



# **OPIN Webinar: Public acceptance of offshore renewables**

16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

# Welcome

- Attendees' microphones will be muted during the event.
- After the presentations there will be a Q&A session.
- Questions can be formulated in the Q&A window at any time. Please send your questions to the host and all panellists and specify, in the text, to whom this question is for.
- The event will be recorded and shared on the OPIN website.

# Agenda (GMT)

**14:00 – 14:10 Introduction to webinar and the OPIN project**

Solène Goy - SEAI

**14:10 – 14:25 Ocean energy – in harmony with local communities and environments**

Lotta Pirttimaa - Ocean Energy Europe

**14:25 – 14:40 Stakeholder engagement and community benefits**

Garry Keegan - Infrastructure Projects Consulting

**14:40 – 14:55 Public perception of offshore wind farms in Ireland**

Yvonne Cronin – DP Energy

**14:55 – 15:10 The importance of social acceptance in developing the Igiugig Hydrokinetic Project**

Brendan Cahill – ORPC Ireland

**15:10 – 15:25 The Block Island (USA) offshore wind power project**

Jeremy Firestone - University of Delaware

**15:25 – 15:45 Q&A**





# OPIN Introduction

*Solène Goy - SEAI*



# What is OPIN ?

Ocean Power Innovation Network (OPIN)  
is a **European collaborative network**

OPIN Aim:

- Develop both cross-regional and cross-sectoral **collaboration**

OPIN Target:

- In-depth support to over 100 companies
- Develop a self-sustaining network (>200 members)



From 2019 to 2022.



**2.6M€** total project budget  
1.5M€ in financial support  
from Interreg North West Europe



[Join the network \(free\)](#)

# Who are OPIN ?

**7 partners** from Ireland, UK, Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Germany



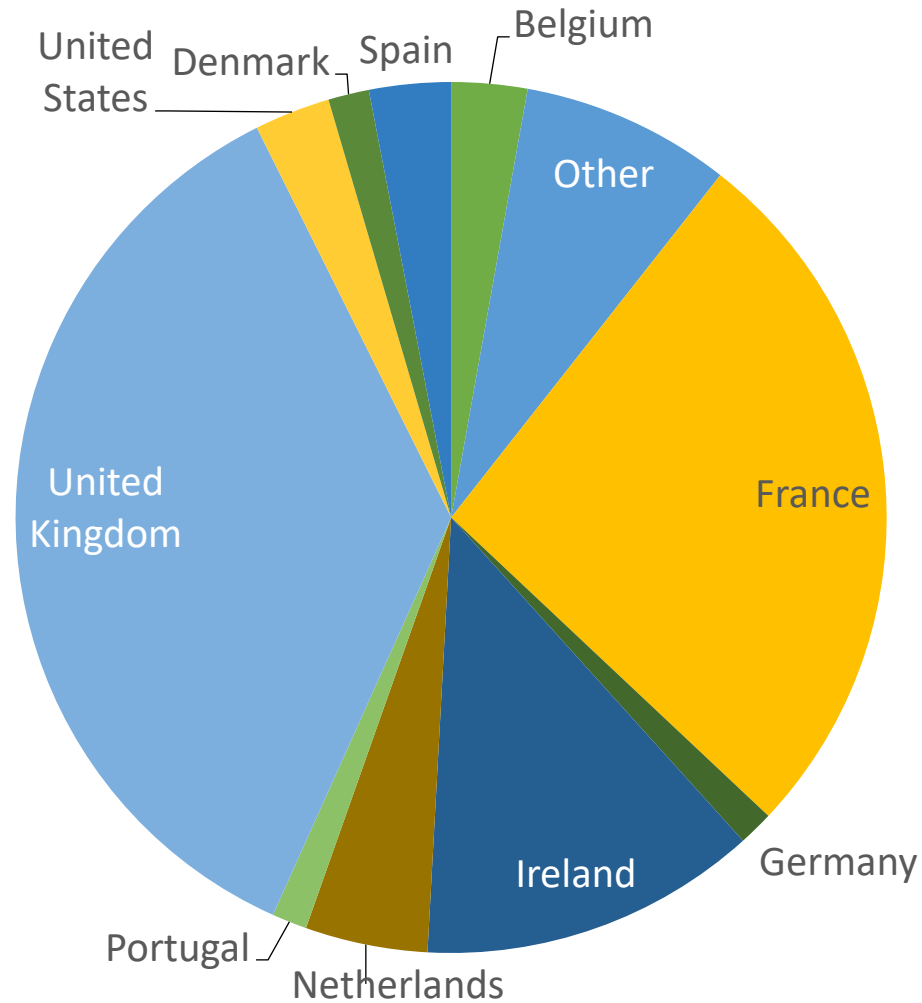
driving industry by technology



Project Partners	Countries/Regions
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)	Ireland
Scottish Enterprise (SE)	Scotland
Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult (OREC)	United Kingdom
Sirris, het collectief centrum van de technologische industrie (SIRRIS)	Belgium
West Atlantic Marine Energy Community, École Centrale de Nantes (WEAMEC)	France Pays de la Loire
Dutch Marine Energy Centre (DMEC)	Netherlands
Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V. (Fraunhofer IEE)	Germany



# OPIN Members



**462 members from 31 countries**

[Link to Members list](#)

# What can OPIN do for you (1/2)

Access **free events**: learning and networking opportunities.

- Masterclass: Corrosion solutions for offshore renewable energy devices (2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2021)

**More events will be announced soon for 2022 on our [Events page](#)**



# What can OPIN do for you (2/2)

Access expert advice on your technology (TAPs)

- ✓ Independent expert opinion – e.g., on the route to market, on reducing development risks and costs, etc.
- ✓ Advice on next steps, funding and collaboration opportunities



Support collaborative projects (CIGs)

- ✓ Preparatory step to National and EU research calls
- ✓ Find ways to solve technical or financial problems you are facing
- ✓ Expand your network nationally and internationally
- ✓ Benefit from the experience of those in other industries



Receive **travel support**

- ✓ Enabling Irish and Scottish Enterprise SMEs to travel abroad for OPIN events

# OPIN Resources



[OPIN Members list](#)



[OPIN Library:](#)

- Workshops/masterclasses presentations
- Value chain study - summary report
- Ocean energy challenges and recommendations: Desktop analysis of studies and reports



OPIN [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) groups. Join us for the latest updates!



Email us at: [OPIN@seai.ie](mailto:OPIN@seai.ie)





# Ocean energy – in harmony with local communities and environments

*Lotta Pirttimaa - Ocean Energy Europe*





# Ocean energy – in harmony with local communities and environments

**Lotta Pirttimaa, Policy & Project Officer, Ocean Energy Europe**

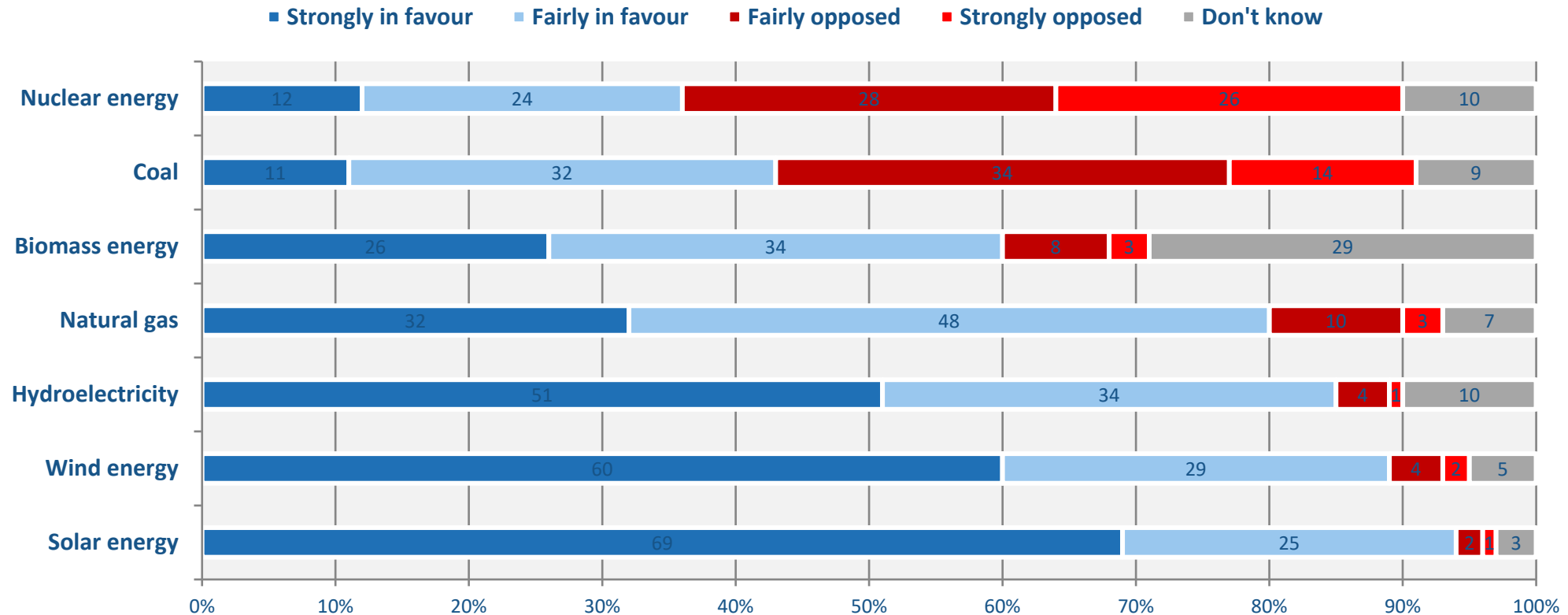


# Ocean Energy Europe

- 120 members
- Lead partners:



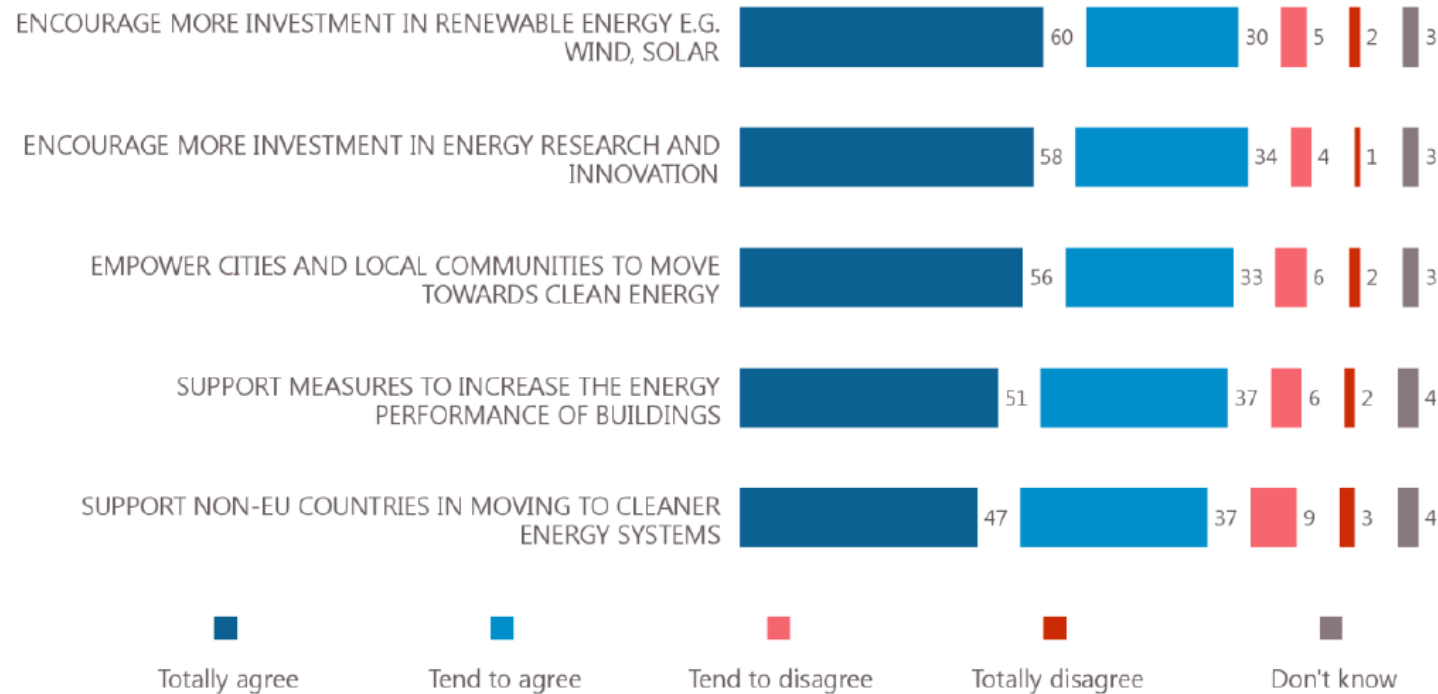
# To what extent are you in favour or opposed to the use of the following sources of energy in your country?



