



Switched onto the energy transition

Experienced lawyers in renewable energy

Renewable energy

Renewable energy is recognised around the world as a key component in the fight against climate change. The enthusiasm for renewable energy at both the EU and domestic level is high. The ambitious objectives contained in the EU's 2030 Climate and Energy Framework, Ireland's Climate Action Plan and Programme for Government 2020 and the UK's Energy White Paper 2020 all strongly encourage a shift towards renewables over the next decade and beyond.

The climate agenda has also driven the introduction of new government-backed incentives, the emergence of new cost efficient technologies and more attractive financing options. This has all led to many new opportunities and challenges for energy operators in Ireland, Northern Ireland and further afield. To stay competitive, businesses in this sector need legal advisers with an in-depth understanding of this ever-evolving industry.

Why Eversheds Sutherland?

Our energy lawyers work almost exclusively in the industry and have an acute awareness of the types of issues and challenges that our clients face.

Our lawyers have a broad spectrum of experience in the renewable energy industry and have advised on:

- Project development and construction
- Project finance
- Energy M&A transactions
- Dispute resolution
- Regulatory issues
- Tax issues

We have experience with virtually every type of alternative renewable energy source, including:

- onshore and offshore wind
- solar
- biomass
- waste and landfill gas to energy
- biofuels
- wave and tidal
- hydro generation

We have acted for 40% of all operational renewable energy facilities on the island of Ireland.

Industry involvement

Mark Varian, Head of Energy at Eversheds Sutherland Ireland, is highly regarded in the sector. He is a founder and former Secretary of the Irish Solar Energy Association; Chairman of the Energy & Environment Committee of the British Irish Chamber of Commerce; a member of the Markets Committee and Export Committee of Wind Energy Ireland (WEI); and a member of the Markets Committee of the Northern Ireland Renewable Industry Group (NIRIG). Mark has also chaired a number of sessions at the WEI bi-annual Conference and as a member of the Society of Construction Law and the Irish Bioenergy Association (IrBEA).

Facilitating cross border activity

We are the only international law firm with the capability to offer cross-jurisdictional legal advice to clients in Northern Ireland and Ireland. We have energy specialists in our offices in Dublin, Belfast and across Great Britain. We also work closely with more than 300 energy and infrastructure colleagues across 69 offices in 32 countries, allowing us to provide a seamless service throughout Europe, US, Asia and the Middle East.

Recent experience

Our experience includes advising:

- **EirGrid** and, **Réseau de Transport d'électricité** on the proposed and ongoing joint procurement of the €1bn Celtic Electricity Interconnector - a 500km interconnector between Ireland and France
- **Codling Wind Park Limited** in relation to the proposed development of a 2.1GW offshore wind project in Ireland
- **Shell**, on the entry into its partnership with Simply Blue Energy, which will develop a floating wind farm in the Celtic Sea
- **SMR International Wind Parks** on all their renewable energy work in Ireland, including the development and financing of a series of three wind farms in early 2020
- **Evermore Energy** on the construction of their 480MW CCGT at Belfast Harbour.
- **Sojitz Corporation** on its acquisition of a 60% stake in the 230MW plus Invis Energy portfolio
- **Impax Asset Management** on the acquisition, project financing and sale of the Dromadda More Wind Farm
- **China General Nuclear** on the introduction of I-SEM and the changes required to protect investment in a portfolio of 14 wind farms located across Ireland and Northern Ireland
- **Natural Forces** on its Irish joint venture with a number of individuals to develop onshore wind farms in Ireland
- **Strategic Power** in relation to the establishment of their bio-methane business in Ireland
- **Sustainable Development Capital Limited** in relation to the establishment of their 37.5MW Rhode Energy Storage project in Co Offaly
- **Pensions Infrastructure Platform** on the portfolio refinancing of five wind farms across Ireland and the UK
- **Greencoat** on the acquisition of 156mw of operational solar assets across the UK and Northern Ireland
- **AIB Bank** on the funding of Glenmore and its extension, Elginny and Broughshane wind farms and the Rockbrook Anaerobic Digestion plant
- **BVP Investments Limited** in relation to its investment in the Cork Green Energy CHP sponsored by Mid Cork Pallets
- **PiP** on the acquisition of five wind farms from Scottish Equity Partners

What do our clients say?

A respondent notes that the lawyers' strength lies in their *"client focus and ability to work collectively with the client's wider team to find solutions."*

Chambers Europe 2021

An interviewee finds the team members to be *"very knowledgeable in the area of renewable energy."*

Chambers Europe 2021

Clients report that Mark Varian is *"very knowledgeable about the renewable energy market in Ireland, and his advice is practical and business-oriented."*

Chambers Europe 2021

Sources describe Mark Varian as an *"experienced, commercial and committed"* partner who has *"an excellent knowledge of the energy industry."*

Chambers Europe 2020

"They are very knowledgeable in the renewable energy sector. They are also very commercial in terms of negotiations with the counterparty's lawyers, and their responses are very quick."

Chambers Europe 2020

"They are pragmatic in their approach."

Chambers Europe 2020

Legal updates

We offer briefings and alerts on the latest issues facing the energy sector. If you would like to receive these alerts, please sign up to our energy mailing list [here](#).

What happens next?

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