



ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN

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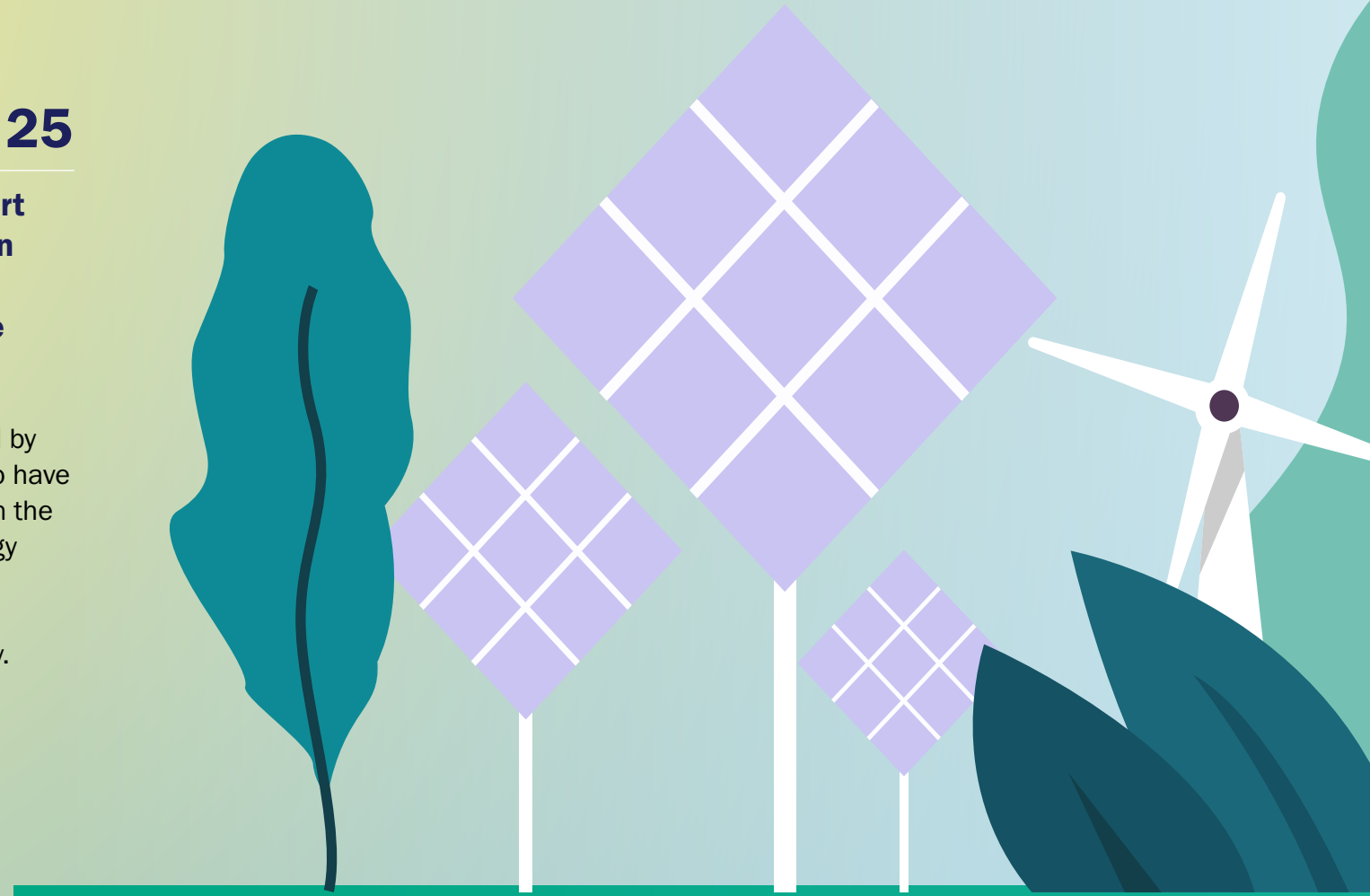




WELCOME TO THE ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN – ISSUE 25

In this edition, we outline the Report on our 2023 Energy Strategy Action Plan, demonstrating the progress made towards the objectives of the Energy Strategy.

