

Utility-scale energy storage dublin

The energy storage market in Ireland continues to show strong growth potential. While still in the early stages of site construction, new additions are now providing a strong uptick in activity.

Year-on-year additional capacity built this year remains at a steady rate; 720MWh of energy storage was operational at the end of 2023 and cumulative operational capacity is predicted to reach over 1.7GWh by the end of 2025.

All data and analysis in this article refers to the Republic of Ireland, and comes from our in-house market research at Solar Media, specifically our Republic of Ireland Battery Storage Project Database Report.

With at least 720MWh of energy storage deployed and 1GWh in construction; the growth of the energy storage market in Ireland has been rapid, considering the first project was only energised in 2020.

In particular, the pipeline increased by over 4GWh in 2023, a growth of 75% compared to 2022. The first half of 2024 shows further promise that this strong growth will continue, with 2.5GWh already submitted and over 1.5GWh of additional storage forecast to be connected to the grid by the end of 2025.

Figure 1 above shows the pipeline of energy storage in Ireland, where the total applications submitted between 2015 and H2 2024 has a cumulative capacity of 14.41GWh.

The second quarter of 2024 saw the highest number of applications submitted, at over 2GWh. On an annual basis, 2023 showed a growth of 92% from 2022, compared to a growth of 42% from 2022 to 2021 when comparing capacity in MW.

Seven applications submitted in 2023 (17%) were over 100 MW, compared to only two applications (9%) in 2022. However, due to the small number of applications, these larger projects contributed to more than half of the capacity submitted in both years.

The largest known projects delivered were both 100 MW/100MWh sites, completed in 2020 and 2021. Since then, the number of projects has only marginally grown in size each year and the capacity installed has not shown any significant advancements either.

Figure 2 below shows all energy storage projects in Ireland, in terms of their build status. This includes tracking projects from the initial pre-application stage, through to full build-out (operational).

Despite the relatively low deployment level today, the pipeline remains promising, with 448MWh in pre-application, 3.7GWh having been submitted or at appeals (with decisions in the coming months), 5.3GWh



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of planned capacity approved, as well as 2.2GWh with grid connection approved awaiting construction. It is safe to say the number of operational sites will be increasing markedly in the next few years.

Statkraft delivered the first energy storage project in Ireland with Fluence in 2020, at its Kilathmoy wind farm and the company has continued to have a strong presence in the Irish energy storage field since then. The company is also lining up another milestone project soon, with the country's first four-hour duration energy storage system.

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