

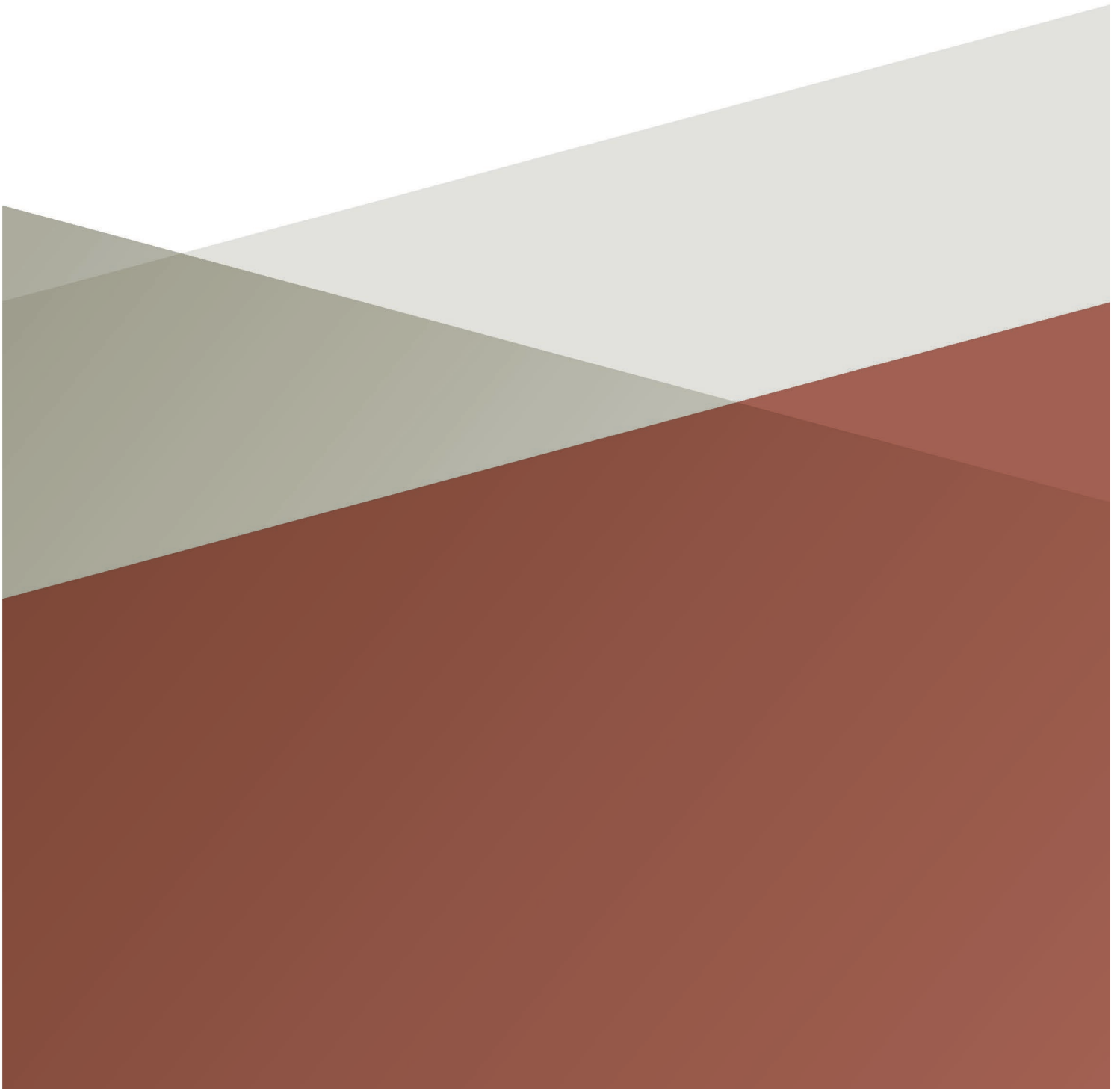


Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Terms of Reference

## Microgeneration Working Group

### 2019



# 1 Background

The Climate Action Plan published in June 2019 sets out Ireland's 2030 ambitions and puts the state on the right trajectory to meet net zero emissions by 2050.

The Plan sets out the necessary policy measures to help meet our 2030 target and will put Ireland on a clear pathway to meeting our 2050 objectives. This will require both public and private investment, and large societal shifts in technology, attitude and behaviour. It will also involve a shift in the renewable technologies we support and a shift towards a more distributed generation system, including community participation and a focus on micro generation and the energy 'prosumer'.

## 2 Climate Action Plan Actions

The All of Government Climate Action Plan will ensure that Ireland will reach our 2030 targets. One of the Plan deliverables will be the development of a support policy for micro-generation, which will provide a pathway to the public to participate in and benefit from this transition. Action 30 of the Plan, which includes the establishment of a working group in Q3 2019, sets out the steps necessary and timelines for the delivery of an enabling framework for micro-generation. It is intended that the working group will be established shortly.

The Plan provides that a support payment for excess electricity generated on site and exported to the grid will be available to all micro-generators by 2021. As laid out in the Annex of Actions, the ESB Networks (ESBN) and the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) will assess potential implications for the distribution network of higher penetrations of micro-generation by the end of 2019.

## 3 Objectives

Develop an enabling framework for micro- generation which tackles existing barriers and establishes suitable supports within relevant market segments

## 4 Membership

Membership of the group will be comprised of officials from the following bodies: DCCAIE (Chair), CRU, SEAI, DHPLG, ESB Networks, DBEI and DAFM.

## 5 Work Programme

**Action 30:** Develop an enabling framework for micro- generation which tackles existing barriers and establishes suitable supports within relevant market segments

Steps Necessary for Delivery	Timeline by Quarter	Lead	Other Key Stakeholders
Establish a working group on micro generation and renewable self-consumption and agree terms of reference e.g. appropriate definitions, policy objectives, engage with the CEP transposition project etc.	Q3 2019	DCCAE	CRU, SEAI, DHPLG, ESBN
Begin review of requirements for resolving market settlement issues for renewable self-consumers exporting to the grid	Q3 2019	CRU	SEMO
Conclude review of the current exemptions relating to solar panels as provided for in the Planning and Development Regulations, in consultation with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment and implement amendments arising from review	Q4 2019	DHPLG	DCCAE
Determination of appropriate grid connection policy to facilitate renewable self-consumers and access for micro-generation.	Q4 2019	CRU	ESBN
Assess potential implications for distribution network of defined higher penetrations of distributed generators	Q4 2019	ESBN	
Assess possible support mechanisms for micro-generation/renewable self-consumption differentiated by segment (public sector, including schools, residential, community, farming, commercial and industrial etc.), ensuring principles of equity, self-	Q1 2020	DCCAE	SEAI, DBEI, DAFM

consumption and 'energy efficiency first' are incorporated			
Public consultation/call-for-evidence on basis of above assessment	Q3 2020	DCCAE	CRU
Assessment of the impact of the current structure of electricity bill charges (including PSO and standing charges) on renewable self-consumers and other consumers	Q3 2020	CRU	DBEI, DCCAE
Functionality to enable smart services in place, subject to initial review	Q1 2021	CRU	
Launch finalised policy and pricing support regime for micro-generation	Q2 2021	DCCAE	SEAI

**Action 31:** Deliver pilot solar PV micro-generation scheme with a view to commencement of enduring support scheme by 2021 to ensure that people can sell excess electricity they produce back to the grid

<b>Steps Necessary for Delivery</b>	<b>Timeline by Quarter</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other Key Stakeholders</b>
Review of scheme (incl. budget) and potential for new technologies and sectors to be included in broadened scope	Q3 2019	SEAI	
Decision following review of pilot scheme	Q4 2019	DCCAE	SEAI
Allocation of appropriate budget	Q4 2019	DCCAE	SEAI

**Action 32:** Deliver Smart Metering Programme in line with current planned timelines that will support the market for micro-generation

<b>Steps Necessary for Delivery</b>	<b>Timeline by Quarter</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Other Key Stakeholders</b>
Commence review of requirements for resolving market settlement issues for renewables self-consumers	Q3 2019	CRU	
Support research and demonstration projects with a focus on enabling the 'smart home' (e.g. demand side management, storage, communication protocols, automated control, etc.)	Q3 2019	SEAI	EirGrid, ESBN

## **Working methods/ways of working:**

- Monthly meetings will be held to discuss progress.
- DCCAE will provide secretariat and chair these meetings.
- Members of the group will be invited to generate agenda topics.
- DCCAE will circulate meeting papers a week before scheduled meetings.
- Non-members (including consultants) may be invited to the group to present etc. subject to prior approval by the group.