

The Renewables Grid Initiative

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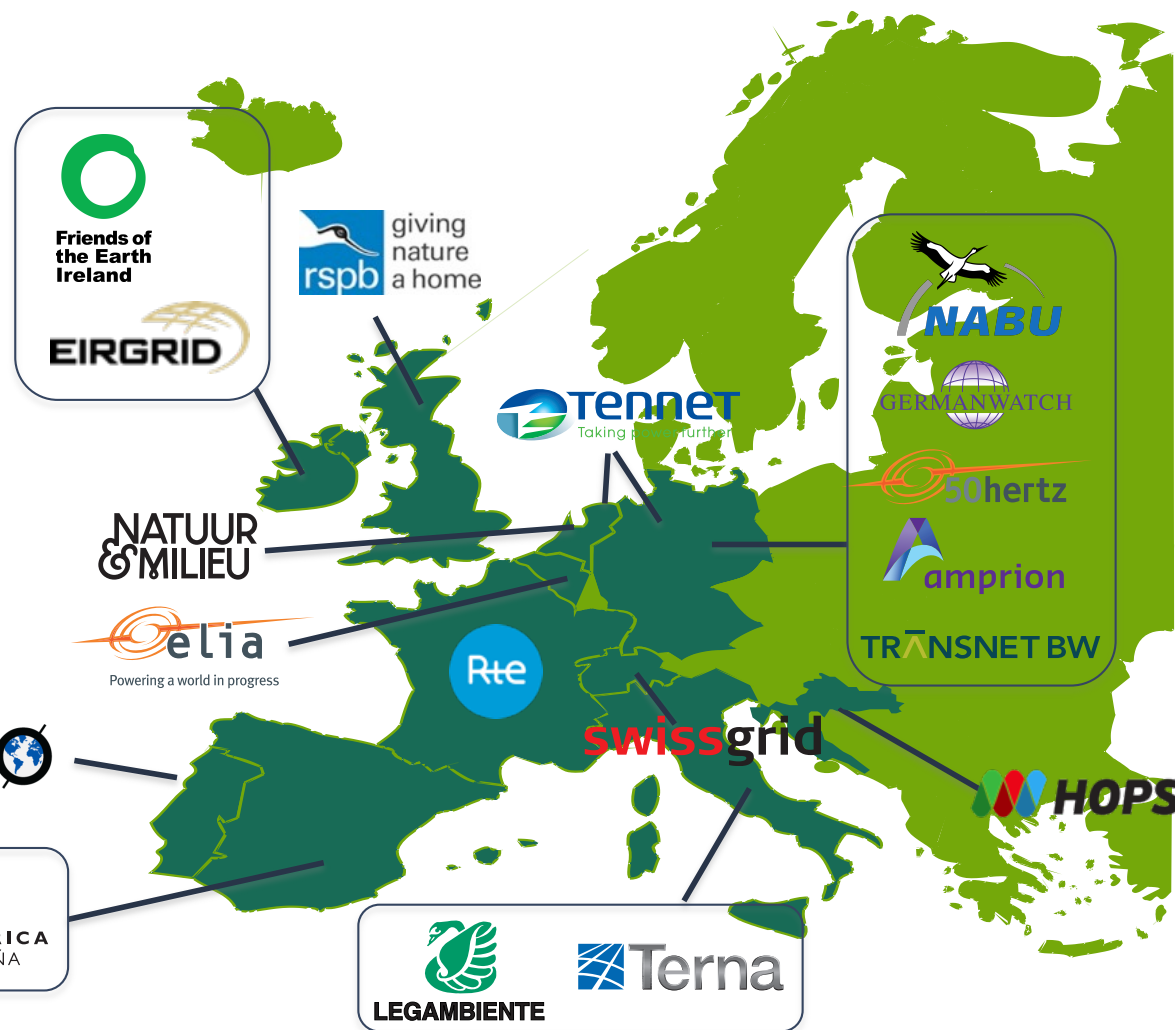
1. Who is RGI?
2. Nature protection and the grid
3. What projects does RGI do?
4. Priorities for the future

Who is RGI?



