

# Ireland's EIA Conference 2025

## Effective EIA for our Renewable Energy Goals

### 10.00 Chair's Opening

- Josh Fothergill – Housekeeping, approach to day and conference aims

### 10.10 **Opening Plenary Effective EIA: The Challenge and Opportunity**

- **DECC** – The renewable challenge and its links to EIA and environmental goals
    - o **Paul O'Neil** (Department for Environment, Climate and Communication)
  - **SSE Renewables** – What is effective EIA? Current challenges and opportunities
    - o **Caroline Donnelly** (SSE Renewables)
- Q&A across both Speakers

*Morning Coffee Break & Networking* [11.00 – 11.20]

### 11.20 **Morning Plenary2 Inspiring EIA: Advances by our Neighbours**

- Proportionate EIA Actions within Scotland's Onshore Wind Sector Deal
    - o **Jo Wotton** (LUC) – co-leading the OWSD EIA task and finish group
  - Building Effective EIA knowledge - Northern Ireland's Experience
    - o **Brian Gorman** (Department for Infrastructure, Northern Ireland)
- Q&A across both Speakers

### 12.10 **Breakouts Improving EIA: Working to Enhance Practice**

Delegates break into three rooms and attend 3 rounds of Breakouts sessions (Rd1: 12.10-12.50, Lunch, Rd2: 13.45-14.25, Rd3: 14.30-15.10) to enable everyone to attend each of:

- **DHLGH Briefing on Future EIA Legislation**
  - o **Lisa Clifford** and **Maryann Harris** (DHLGH)
  - o A briefing from the Department in and around EIA legislation with discussion
- **Enhancing the value of Scoping**
  - o **Paul Scott** (NPWS) and **Elaine Dromey** (FuturEnergy Ireland)
  - o Explanation of scoping's intended role and its benefits
  - o Engage delegates in discussion current challenges with scoping practice
  - o Ppt good scoping approaches + further discussion how to deliver in practice
- **Making EIA Reports more Proportionate**
  - o **Josh Fothergill** (Fothergill Training & Consulting) and **Jo Wotton** (LUC)
  - o Explanation of proportionate EIA
  - o Discussion challenges & drivers of disproportionate EIAR
  - o Ppt on proportionate EIAR approaches and discussion around these

*Lunch* [12.50 – 13.45, between Breakout Rounds 1 and 2]

*Comfort Break & Networking* [15.10 – 15.25]

### 15.25 **Closing Plenary Recognising EIA's Role in Renewable Sector**

- **Experience of EIA in Onshore Renewables**
    - o **Dr John Staunton** (Tobin)
  - **Experience of EIA in Offshore Renewables**
    - o **Ellen MacMahon** (GoBe part of the APEM Group)
  - **EIA Capacity Building for the Renewables Sector**
    - o **Mark Ruane** (Green Tech Skillnet)
- Q&A across all 3 Speakers

### 16.20 **Chair's Closing Remarks** Josh Fothergill

Close – 16.30