

# Northern Ireland Energy Forum 2019

Tuesday 8th October 2019  
La Mon Hotel, Belfast

Northern Ireland's  
major annual energy  
conference...

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# NORTHERN IRELAND **ENERGY FORUM 2019**

The Northern Ireland Energy Forum, now in its 17th year, has firmly established itself as the only major annual conference for Northern Ireland's energy sector – it is a not to be missed event for anyone with an eye on the local energy industry. The 2019 Forum will once again bring together all the key players, both from within Northern Ireland and further afield, to focus on the most important aspects of energy policy and latest developments from across the sector. It provides a unique opportunity for all those operating within the sector to come together for networking and discussion.

## **Delivering a low carbon future...**

2019 is a seminal moment in the transition of the global energy sector to a low carbon future. Climate change has taken on a renewed urgency in the public consciousness, with the decarbonisation of energy accelerating in the coming years. Emerging technologies also have the potential to significantly disrupt the sector. The next phase of development of renewable energy must also be considered, as well as how the intermittent nature can be facilitated by more flexible energy markets. There has never been a more critical time for the key players in the Northern Ireland energy sector. As well as the wider energy world, closer to home Brexit is still looming large – and with no devolved government, what is next for local energy policy? The Department for the Economy has recently published a report on a long term vision for energy covering electricity, heat and transport: *Envisioning the Future, Considering Energy in Northern Ireland to 2050*. Now is the time to consider all the key issues that are vital to shape energy policy both now and in the future.

## ▶ KEY TOPICS COVERED

Energy policy & regulation

### 2019 themes

- ✓ Energy **policy priorities** for Northern Ireland
- ✓ A new **Strategic Energy Framework** for Northern Ireland
- ✓ The impact of **Brexit** on energy markets
- ✓ The **European** energy market outlook
- ✓ Looking ahead: Investing in key **energy infrastructure**
- ✓ Moving towards the **digital utility**
- ✓ **Decarbonising electricity**: Towards a flexible electricity system and market
- ✓ The **Future Role of Gas** (FRoG)
- ✓ **IoT** and **AI** for smarter energy systems
- ✓ The next phase of **renewable energy development**
- ✓ **Power-to-Gas**: Linking electricity and gas in a decarbonising world
- ✓ Belfast's energy transformation: Delivering the **carbon neutral city**
- ✓ Is **hydrogen** the fuel of the future?
- ✓ Generating **energy secure** communities
- ✓ Energy **projects update**

**The event will bring together a mix of local industry leaders and visiting experts to look at these issues in detail.**

Future of  
renewables

Brexit and energy  
markets

Disruptive  
technologies

Power-to-Gas

Decarbonising  
energy

### Don't miss Northern Ireland's only major annual energy conference...

The conference is the only annual major event in the local energy calendar and is one not to be missed. Key features of the event include:

- ✓ Hear directly from the Department for the Economy
- ✓ Update from the energy regulator
- ✓ In-depth examination of key policy issues
- ✓ Overview of Northern Ireland's major energy projects
- ✓ Attended by all the key players in the Northern Ireland energy sector
- ✓ Network with 150+ senior delegates
- ✓ Structured to provide opportunities to engage with speakers in the Q&A sessions and informally
- ✓ Lively exhibition area
- ✓ The must attend event for anyone in the sector



# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME MORNING

0900 Chairman: **Ian McCarlie**, Partner, **Pinsent Masons LLP**

Welcome address: **Mark Foley**, Chief Executive, **EirGrid Group**

**Envisioning Northern Ireland's energy future**  
**Richard Rodgers**, Head of Energy Policy, **Department for the Economy**

**Electricity infrastructure to facilitate the energy transition**  
**Jo Aston**, Managing Director, **SONI**

**An effective regulatory framework for energy in Northern Ireland**  
**Jenny Pyper**, Chief Executive, **Utility Regulator** *(invited)*

**Power-to-Gas: Linking electricity and gas in a decarbonising world**  
**Martin Lambert**, Senior Research Fellow  
**Oxford Institute for Energy Studies**

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

1100 Morning coffee / networking break

1120 **Visions of Energy Futures: Imagining and Innovating Low Carbon Transitions**  
**Professor Benjamin Sovacool**, Professor of Energy Policy  
**University of Sussex**

**Route to market for the next phase of renewables in Northern Ireland**  
**Richard Murphy**, Head of Energy & Natural Resources Northern Ireland  
**Pinsent Masons LLP**

