

# EU-Funded IN-PLAN Project Provides Comprehensive Forward Guidance for Tipperary's Renewable Energy Strategy

**Tipperary North Riding, Ireland Sep 1, 2025 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com))** - Tipperary County Council (TCC) and the Southern Regional Assembly (SRA) have received in-depth technical support under the EU-funded IN-PLAN programme, delivered in collaboration with the Tipperary Energy Agency (TEA). This targeted support delivered a comprehensive set of recommendations to guide all future revisions of Tipperary's Renewable Energy Strategy (RES).

The guidance aligns the RES with Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2025, the EU Renewable Energy Directive and the 2050 climate neutrality goal. It sets out recommendations on updating renewable targets, integrating energy considerations into housing, land use, transport and industry planning, expanding grid capacity, adopting new technologies and supporting community-led projects. The document also considers the role of emerging technologies such as green hydrogen, agrivoltaics and floating solar, as well as approaches to support community-led projects and strengthen energy resilience.

The forward guidance document, prepared under IN-PLAN, emphasises the need for Tipperary's RES, last updated in 2016, to be revised in light of rapidly evolving technologies, updated national and EU climate regulations and new opportunities for community and commercial investment in renewables. The recommendations are designed to ensure that Tipperary continues to lead in Ireland's energy transition while capturing the economic, environmental and social benefits of decarbonisation. These recommendations will be considered in the next revision of the SRES.

## Key areas of focus include:

- **Ambitious and Aligned Targets:** Setting new 2030 and 2050 targets for renewable electricity, heating and transport, matching or exceeding national ambitions and benchmarked against leading EU regions.
- **Integrated Planning Across Sectors:** Embedding renewable energy goals into the County Development Plan, Climate Action Plan, Housing Strategy and Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy to create synergy between energy, land use, housing and transport policies.
- **Infrastructure Readiness:** Expanding grid capacity in renewable-rich areas, creating Renewable Energy Zones and investing in large-scale storage such as battery farms and pumped hydro to reduce curtailment and increase energy security.
- **Diversification and Innovation:** Introducing new technologies such as green hydrogen, agrivoltaics and floating solar, alongside scaling onshore wind, solar PV, bioenergy and geothermal solutions.
- **Community Leadership:** Strengthening Tipperary's legacy as a community energy pioneer by facilitating locally owned renewable projects, ensuring transparent benefit funds and providing technical and financial advisory services at county level.
- **Energy Resilience:** Building a robust and climate-proof energy system through microgrids, distributed storage, inter-county grid links and emergency backup plans.

The guidance also recommends a formal mechanism for reviewing the Renewable Energy Strategy every 2–3 years to ensure that it remains responsive to emerging technologies, policy changes and market opportunities. This adaptive approach will allow Tipperary to stay ahead of national requirements and EU directives, avoiding the risks associated with outdated strategies.

A strong emphasis is placed on linking renewable energy development with sustainable economic growth, job creation and local value capture. By encouraging cross-sectoral integration, such as renewable-powered public transport, energy-positive housing estates and industrial heat recovery; the strategy aims to multiply the benefits of clean energy investment across the county's economy.

"This forward guidance is about more than meeting targets. It is about positioning Tipperary to lead by example, embrace innovation and deliver an energy system that works for both people and the planet," said a team member of the IN-PLAN project team. "The recommendations offer a practical, well-aligned roadmap for integrating renewable energy into every aspect of local planning and development."

The implementation of these recommendations is expected to strengthen Tipperary's role within the Southern Region, support the SRA's broader decarbonisation objectives and contribute significantly to Ireland's national climate commitments.

### **About IN-PLAN**

IN-PLAN (Integrated Planning for Climate, Mobility and Energy) is a European Union-supported initiative that works with local and regional authorities to embed long-term climate and energy goals into spatial planning processes. The project is implemented across Ireland, Bulgaria, Austria, France and Spain. The programme supports practical, finance-ready and community-supported actions that advance decarbonisation, climate resilience and sustainable development.

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