



DRAFT LEITRIM COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2023 – 2029 – APPENDIX X
RSES REGIONAL POLICY OBJECTIVES - CLIMATE CHANGE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY



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Northern & Western Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032

The Northern and Western Regional Assembly Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) provides regional expression to the National Strategic Outcomes and National Policy Objectives of the NPF and identifies climate change as a key issue for the RSES. In this regard, the RSES provides policy support addressing climate change, renewable energy development, flood mitigation and adaptation and green infrastructure through a number of Regional Policy Objectives (RPOs) which, in turn, have been given local policy expression within this Plan. Relevant RPOs in this regard include:

Climate Action

RPO 5.1 – *The Assembly will support through CARO and Local Authorities the preparation and implementation of Local Climate Strategies which will, inter alia, address vulnerability to climate risks and provide prioritised actions in accordance with the guiding principles of the National Adaptation Framework.*

RPO 6.51 – *Promote values and policies that make it easy to commute between home, work and school across the region in a way that contributes to a healthy, attractive and climate-friendly region.*

RPO 9.4 – *Create Resilient Places and Low-Carbon Infrastructure by:*

- a) Managing Natural Resources through adhering to the principles of the circular economy, monitor air quality through the use of smart technologies, with the overall aim of improving air quality and to protect local ecosystems through the management of our natural capital.
- b) Transitioning to a Low Carbon Economy through a presumption against development in areas vulnerable to flooding and rising sea levels, continuing to assess the probability of risk from all sources of flooding, and working with relevant stakeholders in both the assessment and delivery of any mitigation responses required; Furthermore, pursue the generation of renewable energies and their local applications through, for example, green infrastructure planning, innovative design solutions, the promotion of energy-efficient buildings and homes.
- c) Diversifying Energy Resources by promoting and facilitating the development of the wider North West region as a Centre of Excellence for renewable energy and innovation and the development of a diverse energy portfolio, harnesses the expertise of technological research and training among the region's institutions of higher education, growing the development of a skilled workforce in all aspects of energy generation including linking employment opportunities in the emerging renewable energy field to workers displaced from other economic sectors.

Flooding

RPO 3.10 – Ensure flood risk management informs development by avoiding inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SUDS, non-porous surfacing and green roofs) to create safe places. Development plans should assess flood risk by implementing the recommendations of the Planning System and

Flood Risk Assessment Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and Circular PL02/2014 (August 2014).

RPO 3.11 – Local Authorities, DHPLG, OPW, and other relevant Departments and agencies to work together to implement the recommendation of the CFRAM programme to ensure that flood risk management policies and infrastructure are progressively implemented.

Renewable Energy and Energy Infrastructure

RPO 4.16 – The NWRA shall co-ordinate the identification of potential renewable energy sites of scale in collaboration with Local Authorities and other stakeholders within 3 years of the adoption of the RSES. The identification of such sites (which may extend to include energy storage solutions) will be based on numerous site selection criteria including environmental matters, and potential grid connections.

RPO 4.17 – To position the region to avail of the emerging global market in renewable energy by:

- Stimulating the development and deployment of the most advantageous renewable energy systems.
- Supporting research and innovation.
- Encouraging skills development and transferability.
- Raising awareness and public understanding of renewable energy and encourage market opportunities for the renewable energy industry to promote the development and growth of renewable energy businesses.
- Encourage the development of the transmission and distribution grids to facilitate the development of renewable energy projects and the effective utilisation of the energy generated from renewable sources having regard to the future potential of the region over the lifetime of the Strategy and beyond.

RPO 4.19 – Support the appropriate development of offshore wind energy production through the adequate provision of land-based infrastructure and services, in line with national policy and in a manner that is compatible with environmental, ecological and landscape considerations.

RPO 8.1 – The Assembly support the development of a safe, secure and reliable electricity network and the transition towards a low carbon economy centred on energy efficiency and the growth projects outlined and described in this strategy.

RPO 8.2 – Support the reinforcement and strengthening of the electricity transmission network with particular reference to the regionally important projects contained within Table 11.

RPO 8.3 – The Assembly support the necessary integration of the transmission network requirements to allow linkages with renewable energy proposals at all levels to the electricity transmission grid in a sustainable and timely manner.

RPO 8.4 – That reinforcements and new electricity transmission infrastructure are put in place and their provision is supported, to ensure the energy needs of future population and economic expansion within designated growth areas and across the region can be delivered in a sustainable and timely manner and that capacity is available at local and regional scale to meet future needs. Ensure that development minimises impacts on designated areas.