



# ENERGY IRELAND<sup>®</sup> 2024

*Accelerating Ireland's energy transition*

22-23 May 2024 • Croke Park, Dublin



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## Accelerating Ireland's energy transition

The theme for this year's Energy Ireland conference was the title of Professor Brian Ó Gallachóir's sobering presentation at last year's conference. The introduction of carbon budgets has highlighted the need to accelerate the reduction of emissions from all sectors, particularly relating to energy use. Energy now accounts for just under half of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions, with transport (17 per cent), electricity (14 per cent), thermal heat of buildings (11 per cent) and industry (6 per cent). Although electricity has done much of the heavy lifting in decarbonising the economy to date, it has used 49 per cent of its carbon budget in 40 per cent of the time. To get back on track, Ireland will have to accelerate the uptake of renewable electricity deployment. The conference will include a session on developing offshore wind energy resources and how to achieve the 80 per cent renewable electricity target by 2030. There will also be a focus on the heat sector with sessions on district heating and on how the gas network will be decarbonised with the introduction of biomethane and later hydrogen. Energy Ireland 2024 will cover the significant change happening right across the energy sector with presentations from expert speakers and discussion panels on the key issues.



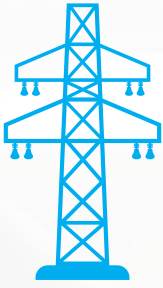


Energy Ireland is Ireland's number one energy conference and is generally recognised as such throughout the sector. This year will be the 28th year the event has taken place and it comes at a pivotal time in the energy transition. There is radical change right across all aspects of the sector from accelerating renewable energy, the electrification of transport and heat, decarbonisation of the gas grid and a renewed focus on energy security.

Book your place at Energy Ireland® 2024 now to ensure that your organisation benefits from the insight of our expert panel of speakers as it discusses the impacts of the latest sectoral developments and new policy direction. The conference also offers an opportunity to once again network with industry colleagues and establish new relationships. We look forward to seeing you on 22 and 23 May.

### Key themes for the 2024 conference

- ✓ Geopolitical context
- ✓ European energy policy outlook
- ✓ Developing Ireland's offshore wind resources
- ✓ Decarbonising Ireland's gas network
- ✓ Financing Ireland's energy transition
- ✓ Future electricity grid development
- ✓ Demand side management
- ✓ Planning for energy infrastructure
- ✓ Biomethane and hydrogen development
- ✓ District heat in Ireland



# Ireland's leading annual energy conference

Energy Ireland® is the leading and most established energy conference on the island of Ireland. It is attended annually by all the key stakeholders in the Irish energy sector, as well as global players who require an insight into its evolution and growth.

Each year, the conference examines the latest developments in the Irish energy sector by way of an expert panel of speakers, including local industry leaders, policymakers, and regulators. In addition, the conference regularly attracts prestigious international speakers who provide wider European and global perspectives. Energy Ireland® is firmly marked in the calendar of anyone aspiring to stay up to date with the latest developments across the Irish energy industry.

Follow us on X and LinkedIn @energyireland for conference updates.

## 10 reasons you should book your place now!

1. Ireland's major annual energy conference is attended by all key stakeholders.
2. Listen to Ireland's energy minister.
3. Hear Ireland's energy leaders in dialogue.
4. High profile international experts provide their perspective.
5. In-depth policy briefings.
6. One-stop-shop for the Irish energy sector's latest developments.
7. Network with over 300 delegates across two days.
8. Regular opportunities to engage in Q&A.
9. Access to high level presentations after the conference.
10. Complimentary copy of the Energy Ireland Yearbook 2024.

# Energy Ireland programme overview: Plenary and parallel sessions

## Ireland's energy outlook

Opening this year's conference, Energy Minister Eamon Ryan TD will illustrate the latest policy and regulatory context for Ireland's ongoing energy transition. The session will include an overview of policy developments at European level, followed by an address from the North's Energy Minister Conor Murphy MLA, who will outline the strategic energy priorities of the newly restored Executive.

## Accelerating Ireland's energy transition

Introducing ambitious carbon budget targets for the energy sector has ensured that it continues to do much of the heavy lifting in terms of emissions reductions. This has led to increased activity in the sector, particularly in developing Ireland's renewable energy resources. Informed by an overview of the emerging trends on the energy landscape, this session will deliver a lively and interactive discussion between the leaders of the Irish energy sector and delegates.



## Meeting the challenges

There are many challenges in delivering the energy transition. Energy security will face continued scrutiny amid increasing pressures on the electricity grid and following the consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Likewise, the challenges of financing the energy transition and delivering energy infrastructure amid a once-in-a-generation revision of the planning system must also be explored.

