



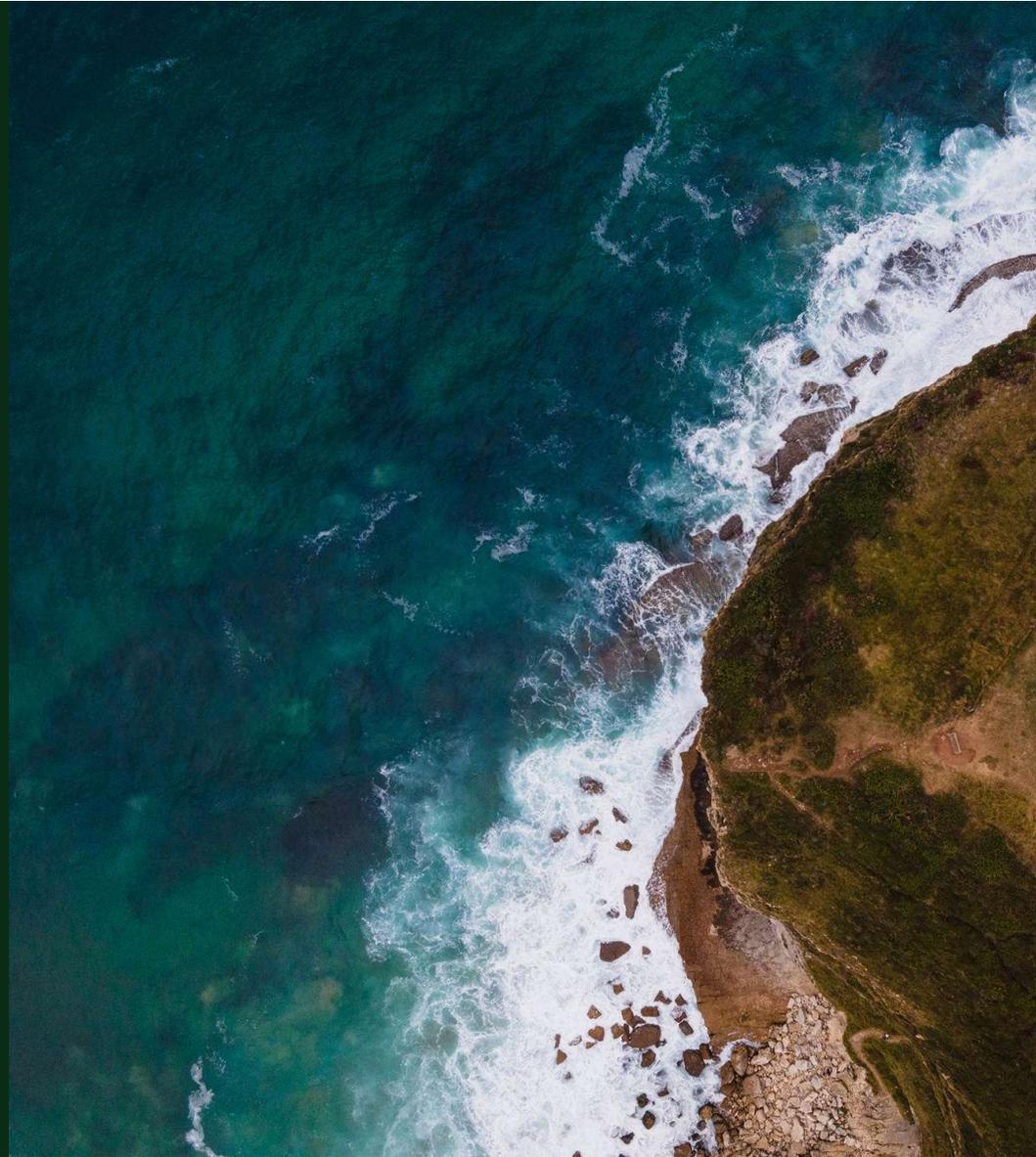
Perspectives on EIA risks & opportunities driven by policy and practice changes

IRELAND'S EIA CONFERENCE 2026

ROSS MCNALLY

Sustainability is our business

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About ERM

Sustainability is our business

Founded in 1971, we are the world's largest specialist sustainability consultancy, offering unparalleled depth and breadth of expertise.

Our purpose: Shaping a sustainable future with the world's leading organizations

Our purpose guides everything we do. Through our unique combination of strategic transformation and technical delivery capabilities, ERM partners with clients to operationalize sustainability & EHS at pace and scale.

