Information for persons intending to participate in the first allocation round under the Northern Ireland Renewable Electricity Price Guarantee scheme.

Department for the Economy
An Roinn Geilleagair
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

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The Department for the Economy (the Department) intends to establish the Renewable Electricity Price Guarantee (REPG), a proposed support scheme for renewable electricity generation in Northern Ireland, subject to the necessary State aid approvals being granted and the relevant legal framework being implemented.

Purpose of this notice

The REPG scheme is intended to support the statutory target of at least 80% of electricity consumption in Northern Ireland coming from renewable sources by 2030. As preparations for the implementation of the REPG scheme continue, the Department recognises the importance of maintaining strong investor confidence.

In this context, it will be critical to facilitate maximum participation by the current pipeline of potential projects to ensure sufficient competition in the first allocation round and secure value for electricity consumers.

The Department is publishing this notice for the purposes of paragraph 31(b) of the European Commission's Guidelines on State aid for climate, environmental protection and energy 2022 (CEEAG). It is intended to enable projects to progress while preserving their potential eligibility for REPG support in the first allocation round.

Proposed aid measure and eligible projects

The Department published the Final Scheme Design for the REPG on 19 September 2025, setting out the proposed scope of the scheme, including the types of projects proposed to be eligible for support.

This notice relates specifically to the first allocation round which is intended to support eligible onshore wind and solar photovoltaic (PV) generation projects (including hybrid projects combining onshore wind, PV generation and/or storage) in Northern Ireland.

Further details of the proposed eligibility requirements for the REPG, including the first allocation round, are set out in the Final Scheme Design, available at:

Final Scheme Design for a Renewable Electricity Support Scheme

Date from which projects may be considered eligible

For the purposes of paragraph 31(b) of the CEEAG, the Department intends to consider projects satisfying the proposed eligibility requirements for participation in the first allocation round from 15 October 2026.

Requirement to notify the Department before the start of works

Developers of projects that meet the proposed eligibility requirements for the first allocation round (Developers) intending to rely on this notice for the purposes of paragraph 31(b) of the CEEAG must inform the Department, prior to the start of works, that the proposed aid measure (being the first allocation round) was considered as a condition for the investment decision taken.

Under the CEEAG (Article 2.4 (82)), the "start of works" means:

"*the first firm commitment (for example to order equipment or start construction) that makes an investment irreversible. The buying of land and preparatory works such as obtaining permits and conducting preliminary feasibility studies are not considered as start of works. For take-overs, 'start of works' means the moment of acquiring the assets directly linked to the acquired establishment*."

Notifications should be submitted in writing via email to:

REPG@economy-ni.gov.uk

Status of the proposed scheme

The REPG remains subject to the necessary State aid approvals being granted and the relevant legal framework being implemented. Support will be allocated through a competitive auction process, and prior qualification will be required in order to participate in such process.

Neither publication of this notice nor the submission of a notification as contemplated in this notice constitutes an award of aid or a guarantee that an allocation round under the REPG will take place, that any individual project will be successful in any such allocation round or that any individual project will receive support or qualify for participation in the REPG. Any grant of aid in the first allocation round will be contingent upon a Developer being successful in the competitive allocation process for such allocation round.

Developers starting works before receiving an award of support do so at their own commercial risk.