## Sustainable heat

Although district heating currently accounts for less than 1 per cent of the Irish heat sector, it is a lynchpin of the Government's plan to decarbonise the sector, with the Climate Action Plan 2024 committing to deliver up to 2.7TWhr of district heating by 2030. This session will investigate district heating as one route to decarbonisation alongside retrofitting the built environment and unlocking the potential for geothermal heating schemes.

## Offshore wind energy

Ireland has an enhanced national ambition for offshore wind development of 7GW by 2030, including 2GW for green hydrogen production. The first Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS 1) was held during 2023 with four successful projects delivering 3GW. A new component of the regulatory framework, the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) will play a crucial role in the new streamlined consenting system for the maritime area.

## Decarbonising the gas network

Ireland's national gas network provides almost one-third of all primary energy; 40 per cent of heating, and nearly half of Ireland's electricity generation. Gas Networks Ireland aims to deliver a net zero carbon gas network by 2050, initially replacing natural gas with renewable gases, such as carbon neutral biomethane made from agricultural and food waste, and then with green hydrogen.

## Electricity network and market

Almost two-thirds of electricity in 2022 was generated from renewable sources. With a target of 80 per cent renewable electricity by 2030 the electricity system must factor in increasing intermittency. To facilitate this, as of March 2024, the electricity grid has now connected battery storage capacity of over 1GW and growing. With electrification now central to achieving Ireland's climate ambitions, the development of both the grid and market will be pivotal.

## Future energy outlook

What the Irish energy system will look like in 2050 is a theme running through the conference. As we move towards a more complex and integrated energy system, we will look at some of the innovative technologies that will facilitate the move to a net zero energy system. The energy system in 2050 will include Power-to-X technologies with green hydrogen used in sectors of the economy that are hard to decarbonise. The conference will include a number of case studies that offer a glimpse of Ireland's energy future.



**Catherine Banet**, Head of the Department for Energy and Resources Law, University of Oslo

Catherine Banet is a Professor at the University of Oslo, Head of the Department for Energy and Resources Law at the Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law, Norway. She is a member of the Advisory Academic Group (AAG) to the International Bar Association (IBA), Section for Energy, Environment and Natural Resources and Infrastructure Law (SEERIL), and Chair of the Board of the Norwegian Energy Law Association.



**Chris Harris**, Visting Senior Industrial Fellow, University of Bath

Chris Harris is visiting industrial fellow at the University of Bath. He is on the industrial advisory board of the Supergen Energy Networks Hub, a member of the Electricity Market Reform Panel of Technical Experts, advisor to the Association of Renewable Energy and Clean Technology, member of the Future Renewables Investment External Expert Panel, and deputy independent member of the Single Electricity Market Committee. He has written textbooks, including "Electricity Markets".



**Katie Petherbridge**, Innovation Delivery Manager, National Gas, UK

Katie Petherbridge is an Innovation Delivery Manager at National Gas with an engineering background. Katie is leading the Delivery team is building technical capabilities of topics such as assets, materials, automation, and digitalisation to support the Hydrogen Safety Case for the UK Net Zero Energy Transition. Katie has recently been appointed as Chair of the EU Hydrogen Gas Asset Readiness Safety Working Group.



## Hear the latest from Irish industry leaders



**Marguerite Sayers**

Deputy Chief Executive  
ESB



**Cathal Marley**

Chief Executive Officer  
Gas Networks Ireland



**Aoife MacEvilly**

Commissioner  
Commission for  
Regulation of Utilities



**Dave Kirwan**

Managing Director  
Bord Gáis Energy



**Klair Neenan**

Managing Director  
SSE Airtricity



**John Reilly**

Head of Renewable  
Energy  
Bord na Móna



**J Owen Lewis**

Chair  
IIEA Working Group on  
Climate and Energy



**Brian Ó  
Gallachóir**

Associate Vice-President  
of Sustainability  
University College Cork



**Donna Gartland**

CEO  
Codema



**William Walsh**

Chief Executive Officer  
Sustainable Energy  
Authority of Ireland

# Day 1: Wednesday 22nd May 2024

08.30 Registration and morning coffee

@energyireland  
#EnergyIreland

09.00 Chair's welcome and introduction:  
Owen Lewis, Chairperson, IIEA Working Group on Climate and Energy

## 09.05 IRELAND'S ENERGY FUTURE

### MINISTERIAL ADDRESS:

*Ireland's energy policy priorities*

Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications



### MINISTERIAL ADDRESS:

*The road to net zero*

Conor Murphy, MLA, Minister for the Economy



### *Energy priorities of the European Commission*

Kadri Simson, European Commissioner for Energy, European Commission

### *A regulatory framework for a secure, decarbonised energy system*

Aoife MacEvilly, Commissioner, Commission for Regulation of Utilities

### *Creating a cleaner energy future for Ireland*

William Walsh, Chief Executive Officer, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

