

Treanor, Bronagh

From: Simon Carleton [simon@galetechenergy.com]
Sent: 25 May 2018 15:51
To: ldevplan
Subject: Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025
Attachments: MCDP001 Draft MCDP Submission.pdf

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached submission to the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025.

Kind regards,

Simon Carleton

Project Planner

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Planning Department,
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Council Offices,
The Glen,
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H18 YT50

Our Ref: MCDP/Draft Sub
25 May 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025

The production of energy from renewable sources is one of the most important current national policy priorities. Ireland is presently subject to two mandatory EU targets to achieve 16% of total final energy consumption from renewable sources and a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. Beyond 2020, Ireland will be subject to higher renewable energy targets of up to 27% and a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. In line with these commitments, the current National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) includes a 40% target for electricity generation to be achieved from renewable sources (RES-E). Nationally, it is estimated that between 3,500 and 4,000 MW will be required to meet the 2020 NREAP target, meaning an approximate doubling of current installed capacity.

In energy planning terms, 2020 is rapidly approaching. Onshore wind energy offers the most cost-competitive and viable technology for achieving binding national targets within this rapidly shortening timeframe. Ireland has one of the most advantageous wind resources in Europe, which can produce indigenous renewable electricity while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Given Ireland's binding commitments, and also looking at energy security challenges beyond 2020, it is absolutely imperative that every local authority contributes to national efforts and maximises the opportunities to develop its wind resources within its jurisdiction, recognising that these offer rich potential over the coming decades.

We welcome the recognition within the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 that wind energy can make a significant contribution toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, we welcome the inclusion of policies promoting the generation of renewable energy and, in particular, Policies EP01 – EP09 and Policy ENP1.

The Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 has a vital role to play in establishing the land-use planning framework for renewable energy and in cascading key national energy and climate policy priorities to the local level. If Ireland is to achieve its binding commitments, it is absolutely essential that long term policy certainty is provided in order to maintain and stimulate investment in appropriately located renewable energy technologies.

Yours sincerely,

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