



Onshore Wind Industry Taskforce - Terms of Reference, July 2024

Authority

The Onshore Wind Industry Taskforce (ONWIT) is run out of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and reports to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Purpose

The Taskforce aims to radically accelerate and streamline the successful commissioning of the onshore wind pipeline to meet our 2030 ambitions to decarbonise the power sector. It delivers this by identifying and agreeing actions to remove the barriers to investment in and development and operation of wind farm projects.

Scope

The Taskforce has a multi-territorial scope. Whilst the Taskforce primarily focuses on the deployment of onshore wind in England, it recognises the importance of addressing the barriers to onshore wind development across the UK, where appropriate. The Taskforce respects devolved matters, however consideration of some reserved matters such as in relation to networks, airspace management or finances and routes to market will also have implications for the pipeline of onshore wind projects in the Devolved Administrations. Read across to onshore wind ambitions therein will be sought where relevant.¹

The Taskforce will not consider issues related to individual wind farm projects other than as far as they relate to or demonstrate wider strategic application.

Functions

The Taskforce will identify issues associated with the development of onshore wind projects. It will agree actions required to mitigate these issues and commit to the implementation of solutions.

The Taskforce will perform the following functions:

- Articulate vision and ambitions for the sector to 2030.
- Assess the broader financial environment and identify opportunities to drive forward investment into the onshore wind industry in the UK.
- Identify the barriers that onshore wind projects face during scoping, development, construction and operation, and propose solutions.
- Consider the impacts that accelerated onshore wind deployment can have on the local environment, other land users, and the electricity system as a whole, and identify policies that can ensure sustainable development.
- Devise ways in which the benefits of accelerated onshore wind can be captured – by addressing jobs and skills, facilitating investment in the supply chain, or by driving investment in host communities.
- Establish consensus and commitment to undertake action, and publish these commitments in a formal ‘policy statement’.
- Where consensus cannot be reached, identify the barriers to compromise and escalate to the relevant body(ies) for consideration.
- Monitor the implementation of solutions to optimise performance.

¹ The Taskforce will seek to work in collaboration with the Scottish Onshore Wind Sector Deal on reserved matters.

Structure

The Taskforce is comprised of an Executive Committee, underpinned by 6 specialist working groups that correspond with the challenges and opportunities associated with accelerated onshore wind deployment. The Executive Committee sets the remit and scope of the working groups. The working groups will meet on an ad hoc basis in between meetings of the Executive Committee. The working groups will receive instructions and actions from the Executive Committee and will issue formal responses or recommendations for consideration in an iterative process.

The working groups are as follows:

- Scoping, planning and environmental consenting;
- Networks and grid;
- Aviation and defence;
- Communities and public perception;
- Finances and route to market; and
- Supply chains, skills and the workforce.

Where a working group covers topics that are distinct or require specialist subject matter expertise, the working group may wish to divide itself according with the relevant specialisms to ensure focused discussion.

The working groups will be established and run by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, with support from Renewable UK where required. Working groups will be at working level, with membership and chairing arrangements determined locally and according with relevant expertise. Their authority for the working groups is derived from this Terms of Reference.

Desired Outcome

The Taskforce will run for 4-6 months from the point of inception. After which the Taskforce will publish a final report, setting out commitments.

Following completion, the Taskforce will transition into a delivery body. At this point a new Terms of Reference will be required to re-establish the purpose, scope and governance, and consideration given to delivery ownership and risk management.

Conduct and Frequency of Executive Committee Meetings

The Taskforce Executive Committee ('the Committee') will convene regularly over the course of 2024 at a time set by the Secretariat and agreed by members. Frequency is initially determined as every 6 weeks but the Committee may need to convene more or less frequently depending on the nature of the agenda. Meetings will take place in person, with the option to attend via Microsoft Teams.

The Secretariat will issue papers at least 2 working days before the date of each meeting.

The Minutes and Actions of each meeting will be circulated by the Secretariat within 2 working days following the meeting. Members must signal any disagreements with the minutes and actions from the previous meeting within 5 working days from that meeting. This is to allow aggregated minutes to be published on gov.uk.

At each Committee, members will review the actions log, considering whether and what additional support is required in relation to uncompleted actions. Relevant climate and energy policy updates will be heard from the chair before non-standing agenda items are heard.

Membership of the Executive Committee

The Committee is comprised of representatives from UK government, selected onshore wind developers, supply chain companies, trade unions and the electricity system operator. Members have been selected according with relevant expertise and to provide a representative picture of onshore wind development in the UK.

Members of the Committee are listed below. Members must signal non-attendance or attendance by deputies to the Secretariat prior to each meeting.

The Secretariat are members from DESNZ onshore wind policy team. Their role is to ensure the Taskforce functions smoothly and addresses the objectives of the Taskforce, reflecting member direction. This includes ensuring that minutes and papers are circulated according to agreed timetables and that actions resulting from Taskforce meetings are allocated and completed.

Name	Position	Organisation
Rt. Hon. Edward Miliband MP	Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero and co-chair	DESNZ
Rt. Hon. Michael Shanks MP	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero and deputy co-chair	DESNZ
Matthieu Hue	CEO and co-chair	EDF Renewables
Heather Donald	Director of Onshore Renewables Development and Construction	SSE Renewables
Gillian Noble	Renewables Development Director	Scottish Power Renewables (SPR)
Lucy Whitford	Managing Director	RES
Eleri Davies	Head of Onshore Wind for England and Wales	RWE
Lisa Christie	(Interim) UK Country Manager	Vattenfall
Joanna Ellis	Chief Commercial Officer	Nadara
Christine McGregor	Managing Director	BayWa r.e

Zoisa North-Bond	CEO	Octopus Energy Generation
Dan McGrail	CEO	Renewable UK
Claire Mack	CEO	Scottish Renewables
Mike Smyth	Chair	Energy 4All
Jason Welch	Managing Director UK and Ireland	Nordex
Laura Fleming	CEO UK and Ireland	Hitachi Energy
Dean Drinkwater	CEO	Hutchinson Engineering
Fintan Slye	Director	Electricity Systems Operator (ESO)
Sharon Graham	General Secretary	Unite
Steve Thomas	Deputy General Secretary	Prospect
Andy Prendergast	National Secretary	GMB