Question & answer session / Panel discussion

10.45 COFFEE/EXHIBITION NETWORKING BREAK

## 11.15 ACCELERATING IRELAND'S ENERGY TRANSITION

CHAIR: Owen Lewis, Chairperson, IIEA Working Group on Climate and Energy

### *Accelerating Ireland's energy transition: What we need to focus on*

John FitzGerald, Research Affiliate, Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)

Question & answer session / Panel discussion

### PANEL DISCUSSION: ACCELERATING IRELAND'S ENERGY TRANSITION

Dave Kirwan, Managing Director, Bord Gáis Energy

Cathal Marley, Chief Executive Officer, Gas Networks Ireland

Klair Neenan, Managing Director, SSE Airtricity

John Reilly, Head of Renewable Energy, Bord na Móna

Marguerite Sayers, Deputy Chief Executive, ESB

13.00 CONFERENCE LUNCH

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## 14.00 MEETING THE CHALLENGES IN DELIVERING IRELAND'S ENERGY TRANSITION

CHAIR: Úna Nic Giolla Choille

### *Energy security in an all-Ireland context*

Brian Ó Gallachóir, Associate Vice-President of Sustainability, University College Cork

### *Meeting the challenges in delivering Ireland's energy transition*

Colm O'Neill, Partner, KPMG

### *Financing Ireland's energy projects: Managing the key risks*

Tara Reale, Director, Corporate Finance, Goodbody

Question & answer session / Panel discussion



# Day 1: Wednesday 22nd May 2024

15.15 COFFEE/EXHIBITION NETWORKING BREAK

## 15.45 MEETING THE CHALLENGES IN DELIVERING IRELAND'S ENERGY TRANSITION

### *Regulatory challenges in delivering the energy transition*

Niamh McGovern, Partner, **Arthur Cox**

### *Planning and energy infrastructure*

Claragh Mulhern, Acting Principal Planning Adviser, **Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage**

### *How public acceptance affects power system development in Ireland and Germany*

Muireann Lynch, Senior Research Officer, **Economic & Social Research Institute**

Question & answer session / Panel discussion

17.00 ENERGY IRELAND DRINKS RECEPTION

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# Day 2: Thursday 23rd May 2024

08.30 REGISTRATION AND MORNING COFFEE

## 09.00 SUSTAINABLE HEAT AND NETWORKS

CHAIR: John O'Shea, Senior Energy Systems Analyst, **Codema, Dublin's Energy Agency**

### *Decarbonising Ireland's heat demand*

Barry Quinlan, Assistant Secretary, **Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications**

### *Transforming Ireland's heating sector through low-carbon district heating schemes*

Donna Gartland, Chief Executive Officer  
**Codema**

### *Geothermal: a pathway to decarbonising the heating sector*

Marie Cowan, Director  
**Geological Survey of Northern Ireland**

### *The role of the National District Heating Centre of Excellence in decarbonising the heating sector*

Peter Kehoe, Programme Manager  
**Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland**

Question & answer session / Panel discussion

## 09.00 DEVELOPING IRELAND'S OFFSHORE WIND RESOURCES

CHAIR: TBC

### *Scaling up offshore wind energy in Europe*

Professor Catherine Banet, Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law, **University of Oslo**

### *A regulatory framework for developing Ireland's offshore energy resources*

Laura Brien, CEO, **Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA)**

### *Plan-led offshore energy development*

Andy Kelly, Director, **AFRY**

### *Meeting the challenges in delivering offshore wind projects*

Richard Murphy, Partner, **Pinsent Masons**

### *Generating a greener Ireland: the Codling Wind Park*

Speaker tbc

Question & answer session / Panel discussion

11.00 COFFEE/ EXHIBITION NETWORKING BREAK

# Day 2: Thursday 23rd May 2024

## 11.30 ELECTRICITY NETWORK AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT

CHAIR: Dara Lynott, Chief Executive Officer, **Electricity Association of Ireland** *(invited)*

### *The electricity grid of the future*

David Noronha, Head of Future Networks and Strategic Offshore Planning, **EirGrid**

### *Electricity markets: secure, low carbon and affordable*

Chris Harris, Visting Senior Industrial Fellow, **Bath University**

Question & answer session / Panel discussion

### PANEL DISCUSSION: GETTING TO 100% RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY ON THE SYSTEM

Martin Reilly, Chief Operating Officer, **Kyte Powertech**

Simon Ludlam, Chief Executive Officer, **MaresConnect Interconnector**

Gerry Shannon, Director, **Obton Ireland**

David Noronha, Head of Future Networks and Strategic Offshore Planning, **EirGrid**

## 13.00 LUNCH AND EXHIBITION NETWORKING BREAK

## 14.00 RENEWABLE GAS AND GREEN HYDROGEN

CHAIR: Rory Monaghan, Professor of Energy Systems Engineering, **University of Galway**