RGI is a unique collaboration of NGOs and TSOs from across Europe engaging in an 'energy transition ecosystem-of-actors'. We promote fair, transparent, sustainable grid development to enable the growth of renewables to achieve full decarbonisation in line with the Paris Agreement.

Who is RGI?



Electricity grids aren't very popular



What topics do we cover?

We cover many topics!



Nature protection



Need for Grids



PCIs & TYNDP



Offshore grids



Underground cables



Compensation

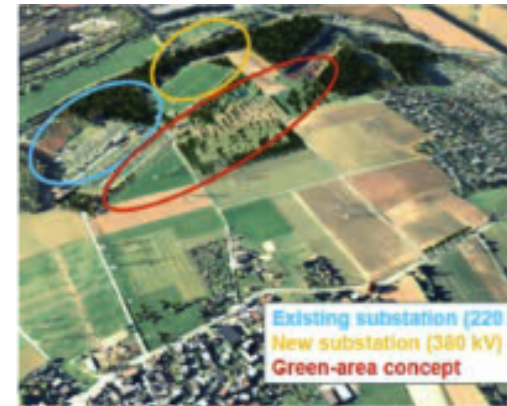


Public acceptance

Nature protection and the grid

Good environmental planning for greater public acceptance

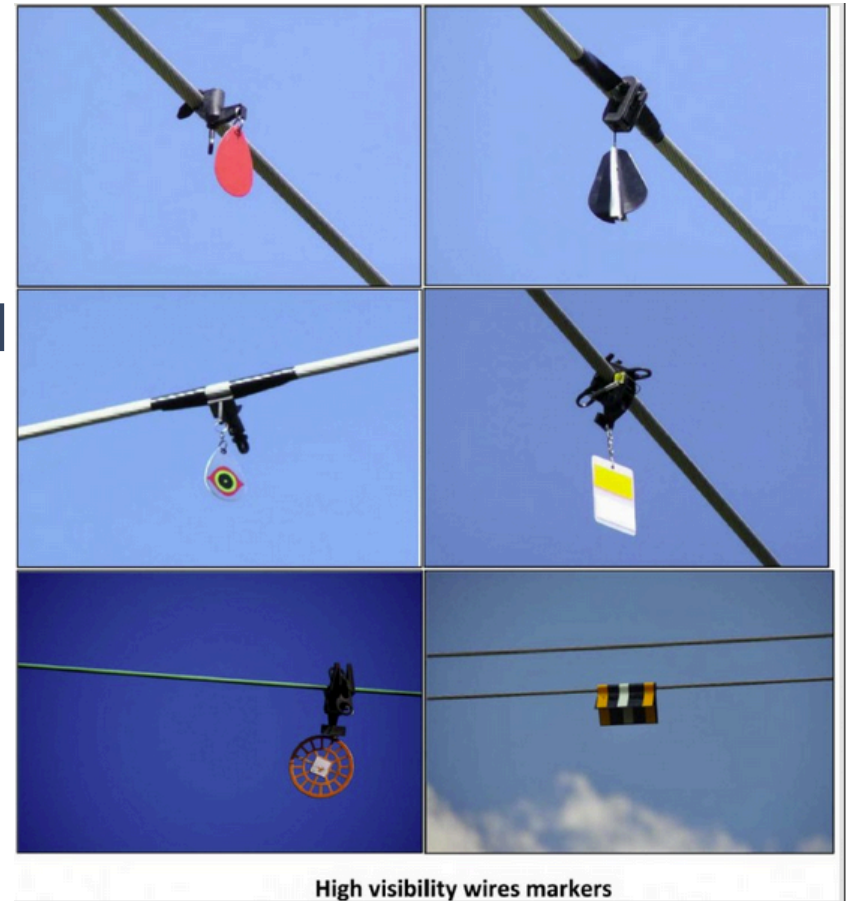
- Permitting delays related to environmental concerns are common.
- Nature cannot be treated in isolation from people!
- Communication and partnership building with local people doing local projects (with local knowledge!) vital for public acceptance.