Source: Eurobarometer 364/2011 Public Awareness and Acceptance of CO2 capture and storage

# 90% of EU citizen support more renewables

**QB4** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? It should be the EU's responsibility to ...  
(% - EU)



Base: All respondents (n=27,438)

Source: Eurobarometer 492/2019 EU Energy Policy

# Two golden rules to increase acceptance

## GIVE & GATHER information:

- Lack of knowledge creates concerns
  - Explain what you do & what the impacts are
- Lack of control creates resistance
  - Include the community to your planning





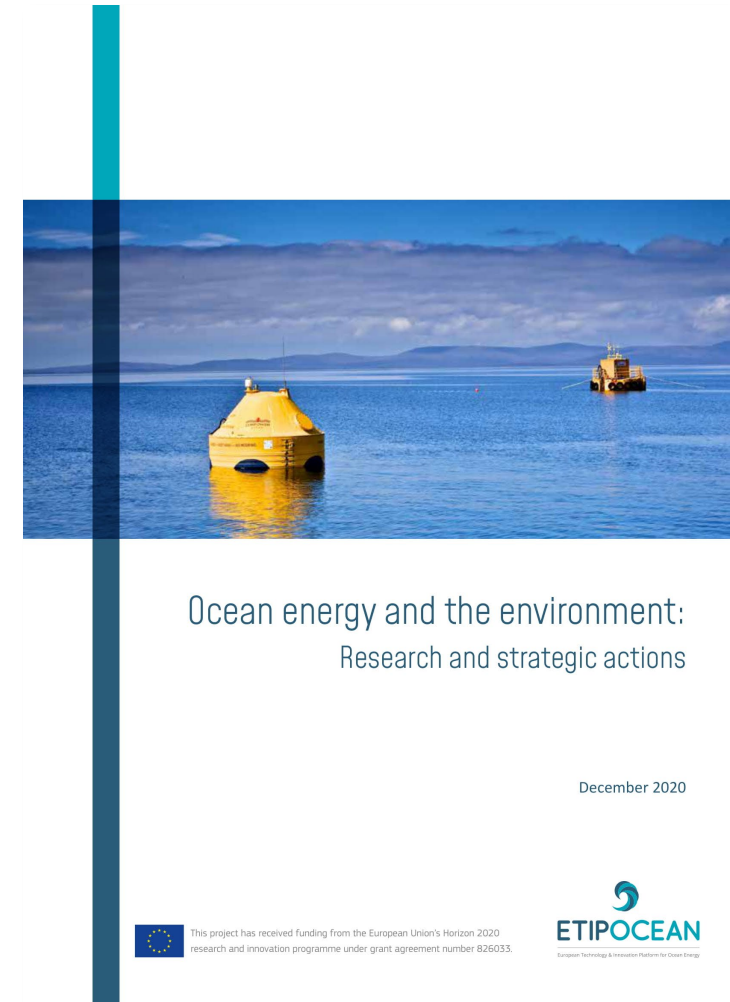
# Share information & reduce environmental concerns



- Environmental concerns are of particular concern to local people
  - Wave and tidal technologies are new & unfamiliar to people
- Understanding the impacts are low will reduce concerns & increase acceptance

# Explain in a way that is easy to understand

- Collisions have never happened
- Marine animals avoid the devices
- Noise is lower than ambient noise
- Devices can create artificial reefs and marine reserves



# Engage with locals & accelerate consenting



- Continuous engagement
  - Include the public in consultations from the start & until the end
- Local support accelerates consenting
  - Increases regulators' trust



# Raise awareness and harness local knowledge

- Communicate the impacts and benefits of the project
- Listen to their concerns and knowledge of the local environment
- Include all relevant stakeholders, not just the key players
- Be present in the community and meet them in real life

## Webinar: Benefits & tips for local community engagement

🕒 21/10/2021





# Conclusion: Give & gather info to increase acceptance



- Raise awareness and share knowledge
  - Benefits of ocean energy & your project
  - Impacts on the environment, local economy, stakeholders...
- Engage with the local community
  - Consult all stakeholders
  - Listen to their opinions & advice

# Stay tuned!



@EuropeanOceanEnergyAssociation



@OceanEnergyEU



european-ocean-energy-association



@oceanenergyeurope





# Stakeholder engagement and community benefits

*Garry Keegan - Infrastructure Projects Consulting*

A banner image showing a sunset or sunrise over a body of water with waves. The sun is partially obscured by clouds, creating a warm, golden glow. The text "OPIN - Ocean Power Innovation Network" is overlaid in white.

## OPIN - Ocean Power Innovation Network

**OPIN Webinar 16th November 2021:**

**Public Acceptance of Offshore Renewables**

**Stakeholder Engagement & Community Benefits**

**by**

**Dr. Garry M. Keegan**

**IPC / IEA Wind Task 28**



**Introduction / Background**

**Recent Publication**

**Stakeholder Engagement**

**Community Benefit Schemes**

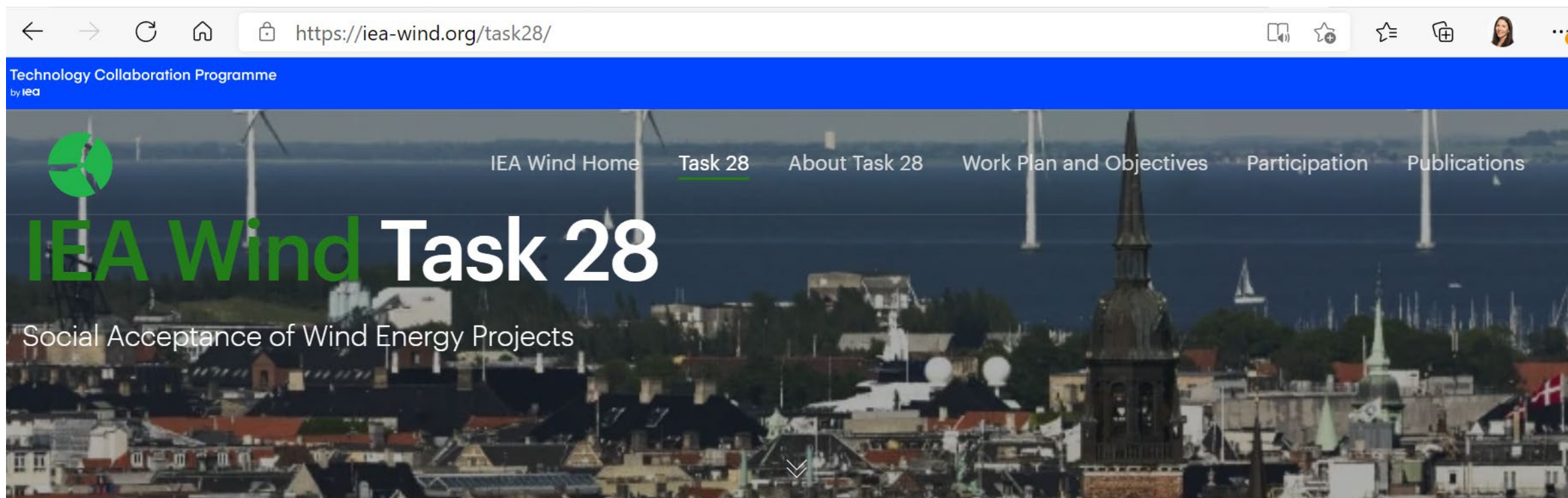
**Next steps, opportunities for involvement**

**Questions**

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/)

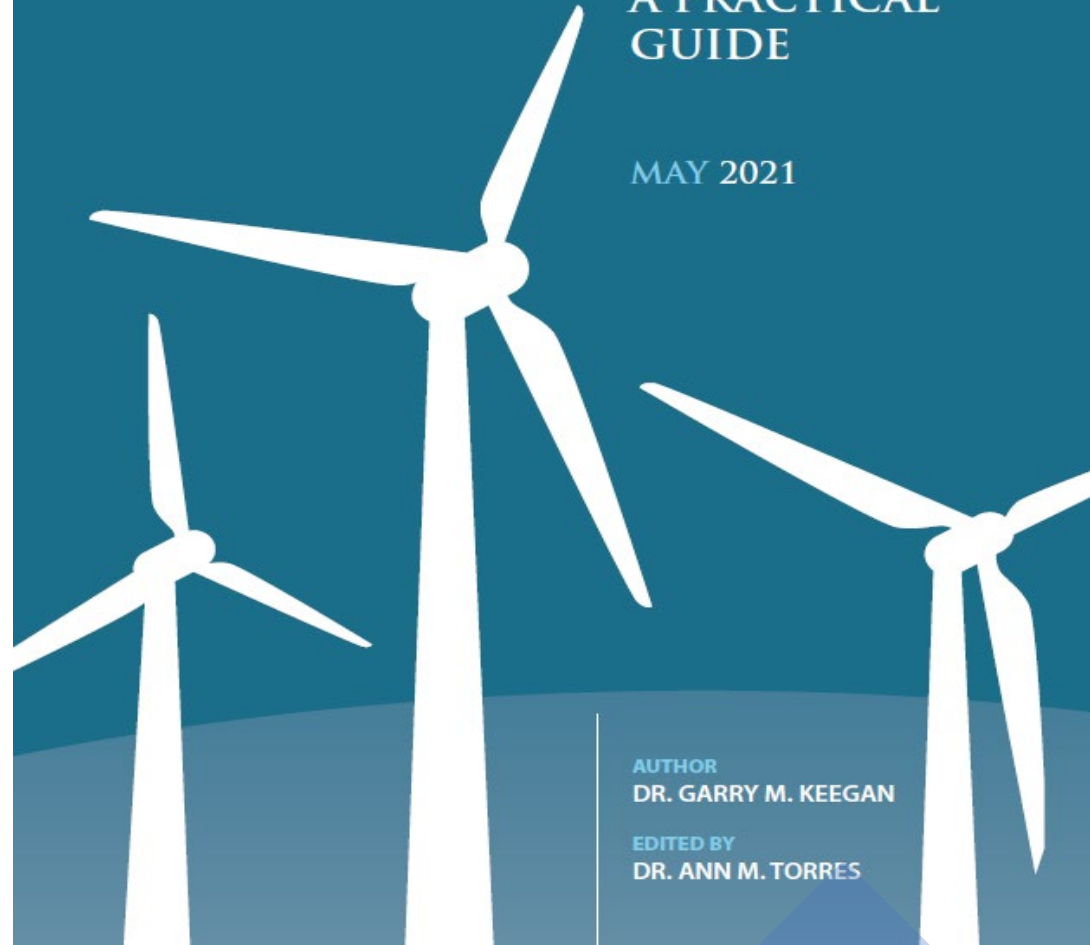
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# OFFSHORE WIND FARM PROJECTS

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNITY BENEFITS A PRACTICAL GUIDE

MAY 2021



AUTHOR  
DR. GARRY M. KEEGAN

EDITED BY  
DR. ANN M. TORRES

*This project has been supported with financial contribution from Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland under the SEAI Research, Development & Demonstration Funding Programme 2019, Grant number 19/RDD/554.*



# 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

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



# 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

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

**gmk@ipc10.com**



Questions?

