RGI ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Renewables Grid Initiative

The Energy Transition According to Artificial Intelligence

We asked ChatGPT why electricity grids are important for the energy transition, here's what it had to say:

Electricity grids are important for the energy transition for several reasons:

1. They enable the integration of renewable energy sources: Electricity grids allow for the integration of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, which have variable output depending on weather conditions. This helps to balance the supply and demand of electricity.

2. They support the integration of electric vehicles: Electric vehicles require a stable and reliable source of electricity in order to charge. Electricity grids can support the integration of electric vehicles by providing the necessary infrastructure for charging and by balancing the demand for electricity.

3. They enable the sharing of energy: Electricity grids allow for the sharing of energy between different regions and countries. This helps to balance out the fluctuations in supply and demand and increases the overall stability of the system.

4. They support the integration of energy storage: Electricity grids can support the integration of energy storage technologies such as batteries, which can help to balance the supply and demand of electricity and improve the overall stability of the system.

5. They allow for the implementation of smart-grid technologies: Smart-grid technologies, such as advanced metering infrastructure and energy management systems, can help to optimise the use of electricity and reduce energy waste.

Overall, electricity grids play a critical role in the transition to a more sustainable energy system by enabling the integration of renewable energy sources, supporting the integration of electric vehicles and energy storage, and enabling the sharing of energy between different regions and countries.

Foreword

Dear readers,

In a world where rapid change is the norm, the Renewables Grid Initiative (RGI) stands out with its adaptive and comprehensive approach. We understand that energy, biodiversity, and society are interconnected elements of a unified system. In response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine in early 2022, our holistic understanding of the electricity grid drove us to intensify our activities aiming at clarifying the essential role electricity grid infrastructure plays in energy and climate security.

This work has exposed the fact that we no longer live in a world of abundance. Rather, we must learn to live with scarcity. A scarcity of energy, resources, time, space, labour, and the political will to address these issues. Market mechanisms alone will not be enough to address this, only through optimisation can we build progress with so many scarce resources. This remains the core focus of RGI's technical work area. Simultaneously, we have become increasingly aware that it is not possible to solve the climate and biodiversity crises separately. Biodiversity, electricity, and the climate are intrinsically linked.

The large amount of energy infrastructure needed to reach full decarbonisation can have severe environmental impacts if not well planned and deployed. The need to reduce dependencies from Russian fossil fuel imports has led to a series of European emergency measures aiming at speeding up infrastructure deployment. At RGI, we have taken the lead to shift the narrative on how we tackle these issues. We aim to demonstrate the possibility of building up the necessary energy infrastructure while at the same time protecting and restoring nature.

I believe it is essential to develop a pact between energy and nature. This is at the core of the Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature's work as well as other activities led by RGI. To implement this ambitious concept, we will further our international collaborations in 2023 and beyond. Keep an eye out for more information on this topic. Moreover, we stress the critical need of public participation in the energy transition.

We observe increasingly political polarisation with respect to renewables and the grid. RGI has always supported robust and valuable stakeholder engagement processes. Moving forward, we need to do better and design a benefit-sharing toolbox that can be used by project developers and impacted communities to find the local solutions that enable speed, scale, and support. This work will shape many of RGI's future activities and we will continue to seek alliances to develop sound solutions.

While all these topics have been present in our activities for some time, in 2022 we restructured ourselves to better address the volatile political landscape while continuing our mission of promoting an electric grid that improves peoples' lives and biodiversity. The RGI Secretariat is now organised into three dimensions: **Energy & Nature** (Pages 4 – 9), **Modelling & Spatial Planning** (Pages 10 – 13), and **Engagement & Advocacy for a Better Grid** (Pages 14 – 19). While the finer details of these dimensions are still being determined, we remain dedicated to addressing issues that transcend sectors and regions across the globe.

Recognising the interconnectivity of the challenges we face, we understand that building a resilient European electricity grid, which supports both livelihoods and biodiversity, is crucial in achieving global climate and energy transition objectives. With our comprehensive approach, our task of balancing decarbonisation efforts within Europe and navigating the uncertainties of global climate politics is achievable.

At RGI, while we strive to advance Europe's energy transition, we also consider how we can contribute to the progress of grid and biodiversity initiatives worldwide. By actively seeking synergies between local community engagement and global collaboration, we aim to ensure that our endeavours are inclusive, sustainable, and impactful. Within the following pages, we provide a concise overview of our work during the past year. We present our projects, events, and advocacy efforts aimed at deploying a renewables grid for both people and the planet. We invite you to explore these pages, draw inspiration from our initiatives, and get involved in the accelerated energy transition.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and we hope that you will find the 2022 RGI Annual Report both informative and inspiring.

