



# Ibec Infrastructure Unit

Working on behalf  
of our members to  
ensure effective  
policy making

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# The Voice of Irish Business

Ibec's Infrastructure Unit is the national voice of business in the following policy areas:

- energy supply
- water and wastewater services
- climate action
- financing renewables and energy efficiency
- environmental licensing and enforcement
- resource efficiency and the circular economy
- land, marine and aviation transport
- spatial planning for infrastructure
- occupational health & safety

Key to this advocacy role is our active engagement with members across a diverse range of industry sectors. If you want to learn more, or to be more closely involved, please feel free to contact the team.



## Energy and Climate Policy

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A competitive business environment is dependent upon secure, affordable, sustainable and transparently-priced sources of energy supply. Ibec's Energy & Climate Policy Committee represents a broad cross section of Irish enterprises – indigenous and multinational – that are affected by energy policy, regulation or legislation at national, EU and international level.

National and European Union legislative developments will dramatically alter the energy landscape and impose stringent climate and energy targets.

Supporting by expert working groups, the Committee provides a forum to discuss policy and regulatory proposals. We work to ensure that the national response to our EU mandated obligations is balanced with a competitive business environment. We help members to network, share information and find common policy approaches to energy and climate policy. In turn, we represent the views of our member to policy makers, government, and regulators.



## Environment Policy

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Many of Ibec's members are subject to environmental regulation by the EPA and/or by local authorities. A significant number of them are also intensive users of environmental services such as water, wastewater treatment and waste management. Conversely, some members are in the business of providing environmental services or specialist advice.

Much of our environmental policy work is driven by the needs of these members to comply with European regulations or Directives. Supported by specialist working groups, our Environment Policy Committee promotes the achievement of environmental objectives in a manner that supports the resilience and competitiveness of Irish business. In doing so, we regularly engage with policymakers and regulators at local, national and European level as appropriate.

We continue to support the EPA's Green Business activities. Our focus is increasingly on the *Circular Ireland* programme that was launched in 2021. In a circular economy the value of products and materials is maintained for as long as possible. Waste and materials are minimized, and products at the end of their lives are re-used where possible.



## Transport and Infrastructure Policy

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Ibec's Transport and Infrastructure Council has a mandate to promote timely development of national infrastructure that supports competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development, and improved quality of life. Ibec members represented on the Council include users and providers of infrastructure.

The main obstacles to effective planning, permitting and financing of transport systems also hinder effective investment in other areas of critical infrastructure, hence the combined remit of the Council.

The level of state-funded investment is inadequate for the needs of Ireland's fast-growing and trade-intensive economy. We also believe that the planning process needed to be streamlined. The scope of work for the Council includes a range of infrastructure issues such as:

- ensuring that the new National Planning Framework will integrate with local and regional plans to enable sustainable growth across the Island of Ireland
- reducing red tape and uncertainty over timelines for strategic infrastructure
- promoting greater consistency between local authorities regarding non-strategic infrastructure projects
- delivering policy wins for businesses in the road freight, aviation, maritime and public transport sectors
- promotion of integrated transport networks, including provision of rail freight
- effective spatial and land use planning as well as maritime and foreshore planning issues



### **Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)**

The Ibec Occupational Health and Safety Unit represents the interests of Ibec members at National and European Union level with regard to policy and legislation affecting the safety and health of employees. We facilitate the representation of Irish business interests through the Ibec national Occupational Health and Safety Policy Committee. We represent Irish business both at European and National level to shape and influence draft policy and legislation to benefit Irish business.

We help to keep you informed of new developments at European and National level and advise you on how best to influence the outcome.

We participate in the European Advisory Committee on Safety and Health, through which all significant European occupational health and safety developments are discussed prior to adoption at European level. We represent business on the Health and Safety Authority board and national committees to influence and assist with best practice implementation in the work environment.



### **Environmental and Social Sustainability**

Over many years, Ibec has hosted the Irish leg of the European Business Awards for the Environment (EBAE), under the auspices of the European Commission. The Commission's decision, in 2021, to discontinue these awards reflects its view that sustainability has been successfully mainstreamed across the European business community. However, Ibec considers that work remains to be done to promote awareness of, and alignment with, the environmental goals set out in the EU's Green Deal and in its emerging *FitFor55* legislative package, across the Irish business community. We envisage closer links developing between the environmental and social aspects of supply chain due diligence and responsible corporate governance.

Similarly, Ibec is mindful of the growing relevance of the seventeen UN Sustainable Development Goals to business ESG strategies. Our policy work and campaign activities seek to highlight and promote the achievement of these objectives in an Irish context.

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