### *Decarbonising Ireland's gas network with renewable gas*

Padraig Fleming, Biomethane Programme Manager, **Gas Networks Ireland**

### *The challenges and opportunities in developing biomethane projects*

Tony Yates, Managing Director, **Nephin Renewable Gas**

### *Hydrogen: Supporting clean growth and energy security*

Katie Petherbridge, Innovation Delivery Manager, **National Gas UK**

### *Power-to-X: Green methanol for the maritime sector*

David Surplus, Managing Director, **B9 Energy Storage**

### *Case study: Niedersachsen: Making the energy transition a reality*

Lars Bobzien, Head of the Department of Transformation of the Economy, **Invest in Niedersachsen** *(invited)*

Question & answer session / Panel discussion

## 16.00 ENERGY IRELAND CONFERENCE CLOSE





**Catherine Banet** is a Professor at the **University of Oslo**, Head of the Department for Energy and Resources Law at the Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law, Norway. She is a member of the Advisory Academic Group (AAG) to the International Bar Association (IBA), Section for Energy, Environment and Natural Resources and Infrastructure Law (SEERIL), and Chair of the Board of the Norwegian Energy Law Association.



**Laura Brien** has over 25 years experience in the area of regulation across a number of industries, in particular the energy sector. Prior to appointment as CEO of **MARA**, Laura was Chief Executive/Registrar of the Health Insurance Authority. She was previously a Director at the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) (2014-2020), where she held various roles covering responsibility for energy markets, water, and compliance. She was a member of the Bureau of the OECD Network of Economic Regulators. Prior to joining the CRU, she was senior economic advisor to ComReg, the Irish telecommunications regulator, from 2012 to 2014. Earlier in her career she worked advising utilities, governments and regulators in the energy sector in the US, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Areas of work included introduction of private sector investment, development of renewable energy projects, financing and regulation.



**Marie Cowan** is the Director of the **Geological Survey of Northern Ireland** and a senior management board member at the British Geological Survey. Marie is a member of the Institute of Directors (IoD) and holds an IoD diploma in Company Direction. Marie is also Professional Geologist with the Institute of Geologists of Ireland. Marie is an elected Member of the Royal Irish Academy and a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly All-Party Group for Science and Technology. She currently chairs Northern Ireland's Geothermal Advisory Committee for the Department for the Economy; this year Marie was awarded the Geological Society of London Energy Group medal for her work.



**John FitzGerald** has been a Research Affiliate at the **ESRI** since November 2014. Prior to that he was a Research Professor at the ESRI and Programme Coordinator of the Macroeconomics and Energy Policy Research fields. He became a member of the Royal Irish Academy in 2011 and he is an Honorary Fellow of GMIT and TCD. John FitzGerald is currently an Adjunct Professor, Department of Economics, Trinity College Dublin, and in the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, UCD.



**Padraig Fleming** is currently working on increasing the amount of renewable gas that **Gas Networks Ireland** transports to start the transformation of gas industry in Ireland to a sustainable energy business. He has previously worked for a number of energy companies including Ervia, Bord Gáis Energy, ESB, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities.



**Donna Gartland** took up the position of Chief Executive Officer of **Codema** in April 2020 and has worked with the company since 2013. She is a qualified electrician with a BEng in Energy and Environmental Engineering from the Institute of Technology Tallaght and a MSc in Sustainable Energy Planning and Management from Aalborg University, Denmark. She is currently completing a PhD in Energy Engineering with University College Cork. In her previous role as Codema's Senior Energy Planner, Donna worked on monitoring and reporting the progress of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan for Dublin City in line with the Covenant of Mayors Initiative and developed the first Spatial Energy Demand Analyses (SEDA) in Ireland for all four Dublin local authorities in order to integrate energy and spatial planning at a local level.



**Chris Harris** is visiting industrial fellow at the **University of Bath**. He is on the industrial advisory board of the Supergen Energy Networks Hub, a member of the Electricity Market Reform Panel of Technical Experts, advisor to the Association of Renewable Energy and Clean Technology, member of the Future Renewables Investment External Expert Panel, and deputy independent member of the Single Electricity Market Committee. He has written textbooks, including "Electricity Markets".



**Andy Kelly** leads **AFRY's** commercial work in the Irish Electricity Market and has more than 15 years' commercial experience in wholesale power and commodity markets. He has a detailed knowledge of the electricity markets in Ireland and the UK, including the impending I-SEM market and support schemes for renewable generators. Andy has a deep understanding of the commercial aspects of the electricity generation and trading markets, and extensive experience of leading strategic and commercial activities in the wholesale and renewable markets, involving a range of stakeholders.