Cordialmente,

Antonella Battaglini
CEO Renewables Grid Initiative

Cable of **Contents**

Onshore
Energy & Nature

Transforming the Relationship between Energy and Nature on Land

The climate and biodiversity crises require us to act urgently to decarbonise our energy system and **restore nature**. To achieve this, we must build out our renewable energy and electricity grid infrastructure at an unprecedented rate. However, the energy transition can only succeed if we minimise potential negative impacts on the natural environment and actively restore it.

Recognising this, RGI has begun to reflect more holistically on how renewable energy and electricity infrastructure can minimise their impact on nature and biodiversity throughout all phases of planning, operation, and decommissioning. Moreover, we are investigating practices that can galvanise the potential of infrastructure to create **benefits for ecosystems and communities**.

In 2022, we intensified our efforts to identify best practices at the crossroads of energy and nature. We grouped initiatives into three categories: **bird protection**, **vegetation management**, and **multi-functionality of infrastructure**. We researched initiatives from across Europe and beyond and invited experts to speak at our new 'Energy and Nature' webinar series. The goal of these events is to celebrate successful approaches and inspire new synergies, replicate initiatives, and foster productive relationships between diverse stakeholders.

For example, we delved into the world of integrated vegetation management (IVM) and discussed how an ecologically minded approach to managing the vegetation around the grid can boost local biodiversity, reconnect fragmented ecosystems at a landscape scale, and provide benefits to rural stakeholders. This topic will be developed further in a series of training workshops from 2023 onwards. We also learned how using accurate data on bird presence and migration routes can inform spatial planning of power lines and wind turbines, ensuring that new infrastructure avoids the most sensitive areas.

As we transform the relationship between energy and nature, the challenges are significant. RGI is keen to face these challenges head-on and uncover the great opportunities that lie beyond. In 2023, we will widen our work in this area and continue to convene actors from across the energy-and-nature nexus dedicated to realising an energy transition that benefits both nature and people.

6

Number of *Impulses for Action* for bird protection from the 'Shared Airspace' conference

This year, Europe took key decisions at the policy level to enable a swift and effective response to the **twin biodiversity and climate crises**, namely the RePowerEU Plan and the Nature Restoration Law. These bold policy moves are promising for our future, but when it comes to implementation, the devil will be in the details. Recurring messages from all exchanges include the crucial importance of open data, standardised methods, collaborative approaches, and ever more research to bring new knowledge to the fore.

10

Number of years of biological monitoring on Green Corridors in Belgium. Check out the Ecofirst-Elia 10-year report!

RGI's Bird Protection Work Reaches New Heights

RGI has been collaborating with Members and partners for years to prevent bird mortality caused by **collision** and **electrocution** on power lines. In 2022, RGI's bird protection work reached new heights through new partnerships, communication campaigns, and a dedicated national conference, making it the 'Year of the Bird'.

In late summer, RGI released the *Shared Airspace* brochure, which explained the issue of bird collisions and electrocutions in a clear and visually stimulating way and presented key solution strategies. The brochure has been translated into seven European languages and is available in print.

The RGI Bird Protection Conference, held in Dortmund, Germany, brought together diverse stakeholders committed to reducing bird mortality caused by power lines. Over 80 stakeholders from civil society, grid operation, planning offices, and authorities responsible for the grid and nature protection came together on 28 September. Through keynotes, panel discussions, and participatory workshops, attendees explored how to create a truly "bird-friendly" grid. RGI and NABU later translated the results into a series of *Impulses for Action* that will guide our collaborative Bird Portal moving forward.

On 29 September, we visited the nearby nature conservation area "Kiebitzwiese", where a distribution line of our bird portal partner DSO, Westnetz, runs. The area hosts a diverse range of bird species since being rewetted in 2002. Here, we learned about how Westnetz worked with local authorities and bird experts to reduce risks for their avian neighbours. We watched their maintenance drones in action and discussed their work with colleagues from the local authority and local branch of NABU.

Finally, we used the exciting impulses from the conference and field trip to create a short film and a series of interview videos with experts on bird-grid interactions. These resources are available on our website in English and German and are subtitled in six other EU languages. We look forward to sharing them far and wide!