We are a recognized market leader in sustainability consulting

Numerous industry benchmarks attest to our market leadership and the majority of our work is sole-sourced, reflecting trusted partnerships we build with our clients.

ERM OVERVIEW

8000+
Professionals

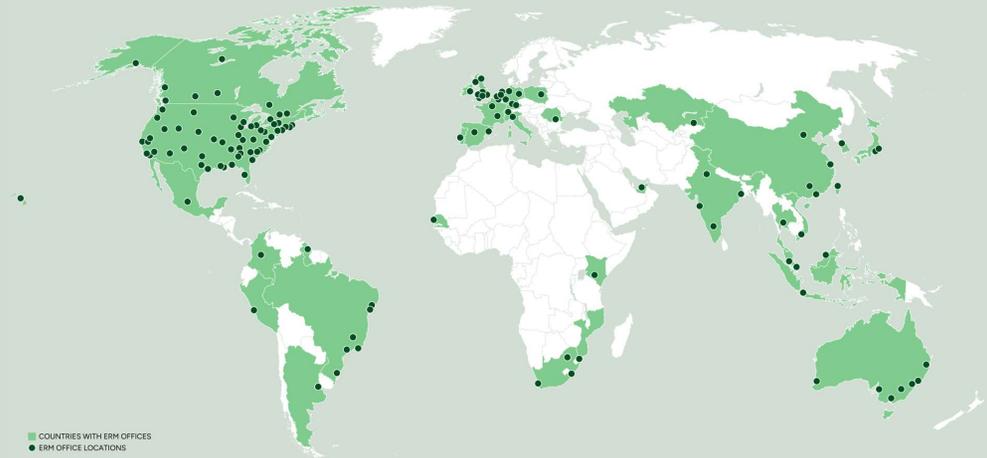
40
Countries & territories

Sustainability consulting leader
Verdantix Green Quadrant 2024

140+
Offices

50+
Years of experience

Market leader in sustainability services
HFS Horizons: Sustainability Services, 2024



We partner with...