Thank you.



# Public perception of offshore wind farms in Ireland

*Yvonne Cronin – DP Energy*

Yvonne Cronin  
Community and Stakeholder Liaison Manager

# Public Perception of Offshore Wind Farms in Ireland

November 2021





# Who are DP Energy?

- Irish based renewable energy developer, head-quartered in Buttevant, Co. Cork.
- Established over 30 years ago, early 90s.
- Developing globally – Australia, United Kingdom, Canada and Ireland.
- Onshore Wind, Solar, Tidal, Offshore.
- Sustainable Developments.







**Aim: To conduct multidisciplinary research into development pathways (a Blueprint) for offshore wind in Ireland**

**WP2 Data Management for Site Evaluation**

**WP6 Research Synthesis:  
EirWind Blueprint**

**WP3 Development Optimisation  
for Cost Reduction**



**WP5 Markets Infrastructures, Storage  
and Economic Benefits**

**WP4 Governance and Biology**

**Project Duration: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020**

# Four main pillars of Study of the WP4 Governance and Biology Study in EirWind

1. Legal and Policy Review
2. Socio Economic Study
3. Social Licence to Operate – Fishers
4. Social Licence to Operate – Public Perception

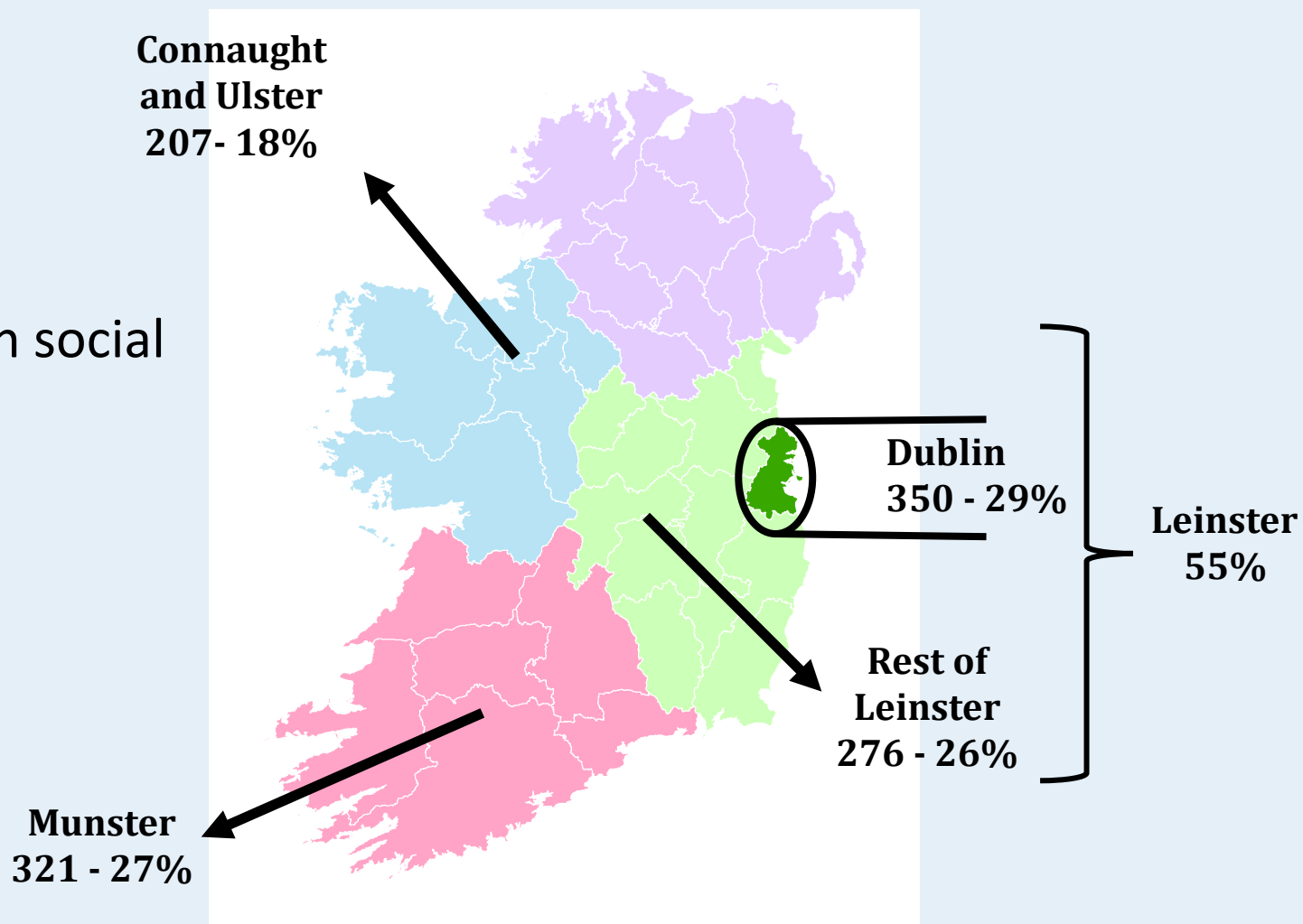


# The Aim – What is the current mindset of the Irish General Public with regard to offshore wind farm development?

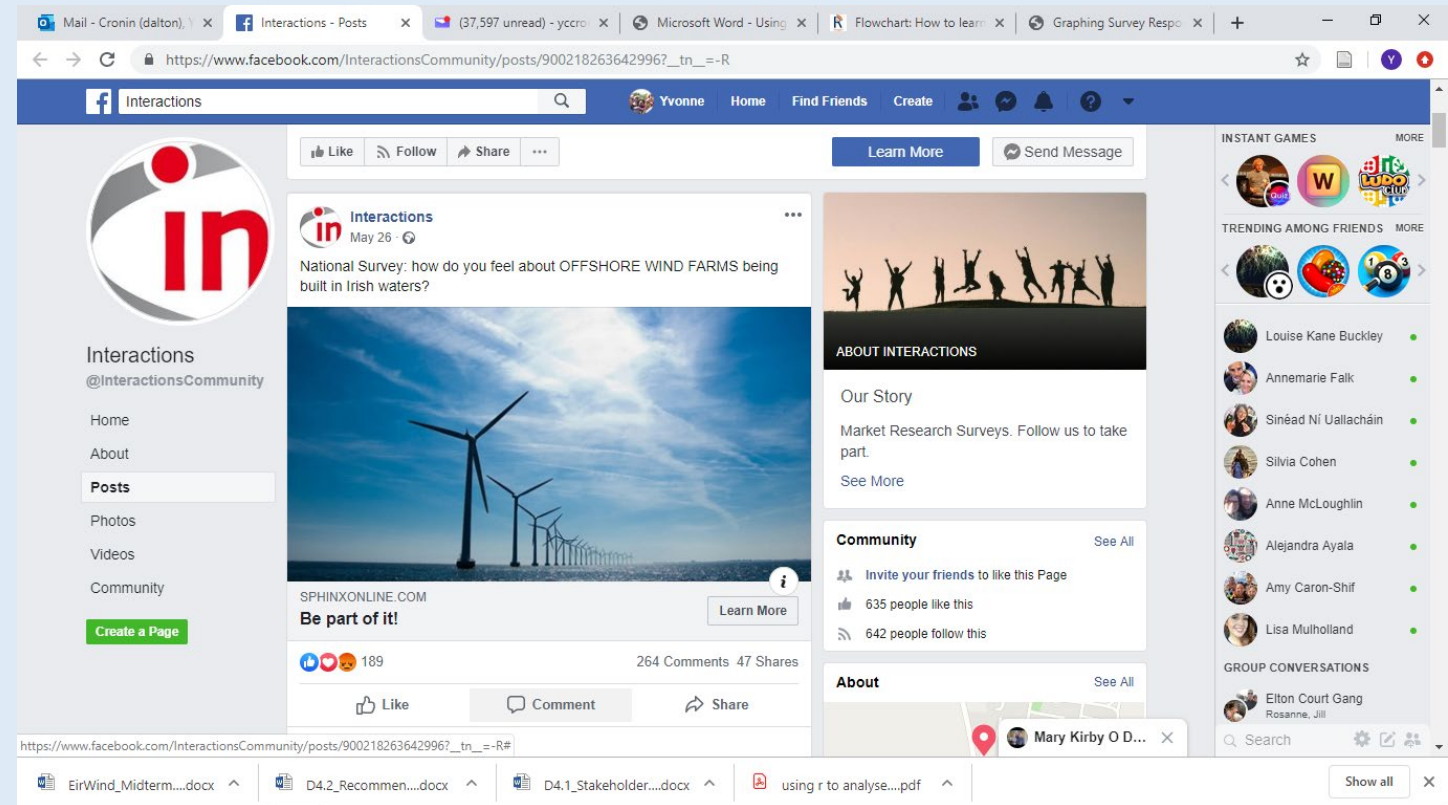
1. What experience has the Irish public had with offshore wind farms to date?
2. How do people feel about energy security?
3. Do people relate wind energy to the challenge of climate change?
4. Do people think the government should support the development of offshore wind, and how?
5. How do people feel about specific issues of concern such as job creation, effects on wildlife and visual impact?
6. Would people be inclined to object to the development of offshore wind farms in their area and why?

