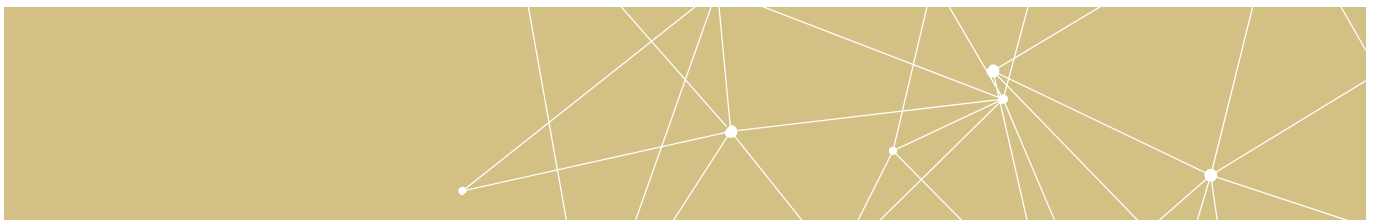




Stakeholder Engagement Action Plan 2024-2025



About SONI

SONI is Northern Ireland's Transmission System Operator (TSO). That means we manage the electricity grid to ensure that power can flow from where it is generated to where it is needed.

Our team of experienced, expert engineers manage the electricity grid, second-by-second, every day of the year, to ensure power can flow safely, securely and reliably to homes, farms and businesses across Northern Ireland. We don't generate or sell electricity, rather we balance consumer demand with the generation made available by the companies who produce it.

We are licensed and regulated by the Utility Regulator and we work together to operate the All-Island Single Electricity Market with our counterparts in the Republic of Ireland.

Electricity systems across the world are changing. At SONI, we also plan grid to meet Northern Ireland's future energy needs. The Northern Ireland Energy Strategy and Climate Change Act set an ambitious and challenging target that 80% of all electricity consumed must come from renewable sources by 2030. This is an important milestone on our journey to net zero by 2050.

In Northern Ireland, we have made significant progress so far – Northern Ireland was the first region the world to have 75% of electricity flowing through the grid at any moment in time coming from variable renewable sources. In 2023, approximately 50% of our electricity comes from renewable sources.

To reach the ambitious and challenging targets, SONI has the crucial task of transforming the electricity system and how we operate it in an unprecedented way. This means we need to plan for more and different types of grid infrastructure to facilitate the flow of more renewable energy across Northern Ireland and an increase in the demand for electricity as our economy grows.

The more renewable generation we require in the form of turbines and solar farms, as well as energy storage facilities, the more, or different, grid infrastructure we need to transport it in the form of underground cables, overhead lines, towers and pylons.

At SONI, we have a plan to ensure the grid is ready to support Northern Ireland's cleaner energy future. Shaping Our Electricity Future is our roadmap for the changes we need to make across the whole power system.

As Northern Ireland's Transmission System Operator, we understand that people must be at the heart of our energy transition. That's why we discuss our plans extensively with local communities to listen and understand their views before we develop any infrastructure project.

By working together, we can deliver a cleaner, more secure energy future for everyone in Northern Ireland.

Action Plan 2024-2025

This Stakeholder Engagement Action Plan, covering the period from October 2024-September 2025, is the first in a series of annual action plans designed to deliver SONI's *Stakeholder Engagement Strategy 2024-2026*. The timescales outlined below are defined as follows: October 24-December 24 (Q1), January 25-March 25 (Q2), April 25-June 25 (Q3), July 25-September 25 (Q4).

Given the significant level of engagement that takes place at every level of our organisation throughout the year, this Action Plan sets out the key engagement activity that SONI will deliver and, as such, is not exhaustive. During the year, it is possible that engagement plans will change in line with business priorities.

Coordinated through SONI's internal Stakeholder Engagement Coordination Group, we will report on progress and delivery against this Action Plan through the annual Performance Report as part of the Evaluation Performance Framework.

