



ENERGY IRELAND®

# Renewable Energy Summit 2026

*Delivering a renewable energy system: clean, secure and affordable*

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CROKE PARK, DUBLIN • THURSDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2026

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## 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Renewable Energy Summit 2026

### Delivering a renewable energy system: clean, secure and affordable

Energy Ireland's Renewable Energy Summit, now in its 22nd year, is the major event bringing together the renewable energy sector as a whole. Attracting over 200 key stakeholders, attendees will hear from an impressive line-up of expert speakers looking towards Ireland's renewable energy future.

The 2026 summit comes at a pivotal time for renewable energy development in Ireland. There has been significant progress in delivering on Ireland's renewable energy ambitions. The fifth RESS has delivered the next phase of renewable energy support to achieve Ireland's target of at least 80% renewable electricity by 2030. The second ORESS auction, Tonn Nua ORESS offshore wind auction was announced in May 2025 and targets a 900MW project off the south coast. The auction supports Ireland's Climate Action Plan target of 5GW of offshore wind by 2030.

In order to support the increasing amount of intermittent renewable electricity on the grid, there is now over 1GW of battery storage on the grid and increased interconnection with the 500MW Greenlink HVDC interconnector coming on stream in 2025 and the 700MW Celtic interconnector to France scheduled to come on stream in 2026.

The Renewable Heat Obligation Bill was announced in July 2025 and includes a specific measure to provide support to indigenously produced biomethane, encouraging obligated parties to procure supplies from domestic producers. This led to several large scale biomethane projects being announced later in the year. The solar energy sector continues to grow at a pace with 2GW of installed capacity in late 2025. There are also several projects under development in emerging technologies including green hydrogen and marine renewables.

This Government's renewable energy ambitions are set against a backdrop of an increasing focus on energy security and a growing climate crisis that has led the IEA to call for a trebling of renewable energy development globally. Whilst Ireland has made good progress in the use of renewable sources in the electricity sector, both the heat and transport sectors have been particularly challenging. The 2026 summit will look across all the sectors at plans to develop existing technologies and will also look at the potential for deploying new technologies such as green hydrogen.

The Renewable Energy Summit 2026 will provide a valuable opportunity to bring together the key stakeholders from across the energy sector, and those who interact with the energy sector, to discuss how the contribution from renewable energy can be accelerated. The objective is to create a genuine in-depth understanding of the alternative paths open to Ireland in increasing the contribution from renewable energy sources. It will look at the challenges and opportunities including the planning system, the need for long term energy storage and the skills gaps impacting on the sector.



**"We are already world leaders for installed wind capacity per capita and for the integration of variable renewable electricity onto the grid. We will continue to advance our clean energy transition to secure a secure, sustainable and resilient energy future."**

– Minister Darragh O'Brien, TD

# This is why you need to be at the Energy Ireland Renewable Energy Summit 2026

## Key themes covered:

- ✓ Delivering 80% renewable electricity by 2030
- ✓ Realising Ireland's offshore wind potential
- ✓ Delivering energy infrastructure at pace and scale
- ✓ The development of a biomethane sector in Ireland
- ✓ Flexibility from RES for a secure, efficient and resilient grid
- ✓ Ensuring public acceptance for renewable energy projects
- ✓ Long term storage: facilitating renewable energy penetration
- ✓ Planning for renewable energy projects
- ✓ Green energy in Ireland's future energy mix
- ✓ AI and energy
- ✓ Developing marine energy



## Benefits of attending:

- Discuss the role of renewables in the energy transition
- Hear directly from developers of renewable energy
- Learn about innovative projects being implemented
- Network with other professionals across the renewable energy sector

## 200+ attendees: Who you can expect to meet

The summit is attended by senior managers and decision-makers in the renewable energy sector. Delegates come from right across the sector and the wider energy community with a contingent from overseas.