**Dave Kirwan** is Managing Director of **Bord Gáis Energy**. He has recently returned to the role of MD after having worked with Centrica in the UK as MD of the UK Customer Operations and latterly MD of the UK Home business. Dave was responsible for leading the Bord Gáis Energy business through the successful sale to Centrica in 2014 having worked with BGE for 15 years prior to that, where he was responsible for the launch of its Northern Ireland business, Firmus Energy, the development of the Whitegate power station and the acquisition and subsequent merger of the SWS wind business. Dave holds a BE electronics from UCD and is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers of Ireland, he also holds an MBA and a doctorate in business economics (DBA) from UCC. Dave also serves on the Centrica Group Executive Committee.



**J Owen Lewis** chairs the **IIEA** Working Group on Climate and Energy. He is also Emeritus Professor of Architectural Science, UCD Dublin. He is former President of the Royal Dublin Society, and a former member of the Board of the National Gallery of Ireland. Owen was previously Chief Executive of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) between 2009 and 2012. Qualified as architect, engineer, and energy technologist, he has practised professionally in Ireland, England and Zambia. He was part-time Executive Director for Innovation and R&D at Bord na Móna between 2006 and 2008. Owen was Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at UCD Dublin and later Principal of the UCD College of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences. In 1976 Owen co-founded the Solar Energy Society of Ireland.



**Simon Ludlam** is an experienced energy professional, currently CEO at **MaresConnect**, a 750MW interconnector project linking GB and Ireland. He has originated and led several interconnector projects in northwest Europe, including the €500m Greenlink interconnector and the €600m ElecLink project. Simon is the founder of Etchea Energy, a developer of energy projects supporting the green transition. He previously worked in investment banking and private equity.



**Muireann Lynch** is a Senior Research Officer in the Economic Analysis division of the **Economic and Social Research Institute**. Muireann holds a degree in Mathematics and

Economics from Trinity College Dublin and a PhD from the School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering in UCD. She has published numerous research articles in diverse areas of energy economics and has co-authored submissions to various public consultations and Government Departments. Muireann is Research Area Coordinator for Energy in the ESRI, a funded investigator with the MaREI SFI Research Centre, affiliate with the Electric Power Innovation for a Carbon-free Society (EPICS) Center and is Deputy Director of the SFI-funded NexSys Partnership. Muireann's research interests include electricity market regulation, power system economics and renewable generation integration and her research methodologies include stochastic mathematical programming, optimisation and game theory.



**Aoife MacEvilly** has been a member of the **Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)** since October 2014 and was appointed Chairperson in February 2020. Her lead responsibilities include

empowering and protecting customers, supporting active customers and communities and the future role of gas in a secure, decarbonised energy system. Aoife previously worked in the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and in the private sector. She holds a BA in European Business and German from Ulster University, a Professional Diploma in Regulatory Governance from UCD and an MA in Leadership from UCD Smurfit.



**Cathal Marley** is the Chief Executive Officer of **Gas Networks Ireland**, the semi-state organisation responsible for operating Ireland's €2.7 billion, 14,664km national gas network,

serving over 720,000 customers nationwide, and focused on delivering on its critical role in energy security while transitioning to transporting renewable gases through its network. He has over 20 years' experience in the utilities and infrastructure sector, having previously worked in senior roles across the electricity and water industries. Cathal holds an MBA from the Michael Smurfit Business School, UCD, is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, a Board member of the IMI, a member of the DCU Governing Authority and a Board member of Swim Ireland. His early career was spent with EY in Dublin and Eastern Europe.



**Niamh McGovern** is an energy and construction partner at **Arthur Cox**. Niamh has a broad skillset in this area and routinely advises developers, sponsors, banks and public bodies on energy projects in Ireland.



**Rory Monaghan** is Associate Professor of Energy Systems Engineering in the School of Engineering at the **University of Galway**. He is the Leader of the Ryan Institute's Energy Research

Centre, a Funded Investigator in MaREI, the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine, and the Director of the NUI Galway Energy Engineering Programme. Dr Monaghan's research on decarbonisation of hard-to-abate sectors covers hydrogen, bioenergy, renewable gases, carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS). He leads a team of nine researchers and has won funding of over €2.5 million from national, EU and industrial research partners. Dr Monaghan has co-authored over 50 peerreviewed publications, and policy documents for the Northern Ireland Government, SEAI and EPA. He earned his PhD in Mechanical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on energy technology and policy.



**Claragh Mulhern** is the Acting Principal Adviser in the Planning Division at the **Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage**, where she has worked since 2019. Previously

Claragh worked in the local government sector in the U.K. for 15 years, including 11 years working for Westminster City Council in Central London on a range of planning projects. In her current role, Claragh has responsibility for the preparation of national planning policy including the National Planning Framework and the development of related planning policy measures, oversight of the implementation of national policy through the regional strategies and local authority development plans through liaison with the Office of the Planning Regulator, the development of land activation and active land management measures and the provision of professional planning advice in support of Government policy including in relation to housing and renewable energy development. Claragh graduated with a Masters Degree in Regional and Urban Planning from University College Dublin in 2003 and is a Member of the Irish Planning Institute.



