

Policy topic or question	Alternative Fuels and OPS (Onshore power supply)
Proposer (Name/Government Department)	Liam Lacey, Irish Maritime Development Office (on behalf of) Department of Transport
Research for policy requirement	<p>The European Green Deal will orientate all industrial sectors towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and Ireland, through its Climate Action Plan and associated legislation, is committed to supporting this objective. Ireland's ports and shipping sector are vital components of the supply chains that underpin trade and economic growth. There are implications for the Irish maritime industry through binding measures set out in the Fuel EU Maritime proposal as part of the Fit for 55 package, in addition to the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR).</p> <p>Research is required in order to inform how the Irish industry can most appropriately respond to these challenges. For example, research is underway in relation to future alternative fuels infrastructure and onshore power facilities that may be required. However, in order to expedite these initiatives, there are opportunities to explore how green shipping corridors can be best progressed that build also on developments taking place with Ireland's trading partners.</p> <p>The Department of Transport recognises the need to develop strong policy in this area, so as to drive the transition to carbon neutral fuels. Research is urgently needed to inform policy decisions from an operational, financial, commercial and socio economic perspective.</p>
Scope and objectives of work needed	<p>The purpose of this piece of research is to understand the feasibility of developing green shipping corridors with ports in the UK.</p> <p>This research will conduct feasibility studies investigating green shipping corridors focused on routes across the Irish Sea.</p> <p>This research will undertake the technical studies required with a specific focus on the high volume and high frequency central corridor routes.</p> <p>The study would involve significant consultation with relevant ports and shipping companies to ascertain their future plans in relation to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and the interim steps that will have to be taken to achieve success.</p>

Expected outputs

The output of this research will be a published study on:

- Alternative fuel options, with specific reference to the choices available to the market and the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- The port infrastructure needed to facilitate the transition to alternative fuels, the associated costs and commercial feasibility of such projects.
- The likely timescales for the transition, given the need for a phased introduction of alternative fuels that would protect the value of existing shipping assets.
- The regulatory issues that will arise in relation to compliance, monitoring, safety, and training.
- An analysis of the international factors that will drive the pace of change, including EU policies and directives, IMO¹ regulations and the speed of response that can be achieved in the maritime industry.
- An analysis of the socio economic impacts of the transition to alternative fuels and the overall impact that the ports and shipping industry can make to the achievement of a carbon neutral economy by 2050.

¹ [International Maritime Organization](#)