

Irish Renewable Gas Conference 2025



Thursday 6th February 2025
The Gibson Hotel, Dublin

In partnership with



Sponsored by



An Energy Ireland event





Speakers include:

The Irish energy sector is undergoing a transition to a low carbon future. Although much of the focus to date has been on electricity, there is now a need to move the focus towards the transition of Ireland's natural gas network to low and zero carbon gas sources. By gradually replacing natural gas with renewable biomethane the goal is to deliver a net-zero carbon gas network by 2045 and to reduce emissions across a number of key sectors, including those that are traditionally difficult to decarbonise, like transport, agriculture, industry, and power generation.

There are an emerging number of elements to the decarbonisation of the natural gas infrastructure including biomethane and green hydrogen. The production of biomethane also offers the opportunity to address emissions from the agriculture sector. The Climate Action Plan 2023 has a target of 5.7TWh of biomethane by 2030 and this will require over 150 anaerobic digestion plants. Ireland also has the opportunity to generate green hydrogen from renewable electricity to further decarbonise its gas network and also offers Ireland an export opportunity.

Energy Ireland, in partnership with Gas Networks Ireland, will hold this annual conference on the future of renewable gas in Ireland, involving key stakeholders across the energy sector. The objective of the conference is to give delegates a genuine in-depth understanding of the developments in the gas sector and to investigate potential options for decarbonising Ireland's natural gas infrastructure.



A panel of expert speakers will discuss:

- ✓ GNI's strategy to decarbonise its network;
- ✓ The potential for biomethane production in Ireland;
- ✓ Biomethane injection into the gas network;
- ✓ The future role of green hydrogen;
- ✓ The potential for gas storage in Ireland.



Ciara Beausang is a Research Officer in Anaerobic Digestion with **Teagasc**, the Agriculture and Food Development Authority. Her research interests include environmental modelling of biogas production and optimizing biogas yield from agricultural feedstocks. She has a PhD in Biosystems Engineering from University College Dublin.



Padraig Fleming is Biomethane Programme Manager at **Gas Networks Ireland**. He 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.



Dale Guest is Chief Commercial Officer at **Stream Bioenergy**. Dale is a Chartered Accountant with over 25 years global experience in Corporate Finance, M&A and Renewable Energy, specialising in commercial negotiation, structuring of key projects and strategy development. Prior to joining the Stream Bioenergy team in February 2023, Dale held the position of Chief Financial Officer of RiverRidge Group, and was the Director of Corporate Banking Northern Ireland, for Bank of Ireland.



Niamh Hamill is an Assistant Principal Officer in the **Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications**. Assigned to the Heat Delivery Unit, Niamh is overseeing the development of the Renewable Heat Obligation and Implementation of the National Biomethane Strategy.



Karen Kavanagh was appointed as the Director of Networks and Economic Regulation for the **Commission for Regulation of Utilities** in February 2022, having previously been Director of Economic Regulation (Water) and Compliance. Karen has over 20 years' experience in economic regulation across the utilities and telecommunications sectors. She has a BSc. in Applied Science and a PhD. in Physics from the Technological University Dublin. She also holds an MSc. in Economic Policy Studies from Trinity College Dublin and an Advanced Diploma in Quasi-Judicial Decision-Making from King's Inns.



David Kelly is the Director of Customer and Business Development at **Gas Networks Ireland**, the semi-state organisation responsible for operating Ireland's €2.7 billion, 14,664km national gas network, and ensuring the safe and reliable delivery of gas to more than 720,000 homes and businesses across the country. As part of his role, David is responsible for Gas Networks Ireland's ambition to replace natural gas with renewable gases, such as biomethane and hydrogen, to substantially reduce the country's carbon emissions while complementing intermittent renewable electricity and ensuring a secure energy supply. David has over twenty years of executive-level experience having worked extensively in both the private and public sectors throughout his career. Prior to being appointed to his current role, David was the Group Head of Customer Operations and Public Affairs for Ervia.



James Temple is Renewables Manager at **Flogas**. He is an Energy Systems Engineer with a M.Eng in Electrical Energy Engineering. His studies revolved around the design of renewable energy technologies and their integration to the grid. He works in the Power and Renewables side of the business, having moved from the Technical Services team where he previously focused on energy efficiency projects. He manages Flogas Enterprise's PPA portfolio in ROI and NI with a focus on developing relationships to enhance the services and expertise Flogas Enterprise can offer to the energy industry.



Katja Yafimava is Senior Research Fellow at the **Oxford Institute for Energy Studies**. She holds a D.Phil. in Geography and an M.Phil. in Russian and East European Studies from Oxford University. Katja has been an expert at the UNECE Group of Experts on Gas since January 2015 and was an expert at the EU-Russia Gas Advisory Council during 2012-16. She has also written for Carnegie Moscow Center, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) and Italian Institute of International Affairs (IAI) as well as commented for various international media.

