



Decarbonising Cork: Energy security through Climate Action

River Lee Hotel, Thursday 17th November 2022

Speakers' Biographies

Welcome Address by Lord Mayor of Cork Councillor Deirdre Forde

Keynote Address by Billy Kelleher MEP

Session 1: Delivering a Net Zero Cork – With great challenge comes great opportunity

Harry O'Farrell – Energy Cork Chair and ActionZero

Harry has over 20 years' experience in the energy field, with a strong track record in technical engineering and project management, technical sales, Commercial Director, and currently Chief Commercial Officer at ActionZero.

Harry leads commercial, sales and marketing strategy as well as internationalisation for new market geographies. He is the current Chair at Energy Cork and is engaged in developing and executing strategy to deliver Cork's Energy Master Plan.

Harry is passionate about all issues energy & sustainability, and in particular helping organisations develop and implement strategies to deliver net-zero operations and align with circular economy principles.

Fearghal Reidy – Cork City Council

Fearghal Reidy is Director of Strategic and Economic Development with Cork City Council. He led the preparation of Cork City's Climate Adaptation Plan in 2019 and now is leading the preparation of the city's Climate Action Plan. Cork City Council is participating in the EU's Carbon Neutral and Smart Cities Mission, which seeks to accelerate climate action to achieve net zero emissions. Fearghal has almost 30 years' experience in local economic development in both the public and private sectors. He has an MBS from NUIG and an MEconSc from UCD.

Dairine Frawley – EirGrid Group

Dairine is Future Markets Scheduling and Dispatch Manager in EirGrid's Innovation and Planning department. She has 17 years' experience working in the power industry and has previously held a wide range of roles across EirGrid, most recently leading the enablement of new technologies on the system as Innovation & Research Technical Lead and managing Techno-Economic analysis of the power system as Energy Economics Team Lead. She has also worked extensively across EirGrid's Operations department, leading day-to-day management and planning of the real time power system as System Operations Lead. She is a qualified National Control Centre Grid Controller, regularly operating the power system in real time to ensure electricity is transported and delivered to homes and businesses

across the country. She previously worked on the development of the I-SEM electricity market and as a Network Planning Engineer, ensuring the delivery of grid reinforcement projects.

Denis Collins – ActionZero

Denis is an award-winning global leader widely credited with the ability to make markets, lead change, scale, and simplify complexity through many roles, including CEO, MD, VP, GM, Chair, Board Director and Advisory.

His varied career has taken him around the world, having been a former global executive with IBM and IBM Global Financing. Closer to home, Denis was a previous Chairman of IDA Ireland Regional Development and Board Director. His executive and global experience spans decades and his vision is clear – to create and deliver solutions for a zero emissions world. Combining social good and commercial opportunity is his passion.

Karen O'Regan - Accenture

Karen O'Regan leads Accenture's Strategy practice in Ireland. With deep knowledge on organisational transformation, Karen has extensive experience in designing complex transformation programmes across a range of industries, with a sustainability lens at the core. Karen is one of Accenture's executive leads with the World Economic Forum and is lead sponsor of initiatives such as Digital Climate and the ongoing Net Zero Carbon Cities sprint programme in Cork. Karen is also a recognised author/commentary on the area of sustainability including articles such as *"Businesses must do more to help consumers live sustainably"*, *"Companies look to 'newskill' as they build better in the decade of delivery"*, *"Digital solutions can reduce global emissions by up to 20%"* and the latest consumer research piece and ESG article; *"delivering the promise of sustainability"*.

Session 2: Managing Energy in Practice – Reducing Use and Cost

Margaret Kelly – Cork Chamber

Margaret is a policy communications professional with over fifteen years' international and corporate experience. She has specialism and interest in EU public policy and sustainable development. Margaret has cross-sectoral experience from working with European business representative organisations, the food and drinks industry and across both private and public sector projects in Cork and Brussels. At Cork Chamber she is focussed on public affairs and works closely with the Chamber's member businesses and stakeholders on a progressive sustainability agenda- the Sustainable Cork Programme.