# Survey Responses

- Nationally representative
  - Geographically targeted through social media
- Statistically Robust
  - 1154 useable responses



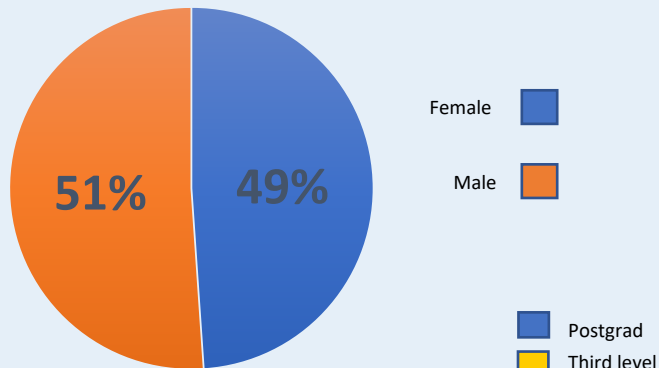
# National Survey 24<sup>th</sup> May and the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2019



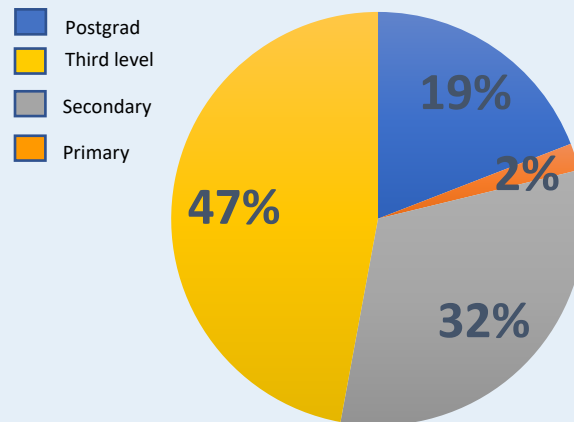


# Survey Responses

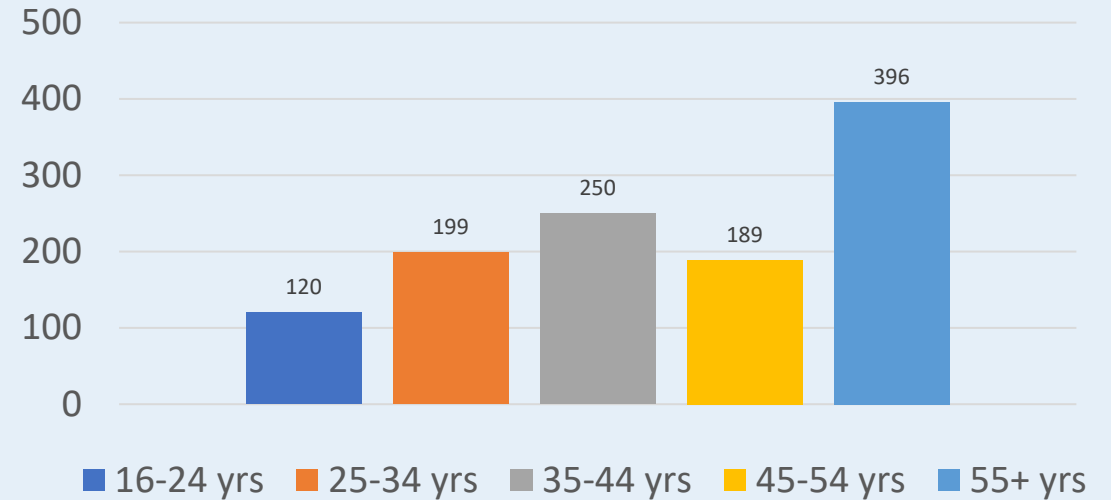
Gender



Education



Age



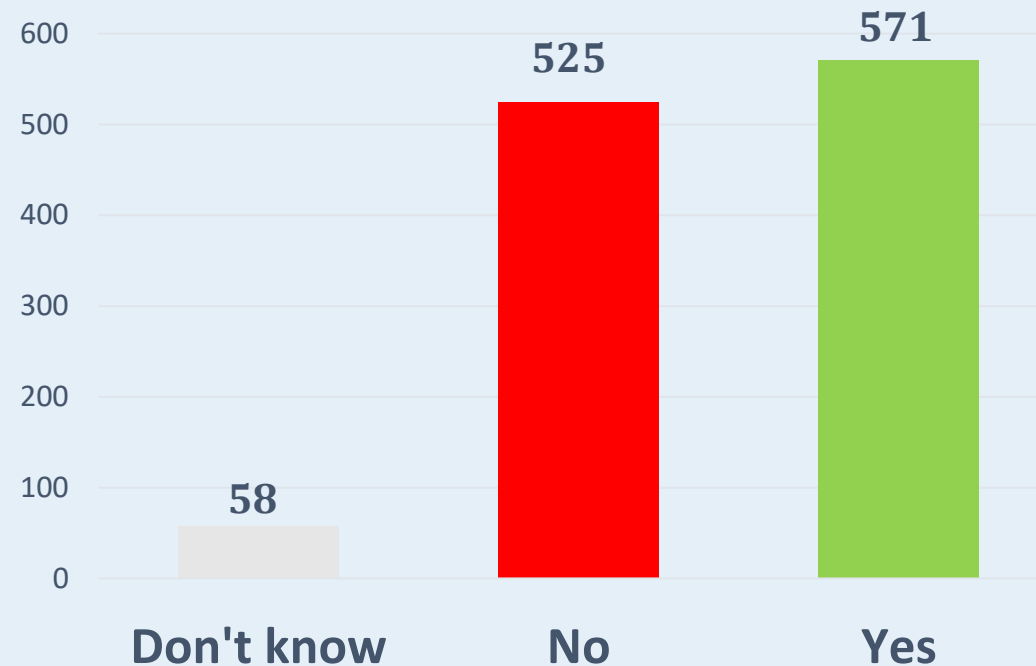
# Results

- 87% would facilitate development of an offshore wind farm in their locality (by either not objecting or supporting)
- 93% would facilitate development of an offshore wind farm outside of their locality (by either not objecting or supporting)



“Experience of offshore wind farms has a significant effect on attitudes towards them” (Ladenburg and Möller, 2011)

Have you ever seen an offshore wind farm?





44 From Home



78 Commute to work



449 on holidays

Positively biased because of holidays?



**Clubs  
Residents  
Businesses  
Local Municipal District Council**

**Phone calls,  
Follow up email  
invitations**



**Councillors  
local resident  
Sailing Club  
Representatives**

**Guided discussion - open ended questions  
The Past  
The Present  
The Future**

*“They are huge and have a lovely leisurely spin on them, clear white with no noise, perhaps that’s because of the noise of the sea”*

*“To reduce the ‘fear factor’ take the jargon out of it”*



*“Its absolutely lovely to see the windmills and the yachts on a summer’s day”*

*“If you ask the people on the street they couldn’t tell you how many [wind turbines] there are”*



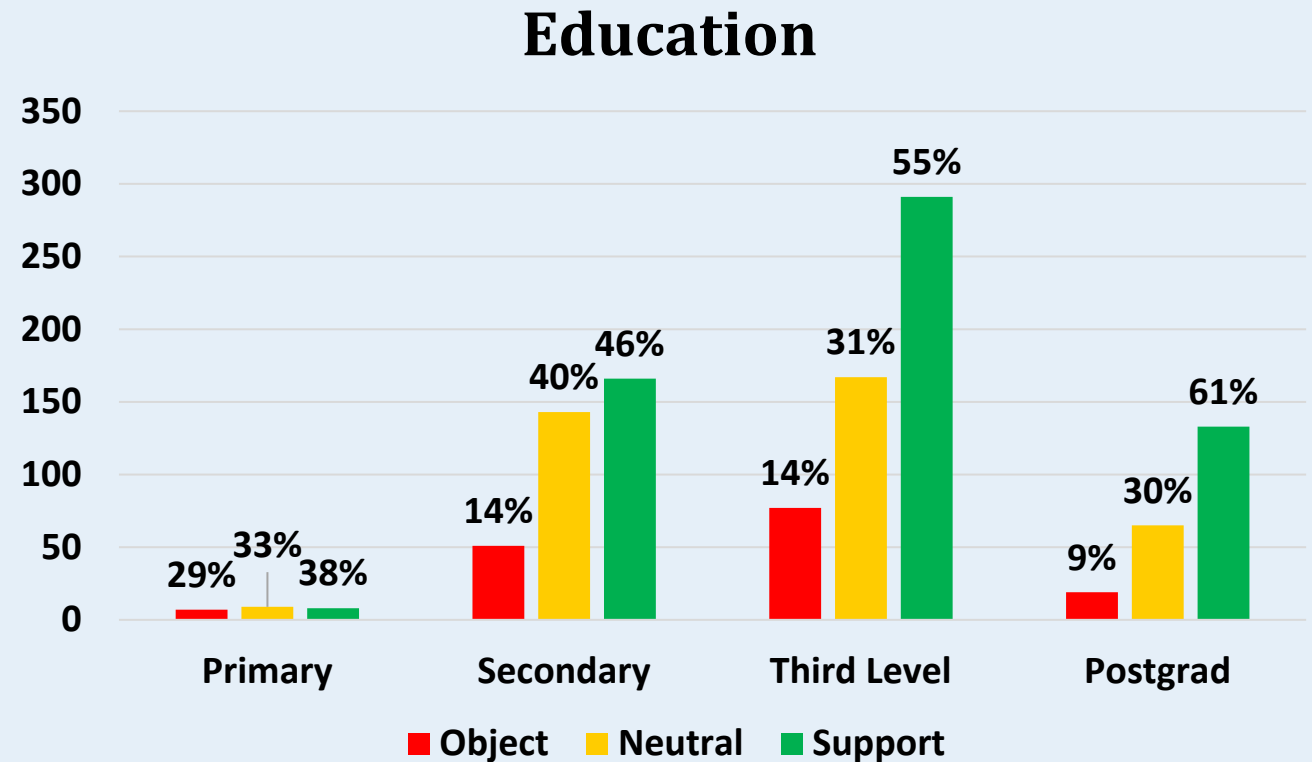
*“Here in Arklow, we don’t have an island to race around, so we love to race to the wind mills and back”*

*“Its just a given in our daily lives you get up everyday, you breath everyday, the wind mills are there every day”*

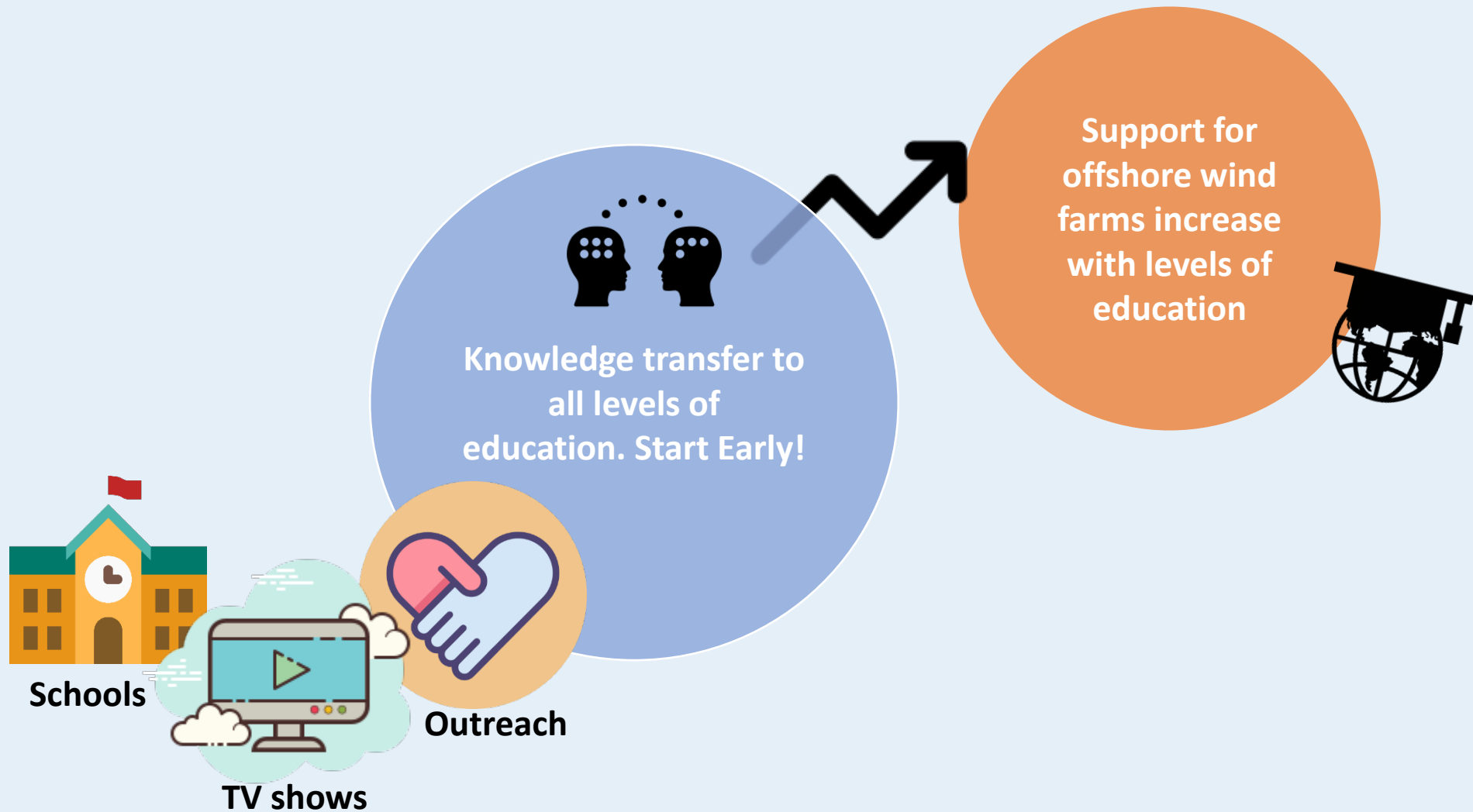
*“Its a bit of comfort when you come over the hill and you see the lights at night, you know you’re home”*