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
- Equipment suppliers
- Large energy users

The Renewable Energy Summit will provide a valuable opportunity to bring together the key stakeholders from across the energy sector, and those who interact with the energy sector to discuss how the contribution from renewable energy can be maximised and implemented most effectively.

**The objective is to create a genuine in-depth understanding of the alternative paths open to Ireland in increasing the contribution from renewable energy.**



# Conference plenary

09.00 Chair's welcome: Úna Nic Giolla Choille

## CONFERENCE PLENARY:

**MINISTERIAL ADDRESS** *Renewable energy: delivering secure, clean and affordable energy for Ireland*

Timmy Dooley TD, Minister of State

Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment *[invited]*

### *EU renewable energy progress and future outlook*

Paula Rey Garcia, Head of Renewables and Energy System Integration Policy, **European Commission**

### *The BnM energy park: co-locating renewable energy technologies with high demand energy users*

Brendan Kelly, Head of Commercial, **BnM**

### *Developing Ireland's renewable energy future*

Paul Lennon, Head of Offshore Wind, Hydrogen and Long Term Storage, **ESB**

### *A regulatory framework for developing renewable energy*

Phil Hemmingway, Director of Decarbonisation  
**Commission for the Regulation of Utilities**

Question & answer session / Panel discussion

11.00 **Tea/Coffee networking break**

11.30 *Delivering a sustainable low carbon energy system for Ireland*

Senior representative, **Bord Gáis Energy**

### *AI and Energy: major consequences for the energy sector*

Thomas Spencer, Energy Policy Analyst, **IEA**

### *A Network fit for Net-Zero*

Errol Close, Chief Corporate Services Officer, **EirGrid**

### *Achieving 80% renewable electricity by 2030*

Richard Rodgers, Deputy Secretary, Head of Energy  
Department for the Economy, **Northern Ireland**

### *The role of offshore wind in achieving Scotland's renewable energy targets*

Michelle Quinn, Director, Offshore Wind, **Scottish Government**

Question & answer session / Panel discussion



# Afternoon session



13.00 **Networking Lunch**

14.00 Chair: Therese Murphy, Senior Business Development Manager, **Cornwall Insight Ireland**

*The boy who cried hydrogen: towards a proactive policy for electrolytic hydrogen*  
Duncan Matthews, Power Market Modeller, **MaREI**

*Delivering clean power at scale: a key element of the energy transition*  
Luke O'Callaghan-White, Head of EU Energy Transition, **E3G**

*Co-locating renewable energy generation and storage*  
Lisa Foley, Head of Ireland & Northern Ireland, **Cornwall Insight**

**PANEL DISCUSSION: FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Clive Bowers, Energy Policy Manager, **ESB**

Eoin Kennedy, Director of Innovation and Planning, **EirGrid**

Muireann Lynch, Senior Research Officer, **Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)**

Philip Newsome, Principal Officer, Renewable Electricity Section **Department of Climate, Energy & the Environment**

Question & answer session / Panel discussion

16.00 **CHAIR'S CONCLUDING REMARKS AND CONFERENCE CLOSE**



# Visiting experts for 2026



## *AI and Energy: major consequences for the energy sector*

**Thomas Spencer**  
Energy Policy Analyst  
**International Energy Agency**

Thomas Spencer is an Analyst at the International Energy Agency. Thomas has 15 years' experience in the fields of energy and climate change policy in Europe, China and India. In March 2021, Thomas joined the Energy Modelling Office of the International Energy Agency (IEA). At the IEA, Thomas leads in the analysis of the implications of climate mitigation for the global energy sector and on the interactions between energy and artificial intelligence. He has been a lead author of numerous IEA publications.



