

National Planning Framework Ireland 2040 - Submission

The following submission is on behalf of Courtstown Technologies Ltd:

In order to meet National Planning Framework (NPF) objectives to 'Reduce carbon emissions' and to 'Prioritise the development of infrastructure that can deliver national benefit – including renewable energies' clear direction and designation is required to prioritise sites for medium-large scale renewable energy developments. For instance, upland areas in remote locations that are adjacent to the national grid, and are not within designated Natura 2000 areas, should be recognised as strategically important and designated for medium-large scale wind energy developments. Such measures are urgently required if the renewables sector is to become more central to meeting our national energy demands and in order to prioritise renewable energy projects at suitable locations across Ireland. Currently, different local authorities have different Wind Energy Strategies, and clearly some are more receptive than others in recognising the need to meet renewable energy and climate change targets. A national guidance, designation and recognition of strategic sites in the NPF would alleviate planning delays frequently experienced by medium-large scale wind energy developments. This often occurs due to the lack of proper designation and recognition at local authority level for projects that have national importance. By providing clarity and direction, NPF objectives will be satisfied by harnessing these limited strategic upland sites while also being consistent with the states objectives on climate change and meeting renewable energy targets.

Courtstown Technologies Ltd