70%
of Fortune 100

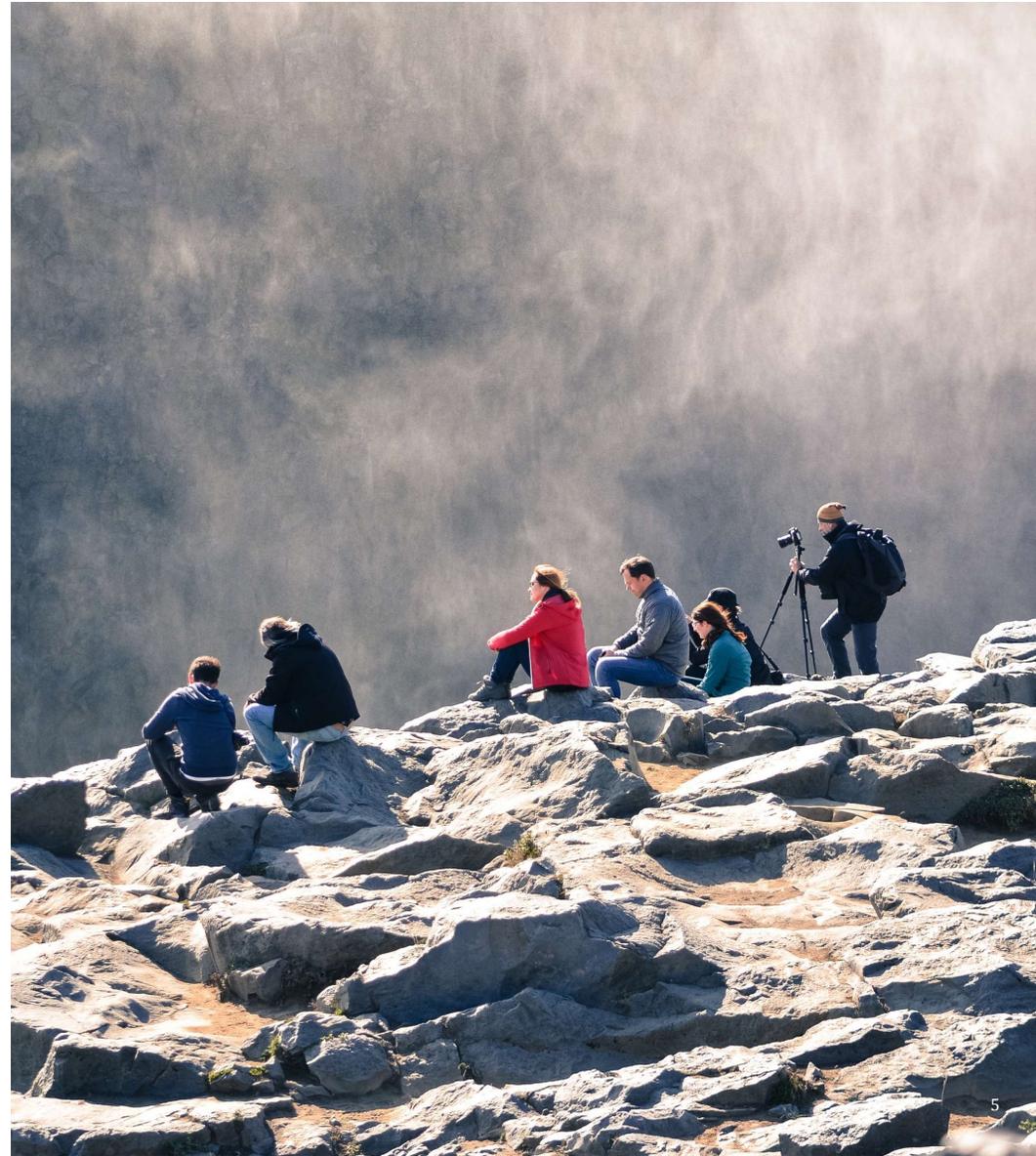
55%
of Fortune 500

We are part of a wider sustainability ecosystem

Through our relationships with leading multistakeholder organizations, we work alongside leaders from industry, government, nongovernmental organizations and academia to shape a sustainable future for all.