## *The role of offshore wind in achieving Scotland's renewable energy targets*

**Michelle Quinn**  
Director of Offshore Wind  
**Scottish Government**

Michelle Quinn was appointed Director of Offshore Wind at the Scottish Government in April 2023. From August 2024 until January 2025, she covered the post of Director General Net Zero on an interim basis. Michelle has held various policy and delivery posts across the Scottish Government. While working at Transport Scotland, she held the post of Director of Major Projects and was responsible for the design, development, promotion, procurement and construction of the motorway and trunk road programme. In recent years, Michelle has held the posts of Principal Private Secretary to the First Minister of Scotland and Interim Chief Executive at Transport Scotland.



## *Delivering clean power at scale: a key element of the energy transition*

**Luke O Callaghan-White**  
Head of EU Energy Transition  
**ESG**

Prior to joining the team at E3G, Luke was the Programme Manager for Energy and Climate Policy at Friends of Europe, a Brussels-based think tank. Luke has previously worked in Canada and Ireland and has extensive experience working as a researcher, and a policy advisor in the energy sector. Luke is a committee member of the Irish Centre for European Law, where he serves as an expert on matters relating to energy law in the European Union. Luke holds an MA in Political Science from the University of Toronto and a BA in Political Science and Geography from Trinity College Dublin.



## *EU renewable energy progress and future outlook*

**Paula Rey Garcia**  
Head of Unit for  
Renewables and Energy  
System Integration Policy  
**DG Energy, European Commission**

Paula Rey García is Deputy Head of the Unit for Renewables and Energy System Integration Policy at the European Commission DG Energy. She joined the European Commission in 2005, with roles in DG Environment and DG Health and Food Safety, and has been with DG Energy since 2012 working to drive the deployment of renewables and improving energy efficiency across Europe. Prior to joining the European Commission, she worked for the United Nations Environment Programme, and in the private sector as consultant.



# Speaker profiles



**Clive Bowers** has close to 20 years' experience in energy policy and regulation. He spent 10 years with Ireland's national utility regulator (CRU) working across electricity and gas wholesale, networks and retail. Since moving to **ESB** in 2016 he first worked in generation regulation and now manages cross group regulation and policy. In 2023 Clive led the development of ESB's Net Zero Pathway which sets out 2030 emissions targets for the Group and the underlying initiatives that will be undertaken to achieve these. Clive has been involved in EU energy policy and regulation for more than 15 years through CEER, ACER and Eurelectric.



**Errol Close** was appointed Chief Corporate Services Officer at **EirGrid** in August 2024, having previously held the roles of Head of Group Regulation and Head of Strategy and Sustainability at EirGrid. Errol has over 20 years experience in the sector having also held senior roles in the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications; and SSE. He has a degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Queen's University, and an MBA from DCU.



**Lisa Foley** is Head of Ireland & Northern Ireland for **Cornwall Insight Ireland**. An electrical engineer with over 15 years' experience across the All Island and international electricity sectors, she is a leading expert on market participation, revenue forecasting and the energy transition. Lisa previously held roles at EirGrid, including in the National Control Centre, and currently sits on Advisory Councils for Energy Storage Ireland and EirGrid/SONI's Shaping Our Electricity Future.



**Phil Hemmingway** is the Director of the **Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)** Decarbonisation Division having joined the organisation in 2020. Phil leads the Decarbonisation Division which plays a key role in developing and implementing regulatory framework in the areas of offshore renewable energy, onshore renewable energy, electricity generation and demand connection policy, electricity interconnection, district heating, emerging sectors and coordination of CRU's actions under Ireland's Climate Action Plan.



**Brendan Kelly** is Head of Commercial at **BnM**. Having completed a degree and masters in electrical engineering from UCD, Brendan Kelly joined EirGrid in 2010 and worked in several roles across operations and planning. He then moved to smart grid startup company Smart Wires Inc. where he worked with several TSOs across Europe before moving to Vancouver to head up the company's efforts with Canadian utilities. On returning to Ireland during the Covid-19 pandemic, he joined BnM and worked on several renewable energy projects as commercial manager before being promoted to the Executive Board in 2025 as Head of Commercial with responsibility for planning and development, investments, new technology and strategic grid investment and regulation and policy.