# “Opposition to wind farms increases with increased levels of education” (Krueger et al., 2000)

- Attitudes to planned OSWFs change significantly with education levels
- Support of wind farm development increases with higher levels of education



# Targeting Messaging - Audiences





# Areas of Specific Concern



## VISUAL IMPACT

49%

OFFSHORE WIND  
FARMS ARE  
INTERESTING TO  
LOOK AT

39%

DID NOT NOTICE  
THE STRUCTURE  
WHEN LOOKED  
OUT TO SEA

## JOB CREATION

63%

OFFSHORE WIND  
COULD LEAD TO  
NEW JOBS



# Merit in a National Campaign to Strengthen the perceived link between offshore wind and energy security/ climate change

**78%** Renewable electricity would make a difference to Irish carbon emissions

**65%** Ireland is too reliant on foreign energy

**65%** Ireland has limited amount of fossil fuel resources and are running out



**73%** No changes in current electricity production will result to severe climate disasters

Offshore wind farms help stall climate change **60%**

Offshore wind electricity is renewable and clean **69%**

# The way forward...

- The Irish Public are ready for and supportive of offshore wind development in Ireland
- Those who already have an offshore wind farm in their area are positive about existing and further development ...to a point
- Early and transparent engagement is key
- We need to build on these positive results..... to match the success, we already have onshore



# Public Perception of Offshore Wind Farms in Ireland



[https://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S0308-597X\(21\)00425-5](https://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S0308-597X(21)00425-5)

<https://www.marei.ie/eirwind-offshore-strategy/>



# More Information



Yvonne Cronin, Community and Stakeholder Liaison Manager

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With thanks to  
Dr Val Cummins, Dr Eric Wolsztynski , and Dr Ger Mullally



*This has been funded by EIRWind industry partners, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) under Grant No 12/RC/2302, and University College Cork, Ireland*







# The importance of social acceptance in developing the Igiugig Hydrokinetic Project

*Brendan Cahill – ORPC Ireland*



# The importance of social acceptance in developing the Igiugig Hydrokinetic Project

*Brendan Cahill, Director of European Development*

*November 16, 2021*



*Improving people's lives, and their environment, through sustainable energy solutions*

An abstract graphic of a blue water splash or wave, rendered in various shades of blue, spanning the top half of the slide. It features dynamic, flowing lines and small circular bubbles, creating a sense of movement and depth. The background is a solid, darker blue.

# Introduction to ORPC



# Patented technology, proven through 12 successful deployments since 2010

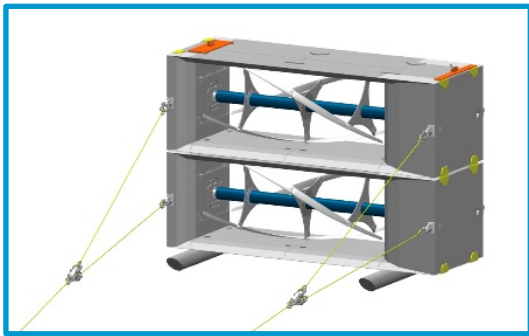


- HQ in Portland, Maine; 30+ employees; founded 2004
  - Subsidiaries in Quebec, Ireland and Chile
- Patented hydrokinetic technology, proven in both tidal and river applications
  - A family of 5 patents filed in 14 countries
- Best-in-industry project development and permitting capabilities
- Business model acclaimed for inclusion and empowerment
- Recipient of 28 project grants from state, federal and international agencies



# ORPC Product Pipeline

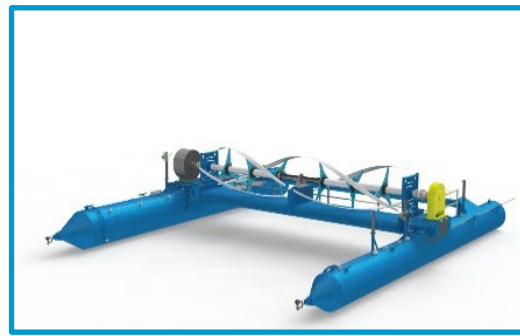
A portfolio of products that address all segments of the river and tidal markets



## Modular RivGen

1 Turbine, stackable  
30-50 kW  
Rivers/Tailraces/Canals

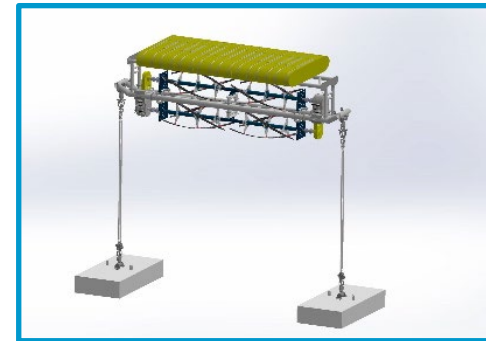
Under Development  
(DOE Project)



## RivGen

2 Turbines  
40-80 kW  
Remote Communities

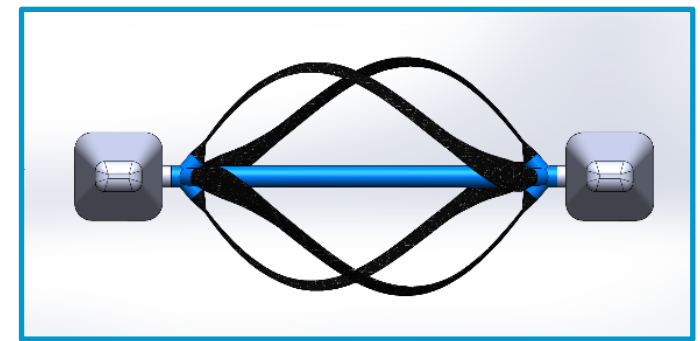
Deployed  
Igiugig, Alaska



## TidGen-80

4 Turbines  
80-120 kW  
Tidal Locations

Under Development  
(DOE Project)



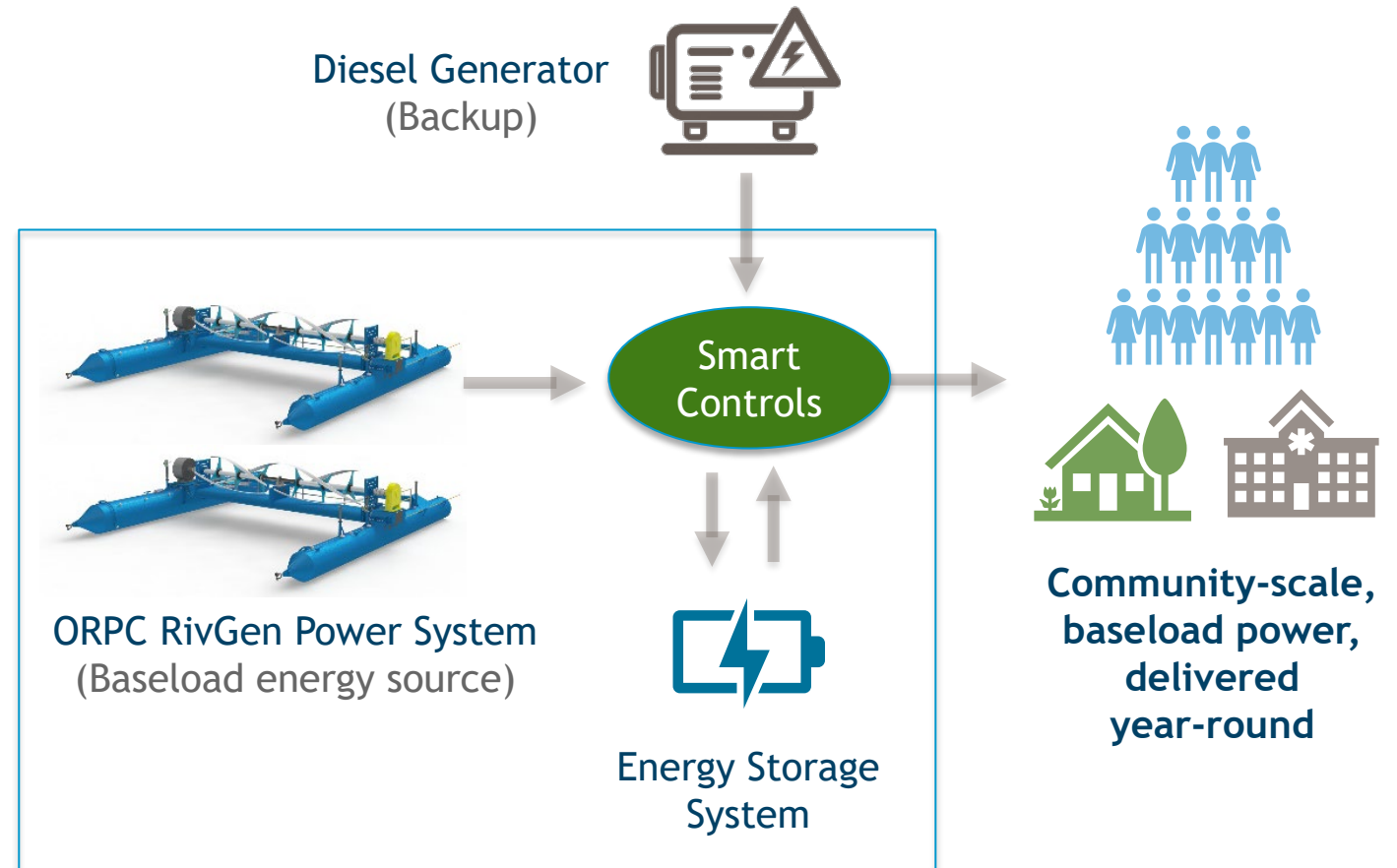
## Optimor

1 Large Turbine  
1-2 MW  
Tidal Locations

Under Development  
(Horizon 2020 in EU)

# ORPC's microgrid product delivers baseload renewable energy from free-flowing rivers and tides

- A RivGen-powered smart microgrid can relegate diesel generators to backup only.
- RivGen provides constant, predictable power (baseload).
- Energy storage and smart controls, coupled with RivGen baseload power, improve the value proposition of intermittent sources like wind and solar.





