

Policy Forum for Northern Ireland keynote seminar

Next steps for energy policy in Northern Ireland - strategy and legislation, market development and regulation, and modernisation and a green economic recovery

Timing: Morning, Monday, 26th April 2021

Taking Place Online



POLICY FORUM
FOR NORTHERN
IRELAND

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA, Chair, Committee for the Economy, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 9.05 **Policy priorities for the Northern Ireland Energy Strategy and setting a pathway for meeting long-term climate and energy goals**
Thomas Byrne, Director, Energy Strategy, Department for the Economy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 Break
- 9.35 **Approaches to meeting decarbonisation targets, and the design of the Climate Change Bill**
Dr Inna Vorushylo, Project Lead, Zero-IN on NI Heat
- 9.45 **Commercialisation and the clean economic recovery - scaling up renewables deployment, developing emerging technologies, public and private engagement, and skills and R&D priorities**
Pat Austin, Director, NEA NI
Jonathan Martindale, Business Development Director, Phoenix Natural Gas
Rachel Anderson, Chair, RenewableNI
Declan Billington, Chief Executive Officer, Thompsons and Chair, Energy Sub-Group, CBI Northern Ireland
Orla Kelly, Associate, Planning and Environmental Law, Carson McDowell
- 10.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Dr Caoimhe Archibald MLA, Chair, Committee for the Economy, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 10.35 Break
- 10.45 **Chair's opening remarks**
Sinead McLaughlin MLA, Vice-Chair, Committee for the Economy, Northern Ireland Assembly
- 10.50 **Competitive and affordable energy markets - widening the supplier base, fair tariff systems and consumer costs, and next steps for tackling fuel poverty in NI**
Professor Neil Hewitt, Head of Belfast School of Architecture & the Built Environment, Ulster University
Andy Kelly, Senior Principal, AFRY Management Consulting
Stew Horne, Head of Policy, Energy Saving Trust
Laura Sandys, Chair, Expert Panel - Northern Ireland Energy Strategy
Colm Ó Gormáin, Head of Regulatory Affairs, SSE Airtricity
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 Break
- 11.45 **Improving whole-system resilience in NI - network capacity for distributed resources, non-generation technologies, and interconnection with ROI**
Randal Gilbert, Head of Network Strategy, Northern Ireland Electricity Networks
Alan Campbell, Managing Director, SONI (Electricity Transmission System Operator for Northern Ireland)
Terence Donnelly, Group Executive Chairman, Donnelly Group
Sarah Fuller, Director, Genserv Ireland
- 12.25 **Developing regulatory frameworks fit for the energy transition, market developments and a modernised energy system**
John French, Chief Executive, Utility Regulator
- 12.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Northern Ireland closing remarks**
Sinead McLaughlin MLA, Vice-Chair, Committee for the Economy, Northern Ireland Assembly
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Northern Ireland