

Policy Forum for Northern Ireland Keynote Seminar: Key issues for energy policy in Northern Ireland: security of supply, the single energy market and the future for renewables

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 9th November 2017

Venue: Belfast



**POLICY FORUM
FOR NORTHERN
IRELAND**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
- 9.05 - 9.25 **The current context of energy markets and Northern Ireland**
Dr Patrick Keatley, Research Fellow, Centre for Sustainable Technologies, Ulster University
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 - 9.35 **Looking to the future of the Northern Ireland energy market: North-South Interconnector, I-SEM and DS3**
Given the challenges with current interconnection, including intermittence of supply, what options are available to improve security of supply, including completion of the North-South Interconnector and interconnections with other jurisdictions? How can barriers to completion of the N-S Interconnector - including delays in the planning system - and issues remaining in the delivery of the Integrated Single Energy Market (I-SEM) - including developments on compensation for generators - be tackled? What measures - including through DS3 (Delivering a Secure Sustainable Electricity System) - are being implemented to support the levels of renewable energy coming into the system?
Dr Sam Matthews, Grid Operations Manager Real Time, SONI
- 9.35 - 9.45 **Priorities for cross-border cooperation in the energy market post-Brexit**
To what extent might Brexit compromise the I-SEM project? What are the Irish Government's priorities for cooperation in energy policy post-Brexit - including investment in research into renewable energy and exporting clean energy to the UK? How far have policies such as all-island renewable incentives been considered, and what should be the next steps and strategic direction of moves to tackle barriers to cooperation on an all-island basis?
Bob Hanna, Chief Technical Advisor, Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment, Ireland
- 9.45 - 9.55 **Key issues in supporting the energy market: production, storage and managing costs**
Given the expected energy supply deficit - as outlined in the House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee report, and in part due to generation limitations at current plants - what options, including closing, upgrading and redeveloping current sites, might diversify and increase levels of generation? What might be the contribution of energy storage - including small scale and grid-level - to support security of supply by increasing the contributions of renewables, reducing costs and promoting greater efficiency through effective control of supply and demand cycles, and how can this be developed in Northern Ireland?
Ian Luney, President, AES UK & Ireland
- 9.55 - 10.05 **Tackling the challenges to infrastructure development: costs, planning and regulation**
How can issues - such as costs and complexity of applications, delays in the processing of planning applications by local authorities, and the moratorium on grid connections for renewables - be tackled to help promote investment and future development of energy projects?
Gary McGhee, Partner, Carson McDowell
- 10.05 - 10.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 - 10.55 **Next steps in the effective regulation of the energy market in Northern Ireland**
Senior speaker confirmed from the **Utility Regulator**
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Member of the Legislative Assembly
- 11.00 - 11.25 Coffee
- 11.25 - 11.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
Gordon Lyons MLA, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 11.30 - 11.45 **The future for the renewables sector: priorities for policy, investment and government support**
Meabh Cormacain, Manager, Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group
- 11.45 - 12.40 **Innovation and the future for renewables in Northern Ireland: moving beyond wind and the 2020 targets**
Given that 90% of generated renewable energy in NI in 2016 was from wind, what steps can be taken to diversify the renewable energy sector? With current projections indicating that Northern Ireland may not meet the 2020 targets set out in the Strategic Energy Framework, what should be the priorities for any future Northern Ireland Executive in promoting generation from renewables? What are the consequences of the closure of Northern Ireland Renewable Obligations - including for investment and development of renewables - and what options exist in supporting renewables in the future, for example through the Contracts for Difference scheme? What value can be added by further development of small-scale renewable projects compared to larger-scale developments?
James Orr, Director, Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland
Nick Boyle, Chief Executive Officer, Lightsource Renewable Energy
Rachel Anderson, Head of External Affairs, UK and Ireland, RES Group
Senior representative, local government
Questions and comments from the floor with from **Meabh Cormacain**, Manager, Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group
- 12.40 - 12.55 **Next steps in energy policy in Northern Ireland**
Senior representative, policy
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**
Gordon Lyons MLA, Northern Ireland Assembly
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland