



ISEA's Proposal on Private Wires

The Irish Solar Energy Association (ISEA) represents Ireland's growing solar industry and works closely with its 160 members, including key domestic and international stakeholders. ISEA advocates for regulatory frameworks to promote solar as a critical solution for decarbonisation, climate action, and energy security. This document summarises ISEA's response to the **Private Wires Consultation**, outlining our proposals for creating a conducive environment for the development of private wires to meet Ireland's renewable energy targets.

1. Overview of Solar Energy in Ireland

- **Growth and Potential:** Ireland's solar capacity is expected to reach 1 GW by the end of 2023, supporting national targets of 5 GW by 2025 and 8 GW by 2030.
- **Role of Solar PV:** Solar power is one of the most efficient and cost-effective renewable energy sources, offering rapid installation and the ability to generate electricity during daylight hours—precisely when businesses need it most. This makes solar energy a highly practical solution for companies seeking to reduce their operational costs and meet their sustainability and ESG commitments.

2. Proposal for Private Wires Framework

ISEA proposes a framework that enables private wires to:

- **Support Local Green Partnerships:** Establish private electricity lines to connect a single generation site to a single demand user, allowing for decentralised energy solutions.
- **Enhance Solar Deployment:** Private wires would help bypass grid connection delays, reduce network congestion, and encourage on-site solar generation for industries and communities.

3. Two-Phase Approach

1. Phase One: Private Lines for Auto-Production

- Connect generation sites directly to demand users across third-party lands or roads.
- Minimal policy intervention required, aligning with existing auto-production frameworks.

2. Phase Two: Private Lines with Export Capabilities

- Build on Phase One by allowing limited export to the grid.
- Requires updates to the Electricity Regulation Act and further engagement with CRU and system operators.

4. Benefits of Reform

- **Carbon Emission Reduction:** At least 500 MW of solar projects enabled through private wires by 2030 could significantly contribute to national decarbonisation efforts.

- **Support for Hard-to-Reach Sectors:** This framework would aid sectors like industry, transport, and manufacturing, which are hard to decarbonise.
- **Cost-Effective Network Development:** Private wires reduce pressure on national grid development and lower connection costs for renewable energy developers.

5. Conclusion

ISEA urges the government, system operators, and the CRU to engage in constructive dialogue on enabling private wires as a flexible solution to support Ireland's renewable energy transition. A facilitative framework will unlock the potential for solar energy to play a central role in achieving the country's climate action goals.