

ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN

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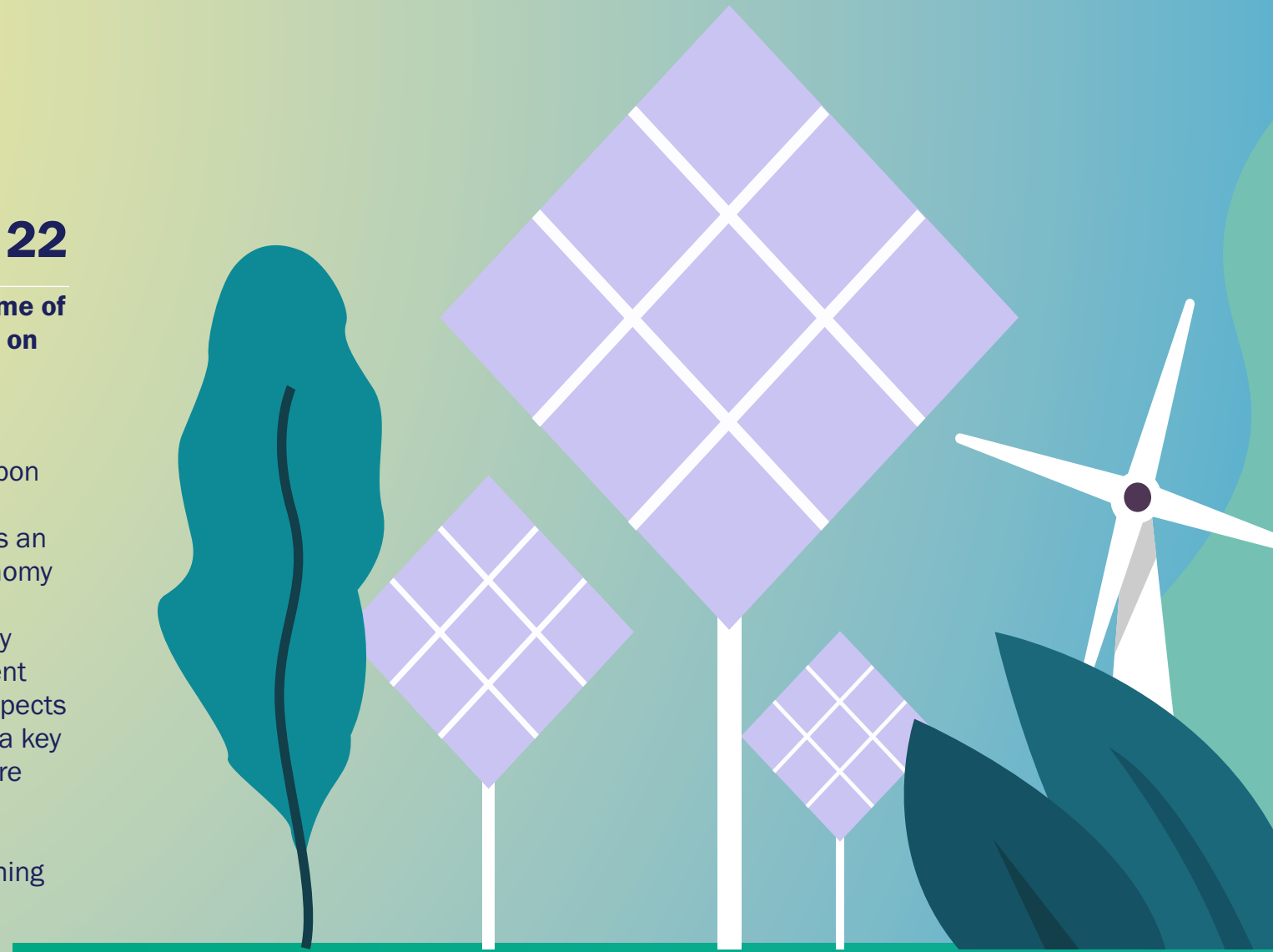
ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN

WELCOME TO THE ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN – ISSUE 22

This edition provides an update on some of the important work being undertaken on renewable energy.

