



# Application of SME Test: Large Energy User Action Plan (LEAP) Publication

## Screening question

Is the new policy, primary or secondary legislation, or regulatory compliance requirement relevant for SMEs<sup>1</sup>?

The following questions must be answered:

- Are SMEs within the scope of the measure? Yes  No
- Does the measure specifically target SMEs? Yes  No
- Will or could SMEs be impacted directly or indirectly by the measure? Yes  No
- Are SME impacts likely to be more substantial than on other companies, for example, in terms of adverse effects? Yes  No

If you said yes to any of the above, complete Sections 1-5.

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<sup>1</sup> Medium <250 employees, Small < 50 employees, Micro SME <10 employees  
As per EU definition of an SME: [https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/sme-definition\\_en](https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/sme-definition_en)



## 1. Consultation

### 1. What consultation will/has taken place to capture input from the SME community, particularly those most impacted by this measure?

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Public consultation  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Online consultation  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Consultation with SME representative bodies                          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Notifications of consultation to database of interested stakeholders | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Interviews and panels with experts                                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Webinars   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Roundtables  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Public meetings  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Other  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

If Other, please provide details:

No consultation with SME stakeholders has taken place. While the Large Energy User Action Plan (LEAP) may impact SMEs, it will only be indirect impact. It is anticipated that there may be significant opportunities for regional SMEs in respect of the construction and operation of Green Energy Parks as outlined in the Plan. This would lead to the establishment of associated local and regional supply chains for SMEs which can supply good and services to both Large Energy Users or renewable energy assets within or co-located to a Green Energy Park. However, ultimately, Green Energy Parks as set out in this Plan, will directly facilitate Large Energy Users investments.



## 2. Identification of affected businesses

**2a: Please identify the type of SMEs that will be directly or indirectly (i.e. SMEs not in scope, but potentially affected indirectly, for instance through impacts on supply chain) affected by proposed policy change -**

Micro (1-9 employees)

Small (10-49 employees)

Medium (50-249) employees

All of the above

**2b: Has an estimate been carried out of the numbers of micro, small and medium companies affected directly or indirectly by the measure?**

Yes  No

**2c: Will the proposed policy change have a greater impact on SMEs in any particular economic sector?**

Yes  No

If Yes, please specify.

It is expected that Green Energy Park and co-located LEU developments will create a supply chain from a range of SME sectors. These include the sale and supply of renewable energy equipment, electrical infrastructure components and services, services in engineering & construction, digital, environmental & sustainability solutions, as well as SME's that engage in transport logistics.

**2d: Will the proposed policy change have a greater impact on SMEs in any particular region?**

Yes  No

If Yes, please specify.

LEAP will not have a greater impact on SMEs in any particular region. LEAP promotes a plan-led strategy to enable co-location opportunities and support the development of green energy parks in regional areas, while recognising that opportunities for such parks in the Dublin region are limited. While leap prescribes actions for facilitating Green Energy Park Developments, it does not, in itself, set out or determine which locations Green Energy Parks will develop in or are suitable to develop in.



### 3. Assessment of the impacts on SMEs

#### 3a: What are the expected positive impacts of the policy change on SMEs ?

- Improved regulatory framework Yes  No
- Improved working conditions Yes  No
- Cost savings Yes  No

If other, please provide details.

Positive impacts for SMEs will occur through SME's availing of opportunities for assisting in the development of Green Energy Parks, including supply chain opportunities for SMEs energy or manufacturing services sectors.

Action 16 in particular looks to address supply chain and innovation opportunities for Irish SMEs and commits to supporting the expert suppliers and service providers to LEU sectors, and determine how the enterprise development agencies can best assist innovation particularly in the areas of energy management, efficiency, renewables integration and energy storage in these specialist Irish suppliers. It will also consider the use of regulatory sandboxes to facilitate innovation in energy management, where SMEs provide many energy services to LEU customers.

#### 3b: Will the proposed changes result in any of the following impacts for SMEs?

- Administrative costs, including the obligation to provide information on the activities or products of the company, including one-off and recurring administrative costs?  
Yes  No
- Compliance costs, including the obligation to pay fees or duties; and costs created by the obligation to adapt the nature of the product/service and/or production/service delivery process to meet economic, social or environmental standards. Yes  No
- Other impacts, including on business entry and exit; competition and competitiveness? Yes  No
- Discourage entrepreneurship or innovation? Yes  No
- Impacts of any proposed exemption thresholds on business growth? Yes  No
- Impacts on SME population composition and location? Yes  No



**An Roinn Fiontar,  
Trádála agus Fostaíochta**  
Department of Enterprise,  
Trade and Employment

- Additional reporting requirements?

Yes  No



## 4. Assessment of alternative options and mitigating measures

**4a. If the analysis above has shown that the proposed policy changes will result in negative impacts on SMEs, has there been consideration of any measures to mitigate against these impacts.**

Examples of mitigating measures include

- Exemption for certain SME cohorts (e.g. micros);
- Simplification of administrative procedures and use of plain English;
- Reduction of information requirements;
- Less onerous or less frequent inspection regimes for small businesses;
- Provision of longer transitions periods for SMEs so that they can have more time to allocate resources when dealing with policies;
- Lower administrative fees;
- Access to financing or lower interest rates in order to comply;
- Training and assistance with compliance;
- Requirement for SMEs to have only to register for a certain activity rather than having to be fully licensed;
- One-stop shops.

Yes  No

Please provide details.

LEAP will not result in negative impacts on SMEs. Accordingly, no mitigation measures have been considered for SMEs.



## 5. Post-completion of SME Test

**5a: Have you noted the outcome of the SME Test identifying the impacts and provision for mitigating measures, under the Impacts section of the Memorandum for Government proposing the policy changes?**

Yes  No

**5b: Have you made this form available publicly on your Department website?**

Yes  No

This form will be made available on the DETE website.

For further information please contact: [ESBPU@enterprise.gov.ie](mailto:ESBPU@enterprise.gov.ie)

**Entrepreneurship and Small Business Unit**

**Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment**