

Case Study



Ørsted

Ørsted is a Danish owned multinational energy company which provides global green energy solutions. The company develops, constructs, and operates offshore and onshore wind farms, solar farms, energy storage facilities, renewable hydrogen and green fuels facilities, and bioenergy plants. In Ireland Ørsted owns and operates on-shore wind farms.

Ørsted is recognised on the CDP Climate Change A List as a global leader on climate action and was the first energy company in the world to have its science-based net-zero emissions target validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). Ørsted employs approx. 8,900 people.



PIC: Ørsted - Sorne Wind Farm



PIC: Ørsted - Wild Bee Nursery Project, Co. Donegal

'In line with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, Ørsted is supporting biodiversity by making the decision to standardise our hedgerow management, vegetation spraying and verge management across all operational wind farms. In short, we're leaving nature to grow. This will encourage flora to flourish naturally as we restrict the use of herbicides, encourage native wildflowers through reduced mowing, and create a pollinator friendly habitat.'

Niall Gibbons, Onshore Environmental Lead, Ørsted

Future Plans:

In the year to come we will establish a baseline of biodiversity measurement so we can monitor performance of our biodiversity measures going forward.

Should our ecologists, as part of our ongoing surveys on operational sites, discover any invasive species, we will track and manage this in line with advice on www.invasives.ie.



www.pollinators.ie



National Biodiversity Data Centre
Documenting Ireland's Wildlife



In line with the AIPP evidence-based ' Businesses: actions to help pollinators ' guidelines, Ørsted has delivered the following actions:	Evidence-based Action delivered:
Two additional windfarms have been added to the Ørsted Irl/UK portfolio in 2023. These are integrated into our strategy of being managed in accordance with our commitments to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.	Action 1 Develop a plan to protect existing sources of food and shelter
Hedge cutting will only take place when there is a justifiable health and safety requirement to do so.	Action 1 Develop a plan to protect existing sources of food and shelter
<p>Limited mowing (March - October) will take place across all our operational windfarms to encourage pollinator friendly native plants to prosper on our sites naturally with no introduction of wildflower mixes to these areas.</p> <p>Verges/unused ground have been signposted and will be managed by reduce mowing to promote native pollinator habitat. All these areas are to be untouched if at all possible as intensive mowing removes vital food sources for pollinators.</p> <p>Cable routes, cable marker poles, and other scrub land will no longer be cut. Instead, the land will be left to vegetate naturally. By reducing mowing it will ensure that there is a continual supply of food for pollinators every year. N.B. If earthworks are undertaken we will follow the evidence-based guidance on Page 10 of Businesses: actions to help pollinators guidelines.</p>	<p>Action 5 Create a short-flowering meadow Action 6 Create a long-flowering meadow</p> <p>(reduced mowing & LIFT cuttings)</p>
The use of herbicides to manage vegetation growth will only take place when there is a justifiable health and safety requirement to do so. Only areas that see frequent traffic will be managed. All remaining areas will be allowed to vegetate naturally. Reducing or eliminating the use of herbicides will mean more wildflowers for pollinators to feed on.	Action 18 Reduce pesticide use
<p>Local community—Ørsted sponsored the <i>Wild Bee Nursery Project</i> - a woodwork module for school students in Donegal to learn about pollinators and build solitary bee nest boxes. The initiative was created by <i>Wind Energy Ireland</i> and <i>RenewableNI</i> to give the wind industry alternative options to help pollinators in their local communities. By following a set design criterion, local students from a school in Donegal made nest boxes containing everything that a solitary bee needs. The students then installed the nest boxes on one of our operation windfarm sites close to the school.</p>	Action 24 Sponsor pollinator activities in your local area

AIPP Page Reference: [Resources for Business » All-Ireland Pollinator Plan \(pollinators.ie\)](#):

Action 1: Page 7

Actions 5 & 6: Page 9 & 10

Action 18: Page 18

Action 24: Page 25

