



OPIN Webinar 16th November 2021:

Public Acceptance of Offshore Renewables

Stakeholder Engagement & Community Benefits

by

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IPC / IEA Wind Task 28



Introduction / Background

Recent Publication

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The new web platform
[IEA Wind TCP \(iea-wind.org\)](https://iea-wind.org)

[Task 28 | IEA Wind TCP \(iea-wind.org\)](https://iea-wind.org/task28/)

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Technology Collaboration Programme
by IEA

IEA Wind Home Task 28 About Task 28 Work Plan and Objectives Participation Publications

IEA Wind Task 28

Social Acceptance of Wind Energy Projects

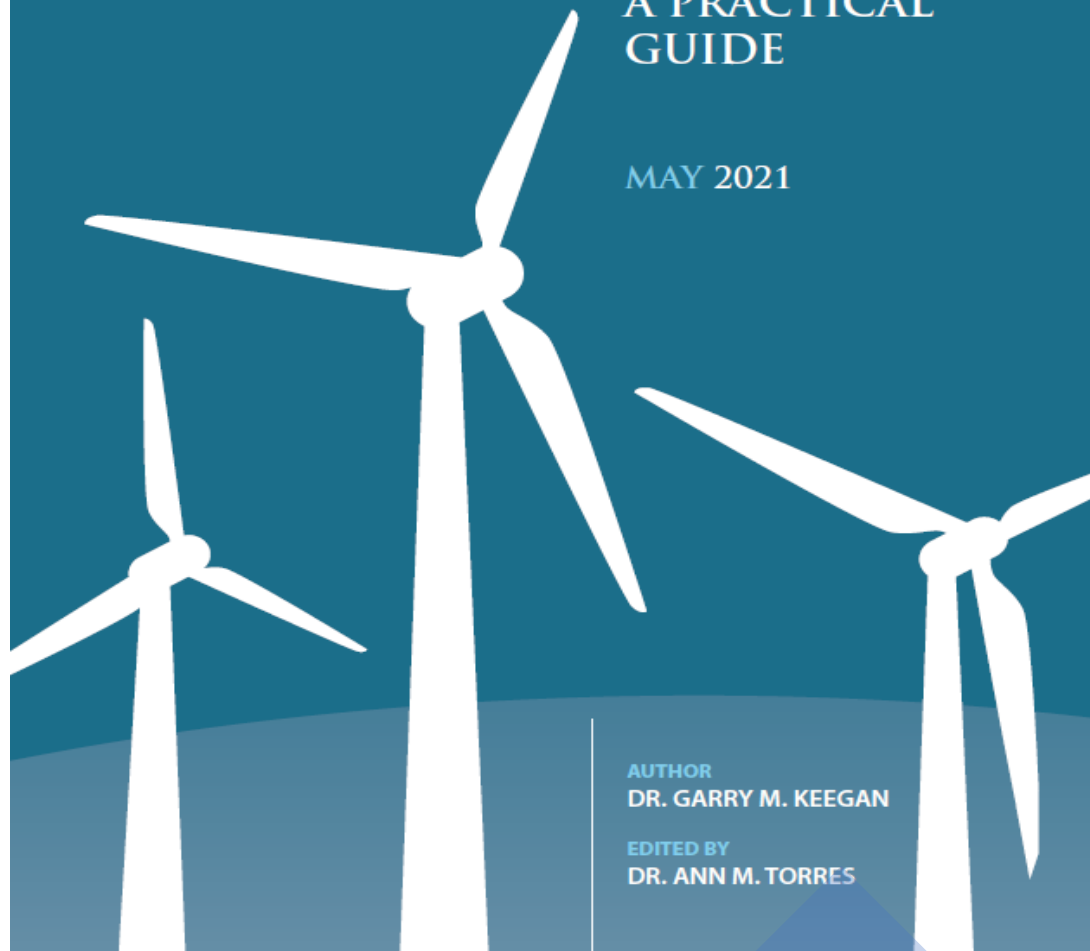
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OFFSHORE WIND FARM PROJECTS

STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENT &
COMMUNITY
BENEFITS
A PRACTICAL
GUIDE

MAY 2021



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Stakeholder Engagement



Depending on national legislation, some countries have official stakeholder lists, which distinguish between statutory and non-statutory stakeholders.

Regardless of whether a certain stakeholder group is on an official regulatory list, it is advisable to engage with all identified stakeholders, even beyond legal obligations.