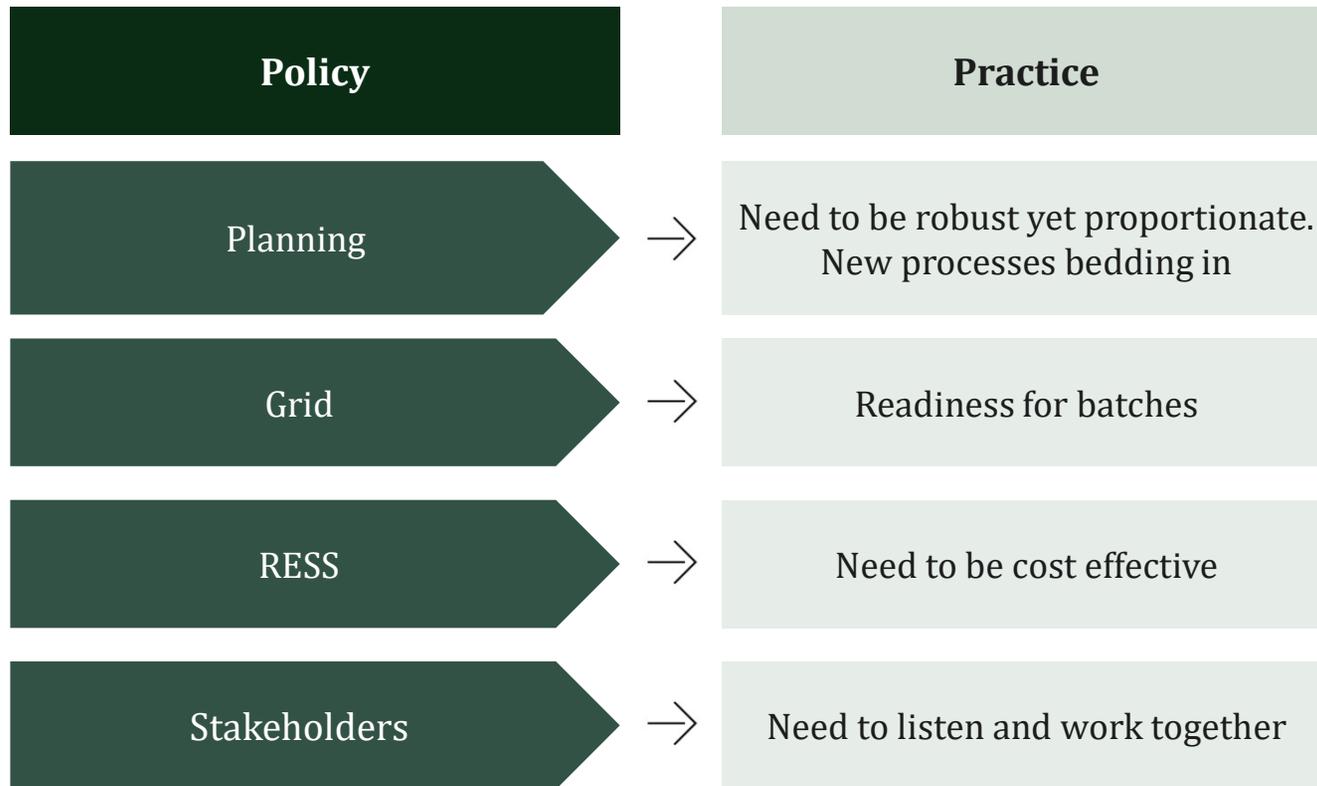


2025

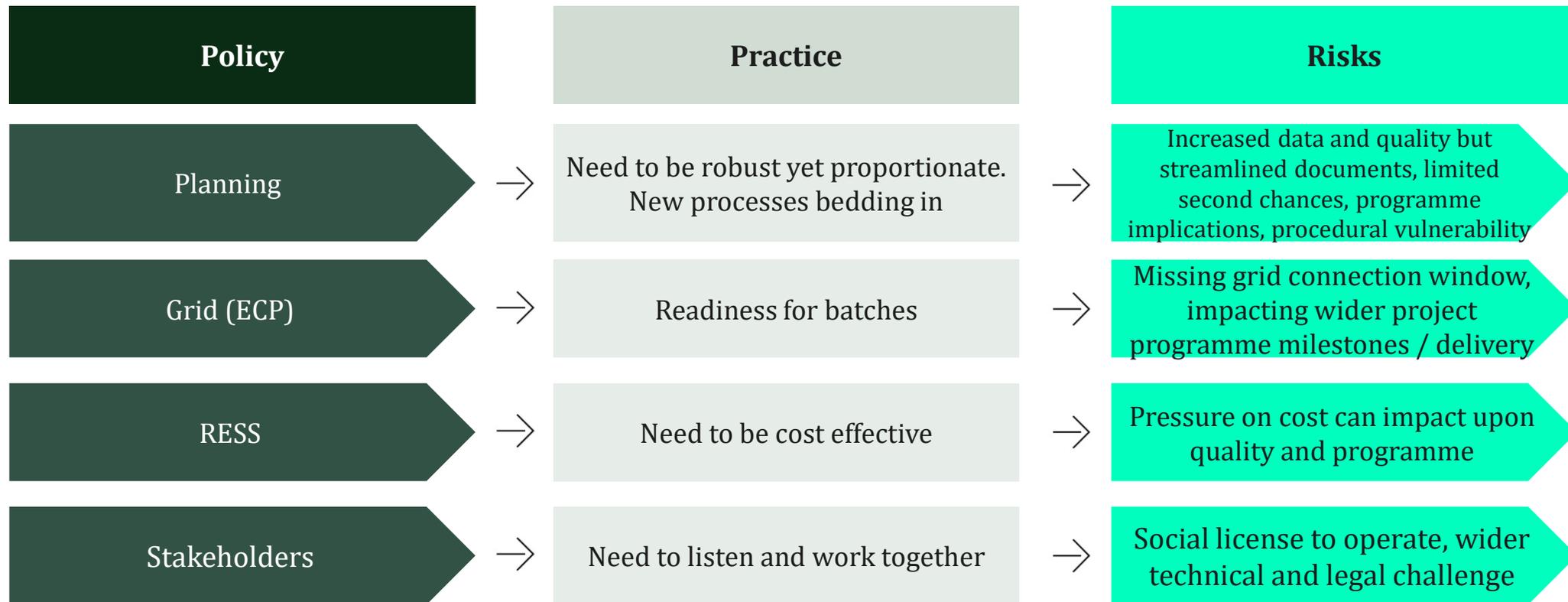


Renewables policy and practice

Renewables policy and practice



Potential risks



Opportunities

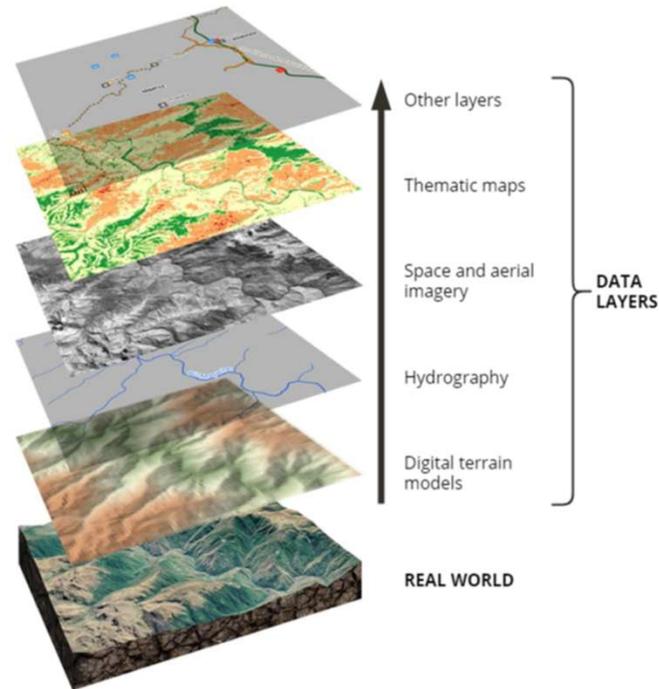
Opportunities

- **Smarter surveys**