We have information on the public consultation on renewable and low carbon energy ran by our colleagues in the Department of Infrastructure, as well as an update on the Department for the Economy consultation for a renewable electricity support scheme. The renewable energy theme continues with news on the recent commissioning of an assessment of aspects of offshore renewable energy, which is a key piece of work towards unlocking offshore wind opportunities for NI.

We also have information on the upcoming NI Energy summit due to be held in Belfast in June.



NORTHERN IRELAND ENERGY SUMMIT

The Northern Ireland Energy Summit was recently launched by The Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy (CASE).

Taking place on Wednesday 21 June at the ICC Belfast, this event will bring both global and local renewable energy expertise together to identify viable opportunities for our local economy through the lens of net zero.

The Summit will hear from acclaimed local and international speakers and explore how we might maximise investment, improve collaboration and change how we do things in order to achieve our renewable energy goals.

For more information, please visit
www.nienergysummit.com



**Investing in our
renewable future**

A once in a generation economic opportunity

**Wednesday 21 June 2023
08:30 — 16:30, ICC Belfast**



REVIEW OF REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING POLICY ON RENEWABLE AND LOW CARBON ENERGY – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Consultation on the draft revised regional strategic planning policy on renewable and low carbon energy is now live.

This public consultation follows an earlier targeted engagement exercise with key stakeholders, including those from the renewable energy and environment sectors.

Findings from that exercise and ongoing engagement with stakeholders and statutory bodies have helped to inform the policy development process and this draft revised policy document for full public consultation.

All relevant documents are available to view or download from the following web link:

[Draft renewable and low carbon energy consultation](#)

Should you wish to submit any views and/or evidence in response to this consultation to help inform the final policy please do so via Citizen Space using the following link:

[Consultation responses on Citizen Space](#)

**The consultation is open until 5pm,
30th June 2023.**

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY SUPPORT SCHEME FOR NI CONSULTATION

The Consultation on Design Considerations for a Renewable Electricity Support Scheme for Northern Ireland closed on 27th April. Thank you to all who took the time to submit a response. This consultation is a key step towards the implementation of a support scheme that can ensure electricity generation from a diverse range of renewable sources, as committed to in the Energy Strategy. Such a scheme is essential to deliver on the NI Executive's Energy Strategy targets and ensure NI can effectively attract investors to benefit from green growth opportunities whilst protecting consumers from global price shocks.

Currently, with no existing support scheme in Northern Ireland, potential investment in Northern Ireland in renewable electricity is instead being diverted to GB, the Republic of Ireland, and other countries. A support scheme for Northern Ireland will support investment here and be a driver to increase

wealth, prosperity and living standards across Northern Ireland. The entire future energy market in Northern Ireland should be appropriately regulated to ensure consumers are protected, especially from global price shocks. Consumers here should pay a fair price for the energy we produce locally. A future support scheme for renewable generators will be an important part of this regulatory environment to ensure greater consumer protection.

This public consultation set out and sought input on the design considerations on which DfE is basing the development of a renewable electricity support scheme for Northern Ireland, including the principles underpinning the support scheme as well as more granular aspects of the scheme design such as contract structure and eligibility criteria.

54 responses have been received from key stakeholders with interest in renewable

electricity development and the wider NI energy sector. These contributions will provide valuable insights which will guide DfE throughout the future stages of development and implementation of a renewable electricity support scheme for Northern Ireland.

For more information on this consultation and work stream please contact the Renewable Electricity Team at renewableelectricity@economy-ni.gov.uk.



DFE COMMISSION RPS IRELAND TO UNDERTAKE SEA/HRA WORK FOR OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Department for the Economy (DfE) has commissioned **RPS Ireland** to undertake an update to **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** and **Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)** of **Offshore Renewable Energy** in **Northern Ireland's marine area**.

The Department published the draft Offshore Renewable Energy Action Plan (OREAP) in December 2022 for public consultation which closed on the 16 March 2023. A crucial first step in unlocking Northern Ireland's offshore wind potential is undertaking a new SEA/HRA process.

This work is an important precursor to establishing a clear and predictable framework that will support the development and delivery of offshore and marine renewables in Northern Ireland waters. An update to these assessments will enable DfE and our delivery partners to ensure that the OREAP can maximise the potential of the NI seabed whilst focusing on development in areas that will cause the least disruption ecologically, as well as on other users of the marine area.

For more information contact

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