**Paul Lennon** is Head of Offshore Wind, Hydrogen and Long Term Storage at **ESB**, Ireland's foremost energy company. ESB has been active in Ireland and Great Britain in renewable energy for a significant number of years and currently has a multi GW portfolio of onshore wind, solar and offshore wind under development. In addition the company has a large of storage and dispatchable projects under development. A mechanical engineer by profession, Paul has worked for ESB since 2008 in a range of technical and senior management roles, obtaining a Masters degree in Engineering Management and an MBA during his time with ESB.



**Muireann Lynch** is a Senior Research Officer in the **Economic and Social Research Institute**. She joined the Institute in 2014. 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 also a Funded Investigator with the Energy Systems Integration Partnership Programme and coordinates emerging research focused on the modelling and integration of electricity, gas, heat and water systems.



**Therese Murphy** is a seasoned energy policy specialist with 20 years' experience in the energy industry, spanning the public and private sector. She is a Senior Business Development Manager at **Cornwall Insight Ireland**. She began her energy career with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland at the onset of renewable energy development, she then set up an independent consultancy with an illustrious client base of national government agencies and private companies as well as the International Energy Agency and The World Bank. In recent years she has focused on the power sector, with a specific interest in policy and regulation developments and their impact on the traded electricity markets.



**Duncan Matthews** recently completed a PhD under the supervision of Dr. Paul Deane with the Energy Policy & Modelling Group at **MaREI, University College Cork**, where he continues to contribute to ongoing research. Looking ahead, he is co-founding ClearPoint Power Consulting with his former ElectroRoute colleague Dr. Niamh Troy - a new consultancy focused on applying power market modelling to optimise commercial strategy.



**Una Nic Giolla Choille** is a former Principal Officer in the Department for 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.



**Luke O'Callaghan-White** is Head of EU Energy Transition, ESG. Prior to joining the team at E3G, Luke was the Programme Manager for Energy and Climate Policy at Friends of Europe, a Brussels-based think tank. Luke has previously worked in Canada and Ireland and has extensive experience working as a researcher, and a policy advisor in the energy sector. Luke is a committee member of the Irish Centre for European Law, where he serves as an expert on matters relating to energy law in the European Union. Luke holds an MA in Political Science from the University of Toronto and a BA in Political Science and Geography from Trinity College Dublin.



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**Paula Rey Garica** is Deputy Head of the Unit for Renewables and Energy System Integration Policy at the **European Commission DG Energy**. She joined the European Commission in 2005, with roles in DG Environment and DG Health and Food Safety, and has been with DG Energy since 2012 working to drive the deployment of renewables and improving energy efficiency across Europe. Prior to joining the European Commission, she worked for the United Nations Environment Programme, and in the private sector as consultant.