- Peatland surveys using drone mounted sensors
 - efficiency, cost effectiveness, high resolution data, non-destructive, improved access, repeatability

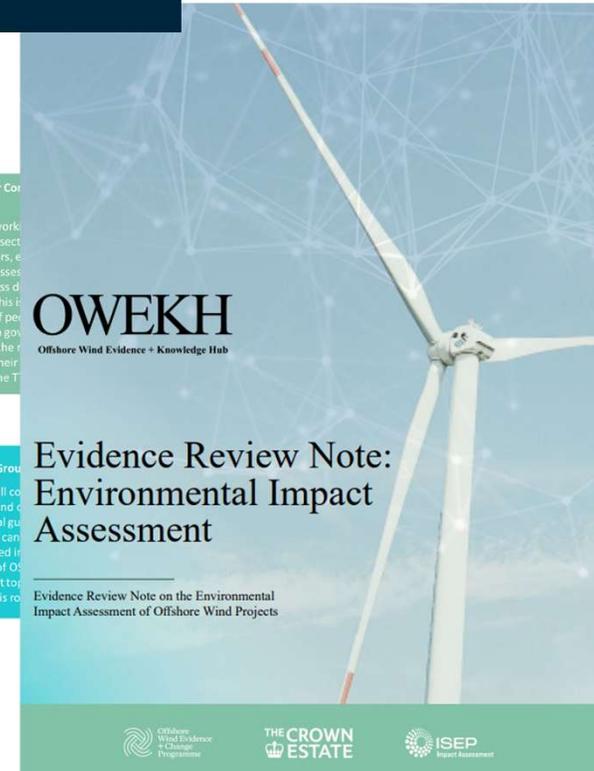
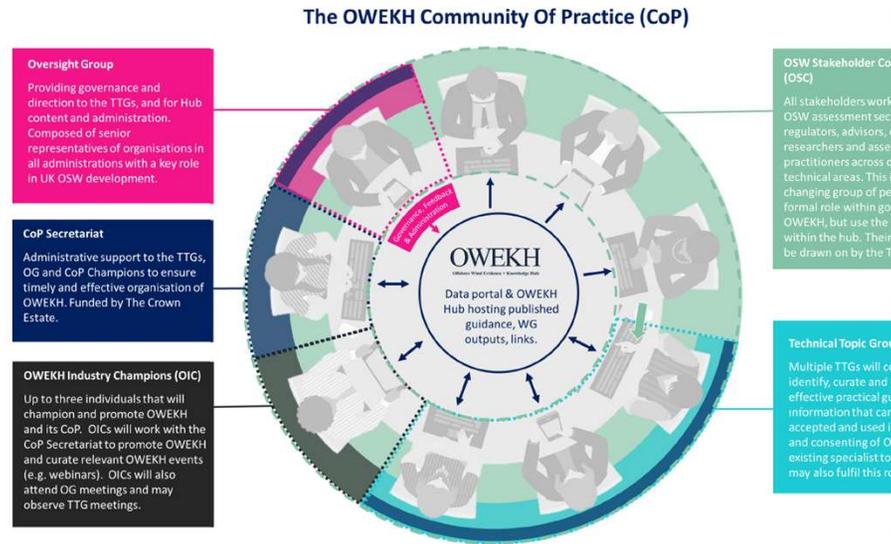
- **Data Stack**