**Conor Murphy MLA** was appointed **Economy Minister** on 3 February 2024. Having first been elected to the Assembly in 1998, He served as Finance

Minister between 2020 and 2022 and Minister for Regional Development between 2007 and 2011. He has also been a member of the Enterprise, Trade and Investment Committee and the Public Accounts Committee. He was MP for Newry and Armagh between 2005 and 2015.



**Richard Murphy** is a Partner and Head of Energy (Ireland) at **Pinsent Masons LLP**. His energy expertise and experience includes advising clients on a range of regulatory, advisory and

transactional matters. Richard is rated as a leading individual for energy work in both Chambers UK and the Legal 500. Richard sits on the Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group Committee (NIRIG) and is a regular speaker at energy industry events and conferences.



**Klair Neenan** is Managing Director of **SSE Airtricity**, supplier of green energy, natural gas and energy related services to over 700,000 homes and businesses, with responsibility for

leading the retail operation of SSE plc on the island of Ireland. Klair is an economics graduate with over 20 years' experience of leading teams across customer service, corporate services and IT. Over the last 10 years, she has held various roles within SSE including two years as the company's Head of IT Ireland. Prior to this, Klair led a number of large transformational programmes and was responsible for leading significant change across the organisation. She is also the recipient of a Women in IT Excellence award.



**Úna Nic Giolla Choille** is a former Principal Officer in the Department of the the Environment, Climate and Communications, heading the Electricity Regulation Division.

She previously worked in the Department of Finance, in the Offices of the Houses of the Oireachtas and of the Revenue Commissioners and also with the Policy Institute in Trinity College. Having a primary degree in economics and geography, she also holds a master's degree in Public Sector Analysis, both from TCD.



**Brian Ó Gallachóir** is Associate Vice-President of Sustainability at **University College Cork**, delivering on UCC's ambitious plans to consolidate its role as a leading university of

sustainability. Brian established energy systems modelling capacity in Ireland over the past 20 years and is a recognised international leader in this field, including as elected Chair of International Energy Agency Technology Collaboration Programme. His research has underpinned Irish and EU energy and climate mitigation policies and energy company strategies.



**Colm O'Neill** is a Partner at **KPMG** where he is Head of Energy, Utilities and Telecoms. He advises clients across the sectors on strategy, M&A, digital transformation, and culture

development. With over 30 years' experience, Colm has spent most of his career in industry, leading capital intensive, regulated businesses through major transformations. Most recently these included roles as chief executive of BT Ireland and Managing Director of BT's Corporate and Public Sector business in the UK. Colm is a former Board member of Business in the Community NI and former Chair of IBEC's TII. He is a current Board member of Young Scientist.



**John O'Shea** is the Heat and Electricity Lead for **Codema** – Dublin's Not-for-Profit Energy Agency. He has expert knowledge of low-carbon heating, district energy, energy planning, and policy development. John has worked on the development of heat transition roadmaps across Europe and has been a key contributor to European policy and research on waste heat utilisation, and is Ireland's representative on the International Energy Agency's Technology Collaboration Programme on district heating and cooling.



**Katie Petherbridge** is an Innovation Delivery Manager at **National Gas** with an engineering background. Katie is leading the Delivery team is building technical capabilities of topics such as assets, materials, automation, and digitalisation to support the Hydrogen Safety Case for the UK Net Zero Energy Transition. Katie has recently been appointed as Chair of the EU Hydrogen Gas Asset Readiness Safety Working Group.



**Barry Quinlan** is the Assistant Secretary leading on Built Environment; Retrofit and Heat Policy at the **Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications**, where key priorities include: the National Retrofit Programme; the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme; the Energy Efficiency Directive; the Renewable Energy Directive; Public Sector Energy Efficiency; and Renewable Heat Policy. Barry joined the Department in December 2021 from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, where he had led the Affordable Housing and Local Government Divisions. Prior to that Barry worked in the Revenue Commissioners and the Department of Justice. Barry is a graduate of University College Dublin.



**Tara Reale** joined **Goodbody** in 2023 to lead their energy advisory practice. She has extensive renewable energy experience, having most recently worked for Lightsourcebp as Head of Business Development for the UK and Ireland. Prior to that, she worked for both Amey and Mott MacDonald, both investing and advising in a multitude of renewable energy assets. A Chartered Engineer, Tara holds a PhD from Trinity College Dublin and a BE from University College Cork in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Tara is also a Board Director of the Irish Solar Energy Association.