87,000

Number of impressions on our bird protection campaign

Offshore
Energy & Nature

Accelerating offshore energy infrastructure while preserving and restoring nature

Since the *Marine Grid Declaration* was unveiled in 2019, RGI has substantially increased its work related to the offshore environment. In 2020, the Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature (OCEaN), in which RGI is the convenor and moderator, was founded and since then continued to grow. As of December 2022, OCEaN consists of 29 organisations – representing non-governmental organisations (NGOs), wind industry actors and transmission system operators (TSOs) – jointly committed to accelerating the deployment of offshore wind energy and grid infrastructure while ensuring alignment with nature protection and healthy marine ecosystems. Throughout the year, RGI led the organisation of various events, advocacy, and outreach activities that increased OCEaN's recognition as a key platform for exchange at the EU level, with a focus on the topics described below.

Offshore wind energy is set to increase exponentially in the next decades, so it is vital that infrastructure is planned efficiently and built in the least impactful areas for nature. **Maritime Spatial Planning** (MSP) is a process that involves all maritime stakeholders in finding joint solutions to tackle the significant challenges posed by the scarcity of space and the degraded state of European seas. It is a key step for the identification of suitable areas for offshore wind development. Therefore, in 2022, RGI and OCEaN Members published a joint statement calling for an improved, robust, and timely MSP process and ten recommendations to make MSP contribute to reaching EU climate, energy, and biodiversity targets.

Offshore wind and grid infrastructure can also be designed in a nature-inclusive way, thus stimulating nature enhancement. To showcase related best practices, RGI launched a **Nature Inclusive Design** (NID) webinar series in 2022, which has been very well received and will continue in 2023.

In addition, collecting marine **environmental data** is essential to avoid and minimise the environmental impacts of offshore energy infrastructure. In 2022, RGI and OCEaN Members published a case study on marine environmental data monitoring for nature-friendly offshore wind, shedding light on the model used in Belgium for collecting and managing environmental data from offshore wind farms.

5

Number of new Members and supporting organisations who joined OCEaN in 2022

Finally, sustainability criteria in **offshore wind auctions** are a crucial approach for awarding projects based not only on price but also on considerations that can contribute to environmental protection. RGI and OCEaN Members believe that this workstream is essential to avoid and minimise environmental impacts while enhancing marine ecosystems. OCEaN started the groundwork on this topic in 2022, and it will remain a priority for 2023.

To geographically expand work on these topics, RGI announced the establishment of **OCEaN in the Mediterranean Sea** (Med OCEaN) during WindEurope's Conference in Bilbao in April 2022. As of December 2022, Med OCEaN comprises nine Members, and there is growing interest from other stakeholders, such as wind associations in France, Italy, and Spain, to join.

Advocacy on Offshore Wind and Grids

Recognising the deteriorating condition of our oceans, RGI and OCEaN Members called for a strong EU **Nature Restoration** Law that includes clear and measurable legally binding targets in a joint statement published in June 2022. The statement also called for the establishment of implementation and enforcement rules that promote ecologically-sound deployment of offshore wind energy and electricity grids.

In addition, the collaboration between OCEaN Members and RGI produced the discussion paper *Essential Environmental Concepts for the Offshore Wind Energy Sector in Europe* in 2022, which aims to provide clarity and a shared understanding of key concepts used in policy discussions concerning marine biodiversity protection and the expansion of the offshore wind energy sector.

Conference on Speeding up Nature Positive Offshore Energy Infrastructure Deployment

On 19 October 2022, OCEaN organised its first in-person conference in Brussels in collaboration with RGI and WindEurope. Speakers and participants discussed how Europe can speed up the deployment of offshore renewable energy and grid infrastructure while also restoring marine ecosystems. The conference was opened by Simonas Šatūnas, Head of Cabinet of the European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, alongside high-level representatives from WWF, WindEurope, and RGI.

Over 130 attendees had the opportunity to listen to panel discussions that included the perspectives of the wind industry, transmission system operators, and NGOs. The conference also featured smaller discussion rounds on funding and stakeholder engagement challenges. High-level representatives from BirdLife, WindEurope, and RGI closed the conference and emphasised the importance of accelerating offshore wind energy infrastructure and restoring marine ecosystems in parallel.

The conference also included a fair on nature conservation and restoration, which showcased successful collaborations between industry, TSOs, and NGOs. The fair presented measures that protect, enhance, and restore marine ecosystems in concert with offshore infrastructure. Displayed measures included fish hotels on a high-voltage station, 3D-printed reefs near turbine foundations, and biodiversity restoration projects.

Many of these measures are included in OCEaN's Energy & Nature Database. Professional video interviews of the practitioners who presented these measures were filmed so that OCEaN can spread the word further in 2023 through a social media campaign.