- robust baseline data, quality data for better data driven decision making, reduction in repeat site visits, constraints data available to project team early in process, robust datasets for regulatory engagement
- Sensors inclusive of High-definition imagery (RGB) (e.g. habitat mapping and peat condition), Thermal, LiDAR, GPR, multi/ hyperspectral (e.g. habitat classification)



Opportunities

- **Collaboration and consensus**
- OWEKH – Offshore Wind Evidence Knowledge Hub
 - Having all of the latest information, data and guidance available in one place
- A Community of Practice
- Marine Data Exchange



Opportunities

- **Strategic or standardised ways of working**
 - Strategic Environmental Compensation
 - Habitat restoration and enhancement
- Spatial Planning
 - DMAPs
 - Renewable Energy Acceleration Areas (under RED III)



Collection

Marine Recovery Fund

Marine Recovery Fund (MRF) information for offshore wind developers.

From: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#)

Published 17 December 2025

[Get emails about this page](#)

Contents

- [How to apply for the MRF](#)
- [Library of strategic compensatory measures](#)
- [Statutory nature conservation body advice forms](#)
- [Defra's procurement approach](#)
- [Consultation](#)
- [Privacy notice](#)

Offshore wind developers can apply to use the Marine Recovery Fund (MRF) to deliver strategic environmental compensation. This is to compensate for their offshore wind activity's adverse effects on marine protected areas (MPAs).

Opportunities

What might the future look like?

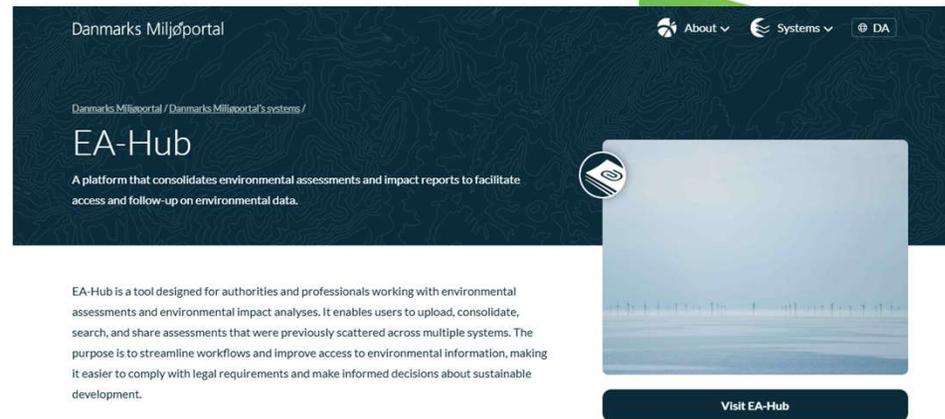
- **Digital integration**

- How can we be more consistent and efficient in delivery and determination?
- AI in practice!
- Moving to Digital EIA?
 - Commitment in new Government Digital and AI strategy to digital public services
 - Although not EIA-specific reforms, potential to impact upon digital EIA
 - Danish Digital EIA as a Case Study
 - Danish EPA - cBrain F2® platform
 - DREAMS Project
 - Danmarks Miljøportal – EA-Hub