# Development Process and Stakeholder Engagement



- Fundamental to ORPC's deployment success and brand
- Based on frequent and transparent communication
- Includes host communities, marine users, governmental officials, and regulatory agencies







# The Igiugig Hydrokinetic Project

# The Igiugig Hydrokinetic Project



Longest-operating river hydrokinetic project in the Americas





# Existing energy infrastructure



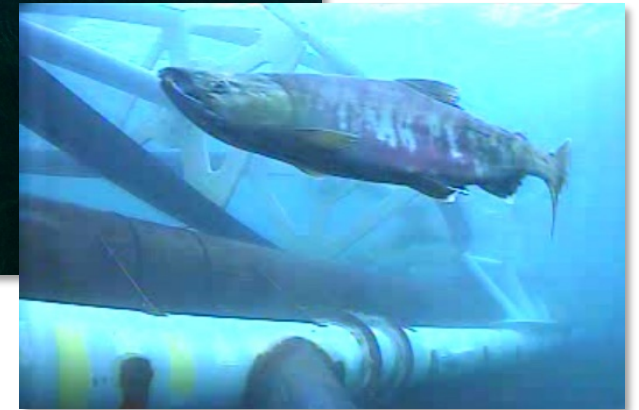
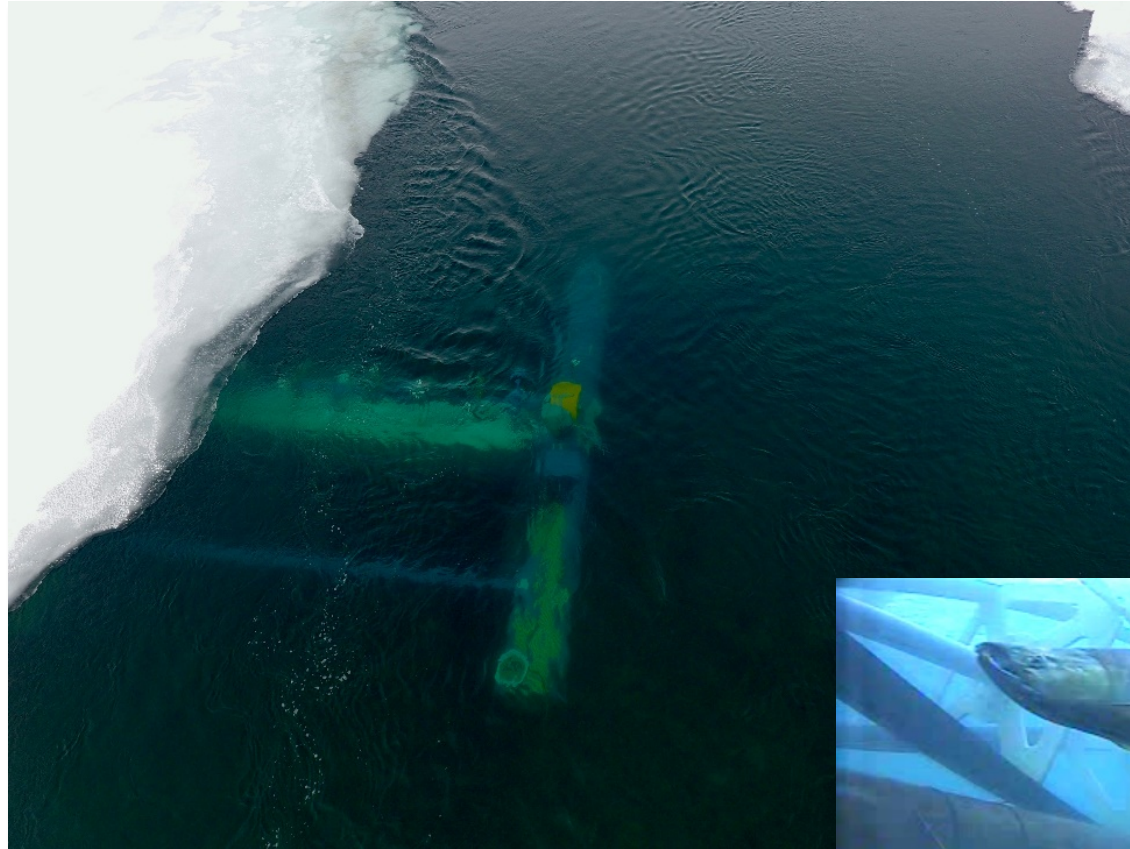
- Diesel powered power plant
- Diesel brought to the community by barges or by DC-4



# Project Highlights



- Deployed for 20 consecutive months
- Over 16 million turbine rotations
- No observed negative effects to environment
- Survived multiple Alaskan winters (-40 C), frazil ice event and break-up of over 2 feet of lake ice flowing over it





# A remarkable achievement in partnership with the community of Igiugig



Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/GxjELfnX5xc>



# The importance of social acceptance in developing the project

# IVC Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license

In May 2019, the Igiugig Village Council became the first tribal entity in the U.S. to achieve Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approval for a 10-year pilot project license to construct, operate and maintain the Igiugig Hydrokinetic Project.

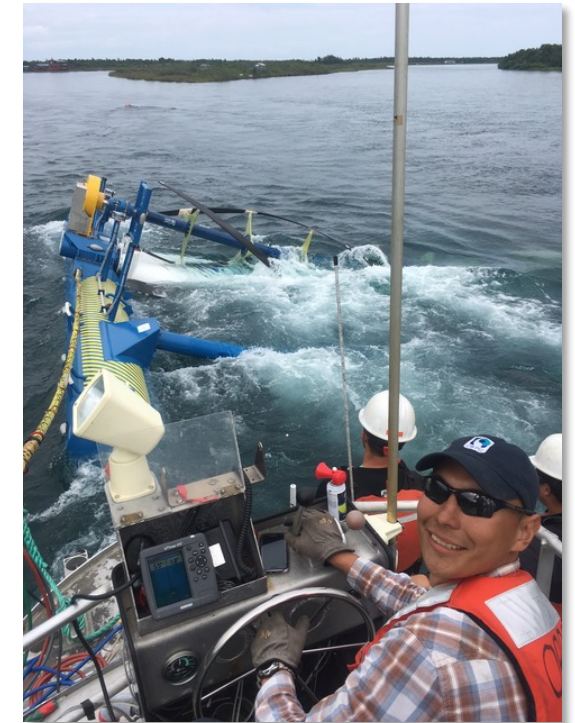


*Karl Hill, Vice President, Igiugig Village Council,  
with FERC license application*



# Project execution

*Build, assemble, deploy, operate, monitor, maintain...*




Inclusion of the community  
and working with local  
resources is key to the  
success of the project

# Planned Maintenance During a Pandemic

- Our 2020 planned inspection and maintenance event occurred with support from local workforce and with strict COVID protocols in place
- ORPC and IVC collaborated extensively to develop protocols to protect the health of workers and the community including:
  - State accepted COVID plan
  - Testing prior to travel
  - Quarantine during time on site
  - Masks and social distancing implemented during operations







# Community Input in ORPC Tidal Energy Projects



# Co. Donegal Feasibility Study, Ireland

- Key objectives included:
  - Identifying areas with potential for tidal energy (depth, velocity, access, environmental considerations, existing marine use)
  - Evaluating potential supply chain companies
  - Consenting considerations
  - Community engagement
- Developed lasting relationships with local partners and supply chain companies
- Partnership with the Donegal County Council was instrumental to the success and direction of the assessment
- Process has informed ORPC's approach to growth in Ireland and Europe



# Tidal Energy Resource Assessment Nunavut, Canada

- Desktop analysis completed for 13 communities in 2021
- Field measurements made in August 2021 in collaboration with five communities using local vessels and captains
- Detailed measurement campaigns planned in two communities in 2022



# Eastport Smart Microgrid Solution, USA



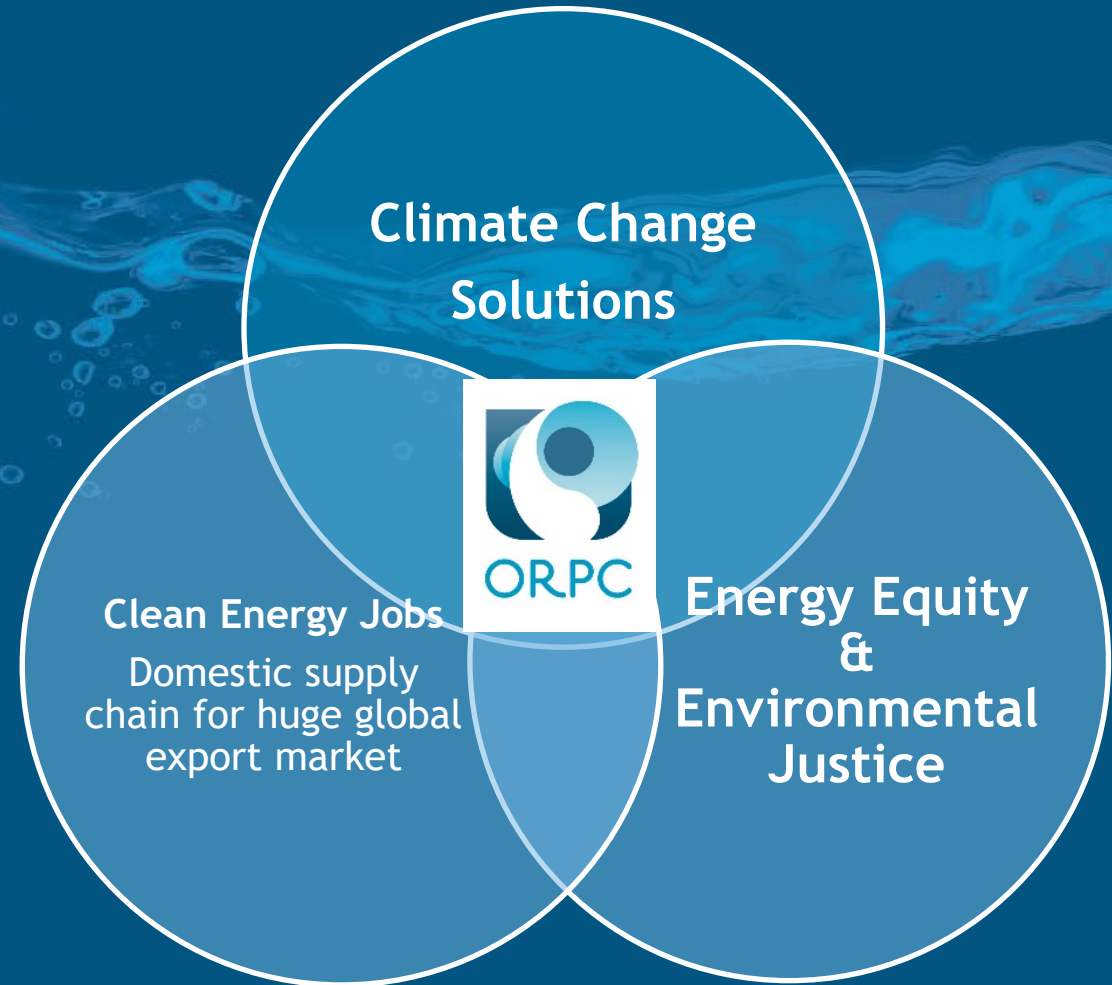
- TidGen® Power System
  - First federally-licensed ocean energy project to send power to regional grid in all of the Americas
  - 100 local jobs supported
  - Over 280 partners, contractors, service providers in 14 of Maine's 16 counties
- Eastport and ORPC have signed MOU to document their economic development partnership
- ORPC will be initiating the installation of the next generation TidGen device in 2022
- Improves resiliency of how electricity is delivered, used and managed
- Eastport becomes a model smart grid city operating on 100% local renewable energy





# Thank You

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# The Block Island (USA) offshore wind power project

*Jeremy Firestone - University of Delaware*



# The Block Island (USA) Offshore Wind Power Project: It's not rock and roll, but do you like it?

**Jeremy Firestone**  
University of Delaware

November 16, 2021  
OPIN

UNIVERSITY OF  
DELAWARE



**CReW**  
Center for Research in Wind





# Social Acceptance in Context

- Not in my backyard (**NIMBY**)
  - Often used as a pejorative
  - More a description of opposition than an explanation
  - Opposition may be better seen as **place-protective actions** (Devine-Wright, 2009)
- **Social constructs**, such as wind power's representation of a **clean energy future**, may be more important than physical attributes
- Issues of procedural justice permeate attitudes
- Typically presented a narrow choice set (offshore wind or nothing), the choice is a one off, and much research is a single snapshot in time