The conference also provided the perfect venue to launch OCEaN's joint statement and ten recommendations on MSP as well as a first case study on data monitoring. These publications show the willingness of NGOs, the offshore wind industry, and TSOs to find common ground so that Europe can accelerate offshore renewable energy deployment while ensuring marine ecosystems can thrive.

Overall, the conference underlined the EU-level recognition of RGI's vital offshore work and provided a platform to present solutions, discuss the next steps, and increase the visibility of OCEaN.

450+

Number of participants at OCEaN events in 2022

23

Number of offshore events to which RGI contributed in 2022

Modelling & Spatial Planning

Modelling a Climate-Resilient Energy System for a Decarbonised Future

RGI's modelling and spatial planning work is focused on improving knowledge of how to model and implement a **fully decarbonised and optimised energy system**. In 2022, the activities completed under this dimension have provided a better understanding of the planning aspects of decarbonised energy systems and explored environmental and social interdependencies within them.

Energy system models are virtual representations of physical and digital energy assets that can aid in system planning and operation, advise policymakers, and explore possible energy futures. However, these models can depict a biased reality from the modeller's point of view. To address this issue, RGI is working to diversify the perspectives among the energy modelling community by bringing different actors into discussions and emphasising the need to **integrate social, environmental, and climate constraints** that are too often downplayed in energy models.

In 2022, RGI collaborated with Hitachi Energy to organise two Modellers' Exchange Workshops that directly connect to the Paris Agreement Compatible (PAC) Scenarios for Energy Infrastructure project. The first workshop focused on optimising resources in energy infrastructure planning, while the second showcased the importance of better integrating climate information into energy models.

The outcomes of both workshops demonstrated that energy models, when combined with earth system models, can enhance energy system management and aid in designing a more resilient power system against climate change and extreme weather events. RGI's focus for 2022 has been to bridge the gap between energy and climate science, which has influenced other RGI activities such as the 'Adaptation and Resilience' conference (held in 2023) and involvement in the Destination Earth program.

By prioritising the integration of social, environmental, and climate constraints into energy models, RGI is contributing to the creation of a more sustainable and decarbonised energy future.

Modelling Efforts Responding to the European Energy Crisis

The European energy crisis was reinforced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, which disrupted natural gas supplies from Russia to many EU Member States, leading to serious energy security concerns. To reduce European dependence on Russian fossil fuels and prepare for the 2022/2023 winter, RGI partnered with Hitachi Energy and conducted modelling work to analyse the energy flows in Europe, considering the sources and end-uses, conversion losses due to thermodynamic processes, and demand sectors responsible for the highest consumption of natural gas.

Based on the analysis, RGI proposed corresponding short- and long-term measures to address the energy crisis, prioritising **the direct electrification of demand** across all sectors and users, accompanied by a massive rollout of renewables. The results were published in a discussion paper entitled *No Time to Lose* and presented at the EU's Infrastructure Forum and the 2022 European Climate and Energy Modelling Platform (ECEMP) Conference, emphasising the need for a truly **European approach to planning renewables and electricity grids** across all voltage levels.

57

Total number of experts who joined RGI's Modellers' Exchange Workshops in 2022

The Importance of Stakeholder Engagement in Energy Modelling

RGI's work in energy modelling goes beyond just interacting with modellers and system planners. It is essential to engage with a diverse group of non-technical stakeholders, such as civil society actors, businesses, and policymakers, to understand their needs and interests. **Involving stakeholders throughout the energy modelling process** can improve the quality and legitimacy of the results and unlock the potential of energy models.

In 2022, RGI was involved in two Horizon 2020 modelling projects: SENTINEL and WHY, which focused on stakeholder engagement in energy modelling. The SENTINEL project involved gathering knowledge from stakeholders in Greece, the Nordic region, and the wider EU to develop an energy system modelling framework for the European energy transition.

As part of the SENTINEL project, RGI conducted an analysis of energy transition modelling results and organised thematic deep dives to present the findings and gather feedback from stakeholders. These deep dives were centred around three topics: the socio-economic impacts of the energy transition, the environmental impacts of energy technologies, and the decarbonisation of the EU's building sector. The main objectives of these sessions were to validate the current energy system models and improve them based on stakeholder feedback, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the models' future developments. Key feedback from the expert deep dives was visually highlighted in three factsheets for a wide audience. While the SENTINEL project ended in 2022, the insights gained from this initiative can still be applied to future energy modelling efforts.