Green area concept, Amprion 2018

Reducing the impacts of existing infrastructure

- The impacts on birds (rates of collision mortality especially) are still relatively poorly understood.
- We need to invest in the Science and the tools that understand and mitigate the impacts.
- Allowing TSOs across Europe to prioritise both sites and resources.
- Share data and build standardised protocols for data collection



Source: LIFE Birds on Electrogrid, LOD, Litgrid 2015

Reducing the impacts of existing infrastructure

- The impacts of undergrounding are not understood.
- Mitigation measures are slowly being developed.
- Huge need for training especially in digging trenches
- Share data and build standardised protocols for data collection



Electricity Grids Opportunities for Nature

Designing infrastructure to benefit biodiversity

“*Green Corridor*” & vegetation management

Pollinators safe havens

Installation of *nest platforms* – more osprey in NE Germany breed on towers than in trees!

Posidonia sea grass planting in the Med.

think power grids as a service to nature



Picture of flowering meadow created through IVM, ©Ecofirst



Osprey nest installation, RTE 2015



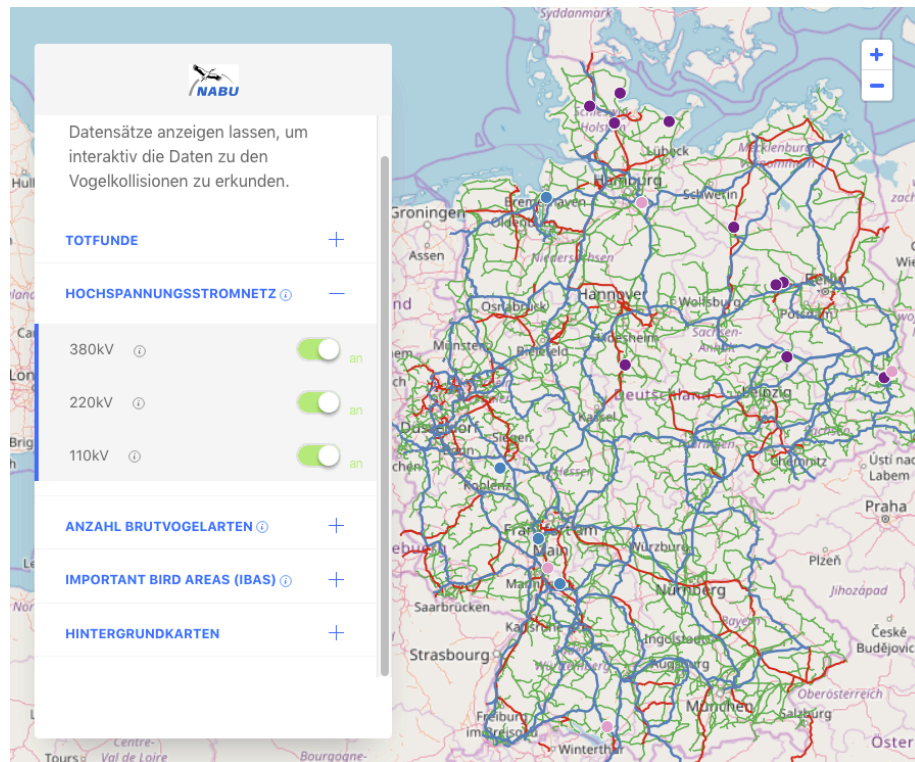
Planting of Posidonia Oceanica, REE 2018

What projects does RGI do?

On these three key issues
what has RGI been doing?

We build and manage collaborative projects amongst our members!

Bird collision hotline in Germany



TRÄNSNET BW



We push for transparency and co-operation across Europe!

