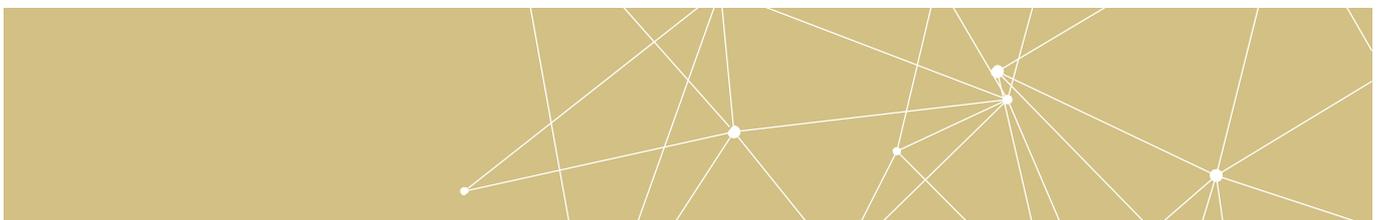




Stakeholder Engagement Action Plan 2025-2026



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, businesses and public services 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 2025 – 2026

This Stakeholder Engagement Action Plan, covering the period from October 2025 - September 2026, 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 25-December 26 (Q1), January 25-March 26 (Q2), April 25-June 26 (Q3), July 25-September 26 (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 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 NI Chamber of Commerce. Four events to be delivered over 2025/26.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society / Industry	Q1 - Q4
Renewable NI Biannual Roundtable	Biannual roundtable with Renewable NI to discuss engagement priorities and update on key developments.	Office of the Chief Executive	Industry	Q1 - 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
SONI Energy Business Breakfast	Annual business engagement event with key business representative organisations.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society	Q1
SONI Industry Business Breakfast with Renewable NI	Annual industry engagement event with Renewable NI members.	Office of Chief Executive	Industry	Q3
Consumer Council engagement	Ongoing engagement with Consumer Council to discuss engagement priorities and key developments impacting consumers.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society	Q1 - Q4
Engagement with Ulster Farmers Union and Young Farmers' clubs of Ulster	Engagement with Ulster Farmers Union to discuss areas of support with the rural and agricultural sector.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society	Q1 - Q4
	Partnership with Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster to support programme			

	of strategic engagement with clubs.			
Bilateral engagement programme	Programme of bilateral engagement with key strategic stakeholders across all groupings.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society / Industry / Statutory	Q1-Q4
Smart Energy Conference	Exhibition at the Smart Energy Conference and sponsorship support.	Office of the Chief Executive	Industry / Statutory	Q1
Agenda NI Energy Forum	Partnership with Agenda NI to support the delivery of the NI Energy Forum.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society / Industry / Statutory	Q4
North-West Energy Forum	Panel participation and exhibition	Office of the Chief Executive	Society	Q1
Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive Engagement	Committee for the Economy visit to SONI.	Office of the Chief Executive	Statutory / Society	Q2
	Energy spokespeople/elected representative briefings.			Q1-Q4
UK Government	Programme of engagement with Northern Ireland Office – Secretary of State visit	Office of the Chief Executive	Statutory / Society	Q1-Q4
CBI Energy Working Group	Continued participation and engagement with the CBI Energy Working Group.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society / Industry	Q1 - Q4
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	Q2
Business in the Community	SONI partnership and participation in Business Climate	Office of the Chief Executive	Society	Q1-Q4

Climate Steering Group	Pledge and Climate Steering Group.			
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 and 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	Q1 - Q4
SONI-UR Directors engagements	Senior leadership engagements between SONI and NIE Networks.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society	Q1 - Q4
ENTSO-E Assembly	Participation in quarterly assembly meetings and provision of resources into strategically important sub-groups.	Office of the Chief Executive	Industry	Q1 - Q4
NI Chamber Festival of Business	SONI to exhibit at Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce Festival of Business event.	Office of the Chief Executive	Society	Q4
Primary, secondary, 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
Chief Executive regional programme of engagement	Regional programme of strategic engagement with tier one stakeholders in specified regional areas.	Office of the Chief Executive	Statutory / Society / Industry	Q1 - Q4