Engagement Activity	Description	Area	Audience	Timescales
Office of the Chief Executive				
SONI/NI Chamber Energy Forum	Thought leadership event partnership with the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce. Events to be delivered over 2024/25.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society/Industry	Q1-Q4
RenewableNI Biannual Roundtable	Biannual roundtable with RenewableNI to discuss engagement priorities and update on key developments.	Office of the Chief Executive	Industry	Q2-Q4
Mutual Energy Quarterly Roundtable	Quarterly roundtable event with Mutual Energy to discuss collaboration and areas of mutual interest.	Office of the Chief Executive	Industry	Q2-Q4
Consumer Council engagement programme	A programme of engagement with the Consumer Council leadership team.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society/Statutory	Q1-Q4
SONI Energy Business Breakfast	Annual business engagement event with key business representative organisations.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society	Q3
SONI Industry Breakfast	Annual industry engagement event	Office of the Chief Executive	Industry	Q3
Bilateral engagement programme	Programme of bilateral engagement with key strategic stakeholders across all groupings.	Office of the Chief Executive	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q1-Q4
Smart Energy Conference 2024	Partnership at the RenewableNI Smart Energy Conference and sponsorship support.	Office of the Chief Executive	Industry	Q1
Agenda NI Energy Forum	Partnership with Agenda NI to support the delivery of the NI Energy Forum.	Office of the Chief Executive	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q4
North-West Energy Forum	Partnership with Londonderry and Strabane Chamber of	Office of the Chief Executive	Society	Q1

	Commerce to support the North-West Energy Forum.			
Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive Engagement	Committee for the Economy visit to SONI. Energy spokespeople/elected representative briefings.	Office of the Chief Executive	Statutory/Society	Q1-Q2 Q1-Q4
UK Government and House of Commons Engagement	New Northern Ireland Affairs Committee engagement Programme of engagement with new UK Government and Northern Ireland Office	Office of the Chief Executive	Statutory/Society	Q1-Q2 Q1-Q4
CBI Working Groups	Continued participation and engagement with the CBI Working Groups, including energy.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society/Industry	Ongoing
IOD Policy Forum and infrastructure initiative	SONI partnership and participation with IOD Policy Forum and infrastructure initiative.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society/Industry	Q1-Q4
IOD Women in Leadership Conference	SONI partnership and participation in IOD Women In Leadership conference.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society/Industry	Q2
Business in the Community Climate Steering Group	SONI partnership and participation in Business Climate Pledge and Climate Steering Group.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society	Ongoing
IOD members energy event	A partnership event with IOD Northern Ireland to highlight progress in the energy transition and SONI's future plans.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society/Industry	Q1
SONI Board engagements	A programme of engagements with the SONI Board a key partner organisations.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society/Industry	Q1-Q4
SONI-NIE Directors engagement	Senior leadership engagements between SONI and NIE Networks.	Office of the Chief Executive	Industry	Ongoing
SONI-UR Directors engagements	Senior leadership engagements between SONI and NIE Networks.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society	Ongoing
ENTSO-E Assembly	Participation in quarterly assembly meetings and provision of resources	Office of the Chief Executive	Industry	Ongoing

	into strategically important sub-groups.			
NI Chamber Festival of Business	Engage with Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce Festival of Business event.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society	Q4
Further and higher education engagement programme	Programme of engagement with further and higher education institutions to position SONI as an employer of choice.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society	Q1-Q4
Networks				
Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council	Meetings of the Shaping Our Electricity Future Advisory Council.	Future Networks	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q1-Q4
Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios Needs Assessment	Publication of the TES Needs Assessment.	Future Networks/Future Operations	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q1-Q2
Eden-Carmoney Project	Part 2c community engagement for the Eden-Carmoney network development project. Call for views on SONI consultation portal and community events.	Networks	Society	Q3
Energising Belfast	Part 2c community engagement for the Energising Belfast network development project. Call for views on SONI consultation portal and community events.	Networks	Society	Q2
East Tyrone Project	Part 2c community engagement for the East Tyrone network development project. Call for views on SONI consultation portal and community events.	Networks	Society	Q1
Cam Cluster Project	Part 2c community engagement for the Cam Cluster network development project. Call for views on SONI consultation portal and community events.	Networks	Society	Q2