**John Reilly** is Head of Renewable Energy at **Bord na Móna**. He is a member of Bord na Móna's Senior Leadership team with specific responsibility for the operation and continued development of Bord na Móna's expanding portfolio in the Irish electricity market. His team is currently leading a €1.6 billion investment programme which will see the company add at least 1GW of new renewable assets to its fleet by 2030. John has over 20 years' experience in the energy sector and was previously part of the senior management team at Edenderry Power, prior to its acquisition by Bord na Móna. He has worked for a number of major international utility players in the sector, such as the German utility E.ON and Fortum, a Finnish utility company. John, who is currently on the Board of the Electricity Association of Ireland, also sits on a number of policy committees across the energy sector and holds a PhD in Chemistry from UCD.



**Martin Reilly** is the COO for **Kyte Powertech Ltd**. He is responsible for the operational activities of the Distribution Transformer facility located in Co Cavan, Ireland. He joined Kyte Powertech in 1999 and has held several management positions in various European countries and was appointed COO for the business in 2022. Martin holds a Bachelor of Business Studies in Marketing and a Masters in Business Administration (MBA).



**Eamon Ryan TD** is the **Minister for the Environment, Climate, and Communications**. He was appointed to this role in June 2020. Eamon Ryan was elected to represent Dublin Bay South in the 2020 general election. He began his political career as a Dublin City Councillor for the Rathgar-Rathmines ward. He then went on to serve both as a TD for Dublin South and as a Government Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. In recent years he has worked for a European climate organisation and chaired the digital policy group in the Institute of International and European Affairs. He is currently leader of the Green Party/Comhaontas Glas.



**Marguerite Sayers** was appointed **ESB** Deputy Chief Executive in July 2022. Immediately prior to this, she held the role of Executive Director, Customer Solutions since 2018. She has worked in various technical and managerial positions in ESB for over 30 years, including Generation Manager, Head of Asset Management for ESB Networks and Managing Director of ESB Networks DAC. She has a degree in Electrical Engineering from University College Cork (UCC). She is a Chartered Engineer, a Fellow and Past President of Engineers Ireland, a Fellow of the Academy of Engineers, a member of the Board of Energy UK and a Governor of the Irish Times Trust.



**Gerry Shannon** is a Director at **Obton Ireland**. Gerry has spent twenty years securing project finance for solar, mostly in South Africa, then Middle East and here in Ireland since 2018 delivering Utility Scale Solar. Gerry is addressing the compelling issue of leveraging external assets to generate power, such as commercial rooftops and car-parks with behind-the-meter applications. Shannon is delivering grant aided benefits to the industry with compelling Power Cost management. Guarantees of Origin (GOOs) qualify for the emerging ESG-compliance requirements of all commercial activity.



**David Surplus** is Managing Director of **B9 Energy**. B9 Energy group was formed in 1992 and developed and built 10 onshore wind farm projects and became the UK and Ireland's largest independent operator of wind plant with 49 wind farms under contract. In addition B9 developed and built Northern Ireland's first utility scale anaerobic digestion power station. David is past Chairman of the MATRIX Sustainable Energy Advisory Panel in Northern Ireland and current Chairman of the North South Market Development Steering Group (NSMDSG) on waste management. He was awarded an OBE in the 2015 birthday honours list for "services to renewable energy especially in Northern Ireland".



**William Walsh** is Chief Executive Officer in **SEAI**, having previously held the position of both Chief Operations Officer and Chief Financial Officer. William joined SEAI in 2013. Prior to joining SEAI he worked for IFI where he held a number of roles including Assistant Chief Executive Officer and Director. Before this he held senior management positions in the private sector. William is a Chartered Accountant, holds a Bachelor of Business Studies from Dublin City University and a Graduate Diploma in Strategy, Innovation and Change from UCD.



**Tony Yates** is Managing Director of **Nephin Renewable Gas**. He has 25 years experience in the waste and renewables industry, including 22 years working as head of the AD advisory for an international environmental consultancy. With a first degree in chemical engineering and a Doctorate in carbon accounting, Tony is passionate about the part biomethane has to play in decarbonising modern society. His expertise has been utilised on projects in Ireland and assignments throughout the UK, Europe, and North America.

# Energy Ireland<sup>®</sup> exhibition area

**Selling fast!**



There are a limited number of exhibition spaces available at Energy Ireland<sup>®</sup>, the major all-island energy conference. The two-day, multi-stream conference provides an excellent opportunity for making contacts, networking and lobbying.

Booking up fast! Contact Sam Tobin on: +353 (0)1 661 3755 or email: [sam.tobin@energyireland.ie](mailto:sam.tobin@energyireland.ie).



