
Relevance for renewable energy	This regulation amends the Building Regulations 1997 (S.I. 497 of 1997) and substitutes the Part L (Conservation of Fuel and Energy).	This regulation provides that public bodies are required to purchase efficient products and vehicles that satisfy SEAI's criteria for energy efficiency or are listed	The additional functions relate to information, training, and promotion of renewable technologies. The SEAI has to provide information to the public on

		in the Triple E Product Register (e.g. solar thermal installations, photovoltaic installations, electric vehicles, and so on).	support measures for renewables introduced by the Government.
Link to full text of legal source (original language)	S.I. 259 of 2008: *http://www.environ.ie/en/Legislation/DevelopmentandHousing/BuildingStandards/FileDownLoad,17840,en.pdf* S.I. 497 of 1997: *http://www.environ.ie/en/Legislation/DevelopmentandHousing/BuildingStandards/FileDownLoad,1636,en.pdf*	S.I. 542 of 2009: *http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2009/en/si/0542.html* S.I. 151 of 2011: *http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2011/en/si/0151.html*	*http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2012/en/si/0158.html*
Link to full text of legal source (English)			

Name of legal source (original language)	Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 259 of 2011		
Full name	Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 259 of 2011 - Building Regulations (Part L Amendment) Regulations 2011.		
Name (English)			
Abbreviated form	S.I. 259 of 2011		
Entry into force	01.12.2011		
Last amended on			
Future amendments			
Purpose	This regulation amends the Building Regulations 1997 - 2008.		
Relevance for renewable energy	This regulation amends Part L (Conservation of Fuel and Energy) of the Building Regulations 1997 - 2008 and provides for the use of installations for sanitary hot water.		
Link to full text of legal source (original language)	*http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2011/en/si/0259.html*		
Link to full text of legal source (English)			

Further information

Institution (name)	Website	Name of contact person (optional)	Telephone number (head office)	E-mail (optional)
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR)	http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/		+353 167 82 000	
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI):	http://www.seai.ie/		+353 1 850 927 000	info@seai.ie
Citizens Information	http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/		+353 761 074 000	

Policy categories

Training programmes for Installers

Abbreviated form of legal source(s)	• S.I. 158 of 2012
Sector	Electricity, Heating & Cooling
Contact Authority	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
Description	According to S.I. 158 of2012, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) shall ensure that by 31 December 2012, certification schemes or equivalent qualification schemes for installers of small-scale biomass boilers or stoves, solar photovoltaic and solar thermal installations, shallow geothermal installations and heat pumps become or are made available (regulation 3(a) S.I.158 of 2012). An installer must complete a training course and obtain the appropriate qualification in order to register at the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) as a qualified installer of renewable energy facilities. The SEAI and the Renewable Energy Installer Academy (REIA) have developed training courses for RES technologies. The Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) and the City and Guilds (C&G) are the awarding bodies. The courses are part of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). The Irish NREAP provides a table with the details of the qualifications for renewable technologies: • Technology: Heat Pumps and geothermal installations Awarding Body: FETAC Details: Renewable Energy Installer (heat pumps) • Technology: Solar Panels Awarding Body: FETAC Details: Renewable Energy Installer (solar hot water) • Technology: Wood pellet and wood chip boilers and stoves Awarding Body: FETAC Details: Renewable Energy Installer (biomass boilers)

	• Technology: Micro wind turbines Awarding Body: C&G Details: Certification in wind turbine installation • Technology: Photovoltaic Awarding Body: C&G Details: Certification in solar photovoltaic installation	
Addressees	The main target group are qualified plumbers and electricians interested in working as installers of renewable energy facilities. In general, a National Craft Certificate or a level 6 qualification in a related area such as building services is required.	
Competent authority	The Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) and the City and Guilds (C&G) are the awarding bodies.	
Further information	A list with training courses for installers is available at: http://www.seai.ie/Grants/GreenerHomes/Installers/Installer_Training/ The SEAI's list of registered installers is available at: http://www.seai.ie/Grants/GreenerHomes/Installers/ Further information on the FETAC courses are available at: http://www.fetac.ie/fetac/learners/learners.htm Further information on the C&G is available at: http://www.cityandguilds.com	
Distribution of costs	**State**	
	Private Financing	The installers have to bear the costs of the training.
	European Union	
	Others	

Certification Programmes for RES installations

Abbreviated form of legal source(s)	• S.I. 151 of 2011	
Sector	Electricity	
Contact Authority	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)	
Description	S.I. 151 of 2011 provides that public bodies shall only procure equipments and vehicles that are either listed on the Triple E Products Register (Register) or satisfy the SEAI's energy efficiency criteria. The Triple E Products Register has minimum criteria that need to be met by products in order to list them in this public database. For example, solar thermal installations must be certified under the European Solar Keymark database as an installation in order to be accepted in the Register. In addition, The NSAI Agrément is responsible for the certification of new and innovative products and processes in buildings. The certification applies to products and processes that are not already regulated by existing building standards.	
Addressees	Manufacturers of energy plants.	
Competent authority	Triple E Products Register is maintained by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). The NSAI Agrément operates as part of the NSAI (National Standards Authority of Ireland).	
Further information	Triple E Products Register: http://www.seai.ie/Your_Business/Triple_E_Product_Register/ The NSAI stands for National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI). Further information on the NSAI Agrément is available at: http://www.nsai.ie/About-NSAI/Departments/Agrement.aspx	
Distribution of costs	**State**	
	Industry	