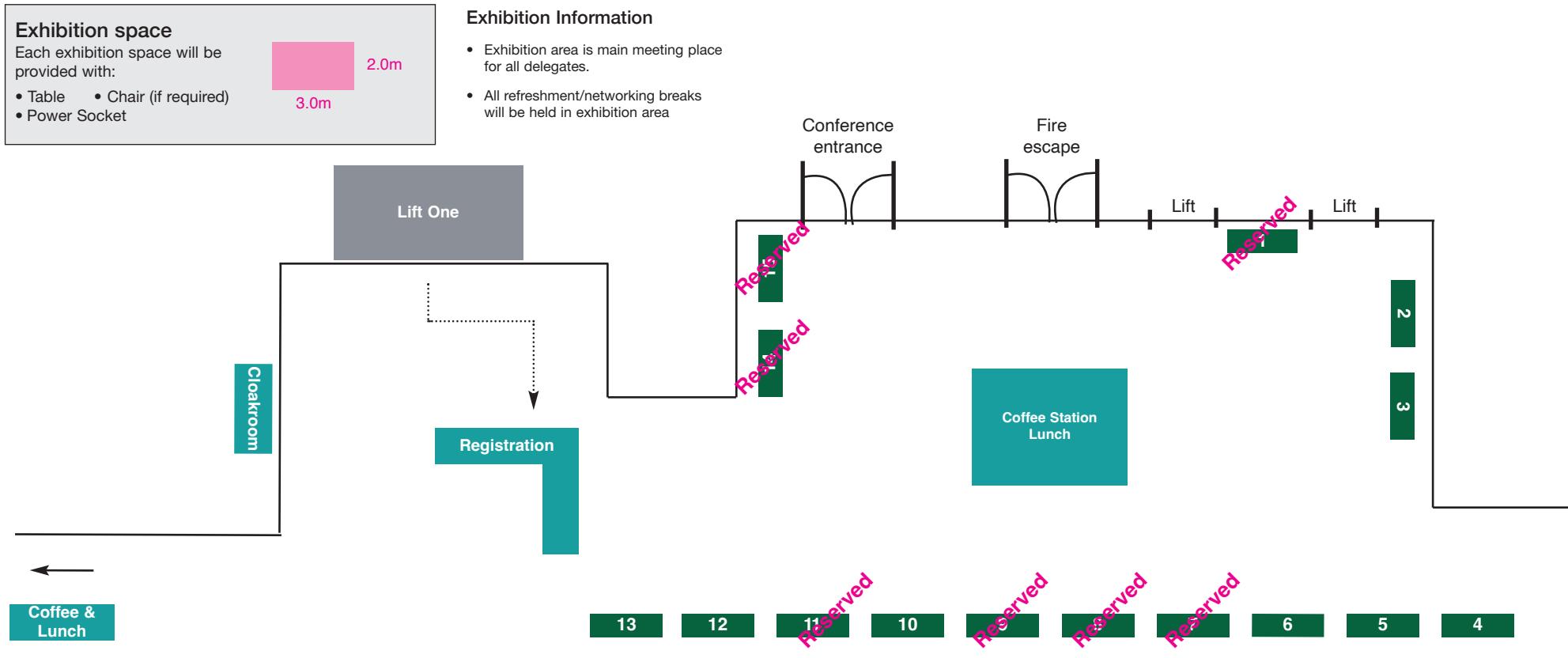
**Richard Rodgers** is Deputy Secretary, Head of Energy at the **Department for the Economy, Northern Ireland** where he led the development of the recently published Northern Ireland Executive's Energy Strategy – The Path to Net Zero Energy. He has almost 35 years' experience in the energy industry, including British Gas for eight years, Phoenix Natural Gas for 12, as MD (International) at Eaga for five years (responsible for the delivery of fuel poverty programmes for Governments across the world), five years as Strategic Advisor (Energy) at the Strategic Investment Board and for the past three years as Head of Energy in the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland. Richard was also a non-executive director on the Board of the Utility Regulator for nine years (ending in March 2019).



**Thomas Spencer** is an Analyst at the **International Energy Agency**. Thomas has 15 years' experience in the fields of energy and climate change policy in Europe, China and India. He was Director of the Energy and Climate Change Program at the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) in Paris, France. He was a member of the French delegation that organised COP21 in 2015, which resulted in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. In March 2021, Thomas joined the Energy Modelling Office of the International Energy Agency (IEA). At the IEA, Thomas leads in the analysis of the implications of climate mitigation for the global energy sector and on the interactions between energy and artificial intelligence. He has been a lead author of numerous IEA publications.