Most stakeholders, individuals, and special interest groups and organisations (statutory and non-statutory) will have concerns legitimate to them, some will be articulated by professional consultants, which will form submissions as part of the consenting process.

Stakeholder Engagement



Stakeholders need to be identified and consulted, early and throughout the project.

Developers, through industry representative structures, should be obliged and/or guided to undertake wide-ranging and flexible community engagement methods to facilitate ongoing dialogue.

Clear guidelines or a Code of Conduct for community engagement, tailored to the local context, would facilitate this dialogue.

Local Stakeholder Groups	Examples
Residential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal and port communities • Resident cooperatives and associations • Community societies • Neighbourhood security, community watch
Community Influencers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local opinion leaders • Large employers • Elected public representatives • Local, municipal, regional, state, and national broadcast and print media • Social media interests • Celebrities
Economic Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local retail • Chambers of commerce • Service and manufacturing businesses • Commercial fisherman • Shipping companies • Employment unions • Telecommunications companies • Tourism industry providers • Hospitality and accommodation providers
Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military and defence ministry • Airport authorities • Aviation companies • Air rescue • Marine management services • Catchment management authorities • Local government • Local networks e.g., public participation networks, community fora • Tourism agencies • Indigenous People and their representatives
Other Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious groups • Sport clubs • Leisure boating clubs, boating and yachting associations • Sea scouts • Environmental, nature and conservation groups • Bird watching groups • Walking and hiking clubs • Special interest groups (e.g., Bathymetry)

Community Benefit Schemes

Community benefit schemes are now a feature of international infrastructure development.

In the context of wind farm projects, developers provide funds to communities living in close proximity to their project and local benefits can be in the form of new community facilities or environmental enhancement.

An important feature of community benefit schemes is that they are viewed and administered as distinct from traditional economic benefits (e.g., local supply chain, employment), though, there are complementary synergies.



Community Benefit Schemes

Each scheme will vary depending on the developer, the local communities, and the project itself.

To achieve the most effective impact, schemes should reflect and respond to local needs.

Each scheme should be tailored to reflect the characteristics of the development and the local social and economic environment.

Factors to consider in designing a community benefit scheme are the:

- Scale of project
- Technology
- Distance of project from shore
- Proximity to local port and coastal communities
- Nature of project (i.e., trial or actual site for an offshore wind farm)

Community benefits are intended as a tool to share the benefits of a natural resource in recognition of project impacts.

Governance and Administration

It is vital that a governance and administration structure is selected on a site-by-site basis.

Below are some questions which could be a starting point for discussion. It will be prudent for communities to seek professional advice to ensure funds are administered correctly and accountably. Developers may wish to support this process.

Community Capacity • Is the recipient group adequately resourced to deliver the scheme and Resource

Fund Scale • Where large sums will be paid annually, does the recipient group have the confidence and experience to manage and distribute funds effectively?

Fund Structure • Will regular meetings be required?

- Is there an open application process which will require detailed assessment from a panel?
- Are there set criteria which will require minimal input?
- Have any potential conflicts of interest been identified?
- Will a portion of the fund be ring-fenced for particular stakeholders such as the local commercial fishing fleet or tourism association?

Enterprise Ireland, stage agency, has set up an Irish Supply Chain Cluster with currently features 60 companies (consultancy, R&D, engineering, specialist geotechnical and environmental) – Ireland developing a clear supply chain strategy. – Carbon Trust UK are advising.

Similarly, in France a group of marine companies and unions has launched a new supply chain cluster for the offshore wind sector.

Scottish Unions want to speed up requalification of former oil and gas workers for renewables and support hiring more female and ethnically diverse recruits – called Climate Skills Scotland.

UK Offshore Wind Manufacturing Investment Support Scheme (UK Gov Phase 2 = £160m fund)

Supply Chain

Local, Regional, National

Other considerations and helpful information:

- Benefits of Offshore Wind
- Perceived Drawbacks
- Offshore Vs. On-shore Community Acceptance
- and Stakeholder Engagement Differences 12
- Capacity Building
- Offshore Wind Farm Neighbours
- Visual Impact
- Tourism Impact
- Political and Community Assessment

- Stakeholders Involved in Offshore Zoning
- and Site Selection Considerations

- References
- Additional Sources and Useful Links

Next steps, opportunities for involvement

- 2nd ed.: international case study based, interested in visiting offshore locations and local stakeholder groups
- Always research collaboration requests
- IEA Wind (Exco) & Task 28

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Questions?

Thank you.