Encouraging bird mortality data transparency and sharing to aid research



Better utilisation and transparency of bird data collected by TSOs

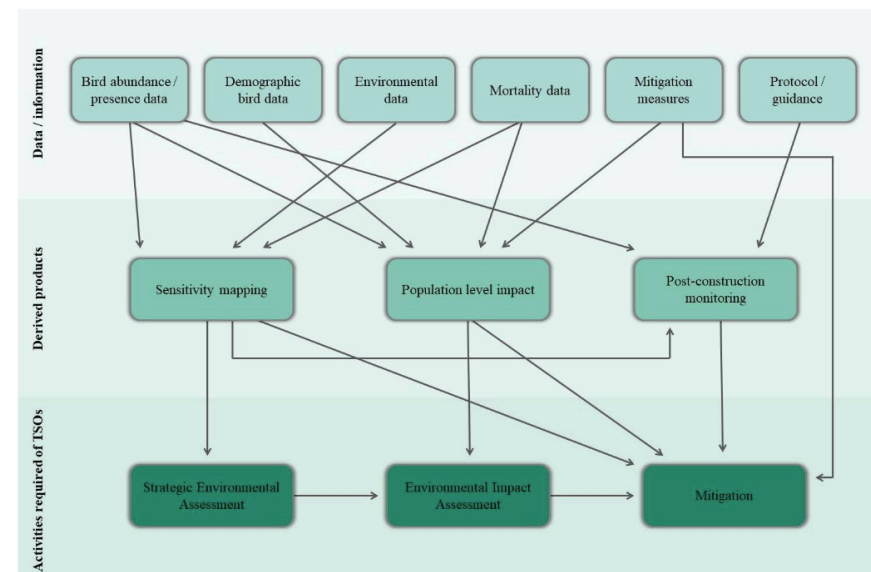
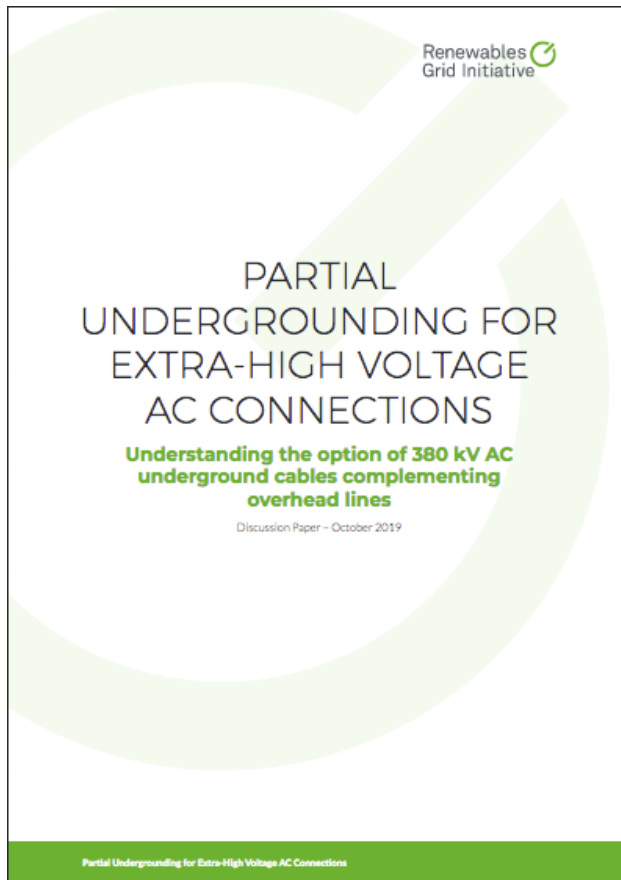


Fig. 9 Conceptual framework for how data / information (top) informs derived products (middle) and activities required of TSOs (bottom).

We share practices and provide guidance!

Guidance on reducing the impact of underground cables



We create political momentum!