# Exhibition opportunities

There are a limited number of opportunities to become involved with this conference as an exhibitor. This is an excellent way for organisations to showcase their expertise and raise their profile with a key audience of senior decision makers from across Ireland's renewable energy sector. This interactive conference provides an excellent opportunity for making contacts and networking. For further information on how your organisation can benefit, contact **Jillian McFarlane** on **+353 (0)1 661 3755** or email **jillian.mcfarlane@energyireland.ie**

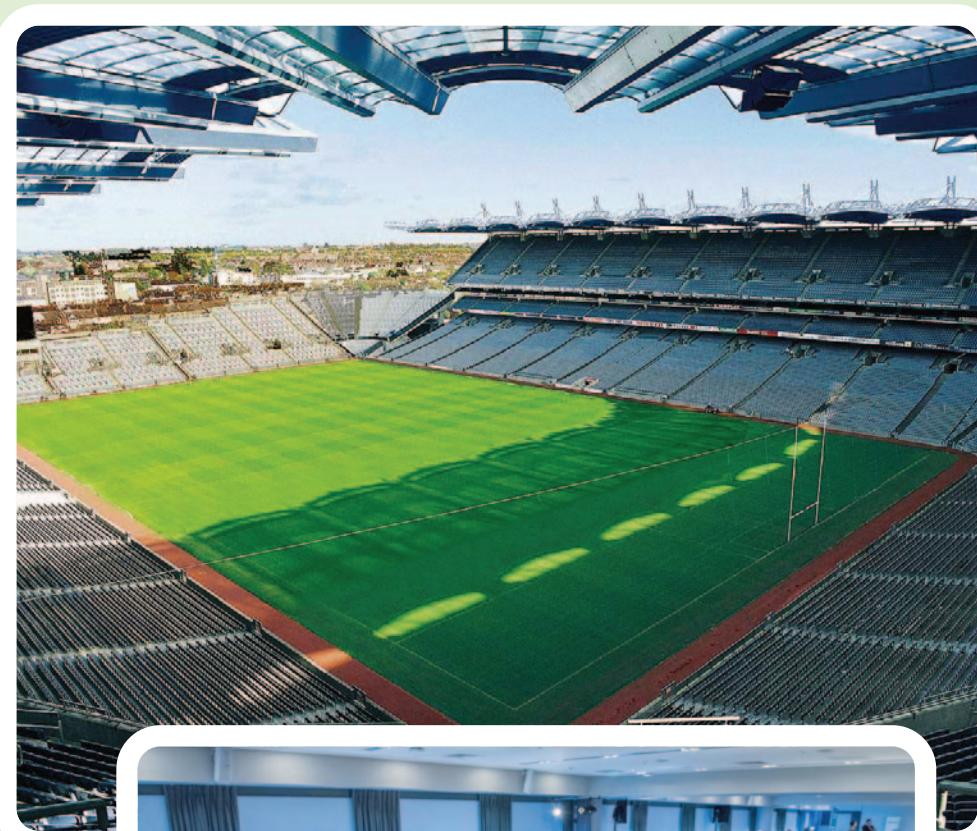


## Sponsorship opportunities



There are a limited number of sponsorship opportunities remaining at this conference. For further information on the sponsorship packages remaining and speaking opportunities at the event call **Jillian McFarlane** on **+353 (0)1 661 3755** or email **jillian.mcfarlane@energyireland.ie**

# Getting to the venue



## Directions to Croke Park

Croke Park Conference Centre is located in the north Dublin neighbourhood of Drumcondra, a 15 minute walk from the city centre and around 20 minutes by car from Dublin airport.

**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 11, 16, 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.

**By car:** 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).

**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. There is pedestrian access from the car park onto Jones's Road for the main entrance to the Hogan Stand.

## Accommodation

There are a number of hotels located close to the venue, including: The Croke Park Hotel, Best Western Dublin Skylon Hotel, Gresham Hotel, Best Western Academy Plaza, Jurys Inn Parnell Street.

## I wish to:

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at the Energy Ireland Renewable Energy Summit

Delegate fee **€395** + VAT @ 23% = **€485.85**

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Receive information on future Energy Ireland events and publications

## Delegate details

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr): \_\_\_\_\_

Job title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Eircode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Other ways to book...



By email

registration@energyireland.ie



Online

www.energyireland.ie



By telephone

+353 (0)1 661 3755

### 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.

### 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.

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