

## Press release

### RWE's Dublin Array Wind Project hosts skills and supply chain workshop for Irish offshore wind sector

Dún Laoghaire, Ireland, 1 November 2024

Around 40 representatives from industry, government and educational institutions came together to share insights on how Ireland can better support the offshore wind supply chain.

The 'People and Skills in the Supply Chain Workshop' was held in the Royal Marine Hotel - Dún Laoghaire earlier this month and hosted by the Dublin Array Offshore Wind Farm development team. It highlighted the significant opportunities that the offshore wind energy sector will bring to the supply chain in Ireland.

The skills event, was opened by Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Ossian Smyth, TD, and featured presentations from RWE - the developers of Dublin Array, Skillnet Ireland and others.

According to a [study](#) issued earlier this year by BVG Associates for Green Tech, Skillnet and Wind Energy Ireland, the Irish offshore wind sector could be worth at least €38 billion to the economy and has the potential to support between 86,300 and 146,700 jobs. Offshore wind will play an important role in supporting a greener economy, developing home grown skills and supporting prosperous communities. However, it is essential that the correct mechanisms are put in place to ensure that Ireland has people with the right skills to underpin the expected growth in the sector.

**Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications Ossian Smyth** told attendees at the event that: "It has been a fantastic morning, contributing to the RWE-hosted People & Skills in the Supply Chain workshop, where we have explored how offshore wind development can drive meaningful change for the environment while bringing sustainable growth to Ireland and our local community here in Dún Laoghaire. Offshore wind development is a key government priority, fundamentally aligned with the National Climate Action Plan. Our community stands to benefit immensely from this sector, through the creation of local jobs, unique skills development, and economic growth.

# RWE

The recent publication of the Government's the Offshore Wind Skills Action Plan 2024 was enthusiastically welcomed. Events like this highlight the importance of collaboration between industry and government. Planning for the opportunities from the offshore wind sector is the best way for us as a nation to maximise potential benefits for all."

Published by Government on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024, the [Offshore Wind Skills Action Plan 2024](#), is a key output of the Skills and Workforce Workstream of the Offshore Wind Energy Programme, which outlines the activities required to drive delivery of offshore wind targets in Ireland. It identifies Ireland's training provision and the potential gaps in provision, which could hinder the development of offshore wind in Ireland.

RWE, a leading global player in renewable energy, is developing the Dublin Array offshore wind farm with the project team operating out of Dún Laoghaire. With a capacity of up to 824 megawatts, it will be able to generate enough electricity for an estimated 770,000 homes and help to reduce Ireland's annual carbon emissions by over 1.4m tonnes per year. The project is planned to be operational by 2030.

The Dublin Array project is expected to support more than 1,000 jobs during the construction phase, while the project will employ 80 people directly and support 160 indirect full-time jobs during the operation of the wind farm.

**Peter Lefroy, Offshore Development Head of RWE Ireland & UK West** said: "The Irish offshore wind sector will need a large pipeline of skilled talent to successfully construct, maintain and operate renewable energy projects for decades to come. It is therefore essential that the industry, third level institutions, and other key stakeholders all work together to properly plan and put in place the structures that will ensure that any skills gaps are addressed."

"RWE are delighted to help lead the debate on this vital area and encourage increased collaboration across the industry and beyond to ensure that Ireland maximises the economic benefits of the offshore wind sector."

**Peter added:** "RWE has a strong track record of working in partnership with local communities. The Dublin Array Community Benefit Fund will commit €2 for every megawatt hour of electricity created by the project, which means that depending on final project capacity, more than €6 million could be invested in local community projects and initiatives per year."

In Ireland, RWE has four operational projects including a wind farm in Dromadda Beg in Co Kerry, two battery storage facilities in Co Dublin and Co Monaghan and the Airborne Wind Test site in county Mayo. The company has renewable energy projects in different stages of development including the Dublin Array wind farm and a further offshore wind project, 10 onshore wind farms and a further battery storage facility. RWE's objective is to be a long-term energy partner for Ireland during the country's transition to carbon neutrality.



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**RWE**

RWE is leading the way to a green energy world. With its investment and growth strategy Growing Green, RWE is contributing significantly to the success of the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the energy system. Around 20,000 employees work for the company in almost 30 countries worldwide. RWE is already one of the leading companies in the field of renewable energy. Between 2024 and 2030, RWE will invest 55 billion euros worldwide in offshore and onshore wind, solar energy, batteries, flexible generation, and hydrogen projects. By the end of the decade, the company's green portfolio will grow to more than 65 gigawatts of generation capacity, which will be perfectly complemented by global energy trading. RWE is decarbonising its business in line with the 1.5-degree reduction pathway and will phase out coal by 2030. RWE will be net-zero by 2040. Fully in line with the company's purpose - Our energy for a sustainable life.

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