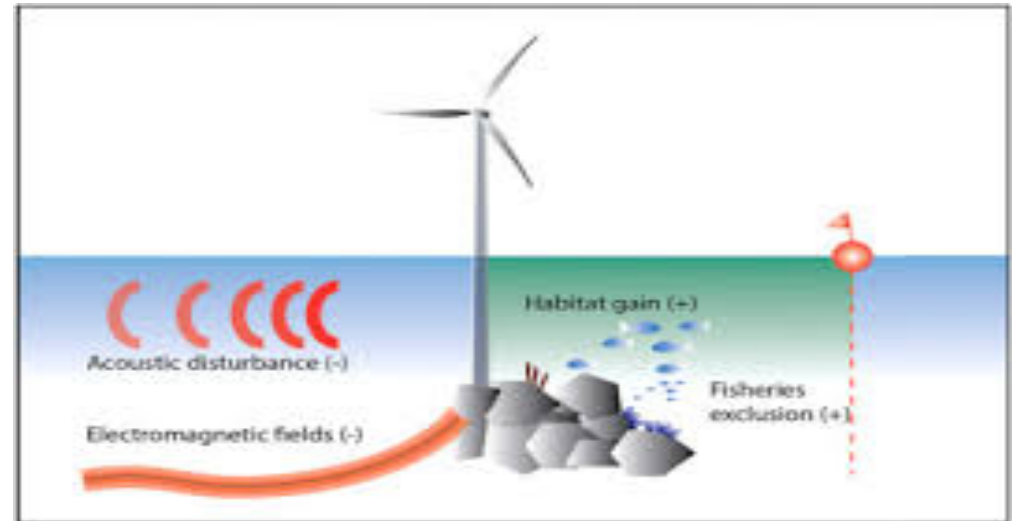


Over 20 grid operators, NGOs and energy actors involved in marine environment projects in Europe and beyond come together to sign their commitment to principles of nature protection and early stakeholder engagement.

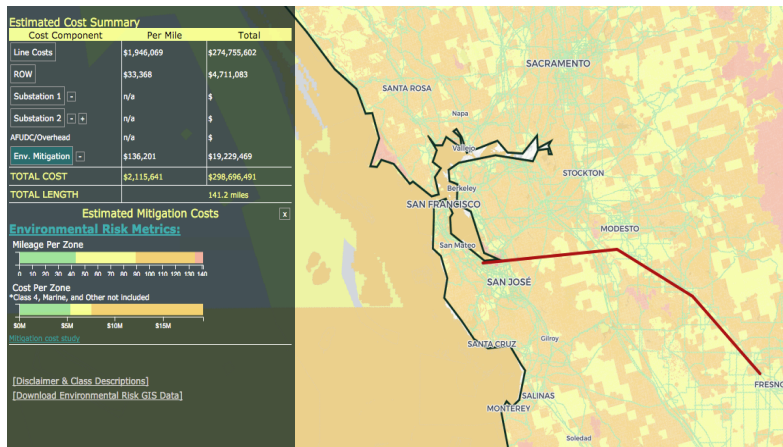
We plan for more to come

450 GW of offshore wind only in the North Sea

Collaborative Integrated Planning
Can deliver optimisation
Economic
System
Nature protection



Our priorities for the future



- We need to **build more local, national and trans continental collaboration projects** that benefit biodiversity! – We want your input!
- We need to improve strategic planning of *all* energy infrastructure holistically - **Grids are not built in isolation, but as a part of a changing energy landscape** – This change must be sustainable!
- As the system changes - **Grids need to be considered enablers of the energy transition** – Stopping climate change is a conservation priority!

What if

- What if we start looking at the electricity grid as an opportunity to **protect nature** and **vulnerable ecosystems**
- What if we use the deployment of grid infrastructure to create **local opportunities and value**
- What if we plan infrastructure having in mind taking value from things that can be **re-used and recycled**



Thanks very much!