Moyle Project	Part 2c community engagement for the Moyle network development project. Call for views on SONI consultation portal and community events.	Networks	Society	Q1
Coolkeeragh Project	Part 2a community engagement for the Coolkeeragh network development project. Call for views on SONI consultation portal and community events.	Networks	Society	Q2
Mid Antrim Upgrade Project	Phase 2 landowner engagement for the Mid Antrim Upgrade project. Bilateral face-to-face engagement.	Networks	Society	Q2
North-South Interconnector Project	Landowner engagement for the North South Interconnector project. Bilateral face-to-face engagement.	Networks	Society	Q1-Q4
Energising Belfast Project	Landowner engagement for the Energising Belfast project. Bilateral face-to-face engagement.	Networks	Society	Q2
Eden-Carnmoney Project	Landowner engagement for the Eden-Carnmoney project. Bilateral face-to-face engagement.	Networks	Society	Q3
Cam Cluster Project	Landowner engagement for the Cam Cluster project. Bilateral face-to-face engagement.	Networks	Society	Q1
Moyle Project	Landowner engagement for the Moyle project. Bilateral face-to-face engagement.	Networks	Society	Q1
East Tyrone Project	Landowner engagement for the East Tyrone project. Bilateral face-to-face engagement.	Networks	Society	Q2-Q3
Coolkeeragh Project	Landowner engagement for the Coolkeeragh project. Bilateral face-to-face engagement.	Networks	Society	Q2
Armagh Project	Landowner engagement for the Armagh project. Bilateral face-to-face engagement. Bilateral face-to-face engagement.	Networks	Society	Q2

Tamnamore Substation Extension Project	Landowner engagement for the Tamnamore Substation Extension Project. Bilateral face-to-face engagement.	Networks	Society	Q1
Tamnamore-Drumnakelly Project	Landowner engagement for the Tamnamore-Drumnakelly Project. Bilateral face-to-face engagement.	Networks	Society	Q1
Public Engagement Model	Programme of engagement and communications to raise awareness and understanding	Networks	Society	Q1-Q2
Balmoral Show engagement	Attendance and engagement at the Balmoral Show to engage with landowners and key civic society organisations.	Networks	Society	Q3
Landowner compensation	A programme of engagement with rural and landowner stakeholders to communicate potential changes to landowner compensation policy.	Networks	Society	Q1-Q2
Landowner Charter	Programme of engagement to raise awareness and understanding of SONI's new landowner charter.	Networks	Society	Q1-Q2
Connections Policy Review	Consider consultation feedback and engage with industry on final policy update.	Networks	Industry	Q1
SONI Connections Pre-application engagement	General engagement with potential applicants on SONI's Connection Offer process.	Networks	Industry	Ongoing
SONI Offer process	Ongoing engagement with NIE Networks and customers throughout offer process.	Networks	Industry	Ongoing
SONI Pre-Construction and Construction works	Ongoing engagement with customers through comprehensive project management structures.	Networks	Industry	Ongoing
Transmission Connection	Further engagement with UR and industry on	Networks	Industry/Statutory	Q1