 Roinn an Taoisigh
Department of the Taoiseach

Digital Ireland
Connecting our People,
Securing our Future



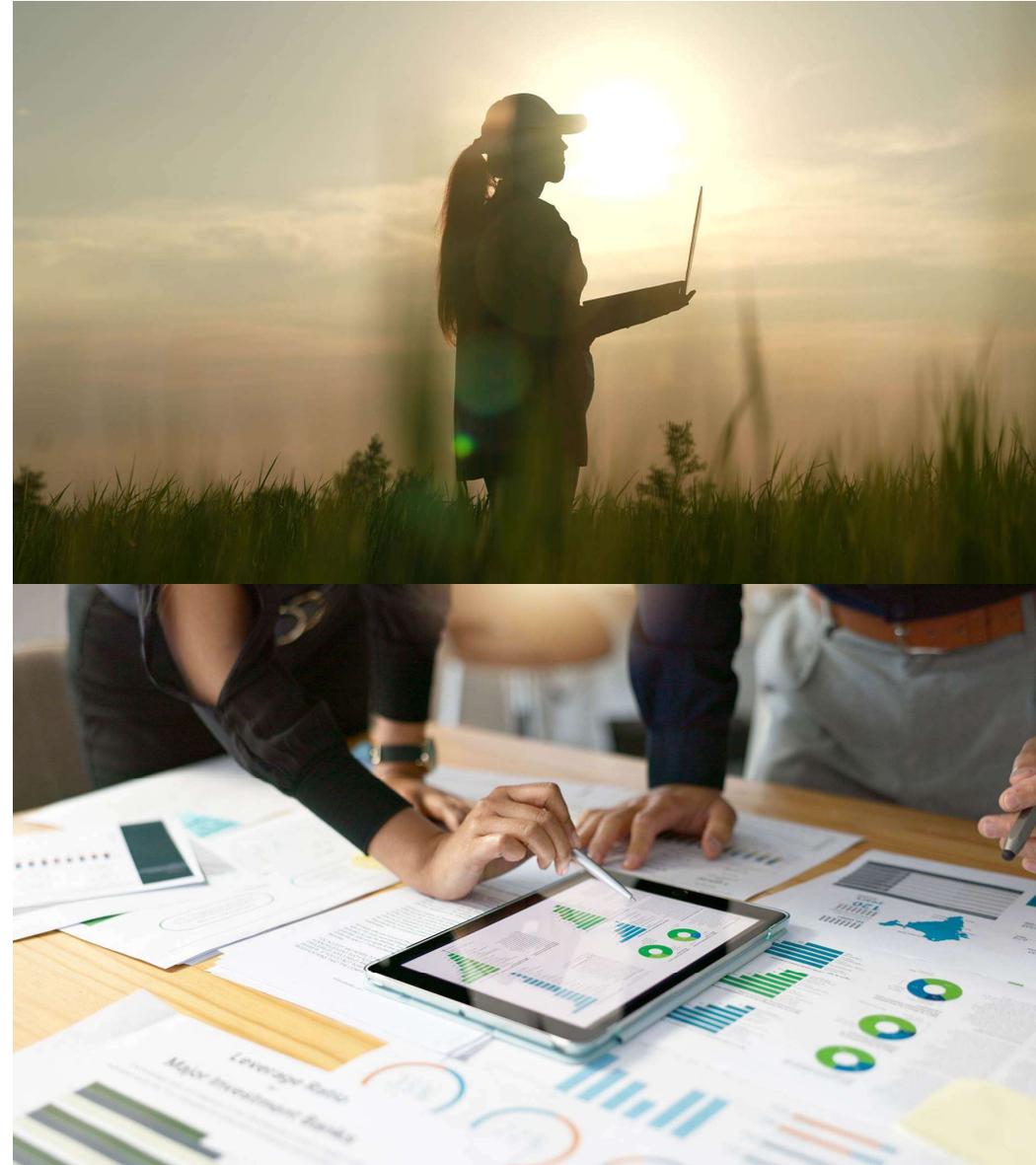
The screenshot shows the EA-Hub website interface. At the top, it says "Danmarks Miljøportal" with navigation links for "About", "Systems", and "DA". Below that, it says "EA-Hub" and "A platform that consolidates environmental assessments and impact reports to facilitate access and follow-up on environmental data." There is a large image of a landscape with wind turbines. At the bottom, there is a "Visit EA-Hub" button.

EA-Hub is a tool designed for authorities and professionals working with environmental assessments and environmental impact analyses. It enables users to upload, consolidate, search, and share assessments that were previously scattered across multiple systems. The purpose is to streamline workflows and improve access to environmental information, making it easier to comply with legal requirements and make informed decisions about sustainable development.

Wrap up

Wrap up

- Renewable energy policy pillars are impacting upon EIA and consenting practice
- There is a growing need to do more, with less and to do it faster - quality, programme, cost and engagement under greater scrutiny
- This has the potential to increase risks for project developments
- Importantly, there are significant opportunities that can be leveraged within practice to help mitigate some of these risks
 - Working smarter
 - Collaborating more widely and efficiently
 - Moving to standardized and strategic ways of working
 - Acceleration of digital integration



Thank you

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