We also encourage stakeholders impacted by offshore renewable energy development to have their say on the policy options presented in the consultation on Offshore Renewable Energy Installation, and offer you the chance to comment on the options presented in the consultation on Petroleum Licensing Policy.





REPORT ON THE 2023 ENERGY STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

The 2023 Energy Strategy Action Plan Report was published on 1st February 2024. It outlines the progress made against each of the 12 Actions over the past year by central government and partners.

Energy Context

The Report highlights the many challenges we have faced in the energy landscape over the last 12 months, with the 2023 Action Plan being delivered in a period without a functioning Assembly available to implement new policies and proposals. Maintaining security of supply and affordability to consumers for electricity and heating remains of paramount importance, as well as striving to transition from fossil fuels to low and zero carbon, renewable alternatives. Work is progressing on the implementation of the Climate Change Act (NI) with the development of the first Climate Action Plan and delivering the Energy Strategy is essential to meeting the statutory requirements set out in this legislation.

We are now bound by law to meet at least 80% of electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2030, and this has reaffirmed our vision to deliver self-sufficiency in affordable, renewable energy for the people of Northern Ireland.

5 Key Principles

The Report focuses on the five key Principles of the Energy Strategy:

- Placing the consumer at the heart of the energy future;
- Growing the green economy;
- Doing more with less (energy efficiency);
- Replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy (ultimately ending the importing of fossil fuels into NI); and

- Creating a flexible, resilient and integrated energy system to deliver our power, heat, and transport needs.

The Report, including updates on the progress made against each Action for 2023, can be read here [Energy Strategy Action Plan 2023 report | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](#)



CONSULTATION ON OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTALLATION (OREI) POLICY OPTIONS FOR NI

Department for the Economy (DfE) has launched a public consultation on Offshore Renewable Energy Installation (OREI) policy options for Northern Ireland.

This represents a crucial phase of the Energy Strategy's ambition to achieve 1GW of offshore wind from 2030. OREI policy is an essential part of the overall strategic framework for the development of offshore renewable energy projects in Northern Ireland. This public consultation outlines potential legislative changes and policy options which are being considered to establish provisions for OREI decommissioning, safety zones and rights of navigation in NI territorial waters.

We encourage stakeholders impacted by offshore renewable energy development and those in the wider energy sector to provide comments on the policy options set out in this consultation. This will provide DfE with valuable insight, which will be analysed and considered as policy development progresses.

The Consultation on OREI policy options for Northern Ireland can be viewed at [Consultation on Offshore Renewable Energy Installation policy options for Northern Ireland | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

The consultation closes on the 8 March 2024.





CONSULTATION ON ONSHORE PETROLEUM LICENSING POLICY FOR NI

DfE has launched a public consultation on onshore petroleum licensing policy for Northern Ireland on 15th January 2024.

The consultation presents a range of policy options with a draft preferred option to introduce a moratorium and eventual legislative ban on all forms of onshore petroleum exploration and production; delivering on the Energy Strategy's ambition to move away from fossil fuels and reduce carbon emissions. The consultation and the opportunity to respond is available at [DfE website - onshore petroleum licensing](#)

The petroleum licensing system is the set of rules for how companies can look for, and potentially extract, oil and gas in Northern Ireland. DfE has undertaken a review of this policy area to see how it can best reflect the needs of our economy, society, and environment.

The Department commissioned research from Hatch Regeneris into the economic, social, and environmental impacts of petroleum exploration and production in Northern Ireland. There is also research by the British Geological Survey into the potential risks of induced seismicity from high volume hydraulic fracturing (fracking) of shales in Northern Ireland. Both pieces of research are available as part of the consultation pack.

The consultation document analyses the results of the Northern Ireland specific research into the impacts of petroleum exploration and production, and considers other international research, developments, and the local policy, as well as legislative context.

Petroleum licensing touches on many issues including: where we get our energy from, our priorities in the energy transition, and the impacts on local communities. This is your chance to have your voice heard on this important policy issue.

This public consultation is open until 12 April 2024.

