

S&E Regional OP 2007 – 2013 Draft Implementation Plan 2.2.3

Operational Programme	S&E Regional Operational Programme 2007 - 2013
Priority	Environment & Accessibility
Theme	Renewable Energy
Sub-Theme	Renewable Energy Development and Deployment
Categorisation Code	43
ERDF Certifying Body	Department of Finance
Managing Authority	S&E Regional Assembly
Intermediate Body	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Level 1 Public Body	Sustainable Energy Ireland
Grant Rate	The maximum capital grant support for projects is €500,000.
EU Co-financing Rate	40%

Description

The main focus of the RE RD&D programme is on stimulating the deployment of renewable energies. It adopts an aggressive technology-led approach to renewable resolving technology and market barriers such as energy storage and demand management in the electricity sector. It involves the deployment of renewable and alternative energy technologies in residential, commercial, public, and community buildings through a combination of grant and regulatory interventions.

Objectives

The RE RD&D Programme aims to stimulate the deployment of RE by:

- Accelerating the development and deployment in the Irish marketplace of competitive renewable energy products, processes and systems.
- Providing support for solutions that enable technical and other barriers to market uptake and/or modal switching to be overcome.
- Establishing, where necessary, and strengthening, where possible, a national capacity to access, develop and apply international class RD&D in a way that can best meet specific Irish needs on a continuing basis.
- Facilitating and providing guidance to policy makers

Responsibilities of Intermediate Body

SEI will consult with the Intermediate Body, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, in delivering the programme and will report progress activity reports to DCENR. An administrative agreement will be entered into between the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and the Managing Authority setting out the respective roles and responsibilities of each.

Responsibilities of Level 1 Public Body

SEI will work in conjunction with the residential, commercial, public, and community. Participation in delivering projects that best suit the programme, contribute to National energy targets, and meet value for money considerations. The financial beneficiaries include residential, commercial, public, and community

organisations through a combination of grant and regulatory interventions. SEI will programme manage this initiative and be directly involved in the scheme administration, information and publicity, grant administration, financial management and control, and monitoring and evaluation.

Contribution to Horizontal Themes

Environmental Sustainability

The principle of Environmental Sustainability is a key component of sustainable development, a principle reflected in the Government's White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland" and the National Climate Change Strategy. Energy remains a key factor in ensuring economic growth and societal development and SEI continues to promote the decoupling of economic growth from the adverse effects of energy consumption and production, through the Sustainable Energy Intervention. Renewable energy, such as wind, ocean and biomass technologies, contribute significantly to environmental and rural development. This Programme will be measured in terms of deployment of renewable and alternative energy technologies in residential, commercial, public, and community buildings through a combination of grant and regulatory interventions and their contribution in terms of energy in electricity supply.

Project Selection

Selection Process

The selection of projects is based on those that best suit the programme, contribute to National energy targets, and meet value for money considerations.

The main focus of the RE RD&D programme is on stimulating the deployment of renewable energies. As such, the following types of RD&D activities will be given priority:

- Demonstration of technology innovation: aimed at higher risk, major projects that represent significant technical advances and/or cost reductions and have good replication potential;
- Innovative market demonstrations, where proven technology is used to demonstrate non technical innovation (e.g. contractual arrangements, financing) for applications with high replication potential;
- Independent monitoring of projects/technologies;
- R&D aimed at the integration of renewable energy into the electricity market and the national electricity grid (and network)
- R&D into overcoming the barriers to development and deployment of large scale RE projects;
- Data monitoring, forecasting, communications and control of large RE systems
- Specific applied research projects in renewable energy fields by research centres, third level institutions and centres of excellence with a high level of expertise in the relevant area;

The main priorities are for projects in the categories of: Biomass, Wind, Ocean, and technologies and systems that facilitate the integration of these technologies into the electricity market/ grid.

Selection Board Membership (where appropriate)-

SEI is responsible for the administrative evaluation, conducting a technical review and assessing all legal and compliance issues of the application. Finally SEI conducts a financial review prior to payment and commissions mechanical reports, sample review inspections and site visits.

Selection Criteria

SEI monitors projects that are awarded funding to ensure that they are implemented efficiently and correctly to help achieve successful results.

Selection is based on

- The technological quality of the application and technical compliance with programme requirements
- Projects that accelerate the development and deployment in the Irish marketplace of competitive renewable energy products, processes and systems.
- The potential for further application for the technology associated with the project
- Projects that establish, where necessary, and strengthen, where possible, a national capacity to access, develop and apply international class RD&D in a way which can best meet specific Irish needs on a continuing basis
- The Capacity and competence of project partners in exploiting project results
- The rate the level of innovation associated with the project
- The extent to which the market is open to the technology covered by the application
- Projects that facilitate and provide guidance to policy makers on the practical, regulatory, technological and market opportunities to achieve greater penetration of RE in Ireland
- Projects that contribute to the development of an indigenous RE industry
- Project management capability, Methodology of approach and Strength and balance of the team.

In general, the recommendation given for each proposal following evaluation will be presented to the appropriate Advisory Committee for consideration, before final approval by the Authority. A proposal will normally be evaluated and the results confirmed within eight weeks following the end of the month of receipt of that proposal.

Performance Indicators

Class	Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term Dec '09	Final
	Acceleration of the development and deployment in the Irish marketplace of competitive renewable energy products, processes and systems.	Ocean & Tidal Energy - 3 quarter scale prototypes deployed	2 full scale prototypes deployed	First grid connection by end 2013
Result	Enabling technical and other barriers to market uptake and/or modal switching to be overcome.	Base of the Ocean and Tidal Energy industry established with 3 quarter scale ocean energy	First grid-connected Ocean and Tidal Energy prototype developed	First Ocean and Tidal Energy grid connected array producing power

		companies		
Impact	The number of RE R,D&D projects delivered under the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared cost • Demonstration: • Shared cost R&D: Commissioned public good activities 	9% of renewable energy in electricity supply	13% of renewable energy in electricity supply	18% of renewable energy in electricity supply

Financial Management

The Level 1 Public Body will be required to have in place separate accounting arrangements in respect of project expenditure under the sub-theme

Document Retention

In accordance with Article 90 of the General Regulation (EC) 1083/2006, the Intermediate Body and Level 1 Public Bodies will ensure that all supporting documents regarding expenditure, verification checks, certification and audits on the interventions concerned are kept available for the EU Commission and Court of Auditors for a period of three years following the closure of the Operational Programme.

Monitoring and Reporting arrangements

A progress report will be submitted annually to the Monitoring Committee in a format to be specified by the Committee.

Information and Publicity

The European Union strapline, logo and artwork will be used at all opportunities in communications regarding projects either directly by SEI or by project beneficiaries. All logo/credit usage will comply fully with applicable guidelines. The use of such materials is a requirement on all branded publications. A beneficiary list will be published in the SEI Annual report. All Information and Publicity will be undertaken in accordance with the Communications Plan.