

Ireland's New Electricity Connection Project Aims to Boost Renewable Energy, and future projects

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The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) has finalized its new electricity connection policy, aimed at streamlining permit-granting processes and facilitating the integration of renewable energy into the Irish grid.

The policy introduces several key reforms, including a bi-annual batch application process for grid connection applications, aligned planning and grid connection procedures for RED III projects, and streamlined processes for repowering projects. These changes are designed to accelerate the development of renewable energy projects and help Ireland meet its ambitious climate targets.

Richard Murphy, an expert in renewable energy projects, praised the policy as a significant step forward in streamlining the permit-granting process. He highlighted the importance of parallel planning and grid processes in ensuring timely project development.

The CRU emphasized the need for efficient and optimal use of existing grid infrastructure and the development of future infrastructure to deliver value to consumers. Repowering projects, which involve replacing or upgrading existing renewable energy systems, are seen as a crucial strategy for achieving Ireland's net zero emissions goals.

"The Commission has fired a warning shot to the member states, including Ireland, on transposing the rules to simplify and speed up the planning approval and other permits for renewables. It's important that the governments get on with this body of work as quickly as possible," said Murphy

The implementation of the new electricity connection policy is expected to have a positive impact on Ireland's renewable energy sector, fostering investment, job creation, and a more sustainable energy future.