4

Number of topical factsheets published, which summarise the results of different stakeholder interactions

For the WHY project, RGI organised a capacity-building workshop for energy system modellers on the "5 W's" of stakeholder engagement at the 2022 European Climate and Energy Modelling Platform Conference. The workshop showed modellers tips to **improve interactions with stakeholders** and emphasised the importance of clear visualisations that appeal to diverse audiences.

In addition to Horizon 2020 modelling projects, RGI was actively involved in the first phases of the 2024 Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP). This is an EU-wide assessment of necessary energy infrastructure to ensure the security of supply while achieving ambitious decarbonisation goals. We took part in stakeholder workshops with ENTSO-E and ENTSOG to promote transparency and expert modelling support. ACER adopted framework guidelines to ensure that TYNDP scenarios align with the EU's climate and energy goals, and RGI organised discussions with NGOs and think tanks to build capacity and raise awareness during the public consultation process for the Scenarios Guidelines. As TYNDP is an ongoing process, RGI remains committed to engaging in the upcoming years and ensuring meaningful participation from civil society actors.

Note: SENTINEL stands for 'Sustainable Energy Transitions Laboratory' and has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 837089. WHY stands for 'Climbing the causality ladder to understand and project the energy demand of the residential sector' and has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 891943.

170

Number of stakeholders engaged in SENTINEL modelling deep dives

Source: PCI DAYS EU. Flickr, October 4, 2022

Engagement for a Better Grid

Advancing Sustainable Grid Deployment through Innovation and Collaboration

In 2022, the energy, climate, and biodiversity crises demanded fast action and collaboration from different actors. The need for initiatives that promote the energy transition in an innovative and sustainable manner has become more critical than ever before. To encourage bold ideas and promote them across borders, RGI celebrates good practices and encourages exchange between various stakeholders.

At the European Commission's Third PCI Energy Days in Brussels, RGI's 2022 'Good Practice of the Year' award kicked off the discussions by promoting versatile and transformative solutions for sustainable grid deployment. A high number of outstanding practices were submitted for competition and the following were crowned for their transferability and cutting-edge approaches:

Communication and Engagement Award
'Shaping our Energy Future' implemented by EirGrid, for enabling meaningful participation of different stakeholders within Ireland's renewables strategy implementation.

Environmental Protection Award
'*Bio Transport*' led by Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and Red Eléctrica, for their scientific-based nature restoration and enhancement measures along the grid.

Technological Innovation & System Integration Award
'*SPEED-E*' by Red Energéticas Nacionais (REN), for implementing electric vehicle charging stations directly supplied by the grid, promoting the decarbonisation of the transportation sector while tackling distribution challenges.

Honorary Award for Outstanding Achievement
For the first time, aside from the three regular categories, Jack's Solar Garden received the Honorary Award for coupling organic agriculture with photovoltaic generation.

The ceremony was opened by the European Union's Commissioner for Energy, Kadri Simson, who highlighted the award's importance in inspiring a "new normal in building EU grids" that considers **environmental**, **technological, and social aspects**. RGI is honoured by the support and recognition the award has received in its history and hopes that it will **continue to help shape the European grid in a sustainable and pioneering manner.**

40,109

Number of visits to our website

Powering Change: Organising Exchanges for a Participatory Grid

At the heart of RGI's work is promoting exchange between stakeholders and highlighting outstanding practices related to renewable energy and grid development. To achieve this, RGI organises expert workshops and 'Best Practice Webinars' in addition to the aforementioned 'Good Practice of the Year' award (p. 14). These workshops and webinars offer opportunities for our network and the broader public to delve into specific initiatives, ask questions, share knowledge and exchange perspectives. In 2022, RGI explored these exchanges in various contexts.

One workshop, 'Participatory Approaches for Meaningful Public Engagement', was held on 6-7 October 2022 in Würzburg, Germany. It dealt with the need for meaningful stakeholder engagement processes in times that are dominated by a focus on acceleration of project development. Recurring discussion themes included the desire for more support from energy regulators and politicians to speed up processes and allow for more community benefits. At the same time, **local acceptance is still key to the successful deployment of any grid project**. Participants therefore agreed that early and comprehensive participation must continue – as understanding and the perception of fairness are essential for acceptability. However, this does not mean that engagement processes do not need to adjust to new realities, e.g. by accelerating timelines, running more processes in parallel, bundling participation processes, embracing failure culture, and collecting relevant data in advance.