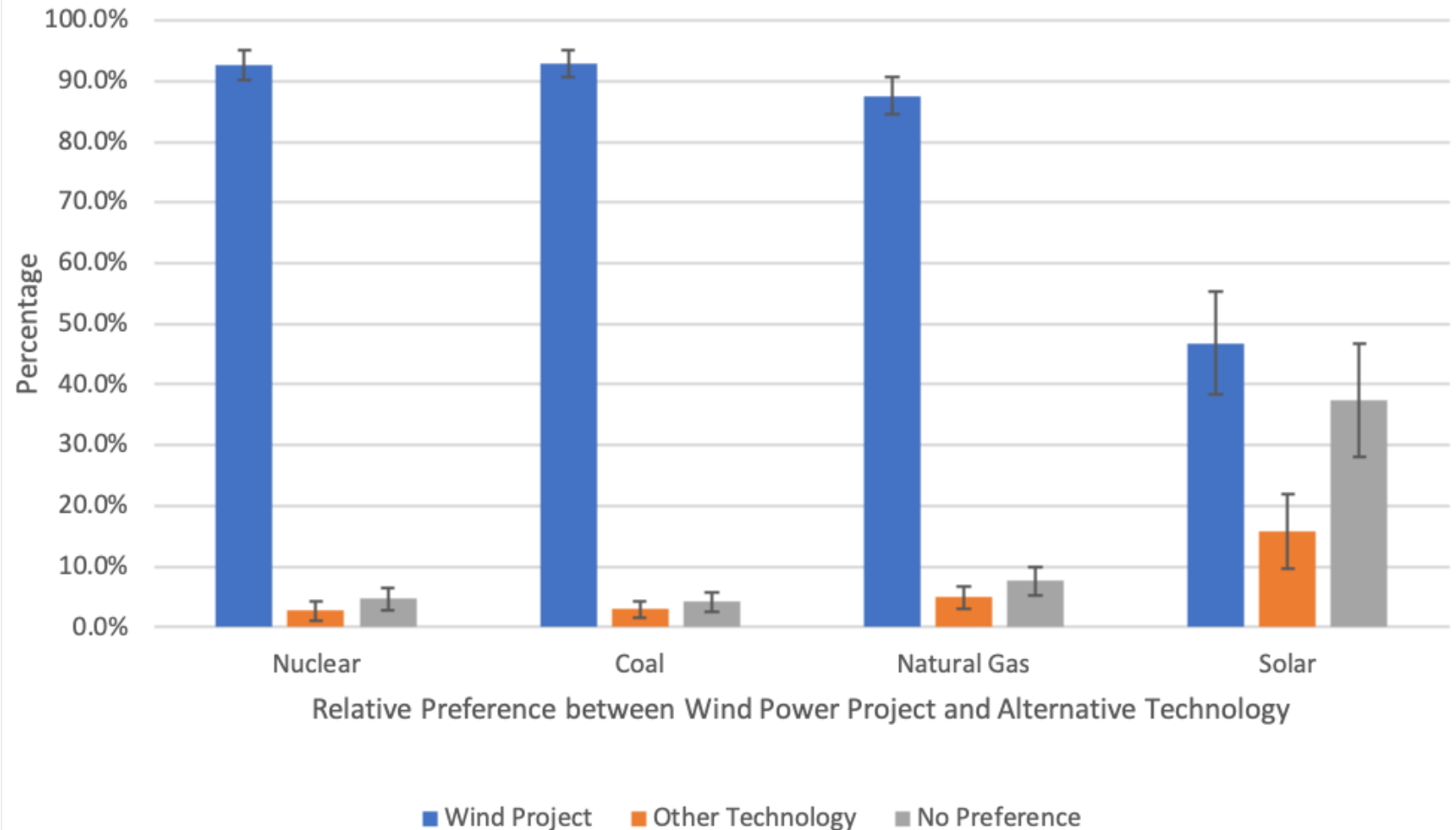
# Source Choice, but we typically inquire as to one's attitude toward a particular renewable energy project

(2016 National survey of individuals living within 5 miles of a land-based wind turbine)

Would you rather live near the Wind Project or a ["fuel"] Plant?

A respondent could then select among four options:

- Wind project
- ["Fuel"] plant
- No preference
- Don't know



# Individuals are more likely to support a local project if the local project is to be part of an energy transition rather than a one-off

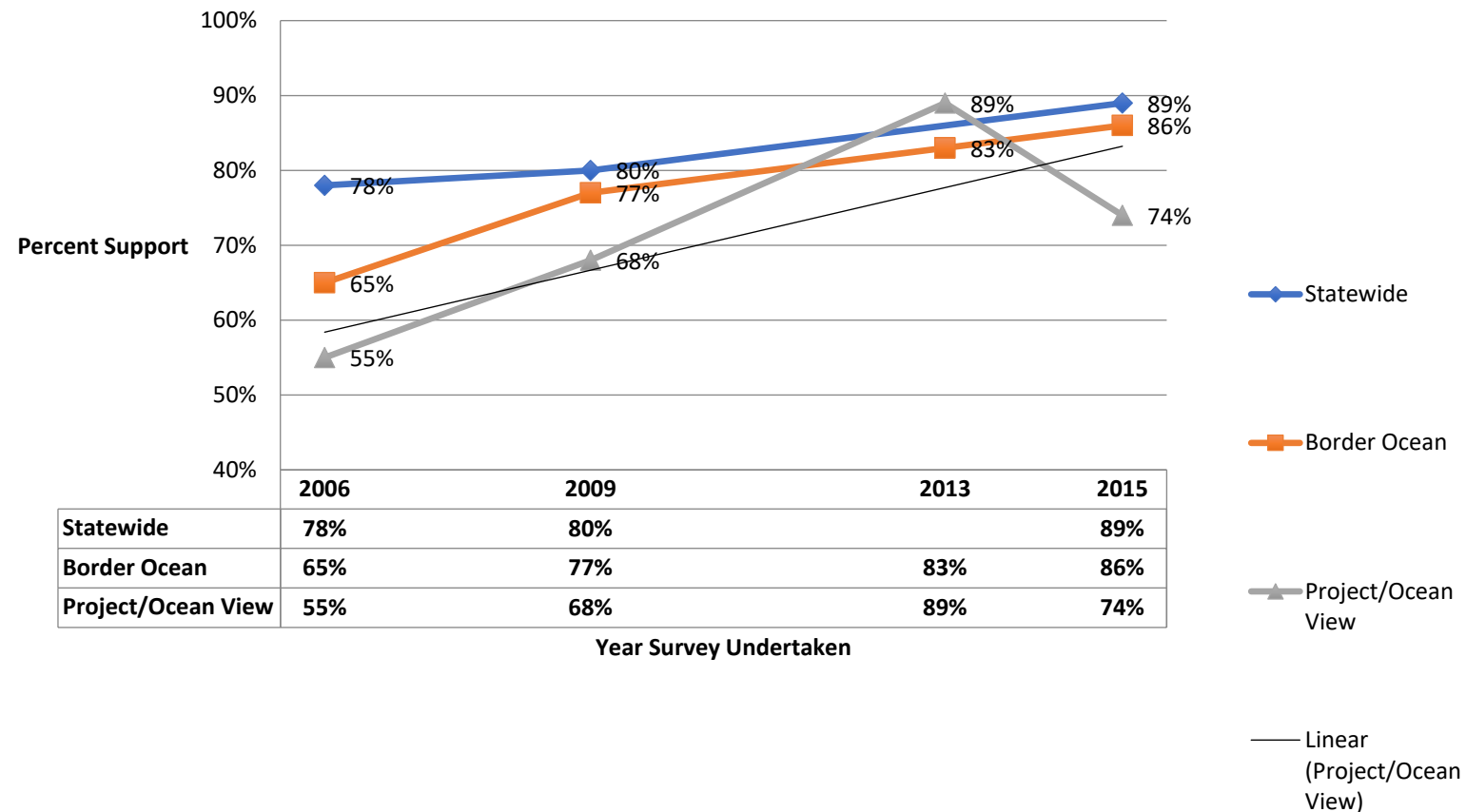
Are individuals who “have not yet made up their mind” about a local project more or less likely to support that project if it was the ***first*** of many (300) projects? (2009 survey results)

Survey Area	More	Less
Cape & Islands	61%	6%
DE Ocean	71%	10%
DE Statewide	57%	9%



# Opinion can change over time

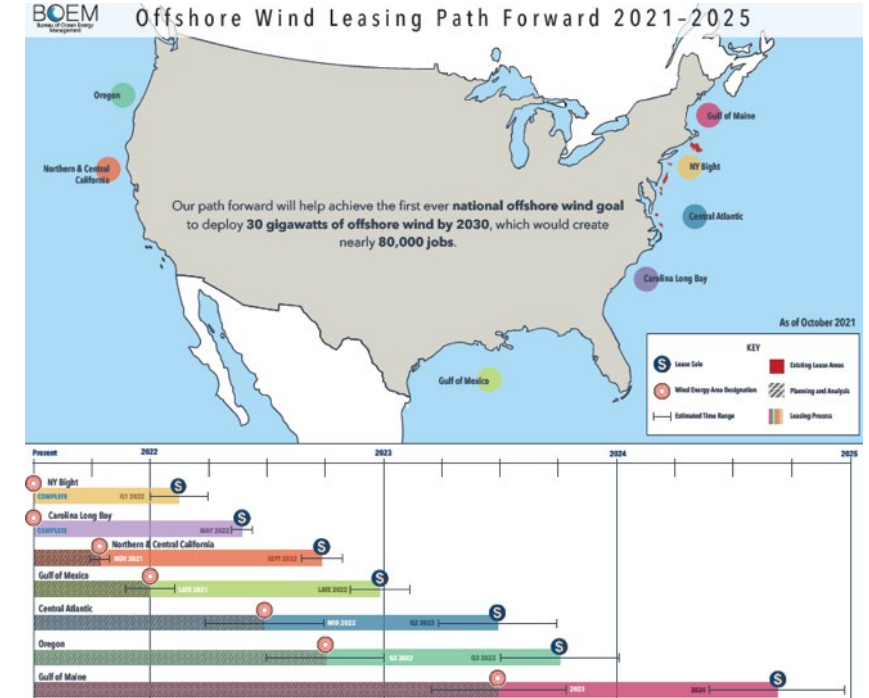
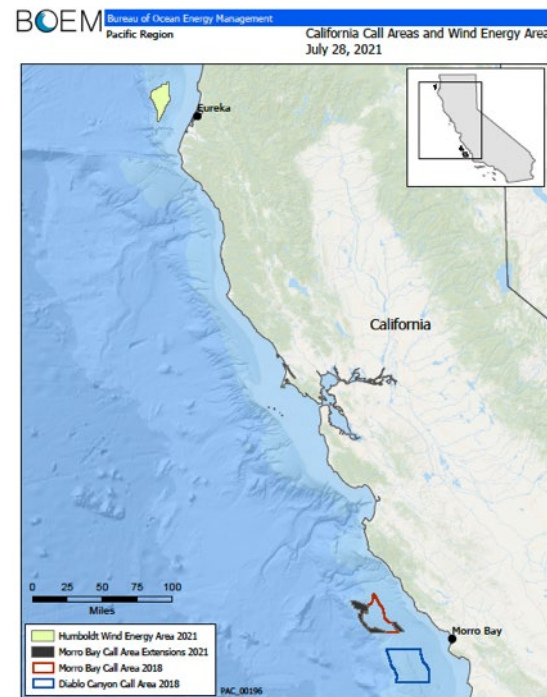
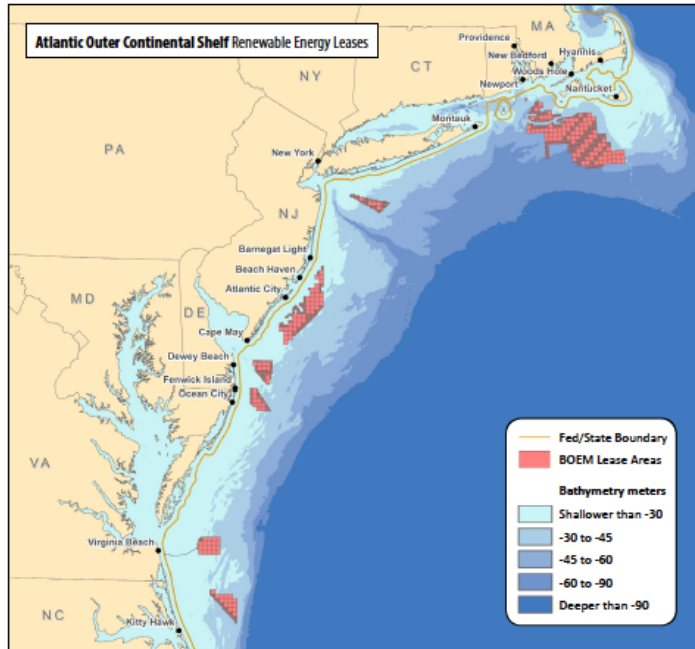
## Percent Support of Offshore Wind Power by Delaware Residents by Area