Programme of local government engagement	Programme of strategic engagement with CEOs, senior local government officials and elected representatives in local council areas.	Office of the Chief Executive	Statutory/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
Transmission Cluster Policy	Moving to the implementation phase with decision paper outlining stakeholder input into final design. (Note TCCMS changes)	Networks	Industry	Q3-4
Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement (YTFS)	Targeted Industry and UR engagement on methodologies, assumptions and reporting structures	Future Networks	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q1- Q4
Transmission System Security and Planning Standards	Consult on Proposed TSSPS Updates giving stakeholders (inc. NIE & EirGrid) opportunity to review and contribute ahead of UR approval.	Networks	Industry / Statutory	Q1
Transmission Development Plan 2025	Public consultation on Draft TDPNI along with targeted key stakeholder engagement. Feedback incorporated into final plan before UR submission.	Networks	Industry / Statutory / Society	Q1 - Q2
FAQ Methodology	Consult on FAQ calculation methodology, liaise with UR and publish decision paper.	Networks	Industry	Q2 - Q3

North Sperrin Generation Cluster	Confirm initial preferred option. Engage with local planners and public representatives to ensure transparency, build understanding and deal with concerns.	Networks	Industry / Society	Q3
Connect West	Confirm Final Preferred Option and submit TNPP for approval. Engage with local planners and public representatives to ensure transparency, build understanding and deal with concerns.	Networks	Industry / Society	Q1
Joint Project Management Office	Publish updated TDPNI timelines and introduce quarterly programme updates and acceleration opportunities.	Networks	Industry	Q1 and ongoing
Energising Belfast Project	As site options are confirmed, further public and stakeholder engagement will be undertaken in line with the Grid Development Process, including formal consultation opportunities.	Networks	Society	Ongoing
Mid-Antrim Upgrade	Part 2c consultation across the project area. Key stakeholders include local landowners, communities, council planners, elected representatives, NIE Networks and the Utility Regulator.	Networks	Society	Q2

Eden-Carnmoney Project	Community and industry engagement on a revised plan for the Eden-Carnmoney network development project.	Networks	Society	Q1 - 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- Q2
Coolkeeragh Project	Part 2a community engagement for the Coolkeeragh network development project. Call for views on SONI consultation portal and community events.	Networks	Society	Q1
Mid Antrim Upgrade Project	Phase 2c landowner engagement for the Mid Antrim Upgrade project. Bilateral face-to-face engagement.	Networks	Society	Q2
Eden-Carnmoney Project	Further Landowner engagement on the Eden-Carnmoney project. Bilateral face-to-face engagement.	Networks	Society / Industry	Q2 - Q4
Coolkeeragh Project	Part 2c Landowner engagement for the Coolkeeragh project. Bilateral face-to-face engagement.	Networks	Society	Q2 - Q3
Armagh Project	Part 2a Landowner engagement for the Armagh project.	Networks	Society	Q4

	Bilateral face-to-face engagement. Bilateral face-to-face engagement.			
Tamnamore Substation Extension Project	Ongoing landowner negotiations	Networks	Society	Q2
Tamnamore-Drumnakelly Project	Landowner engagement for the Tamnamore-Drumnakelly Project. Bilateral face-to-face engagement. Part 2c engagement	Networks	Society	Q3 - Q4
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 the offer process.	Networks	Industry	Ongoing
SONI Pre-Construction and Construction works	Ongoing engagement with customers and NIE through comprehensive project management structures.	Networks	Industry	Ongoing
Renewable Grid Liaison Group	Continue to participate in the quarterly meetings to both update and seek feedback from industry.	Networks	Industry/Statutory	Quarterly
Grid Development Monitoring Group	SONI participation in Grid Development Monitoring Group	Networks	Industry	Ongoing

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
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 reduction in congestion on distribution network.	System Operations	Industry	Q1 & ongoing
Transmission Outage Plan/Generation Outage Plan	Engagements with generators through the Generator Forum and workshops on outage planning. Online publications.	System Operations	Industry	Q1 & 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	Q1
TCG publications	Weekly online publications to inform industry of existing	System operations	Industry	Weekly

	network limitations and near-term expectations of dispatch.			
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, Power System Restoration Plan and System Defence Plan. Workshops planned with the Department for the Economy and Civil Contingencies Group to embed further collaboration.	System Operations	Industry / Statutory	Q1 - Q4
Power System Emergency Communications Plan	Planned exercises and simulations to test SONI Power System Emergency Communications Plan.	System Operations	Industry / Statutory	Q2
Harmonised Other System Charges Annual Consultation	An open all island consultation to review Other System Charges with outcomes published in a Recommendations paper.	Markets & System Support	Industry	Q3
Publication on TSO website of Proposed GTUoS rates for 2026/2027	Publication of proposed rates to facilitate required industry engagement.	Markets & System Support	Industry	Q2 - Q3
Market Operations and SEMO Market Interface				