Together with NABU (the German chapter of BirdLife), RGI also organised a side event on 'Efficient planning of RES and grids as a key tool in addressing the climate & biodiversity crises' during the 27th Session of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27). Representatives from civil society, policy, and transmission operators came together to discuss **how to tackle both the climate and biodiversity crises through efficient renewables and grid planning**, and to showcase how implementing best practices can mitigate the impact of energy infrastructure on nature.

Throughout 2022, RGI additionally explored different technical innovations and engagement approaches within the 'Best Practice Webinars' that allow deep dives into outstanding practices. The *SoLAR Allensbach* project presented how electricity generation and consumption can be "smartified". Exploring the social dimension of RGI's work, the French transmission operator RTE and NGO France Nature Environment (FNE) detailed how to engage with stakeholders leading to a shared understanding of the energy transition between industry and civil society. Lastly, focusing on integrating social, environmental, technical, and regulatory parameters into energy infrastructure planning, the Swiss start-up Gilytics presented the Pathfinder tool.

Source: PCI DAYS EU. Flickr, October 4, 2022

Holistic Acceleration: Advocacy for Energy, Society, and Nature

The Russian invasion of Ukraine defined 2022 and revealed dependencies and scarcity at multiple levels. In response to the disruption of the geopolitical and energy landscape both in Europe and globally, the European Union proposed the **REPowerEU** package to enhance energy independence and accelerate the energy transition.

RGI actively engaged in related policy developments, utilising our unique Membership structure to advocate for a holistic approach. We followed and reacted to the legislative progress of the 'Fit for 55' package and the new policy files introduced by REPowerEU, highlighting the urgency of speeding up the expansion of electricity grids and variable renewable energy sources while **considering environmental and societal aspects**. One example here is our proposal to couple the implementation of electricity infrastructure projects with the proposed EU Nature Restoration Law while providing tangible benefits to local communities.

In our *Statement on Renewable Hydrogen*, we were also vocal about the **benefits of electrifying the end-use sectors** with high shares of renewables, and about the **risks stemming from an uncoordinated and oversized deployment of renewable hydrogen**. Following a whole system perspective, RGI stressed the need for the EU to assess such deployment through the lenses of energy efficiency and resource scarcity, alongside the impacts on European energy independence, biodiversity, and society at large.

Beyond this, we called on policymakers to ensure that public funds are distributed to the energy infrastructure that is truly needed to address the current energy crisis without undermining the European climate, energy, and nature protection ambitions. Against this backdrop, we published our *Statement on the Revision of the Recovery and Resilience Plans*, urging the co-legislators to safeguard the **'Do No Significant Harm' principle** and avoid further lock-ins and increased Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. To increase the effectiveness of these plans, Member States should also focus on developing **robust and transparent public participation processes** for a wide spectrum of stakeholders.

Finally, considering the **significant amount of electricity grids required for a successful energy transition**, we facilitated exchanges with a broad ecosystem of actors to create a joint understanding and find common ground on how to make the electricity grid infrastructure fit for a climate-neutral future.

In 2023, extensive policy developments are emerging and RGI is dedicated to continuing our active engagement, including within collaborative structures, to share the **importance of a holistic approach to the energy transition**.

6

Policy position papers published in 2022

Source: European Commission. Facebook, March 5 2023

Source: PCI DAYS EU. Flickr, October 4, 2022

Renewables Grid Initiative

Non-profit Organizations

Follow

View all employees

Collaborating for a Resilient Future: RGI's Social Media Impact in 2022

Just as in RGI's work overall, our **social media activities** were also shaped by the many crises of 2022 – and the search for appropriate answers and solutions.

To address the energy crisis worsened by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we joined forces with RGI Members and partner organisations and launched the *#RGIEnergySavings* video campaign. The campaign was centred around energy savings issues and brought together perspectives from grid operators, civil society, industry, and businesses. We also provided information on how citizens and industries can contribute to solutions to the energy crisis. Additionally, we launched the *#WarmTogether* campaign in November, which focused on promoting small changes in daily routines that could lead to a reduction in energy use at home. Leading by example, our RGI staff shared ten different tips and tricks to promote both energy efficiency and savings.

To raise awareness of how energy infrastructure can tackle the biodiversity crisis on land, we launched an online communications campaign on bird protection that received contributions from over 20 organisations. The campaign showcased mitigation strategies, innovation challenges, spatial planning tools, research collaborations, and more. Through over **150 social media posts**, the campaign aimed at **inspiring nature protection as part of energy transition pathways worldwide**. Read more about our efforts towards environmental protection on page 4.

