

Planning Department
Roscommon County Council
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RE: Roscommon County Development Plan 2021-2027 – Pre-Draft Review Submission

A Chara,

Statkraft Ireland Limited (Statkraft Ireland) welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to Roscommon County Council (RCC) on the notice of the stage one review of the current Roscommon County Development Plan (RCDP) and preparation of a new plan for the period 2021-2027. This submission has been prepared pursuant to the public notice inviting written observations and comments from interested parties.

Statkraft Ireland is part of the Statkraft group. Statkraft is a leading company in hydropower internationally Europe's largest generator of renewable energy. The Group produces hydropower, wind power, solar power, gas-fired power and supplies district heating. Statkraft is a global company in energy market operations. Statkraft has 3600 employees in 15 countries. As a Norwegian state-owned utility, Statkraft is a solid, dependable partner, committed to playing a leading role in the Irish Energy Market.

Statkraft Ireland develops, owns and operates renewable production facilities and is also involved in the trading and origination of power from our own projects and those of third parties. Statkraft Ireland's aim is to play a significant role in Ireland's transition to becoming a low carbon economy. Statkraft Ireland employ a highly experienced team, who collectively have over 20 years' experience within the wind energy sector in Ireland and are committed to contributing towards a low carbon future for the Country in line with our 70x30 targets. Statkraft Ireland also has a significant pipeline of solar and battery projects as well as an offshore wind project, and in this context hopes to be able to contribute towards Ireland's 2030 targets through the use of many different technologies.

As a member of the Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA), Statkraft Ireland supports the IWEA response to this consultation process and would like to highlight that each Local Authority has a part to play in Ireland's Future climate ambitions and central to this – achieving 70% renewable electricity by 2030.

It is noted that as a County, Roscommon has already contributed to onshore wind development and has developed a robust renewable energy strategy that incorporates a wind energy strategy for the County. We would encourage Roscommon County Council to continue to embrace the transition to a low carbon society and become a leader in this respect on the Island of Ireland – as stated in the 2014 RCDP there is *“Significant scope for increased wind energy development in Roscommon”*. Renewable electricity can play a leading role in the sustainable development of the county in the coming decades. Embracing the development of all forms of renewable electricity will lead to a better quality of life for the people of Roscommon in the decades to come. This is not only through the County delivering effective climate action and tackling the potentially catastrophic effects that we are advised that climate change will have if not addressed, but also in delivering millions of euros to local communities which would assist the people of County Roscommon in adopting low carbon solutions and also developing the sustainability of rural living.

Statkraft believe that RCC should look to update the current Wind Energy Strategy within the County taking account of the positive work completed to date in relation to the development of onshore wind, and look to build on this by identifying lands which may not have previously been considered in addition to those lands which have already been identified as suitable, which could also have potential for wind energy development.

As outlined within the IWEA submission to RCC in relation to the new plan up to 2027, Statkraft are also of the opinion that grid and wind constraints are a developer’s constraint. It is acknowledged that updates to grid infrastructure are required across the Country and these changes may be affected during the lifetime of the new RCDP. In addition, turbine technology has advanced significantly over the past decade, with turbines now capable of harnessing more power at lower wind speeds. These advancements are a key aspect as manufacturers are moving almost exclusively to producing larger blades and higher towers meaning developers are not just pushing for higher tip heights and larger blades for greater efficiency and production but also because this is all that is available on the market. Statkraft believe Local Authorities have a responsibility to work with developers to find solutions to possible issues, such as outlined above.

For these reasons, Statkraft believe that RCC have a responsibility to review areas all areas for the potential for onshore wind within the County as part of the updated RCDP, there are areas within the County which are currently zones as Not or Least favoured, which could potentially be upgraded to most favoured if these constraints were re-considered.

Onshore wind developments have an extremely important role to play in the development of any viable and sustainable renewable energy mix and this needs to be continued to be supported by RCC.

Statkraft Ireland is committed to developing suitable and appropriate renewable energy projects in line with the CAP and climate emergency. RCC has a responsibility to offer developers every opportunity to bring forward projects that can deliver climate action.

Statkraft Ireland are committed to working with RCC and all Local Authorities, Government bodies and the public to deliver renewable energy projects that will deliver climate action and that are

suitable and appropriate in the local context, certainty from RCC around what is appropriate within Co. Roscommon going forward, would support this development.

Statkraft Ireland would urge RCC to carry out a full re-assessment of the County for Wind Energy Potential in line with recent policy changes and as set out in the IWEA submission to this consultation.

Mise le Meas,



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