	Plant Producers	Manufacturers bear the certification costs.
	European Union	
	Others	

Exemplary role of public authorities in accordance with Art. 13 Abs, 5 RES Directive (Public Sector Programme)

Abbreviated form of legal source(s)	• S.I. 542 of 2009 and its amending act S.I. 151 of 2011.
Sector	Electricity
Contact Authority	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
Description	In Ireland, the public sector has a target of 33% in energy saving by 2020. Public bodies are required to achieve energy savings (S.I. 542 of 2009) and purchase efficient products and vehicles (S.I. 151 of 2011) that are listed in the Triple E Product Register (e.g. solar thermal collectors, photovoltaic installations, electric vehicles, and so on). In addition, the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and the Department of Education and Skills developed a website to support schools improving their energy use.
Addressees	The Public Sector Programme addresses public bodies defined in regulation 10 of S.I. 542 of 2009.
Competent authority	The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).
Further information	Public Sector Programme: http://www.seai.ie/Your_Business/Public_Sector/ Triple E Product Search: http://triplee.seai.ie/AcaProducts/Search.aspx Energy and Education website for schools: http://www.energyeducation.ie/

RD&D Policies (Renewable Energy RD&D Programme)

Abbreviated form of legal source(s)	
Sector	Electricity, Heating & Cooling, Transport
Contact Authority	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
Description	According to the Irish NREAP the Renewable Energy RD&D Programme is "primarily focused on stimulating the deployment of renewable energy technologies that are close to market, and on assessing the development of technologies that have prospects for the future". The Program is open to proposals of policy studies, field researches, feasibility studies and technology RD&D. In the 2012 call for proposals (closed on April 30th 2012), the financial support was available in three categories: • Category 1: Shared Cost Demonstration (grant support of up to 25% of eligible costs) • Category 2: Shared Cost R&D (grant support of up to 45% of eligible costs) • Category 3: Commissioned Public Good Activities (grant support normally up to 75% of eligible costs)
Addressees	The program addresses business and public sector organizations located in Ireland working with renewable energy technologies. In exceptional cases, organizations located overseas might be considered for funding if a contribution to resolving specific Irish issues is demonstrated.
Competent authority	The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) administers the program.
Further information	Information on the Renewable Energy Research, Demonstration &Development Programme is available at: http://www.seai.ie/Grants/Renewable_Energy_RD_D/ Information on projects funded by the Renewable Energy RD&D Programme is available at: http://www.seai.ie/Publications/Renewables_Publications/RERD_D_Funded_Projects/

RES-H building obligations

Abbreviated form of legal source(s)	• S.I. 259 of 2011
Sector	Heating and Cooling
Contact Authority	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR)
Description	New buildings are required to comply with renewable energy requirements of Part L of the Building Regulations, contributing to the renewable heat target. According to S.I. 259 of 2011, for new dwellings, a reasonable proportion of the energy consumption to meet its energy performance shall be provided by renewable energy sources (regulation 5 L3 (b) S.I. 259 of 2011). Additionally, requirements in Part L shall be met by "providing energy efficient space and water heating systems with efficient heat sources and effective controls" (regulation 5 L3 (d) S.I. 259 of 2011). New buildings are also required to have a Building Energy Rating (BER) certificate, which assess the energy performance of the building. The Building Regulation Technical Guidance Document 2011 refers to the minimum level of renewable technologies to be used in order to comply with regulation L3 (b) as follows: • 10 kWh/m2/annum contributing to energy use for domestic hot water heating, space heating or cooling; or • 4 kWh/m2/annum of electrical energy; or • a combination of these which would have an equivalent effect. According to the Technical Guidance Document, renewable technologies means "products or equipment that supply energy derived from renewable energy sources, e.g. solar thermal installations, solar photovoltaic installations, biomass installations, installations using biofuels, heat pumps, aero generators and other small scale renewable installations".
Obligated Entities	In general, the Building Regulations apply to the construction of new buildings and extension and alteration of existing buildings.
Competent authority	The Building Control System administers and enforces the building regulations (Building Control Act 2007)
Further information	Building Regulations 2011 (Technical Guidance Document):

	http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/DevelopmentandHousing/BuildingStandards/FileDownLoad,27316,en.pdf Building Standards: http://www.environ.ie/en/DevelopmentHousing/BuildingStandards/
Obligation on regional level	

Support of RES-H infrastructure

Abbreviated form of legal source(s)	
Description	District heating has played a limited role in Ireland.
Addressees	
Competent authority	
Further information	