With over **1300 posts on social media channels**, we shared various angles of RGI's work with our network. Ranging from posts related to our own activities to promoting partners' best practices and sharing world grid news, we promoted a **strong debate on nature protection**, **technological innovation**, **policy advancements**, **and more**. We are thankful to our partners for their support, and we hope to have inspired our network to work together towards a resilient future!

View profile

RGI's Favourite Post

Renewables Grid Initiative
8,177 followers
1 y

Everyone's talking about #AgriPV! 🌻⚡ This combination of #solarPV & #agriculture can help reach #RES-goals & bring new efficiencies & synergies between the two sectors ♻️
💡 But how can it work? EnergyVille's example describes it well:
☀️ Instead of 1 field supplying 100% #RES &
🌱 1 producing 100% crops,
🍃⚡ 2 fields, each supplying 80% crops or energy, can provide a total of 160% energy & crops on the same surface 💪 How's that for the union of efficiency?

Now, the multi-disciplinary project 'AgriVoltaics', led by KU Leuven & EnergyVille has won the Febeliec Energy Award 👑 for demonstrating the potential of AgriPV in 🇧🇪!

As we move towards an energy transition which works for people and nature, we need such innovative solutions which optimise & seize upon the #multifunctionality of infrastructure 💡

Read more on the award here 👉 https://lnkd.in/eJrU6G8v

Read more 👉 https://lnkd.in/grQeS6Xc

Find all project partners here 👉 https://lnkd.in/gB4EVNgp

#energyandnature #renewables #renewableenergy #energytransition #solarenergy #agriculture #agronomy #multifunctionality #energyinfrastructure #infrastructure

172 · 9 Comments

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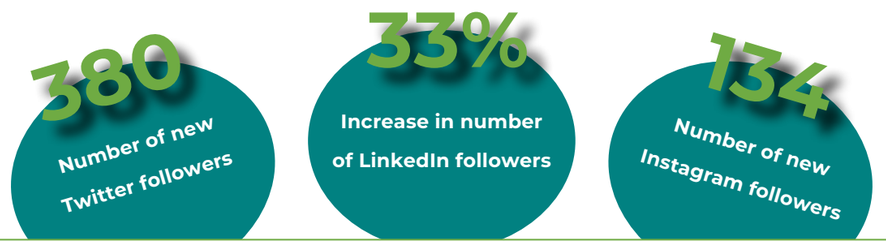


Meet our Members

as of August 2023

Supporting Members

Meet our Board

Jasón Besga
Head of the Institutional Relations and European Affairs Dep.
Red Eléctrica

Ariel Brunner
Regional Director
BirdLife Europe & Central Asia

Alan Croes
Head of Energy System Planning
TenneT

Bernard De Clercq
Group Head EU Affairs
Elia Group

Francisco Ferreira
President
ZERO

Meet our Secretariat

as of August 2023

Antonella Battaglini
Chief Executive Officer
Italy

Anna Maldryk
Personal Assistant
to the CEO
Ukraine

Stephanie Bätjer
Programme Manager
Communication
Germany

Iryna Kukuruza
Junior Manager
Communication
Ukraine

Eston McKeague
Manager
Communication
USA

Charlotte Mueller
Manager
Communication
Canada

Nathália Pimentel
Junior Manager
Communication
Brazil

Mara Radulescu
Manager
Communication
Romania

Liam Innis
Manager
Energy Ecosystems
United Kingdom

Manon Quetstroey
Manager
Energy and Nature
France

Léa Hayez
Junior Manager
Energy Systems
Belgium

Damiano Ottavi
Manager
Energy Systems
Italy

Ira Shefer
Manager
Energy Systems
Israel

Alexandros Fakas Kakouris
Manager
Energy and Policy Systems
Greece

Himakshi Gurnani
Manager
Finance
India

Sabrina Rahman
Assistant
Finance
Bangladesh

Marie Delair
Manager
Fundraising
France

Sylvia Kessler
Office Manager
Spain

Dení Aguilar Bellamy
Coordinator
Offshore Energy and Nature
Mexico

Madlie Le Bihan
Manager
Offshore Energy and Nature
France

Kendall Cromartie
Manager
Offshore Energy and Nature
USA

Roland Lleshi
Manager
Offshore Energy and Nature
Albania

Ana Miljanović Rusan
Junior Manager
Offshore Energy and Nature
Croatia

Cristina Simioli
Programme Manager
Offshore Energy and Nature
Italy

Andrzej Ceglarz
Programme Manager
Socio-Energy Systems
Poland

Morjana Moreira dos Anjos
Manager
Socio-Energy Systems
Brazil

Amanda Schibline
Manager
Socio-Energy Systems
USA

Trouble
Senior Director
Networking and Wellbeing
Multinational

Celebrating our Former Champions

Antina Sander
Deputy CEO
Germany

Antina Sander joined RGI in 2012 and has been instrumental in shaping RGI and its activities for over 10 years. She has been a calm, resourceful and guiding presence in our team and we will miss her as our Deputy CEO. Antina's tasks and achievements at RGI are too plentiful to list here, but we want to thank her deeply for the structured vision and strategic direction that she provided for RGI. Both will surely continue to reflect in our work going forward.