Ger Kiely – The Old Oak

Ger is proprietor of the Old Oak pub and venue, as well as the Cypus Avenue venue located on Oliver Plunkett Street and Caroline Street in Cork City centre. The venue has recently been expanded and the One One Five Café has become a popular day-time café spot on the Oliver Plunkett Street facing side of the building complex. Ger and his team have recently implemented a major rooftop solar PV project on the site to make operations more sustainable and to manage energy costs.

Liam McLaughlin – UNIDO

Liam is the lead international expert in energy management with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation. He is Chair of the ISO Focus Group on capacity building in energy management. He recently completed short course in Cambridge University in decarbonisation of organisations. Liam is CEO of Gen0, an international decarbonisation and energy management consultancy and has 30 years' experience in energy conservation, energy efficiency and energy management.

Ruth Buggie – SEAI

Ruth Buggie is the Sustainable Energy Communities and Schools Programme Manager with SEAI. She joined SEAI in 2005 and has managed a number of national grant programmes including the SEAI Energy Poverty programme, the Better Energy Homes Scheme and the Area Based programme. Ruth is responsible for the development and deployment of the Sustainable Energy Communities programme to support the development of a community approach to energy and to stimulate a national move towards sustainable energy practice through demonstration in exemplar communities. More recently this role has extended to include the energy in education and youth engagement programme areas. Ruth holds a Degree in Building Services and a Masters in Energy Management from the Dublin Institute of Technology.

Rory Leahy – Bus Eireann

Rory Leahy is Chief Safety & Sustainability Officer at Bus Eireann, the largest provider of public bus transport services in Ireland, with 2,800 employees based around the country. Rory is responsible for company safety policy and strategy, sustainability strategy and policy, property and energy performance. The transition from diesel power to clean renewable fuels is a major transformation for Bus Eireann, which will commence operation of Ireland's first fully electric town bus service in Athlone later this year. A programme of conversion for other locations is underway, but the solution for heavier coach-type vehicles is still emerging.

Session 3: Delivering Renewables – Panel Discussion

Conall Bolger – ISEA

Conall Bolger is the CEO of the Irish Solar Energy Association. He has more than 16 years of markets and policy experience working across the energy value chain from community and customer site projects to larger scale onshore and offshore wind development. He founded, led, and developed Cornwall Insight's Irish operations. His international renewables experience includes Poland, Canada, and the UK.

Tina Raleigh – Statkraft

Tina is an experienced renewable energy expert with over 20 years' experience in the sector. In her various roles she has amassed a wide and varied expertise in all aspects of environmental, infrastructural and energy projects, from inception, planning through to detailed project design and construction. She has advised on the development of over 1,000MW of onshore wind and solar projects. As Head of Offshore Wind in Ireland for

Statkraft, Tina uses her vast experience for the successful delivery of Statkraft's offshore portfolio. Tina is a Chartered Engineer with a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from University College Cork.

Michael Quirk – IQ Solar

Michael is a tillage farmer at Crocane Farm, Aghada, Co. Cork as well as Director of IQ Solar and IQ Wind. Michael completed the successful installation of a 1.7MW wind farm in 2012 and has just completed the construction of the RESS solar farm in Cork – the 5.2MW Lurig Solar Farm. Both are co-located at Crocane Farm. Michael is a past Chair and current Steering Group member of Energy Cork.

Adam Cronin – DP Energy

Adam Cronin is the Head of Offshore for DP Energy's Irish Offshore team. Adam leads the offshore team in the delivery of the company's offshore renewable development brief in Ireland and provides technical advice across the group and internationally. A Chartered Civil Engineer and Certified Project Manager, Adam holds an M.Sc. in Environmental Civil Engineering and a B.Eng. in Civil Engineering. He also holds post graduate diplomas in project management and GIS. Adam is a member of Engineers Ireland, the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institute of Project Management and PIANC. Adam has significant experience leading teams in the design, consenting and development of marine and offshore projects, including offshore energy, subsea cabling, dredging and port and harbour developments supporting the offshore renewable sector. Having worked in private practice and for the consenting authorities, Adam has a unique understanding and knowledge of the regulation and consenting processes for offshore and nearshore developments.