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 auction timetable.
Market Operator User Group	To update Market Participants on ongoing/upcoming projects, provide updates in areas such as 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
Participant Information Session	Service which provides daily support to Market Participants and operate as a contact point for SEMO queries across all internal teams	SEMO Market Interface	Industry	Daily
Future Power Systems				
TSO-DSO Joint Programme of Work	Quarterly progress update meetings with NIE Networks.	Future Power Systems	Industry	Quarterly
Shaping our Electricity Future Advisory Council Meetings	Shaping our Electricity Future Advisory Council Meetings, providing stakeholders with key updates.	Networks and Innovation	Industry/Statutory	3 per year

SONI Dispatch Down project	Maintain regular engagement with DfE and the Utility Regulatory on SONI Dispatch Down action plan.	Future Power Systems	Statutory	Bi-weekly
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 (2026-2035). Further engagement with statutory partners.	Future Power Systems	Industry/Statutory	Q1-Q2
National Resource Adequacy Assessment Inputs and Assumptions	Open consultation on National Resource Adequacy Assessment for 2027-2036. Engagement workstreams with the Department for the Economy and the Utility Regulator.	Future Power Systems	Industry/Statutory	Q2
Grid Code Evolution	Review of grid code requirements for grid forming technologies including HVDC.	Future Power Systems	Industry/Statutory	Q1-Q2
Grid Forming Strategy Webinar	Industry webinar grid forming technology - Our Grid Forming (GFM) Strategy will define a system wide vision for GFM adoption, outline the enabling technical, operational and regulatory conditions, and identify key implementation priorities.	Future Power Systems	Industry/Statutory	Q1

Publish all-island Grid forming Strategy	Publication of the all-island grid forming strategy - Our Grid Forming (GFM) Strategy will define a system wide vision for GFM adoption, outline the enabling technical, operational and regulatory conditions, and identify key implementation priorities.	Future Power Systems	Industry/Statutory	Q1
SONI Start Procurement for LCIS Phase 2 (subject to SEMC approval)	Commencement of Procurement process for LCIS Phase 2 is central to transitioning Northern Ireland to a low carbon, this affords stakeholders the opportunity to provide solutions. We host monthly joint SONI and EirGrid SOEF operations programme board. We participate in monthly meetings with the Regulatory Authorities on various aspects of the LCIS procurement process.	Future Power Systems	Industry / Statutory	Q1
Strategy and Regulation				
SRP27 engagement programme	Continuation and update of the comprehensive programme of engagement to support the development of SONI's SRP27 Business Plan, including: The formation of a deliberative and consultative Advisory and Challenge Group	Commercial and Regulation	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q1 - Q4

	comprising key partners from across society, industry and other statutory partners; a programme of detailed bi-lateral engagements with key partners; and a workshop and events series.			
Power of SONI	Engagement for the results of the “Power of SONI” project – an assessment of the impact that SONI have on consumer bills.	Commercial and Regulation	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q1 – Q4
SONI Performance Report 24/25	Publication of the SONI’s Performance Report on SONI website and stakeholder workshop as part of Evaluative Performance Framework process.	Strategy and Sustainability	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q1 – Q4
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 Sustainability	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q1 – Q4
SONI Forward Work Plan 26/27	Publication and consultation on SONI Forward Work Plan 2026-27.	Strategy and Sustainability	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q1 – Q4
SONI Forward Work Plan 25/26	Stakeholder workshop for SONI Forward Work Plan 25/26.	Strategy and Sustainability	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q1 – Q4
Supporting the NI Energy Strategy	SONI continues to support the Department for the Economy as a trusted adviser in the delivery	Strategy and Sustainability	Industry/Statutory/Society	Q1 – Q4

	of the Northern Ireland Energy Strategy. Attendance at various workshops and briefings.			
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