Limited partnership opportunities available

Join Ireland's leading energy organisations in partnering with Energy Ireland<sup>®</sup>. An excellent way to showcase your brand in association with Ireland's major annual energy conference, there are a small number of high profile packages available. For further information, contact us directly on **+353 (0)1 661 3755** or email [jillian.wallace@energyireland.ie](mailto:jillian.wallace@energyireland.ie)



# The networking experience



Networking is a key element of the Energy Ireland® experience. With 300+ attendees from right across the industry, north and south, the conference is a valuable forum for meeting new contacts and renewing old acquaintances. Throughout Energy Ireland® 2024 there are plentiful opportunities for networking and business development.



## Exhibition

Energy Ireland® 2024 will feature a lively exhibition and display area. Exhibition stands offer the chance to speak with the developers of new industry projects, product and service providers and expert industry advisors.



## Networking lunches

An opportunity to refuel for the afternoon sessions but also, more importantly, to speak to fellow delegates and speakers while overlooking the impressive pitch at Croke Park!



## Coffee breaks

The two days of Energy Ireland® are punctuated by regular and frequent coffee breaks – in recognition that almost as much business gets transacted in the margins of the conference as in the plenary and workshop sessions!



## Drinks reception

The Day 1 drinks reception, sponsored by Pinsent Masons, offers delegates the perfect opportunity to relax and unwind over a glass of wine at the end of a day's discussion and debate. It is a prime time for catching up on the latest news from the day's proceedings and across the industry.



## Q&A sessions

An important feature of the conference is the opportunity to engage with the speakers during the Q&A / panel discussions at the end of each plenary and workshop session.



## Workshops

Alongside the plenary sessions in the main halls, Energy Ireland® 2024 will feature a programme of workshops which allow for in-depth examination of key issues at the forefront of Irish energy. There will be maximum opportunity for Q&A and discussion in all of the workshop sessions.

## Getting to the venue:

### Directions to Croke Park

Croke Park Conference Centre is located in the north Dublin neighbourhood of Drumcondra, around 20 minutes by car from Dublin airport.

**From the city centre / O'Connell Street:** Follow the signs for the N1 North onto Dorset Street and Drumcondra Road. At the railway bridge overpass on Drumcondra Road, turn right onto Clonliffe Road. At the next set of traffic lights, turn right onto Jones's Road for the Hogan stand entrance. (For car park continue to the end of Jones's Road into Russell Street turning left at the end of Russell Street onto the North Circular Road – follow directions below for parking).

**From the airport / north:** Follow directions for the city centre. Just before the railway overpass at the end of the Drumcondra Road Lower, turn left onto Clonliffe Road. At the next set of traffic lights, turn right onto Jones's Road for the Hogan Stand entrance. (For car park continue to the end of Jones's Road into Russell Street turning left at the end of Russell Street onto the North Circular Road – follow directions below for parking).

**By train:** The closest railway station is Drumcondra at the intersection of Drumcondra Road (N1) and Clonliffe Road, a 5 minute walk from Croke Park. The closest DART stations are Connolly (15-20 minute walk) and Clontarf (20-25 minute walk). The closest Luas and Intercity Rail stop is also at Connolly station.

**By bus:** From the city centre to Drumcondra Road: No 3, 11, 11A, 16, 16A and 41. From the city centre to Ballybough Road / Clonliffe Road: No 123.

**By bike:** There are bike rails situated outside the Hogan entrance to Croke Park (on Jones' Road) for secure cycle parking.

**Car parking:** There is limited free parking available for delegates attending the conference at the Davin Car Park. This is located off the North Circular Road and accessed via St Margaret's Avenue.

## To register:



Online

[www.energyireland.ie](http://www.energyireland.ie)



By telephone

+353 (0)1 661 3755



By email

[registration@energyireland.ie](mailto:registration@energyireland.ie)

Delegate fee €895 + VAT @ 23% = €1,100.85

*Fee includes documentation, lunch and other refreshments served during the conference and is payable in advance.*

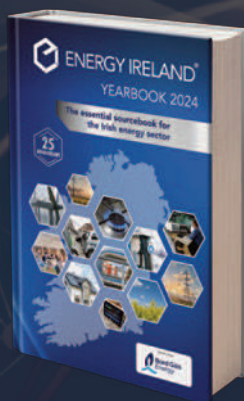
### Terms and conditions

- Once booked places may not be cancelled.
- If you are unable to attend, you can send a substitute participant instead, at no additional charge.
- Failure to attend requires full payment.
- Conference fees includes entry for one person per ticket.
- We intend to photograph this event. Any photographs will be used only for our own publications.

Confirmation of registration will be emailed to all delegates following receipt of registration details. If you have not received your acknowledgement within 48 hours of registering, please email [registration@energyireland.ie](mailto:registration@energyireland.ie) to confirm your booking.

# ENERGY IRELAND® YEARBOOK 2024

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information. It covers all aspects of energy policy across all sectors, including numerous listings and profiles.

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