Conference programme



0830 Registration and morning coffee

0900 Chairman's welcome and introduction
Padraig Fleming, Biomethane Programme Manager, **Gas Networks Ireland**

MINISTERIAL ADDRESS

Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications *[invited]*

Transforming Ireland's gas network for a sustainable energy future

David Kelly, Director of Customer and Business Development, **Gas Networks Ireland**

Decarbonising Ireland's gas network and market

Karen Kavanagh, Director of Networks and Economic Regulation, **Commission for Regulation of Utilities**

The implications of the EU Decarbonised Gas and Hydrogen Package

Katja Yafimava, Senior Research Fellow, **Oxford Institute for Energy Studies**

Biomethane: transforming businesses and transport

James Temple, Renewables Manager, **Flogas Enterprise**

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

1045 Morning coffee / networking break

1115 *France's plans for developing renewable gases as part of its future energy mix*

Ines Bouacida, Research fellow, **Climate and Energy, IDDRI**

Challenges and opportunities for green hydrogen in a future energy system

Niall Farrell, Senior Research Officer, **Economic and Social Research Institute**

Biomethane: A greener energy future for Northern Ireland

Jonathan McFerran, Green Growth Deputy Director, **Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**

Green Gas: the tortoise in the decarbonisation story

Helen Edwards, Chief Executive, **Ceres Energy**

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

1300 Networking lunch

1400 Chair: Stephen Robb, Renewables Editor, **Irish Farmers Journal**

Biogas: Delivering a secure and sustainable clean energy future

Dale Guest, Chief Commercial Officer, **Stream Bioenergy**

Renewable gas as part of the future energy mix

Brendan Kelly, Commercial Manager, **Bord na Móna**

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

1500 DISCUSSION PANEL: Developing a biomethane sector in Ireland



Ciara Beausang
Research Officer
Teagasc



Karen Doyle
Head of Business
Development
Gas Networks Ireland



Seán Finan
Chief Executive Officer
Irish BioEnergy Association



Niamh Hamill
Assistant Principal, Renewable
Heat Division
**Department of the
Environment, Climate and
Communications**

1600 Chair's summary and conference close

Booking form

I wish to:

- ☐ Reserve _____ places at the Renewable Gas Conference
Delegate fee 295 + VAT @ 23% = €362.85
Fee includes documentation, lunch and other refreshments served during the conference and is payable in advance. Fee does not include accommodation or travel.
- ☐ Receive details of sponsorship & exhibition opportunities at the conference
- ☐ Receive information on future Energy Ireland events and publications

Personal details (please complete in block capitals)

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr): _____

Job title: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____ Eircode: _____

Contact telephone: _____

Email: _____

Payment options

☐ I enclose a cheque for _____
Payable to 'bmf Business Services E&P Ltd.'

☐ Please invoice me

☐ Please debit my Visa / Mastercard

Card number

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Signature _____

Expiry date _____ Security code _____

(Please provide card billing address if different from company address)

Terms and conditions

- Once booked places may not be cancelled and failure to attend requires full payment.
- If you are unable to attend, you can send a substitute participant instead, at no additional charge.
- Conference fees includes entry for one person per ticket.
- Confirmation of registration will be sent to all delegates. If you have not received your acknowledgement within 48 hours of submitting your registration, please contact registration@energyireland.ie.
- By agreeing to our terms and conditions this booking creates legally binding obligations for both parties, irrespective of attendance on the day.

You can unsubscribe from receiving information at any time. Please let us know if you wish to unsubscribe by emailing info@energyireland.ie or phoning +353 (0)1 661 3755

Who should attend?

The Renewable Gas Conference will be of interest to senior managers and decision makers involved in Ireland's gas and the wider energy community.

Delegates will include:

- Chief Executives, directors and senior managers in the energy sector
- Policy makers and regulators
- Renewable energy developers
- Engineering and technical consultants
- Legal and financial advisors
- Planning and environmental professionals
- Large energy users

Benefits of attending

Delegates attending the conference will:

- ✓ Increase your knowledge on Ireland's natural gas network
- ✓ Gain expert insights from local and visiting speakers
- ✓ Learn about innovative projects being implemented
- ✓ Network with other professionals across the energy sector
- ✓ Promote your business to a targeted audience

Venue details

The conference takes place in the Gibson Hotel, Dublin. Further details on location, including directions and public transport options are available at www.energyireland.ie

How to register



By telephone
+353 (0) 1 661 3755

Scan the QR code



Book online
www.renewablegasconference.ie



By email
registration@energyireland.ie



Acknowledgement of registration

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 contact us at registration@energyireland.ie to confirm your booking.

