

## APREN launches Permitting Guide for Onshore Renewable Projects

- *The Initiative had the collaboration of the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA) and the Directorate-General for Energy and Geology (DGEG)*
- *The Guide clarifies the renewable project permitting process for all involved in the process*
- *The Guide contributes to accelerating private investment of around €60 billion in the sector by 2030, and consequently the energy transition*

**APREN – Portuguese Renewable Energy Association** has presented its [Onshore Renewable Project Permitting Guide](#), an initiative that involved the two main government entities associated with the permitting of this type of projects: the Portuguese **Environment Agency (APA)** and the **Directorate-General for Energy and Geology (DGEG)**.

The launch event took place on September 15, and was attended by the leaders of the three institutions – **Pedro Amaral Jorge** (President of the Board of APREN), **Jerónimo Cunha** (Director General of DGEG) and **Nuno Lacasta** (President of APA).

The guide, prepared with the support of the consultant BioInsight, makes visible the main stages of the permitting process of renewable projects, to easily identify the process stages and, as such, simplify them.

It comes at a time when the targets for the installation of renewable power become increasingly ambitious. At the international level, the European Commission's "REPowerEU" strategy, announced in 2022 after the start of the war in Ukraine, has placed renewables at the heart of a European energy security plan. It provided for renewable projects to be considered in the public interest, among many other points.

At the national level, the Portuguese Government recently presented its proposal for the National Energy and Climate Plan 2030 (PNEC 2030) to the European Commission, which sets the goal of having 47 GW of renewable power by 2023 – close to triple the installed capacity by the end of 2022.

The complexity and timings of the permitting process for renewable projects are key challenges for which the sector has been calling for swift and effective intervention for several years to unlock the planned private investment of around €60 billion in renewables by 2030.

The launch of the permitting guide, designed with the participation of these three entities, aims precisely at trying to improve the permitting process for all: both for project promoters and for permitting entities, clarifying the process and its requirements, thus contributing to accelerating energy transition.

The president of the board of APREN stressed that this is a living document. "Certainly, there will be issues that have not been anticipated and that will have to be addressed. On the other hand, the legislation is not frozen and so the guide will have to be permanently updated. This is still a formulation and for its implementation the platform is still necessary", he recalled.

Pedro Amaral Jorge stressed that the next big step will be the expansion of the scope of the entities involved to encompass the municipal component of construction permitting and offshore wind. Taking this step forward will be necessary for Portugal to achieve the goals it has set itself, which presupposes reaching 85 % of electricity from renewable sources by 2030. "We have ahead of us an ambitious and challenging undertaking, that we will only be able to be achieved with the involvement of all agents", he stressed.

The Director-General of DGEG, Jerónimo Cunha, considered that the challenge is great, but was optimistic that Portugal will be able to achieve the goals. They are an opportunity for the country from an economic and social point of view.

“Calling the municipalities to the process will be essential since they are a fundamental piece for the advancement of the projects that are being implemented in the territory outside the big cities. Municipalities must be involved in this process and some ideas that do not correspond to the truth must be demystified. We must promote literacy not only among consumers, but also by reaching out to the various actors in the process”, he stated. Jerónimo Cunha guarantees that DGEG is being given conditions to fulfill its role. “At the next APREN event maybe we can already talk about dates for the platform, structures and human resources”, he announced.

The document was presented in Lisbon by the hand of Susana Serôdio (Coordinator of Public Policies and Market Intelligence of APREN), with comments by Maria do Carmo Figueira (Director of Environmental Assessment of APA) and Filipe Pinto (Director of Electric Energy Services of DGEG).

After the presentation, two practical views of its applicability were shared. This task fell to Ana Guerreiro (Head of Environment of Generg, part of TotalEnergies) and Timóteo Monteiro (Head of the Land and Environmental Department of EDP Renováveis – Portugal).

The project to prepare the permitting guide began in March 2022, with the constitution of a technical monitoring committee that integrated elements of APREN, APA and DGEG. In this first phase, the guide is dedicated to onshore renewable projects of wind and solar energy, but the ambition is to extend it to other typologies.

At a previous time, APREN, in collaboration with the official entities, had already carried out a mapping of the critical points of the permitting that was sent to the responsible entities. The Association has committed itself to making its contribution in this area, by developing a permitting guide, an initiative that has now been concluded.

The permitting guide is published in full in [APREN's website](#).

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**About APREN:**



The Portuguese Renewable Energy Association ([APREN](#)) is a non-profit association founded in October 1988. Its mission is to coordinate and represent the common interests of its members, promoting renewables energies in the electricity field.

APREN works closely with the government and other official entities, both on a national and international levels. It participates actively in the definition of energy and environmental policies, valuing natural resources for electricity production, namely hydric, wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, biogas, and urban solid waste.