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Policy coherence and community acceptance: an evaluation of the development of onshore wind energy in Ireland

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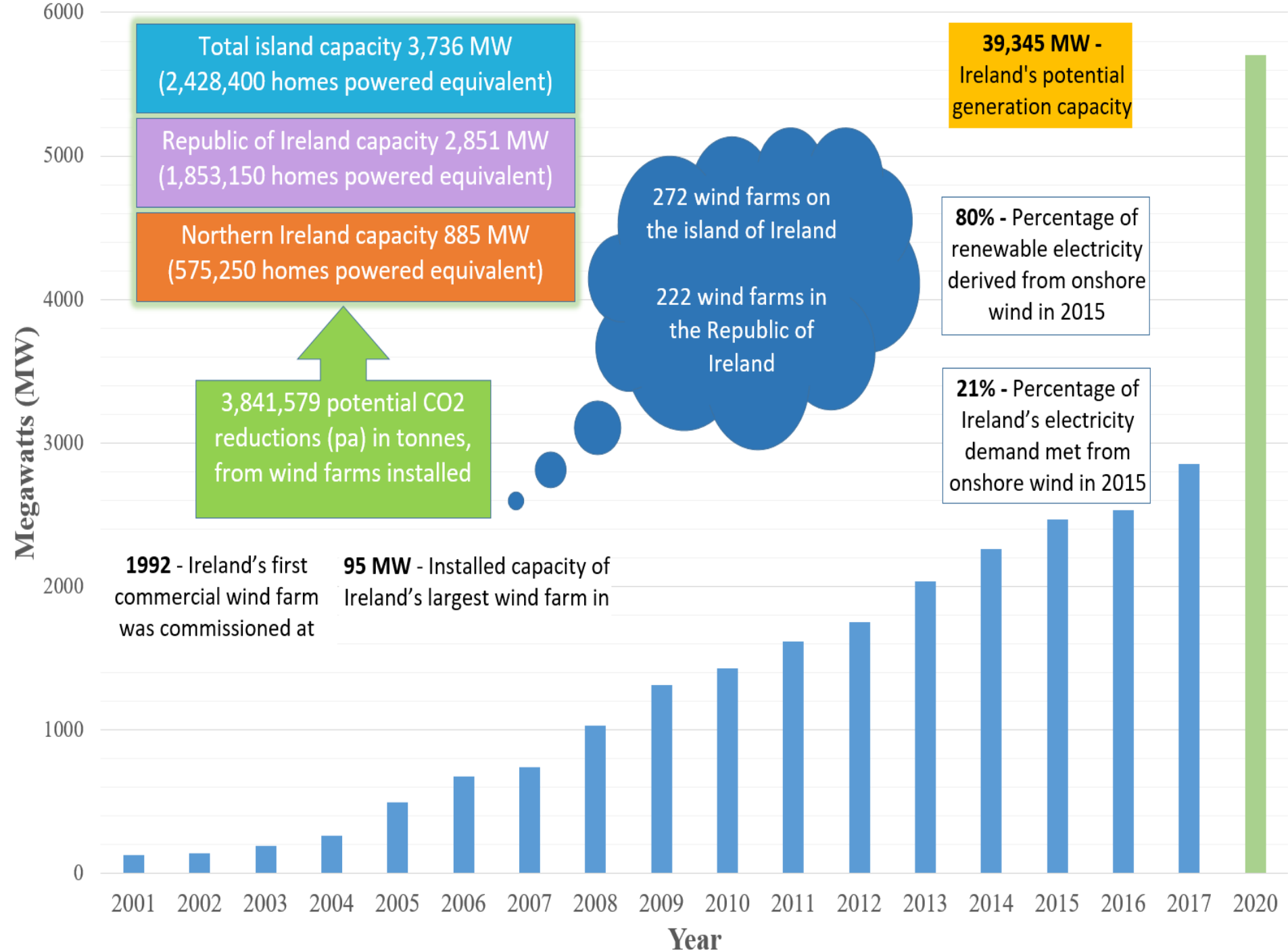
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Agenda

- Introduction
- Key questions
- Approach
- Results
- Conclusions & Recommendations



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Key Questions

Does Irish national energy policy provide a consistent and integrated framework to support onshore wind-energy development at a local level?

In what ways, can the coherence of Irish onshore wind-energy policy be improved?

Will securing tangible benefits for local communities help increase local acceptance and support for onshore wind energy?

Approach



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Socio-technical systems approach to energy transitions

Analysis of Irish national
onshore wind energy
policy

Semi-structured
interviews with key
individuals

Results

Policy issues

Lack of political ambition to exceed EU targets

Repeated delays in publishing policy

Complicated and highly administrative renewable energy planning processes

Poor coordination between institutions and administrative levels

Incoherence between interacting policies leading to implementation difficulties

Inadequate electricity infrastructure

No renewable energy incentives for small-scale development

Exceptionally weak approach to community acceptance in Irish policy

Community issues

Lack of tangible community benefits

Little community engagement in planning, development and decision-making

Lack of public information and awareness raising

Failure to communicate onshore wind energy commercial rates

No legally binding wind energy strategy

No national incentives or policy support for community projects

Existing grid infrastructure policy blocks communities

Conclusions & Recommendations



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- Set demanding and ambitious longer-term targets
- Publish binding national wind strategy
- Mandate (and define) community engagement
- Set community energy targets
- Support community/cooperative ownership
- Provide financial mechanisms for community involvement
- Establish tangible community benefits
- Simplify grid connection procedures
- Streamline electricity infrastructure planning
- Set local renewable energy targets
- Communicate local authorities onshore wind energy rates



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Thank You

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