We wish Antina all the best for the future and are very happy that she will continue to stay in our professional orbit.

RGI would like to express our appreciation for Hindia Yaghi, who joined our team as an office assistant in 2022. Hindia played an integral role in organising the 2022 Members Assembly and various internal events, showcasing her organisational skills and attention to detail. She also worked tirelessly behind the scenes, providing valuable support to RGI's operations.

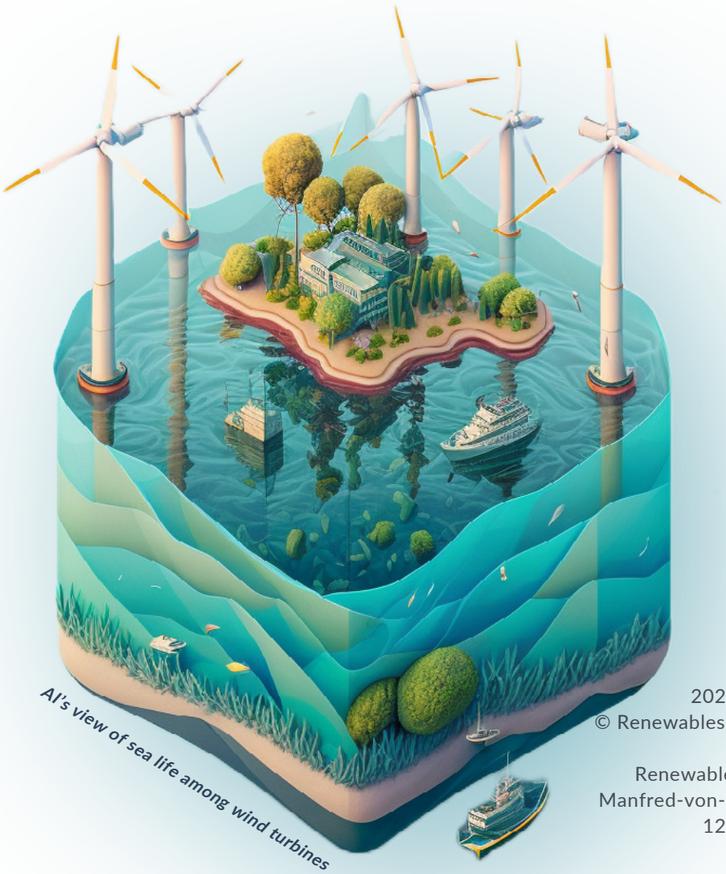
We extend our heartfelt thanks for Hindia's outstanding work and wish her continued prosperity in all her future endeavours.

Hindia Yaghi
Office Assistant
Lebanon

Sophie Cassel
Junior Manager
Germany

RGI would also like to extend our gratitude to Sophie Cassel, who joined RGI in 2021 as a personal assistant to our CEO. With her skills and dedication, Sophie quickly added contributing to our social media channels to her responsibilities. In 2022, she further excelled, taking on the role of a junior manager and leading a project that fostered collaboration with energy and nature stakeholders worldwide.

We extend our appreciation for her valuable contributions and wish her continued success in her future endeavours.



AI's view of sea life among wind turbines

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Renewables Grid Initiative e.V.
Manfred-von-Richthofen Strasse 4
12101 Berlin, Germany

+49 30 2332 11000
renewables-grid.eu

Contacts
Team Lead, Stephanie Bätjer, stephanie@renewables-grid.eu
Editor, Eston McKeague, eston@renewables-grid.eu
Designer, Iryna Kukuruza, iryna@renewables-grid.eu

About RGI

The Renewables Grid Initiative is a unique group of transmission system operators (TSOs) and environmental and climate NGOs collaborating on a nature-friendly renewables grid for the energy transition. Our aim is to speed up the transition towards a renewables-based energy system.

We promote grid development in harmony with people and nature. To do this, we share and develop best practices for: energy scenario building; nature protection and restoration; and a fair and inclusive public engagement.

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