Charging Methodology Statement review	approval following policy update.			
Transmission Cluster Policy Workshop	Following initial Q4 23-24 workshops, a further programme of industry workshop and consultation on proposed policy.	Networks	Industry	Q1-Q2
Firm Access Quantity Policy	Review of the Firm Access Quantity policy to ensure it is appropriate going forward. Industry and regulatory workshops and consultation.	Networks	Industry	Q1-Q3
Renewable Grid Liaison Group	Continue to participate in the quarterly meetings to both update and seek feedback from industry.	Networks	Industry/Statutory	Quarterly
Transmission Development Plan publication	Publication of the Transmission Development Plan 2023-2032.	Networks	Society/Industry/Statutory	Q1
SONI/NIE Networks Joint Project Management Office	SONI partnership with NIE Networks to deliver Transmission Development Plan and identify opportunities for acceleration.	Networks	Industry	Q1-Q4
Offshore Renewable Energy Action Plan Steering Group	SONI participation in Department for the Economy Offshore Renewable Energy Action Plan Steering Group.	Networks	Statutory/Industry	Ongoing
Acceleration Project engagement	A further programme of engagement with key industry stakeholders on SONI's grid development acceleration programme.	Networks	Statutory/Industry	Q1-Q2
NIE-SONI TIA meetings	Bilateral engagements with NIE Networks to operate and enhance the Transmission Interface Arrangements.	Networks	Industry	Monthly
Operations				
TSO-DSO Operating Model	A programme of consultation and engagements with NIE Networks to support	System Operations	Industry	Ongoing

	reduction in congestion on distribution network.			
Transmission Outage Plan/Generation Outage Plan	Engagements with generators through the Generator Forum and workshops on outage planning. Online publications.	System Operations	Industry	Ongoing
Security of supply	Engagement through multi-party workstreams and working groups on security of supply, including mitigations, emergency planning.	System Operations	Industry/Statutory	Monthly
Winter Outlook	Online publication of Winter Outlook and series of stakeholder briefings on winter preparedness.	System Operations	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q4
TCG publications	Weekly online publications to inform industry of existing network limitations and near-term expectations of dispatch.	System Operations	Industry	Weekly
Adequacy publications	Weekly online publication to provide information on adequacy and system strength.	System Operations	Industry/Statutory	Weekly
Emergency preparedness	Ongoing engagement with partners to test the Power System Emergency Communications Plan and Power System Restoration Plan. Workshops planned with the Department for the Economy and Civil Contingencies Group to embed further collaboration.	System Operations	Statutory/Industry	Q2-Q4
Power System Emergency Communications Plan	Planned exercises and simulations to test SONI Power System Emergency Communications Plan	System Operations	Statutory/Industry	Q2-Q4
Publication on TSO website of Proposed GTUoS rates for 2025/2026	Publication of proposed rates to facilitate required industry engagement.	System Support and Analysis	Industry	Q2-Q3

DS3 System Services Market Ruleset Consultation	An all-island consultation on a new iteration of the DS3 System Services Market Ruleset	System Support and Analysis	Industry	Q2
Harmonised Other System Charges Annual Consultation	An open all island consultation to review Other System Charges with outcomes published in a Recommendations paper.	System Support and Analysis	Industry	Q3
Market Operations and SEMO Market Interface				
Market Operator User Group	To update Market Participants on ongoing/upcoming projects, provide updates in areas such a Settlements, Trading, Future Markets, IT releases SEMOpX, etc. Six meetings per year.	SEMO Market Interface	Industry	Q1-Q4
Weekly Participant Call	To provide Settlement and Trading updates.	SEMO Market Interface	Industry	Weekly
SEMO Helpdesk	A service which provides daily support to Market Participants and operate as a contact point SEMO queries across all internal teams.	SEMO Market Interface	Industry	Daily - ongoing
Participant Information Session	An engagement to provide participants information on the Qualification process where they also have the opportunity to submit or ask questions on the call.	SEMO Market Interface	Industry	Based on auctions timetable.
Capacity Auctions	SONI engages with market participants during the process, providing the timetable for the auctions in advance, providing auction packs and associated information and dealing with participant queries. SONI is also actively engaged with the Utility Regulator as part of the process via weekly calls.	Market Operations	Industry/Statutory	Based on auctions timetable.
Future Operations, Future Power Markets and Power Systems Research				
RA-TSO SOEF Operations Programme Update meeting	Monthly meeting to discuss previous actions and project status and to discuss future consultations/decisions.	Future Operations	Statutory	Monthly

