

EIA & Renewable Energy

Agenda, Ireland's EIA Conference 2026

Thursday, 5th March
9:40 AM - 4:30 PM

10:00 am Chair's Welcome

- Josh Fothergill**
(Fothergill Training & Consulting Ltd)
- Welcome, Agenda and Housekeeping

10:05 am Skillnet Address

- Jeanette Gill**
(on behalf of Green Tech Skillnet
& Skillnet Offshore Wind Academy)
- Supporting skills in the Renewables sectors

10:10 am Opening Plenary: Drivers of change in EIA - The Risks and Opportunities

- James McDermott** (EDF)
- The energy transition and key legislative and policy initiatives driving change in EIA
- Ross McNally** (ERM)
- Perspectives on EIA risks & opportunities driven by policy and practice changes

11:00 am – 11:20 am Morning Coffee Break & Networking

11:20 am Morning Plenary: Statutory Body Perspectives

- Ciara Kellett** (An Coimisiún Pleanála)
- Implementing RED III and its links to developments in EIA practice [No Q&A]
- Tadhg O'Mahony** (EPA)
- Understanding Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) + how it can aid EIA

12:10 pm Breakouts: EIA Learnings to Enhance Practice

Delegates break into rooms (see colour on name badge) attend 3 sessions (Round 1: 12.10-12.50, Lunch, Rd2: 13.45-14.25, Rd3: 14.30-15.10) to enable everyone to attend each of:

- Paul Scott** (NPWS)
- **EIA and HDA: Linkages, Distinctions, Efficiencies & Other Thoughts!** 12:10 pm
- Elaine Dromey** (Dromey Eco Consulting)
- Exploring good practices and how far we can align the two assessments

12:50 pm - 1:45 pm Vegetarian Lunch & Networking

- Robert Fennelly** (EirGrid)
- **Learnings from EIA to Delivery in Strategic Infrastructure** 1:45 pm
- Des Cox** (Vantage Planning)
- What lessons can practice learn from reflecting on a project's EIA in delivery?
- Jonathan Moore and Rory Ferguson** (FieldFisher)
- **Recent lessons from caselaw on EIA** 2:30 pm
- Learning from EIA related litigation: Key issues for improving practice

3:10 pm - 3:25 pm Comfort Break & Networking

3:25 pm Closing Panel: How to ensure future EIA practice is efficient & effective

- Brendan Slattery** (McCann FitzGerald LLP)
- Gareth Coughlin** (APEM)
- Aoife O'Leary** (EMPower)
- Sean O'Callaghan** (An Taisce)

4:20 pm Chair's Closing Remarks Josh Fothergill

Note: Shortly after the conference the slides will be available at

www.fothergilltc.com/irelandeiaconference26