## Block Island in Context

An industry in the making  
42 MW installed  
40,500 MW planned

- Experienced developers, e.g.,
  - Ørsted
  - Avangrid
  - Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners
  - Shell/EDF
- Atlantic coast States in the game
  - MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, MD, VA, NC
- Pacific/Gulf coast states coming?
  - CA, OR, HI, TX, LA

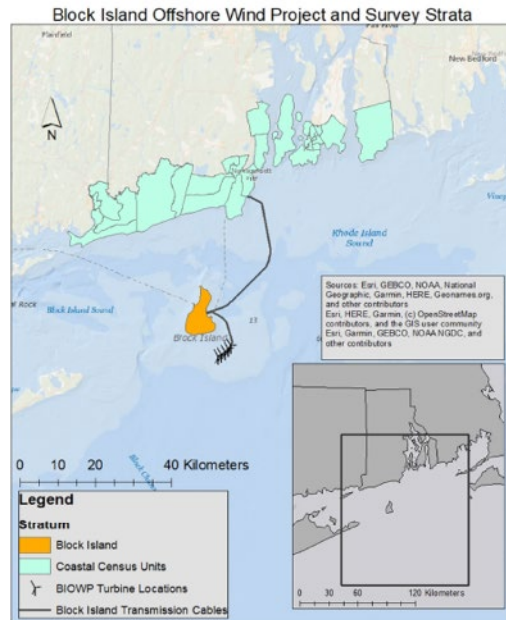


# Block Island OSW Project Study Mechanics

## (Commissioned Dec 2016)

- **Study**

- Block Island Residents
  - 5 km from project
  - Previously isolated from grid; diesel generated-electricity
- Mainland Coastal Residents
  - > 26 km from project



- **Place**

- 26 square km
  - ~50% protected space
- 27 km of beaches
- Project in “state” waters

- **Longitudinal surveys**

- Summer 2016
- Winter 2017
- Winter 2018

- **Interview set foci**

- Public participation
- Attitude shift





# Opposition to and support of the Block Island OSW project before and one-year after



	Block Island		Coastal Rhode Island	
	Pre-installation	One-year operation	Pre-installation	One-year operation
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Lean Oppose</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Lean Support</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Support</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>68%</b>

# Attitude Change 2016 to 2018

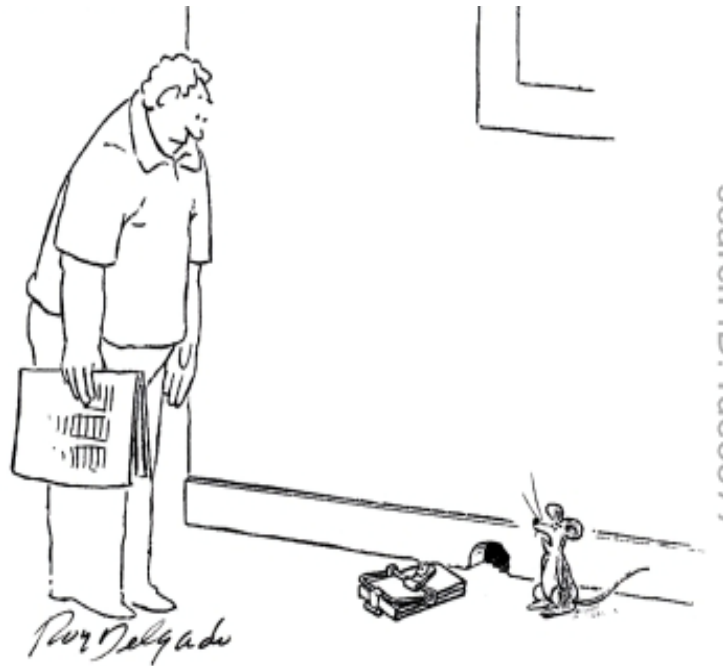
## Who Moved Positive?

- Less confident in opinion in 2016
- Less positive general attitude toward wind power
- Local benefits outweighed any procedural flaws
- Habituated over time

## Who Moved Negative?

- Cost savings not realized
- American developer sold to European
- Fear of industrialization
- Doubts about wind power's long-term viability compared to other sources

# What about fair process/procedural justice?



" Oh that's *real nice* ! - - And what about *due process* ? "

- **Fair process may lead to:**
  - More informed decision-making
  - "Better" results
  - More positive attitudes toward a project
- Otherwise, "conditional supporters may turn into objectors" (Wolsink 2007)



# Change in opinion of BI OSW project in light of the planning process

	Block Island (n=110)	Coastal RI (n=297)
More positive	33%	20%
Unchanged	52%	75%
More negative	15%	5%

# Regression Modeling:

## Support for/opposition is the dependent variable

### Variables in Regression (**significant**)

- **Predicted process fairness**
- Own (versus rent) dwelling
- See project
- Fisher
- Fishing importance
- Directly affected by project
- Turbine appearance perception
- **Turbine fit**

### Odds of support

- Those with highest perceptions of process fairness are 15.5x those with mean perception

### Process fairness determinants

- As a precursor, we find **state trust**, followed by **developer transparency** to be the most important determinants (compared to taking action, having a say in MSP, or having a say in project planning and demographics)

# Appearance - Do you like the way the wind turbines look?

	Block Island	
	Supporters	Opponents
Yes	94%	25%
No	6%	75%





**Landscape Fit - Those opposed indicate  
that the wind turbines do not fit**

<b>Block Island residents</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Somewhat Agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>
<b>Day Support</b>	57%	13%	14%	10%	5%
<b>Day Oppose</b>	0%	0%	12%	0%	<b>88%</b>
<b>Night Support</b>	48%	11%	30%	5%	6%
<b>Night Oppose</b>	0%	0%	16%	4%	<b>80%</b>

# Project Representations/meanings - wind turbine description

	Block Island		Coastal RI	
Description	Support	Oppose	Support	Oppose
Impressive	77.3%	42.5%	51.8%	2.1%
Too Big	3.0%	79.8%	8.8%	23.3%
Attractive	30.8%	0.0%	12.1%	1.5%
Unattractive	2.4%	79.8%	5.1%	63.9%
Beautiful	28.9%	0.0%	6.6%	0.0%
Industrial	11.4%	83.8%	14.1%	60.7%
Amazing	40.4%	0.0%	22.4%	0.6%
Ordinary	0.0%	2.5%	7.8%	25.9%
Add to the island/coastal character	33.9%	0.0%	16.2%	0.0%
Detract from the island/coastal character	7.0%	87.7%	12.5%	51.2%
Symbolic of clean energy progress	97.1%	13.8%	80.4%	5.4%
Cause intangible loss where all you see is the ocean	21.6%	68.1%	11.8%	51.9%
Other	6.0%	0.0%	3.0%	49.4%
n	77	10	205	24

# Place Meaning - Thoughts, feelings, memories, or associations that come to mind when those from BI think about the local coastal and ocean environment

1.

- Solitude
- Introspection



2.

- Family and Community Identification
- Social Bonding



3.

- Beauty
- Contrast to Everyday



4.

- Pristineness
- Ecology



5.

- Recreation
- Exploration



6.

- Sustainable Economic Uses
- Traditional Economic Uses



# In contrast to Place Attachment, Identity & Meaning

- Attachment

- “The ocean beach I most often visit is one of my favorite places”

- Identity

- “I can really be myself at the ocean.”

- Dependency

- “For the things I enjoy most, no place can compare to the ocean.”

- Index constructed from activities a respondent engaged in and importance to him/her



# Place Meaning

Top 3 thoughts, feelings, memories, or associations that come to mind when Block Island residents think about the local coastal and ocean environment

	Top	Top 3
Beauty	37%	70%
Family and Community Identification	33%	42%
Pristineness	11%	34%
Recreation	3%	29%
Ecology	7%	25%
Solitude	2%	24%
Bonding	1%	22%
Contrast to Everyday	6%	16%
Exploration	0%	13%
Introspection	1%	10%
Sustainable Economic Uses	0%	7%
Traditional Economic Uses	1%	7%

## Meaning Consistency: Is the project consistent or inconsistent with the top 3 choices ...?

Meaning Rank	BI		Coastal	
	Consistent (%)	Inconsistent (%)	Consistent (%)	Inconsistent (%)
1	40	17	44	13
2	40	13	35	15
3	42	13	38	16

**Note:** Neither consistent nor inconsistent excluded from table

**Thinking fast** (emotional/affect)  
**versus**  
**Thinking slow** (using probability calculus, formal  
logic, risk assessment/cognitive)

- Emotions of **pride** and **anger** have more explanatory power than
  - Landscape **fit**
  - Wind energy being **reliable** source of electricity
  - The project being symbolic of **progress**



# Questions welcomed



**Thank you!**

**Jeremy Firestone**

Professor, School of Marine Science and Policy

Professor, Biden School of Public Policy & Administration

Director, Center for Research in Wind (CReW)

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# Actions and involvement in the planning process

	<b>Block Island (n=111)</b>	<b>Coastal RI (n=306)</b>
<b>Took one or more specified actions</b>	59.5%	15.5%
<b>Attended meeting</b>	50.7%	10.4%
<b>Spoke at meeting</b>	24.1%	2.6%
<b>Wrote or spoke to a government official</b>	23.3%	2.9%
<b>Other</b>	14.7%	1.4%
<b>Wrote a Letter to the Editor</b>	4.6%	0.0%
<b>Contributed to webpage</b>	3.0%	3.2%
<b>Put up sign</b>	0.5%	2.4%

Ordered from highest to lowest percentage of Block Islanders



# Q&A Session

# Q&A Session

Lotta Pirttimaa, Ocean Energy Europe - *Ocean energy – in harmony with local communities and environments*

Garry Keegan, Infrastructure Projects Consulting - *Stakeholder engagement and community benefits*

Yvonne Cronin, DP Energy - *Public perception of offshore wind farms in Ireland*

Brendan Cahill, ORPC Ireland - *The importance of social acceptance in developing the Igiugig Hydrokinetic Project*

Jeremy Firestone, University of Delaware - *The Block Island (USA) offshore wind power project*