TSO-DSO Joint Programme of Work	Quarterly progress update meetings with NIE Networks.	Future Operations	Industry	Quarterly
Low Carbon Inertia Services – Phase 2	Begin engagement with stakeholders ahead of a future Phase 2 procurement of Low Carbon Inertia Services.	Future Operations	Industry	Q1
Operational Policy Roadmap	Publish Updated Operational Policy Roadmap on the SONI website.	Future Operations	Industry	Q2
Grid Code Evolution	Engagement with stakeholders ahead of Grid Code Requirements for Fault Ride Through Capability	Future Operations	Industry	Q1
Negative Reserve	Workshop to discuss the approach to a potential Negative Reserve Trial in Northern Ireland	Future Operations	Industry	Q1
Future Market Industry Workshops	Monthly industry workshops to take forward Future Power Markets initiatives.	Future Power Markets	Industry/Statutory	Monthly
Future Power Markets Monthly Newsletter	Monthly Future Power Markets Newsletter to inform stakeholders of key updates.	Future Power Markets	Industry/Statutory	Monthly
National Resource Adequacy Assessment Publication	Publication of the National Resource Adequacy Assessment to outline Northern Ireland's demand and adequacy forecasts over a 10-year horizon (2024-2034). Further engagement with statutory partners.	Power System Insights and Research	Industry/Statutory	Q1-Q2
National Resource Adequacy Assessment Inputs and Assumptions	Open consultation on National Resource Adequacy Assessment for 2025-2035. Engagement workstreams with the Department for the Economy and the Utility Regulator.	Power System Insights and Research	Industry/Statutory	Q2
Annual Innovation Report consultation	Open consultation via SONI's Consultation Portal on the Annual Innovation report.	Power System Insights and Research	Industry/Statutory	Q2
Annual Innovation Report consultation	Publication of the Annual Innovation Report.	Power System Insights and Research	Industry/Statutory	Q3
SONI Dispatch Down project	Additional engagement with industry on SONI Dispatch Down project, including a workshop series.	System Operations/System Services/Power System Insights and Research	Industry	Quarterly

Future Energy Modelling Group	Forum to agree future modelling for Northern Ireland studies. Development of shared paper on the impact assessment of electricity modelling out to 2030 to inform policy makers	Power System Insights and Research	Industry/Statutory	Quarterly
Strategy and Regulation				
New SONI Strategy	Further consultation and engagement on the draft SONI Strategy.	Strategy and Regulation	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q1
SRP26 engagement programme	Comprehensive three-phase programme of engagement to support the development of SONI's SRP26 Business Plan, including the formation of the SRP26 Advisory and Challenge Group, a programme of bilateral partner meetings and a workshop and events series.	Strategy and Regulation	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q1-Q4
SONI Performance Report 23/24	Publication of the SONI's Performance Report on SONI website and stakeholder workshop as part of Evaluative Performance Framework process.	Strategy and Regulation	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q1
Mid-Year Performance Review	Publication of SONI's Mid-Year Performance Review on SONI website and stakeholder workshop as part of Evaluative Performance Framework process.	Strategy and Regulation	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q3-Q4
SONI Forward Work Plan 25/26	Publication and consultation on SONI Forward Work Plan 2024-25.	Strategy and Regulation	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q4
SONI Forward Work Plan 24/25	Stakeholder workshop for SONI Forward Work Plan 24/25.	Strategy and Regulation	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q1
Supporting the NI Energy Strategy	SONI continues to support the Department for the Economy as a trusted adviser in the delivery of the Northern Ireland Energy Strategy. Attendance at various workshops and briefings.	Strategy and Regulation	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q1-Q4