**RIIO-2 price controls: Lessons for Northern Ireland's energy networks**  
**Peter McClenaghan**, Regulation and Strategy Consultant, **Engage Strategy**

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

**PANEL DISCUSSION: Future priorities for energy in Northern Ireland**  
**Michael McKinstry**, Group Chief Executive, **Phoenix Natural Gas**  
**Kevin Hegarty**, Strategic Adviser - Energy, **Strategic Investment Board** *(invited)*  
**Sam McCloskey**, Director, **Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy**  
**Nick Holman**, Director, **BNRG Renewables** *(invited)*  
**Senior representative, NIE Networks**

1315 Conference lunch / networking break





## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME AFTERNOON

1400

**Belfast's energy transformation: Delivering the carbon neutral city**  
**Clare McKeown**, Sustainable Development Manager, **Belfast City Council**

**Climate action: Unlocking the potential of wind energy**  
**Dr David Connolly**, Chief Executive, **Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA)**

**IoT and AI for smarter energy systems**  
**Maria McKavanagh**, COO, **Verv** (invited)

**Is hydrogen the fuel of the future?**  
**Dr Pau Farràs**, Principal Investigator, **NUI Galway**

**The GenComm Project: Generating energy secure communities**  
**Paul McCormack**, Innovation Manager, **Belfast Metropolitan College**

Questions & answers / Panel discussion

1615

Conference close followed by drinks reception



### Sponsorship opportunities

There are still a number of sponsorship opportunities available at this conference. For further information on the packages remaining and speaking opportunities at the event call **Lynda Millar** on **+44 (0)28 9261 9933**.

# CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



**Jo Aston** was appointed as Managing Director of SONI in early 2019. She joined SONI from the Utility Regulator where she was Director of Wholesale Energy Markets. In this role Jo was responsible for the regulation of the old SEM alongside its successful re-design to realise greater efficiencies and to become integrated with the pan European Electricity Market. Jo is a Chartered Civil Engineer. She is an active member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and was the Northern Ireland Chairperson for 2012-2013. She has worked for both the private and public sector, predominantly in the utility sector.



**Dr David Connolly** is CEO of the Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) which is Ireland's largest renewable energy association. IWEA works with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders to build understanding and awareness of the benefits of Irish wind and renewable energy, and to ensure that Irish wind energy continues to provide clean, cost effective electricity to communities, businesses, factories and homes across Ireland. Previously, David was an Associate Professor in Energy Planning at Aalborg University in Copenhagen where his research

focused on the design and assessment of 100% renewable energy systems for electricity, heat, and transport. He graduated as a Mechanical Engineer in 2007 and completed a PhD in energy modelling in 2011, both at the University of Limerick.



**Dr Pau Farràs** is Lecturer in Inorganic Chemistry at NUI Galway since September 2015. His research focuses on the study of light driven reactions for the production of fuels and chemicals. He has published ca. 30 papers with >750 citations (h-index 15) and a book chapter on visible light-driven oxidation of organic substrates. He is the coordinator of the EU project SEAFUEL (INTERREG Atlantic Area, 10 partners, €3.6M), coordinator of SOLAR2CHEM (MSCA-ITN-ETN-2019, 12 partners, €4M), and work package leader in HUGE (INTERREG Northern Periphery and Arctic, 9 partners, €1.4M). In addition, he has obtained funding from RSC, Royal Society, IRC, SFI, COST Actions network and Enterprise Ireland.



**Mark Foley** joined EirGrid Group as Chief Executive in June 2018, having held the role of Managing Director of Land Solutions in Coillte since January 2016. Prior to that, Mark was Managing Director of Coillte Enterprise where he led the development of new businesses in renewable energy, telecommunications, land development and land sales. Before that, from November 2000 to August 2008, Mark was Director of Capital Programmes at Dublin Airport Authority. In this role he was responsible for master planning, permitting, planning and delivery of c. €1.5 billion in airport infrastructure at Dublin, Shannon and Cork airports. Prior

to that Mark held a number of senior executives roles with multinationals in the Speciality Chemicals and Electronics sectors.



**Martin Lambert** is a Senior Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies. Within the Natural Gas Research Programme at the Institute, he leads their work on biomethane and other renewable gas. Since leaving Shell in 2016, in addition to his work with the Institute, Martin works as an independent consultant specialising in the international gas and LNG business. Martin's 34 year career with Shell included several senior leadership positions in the gas, LNG and biofuels businesses. He spent around half his career overseas, including assignments in Germany, Japan and the Philippines. From 2011 to 2015 he was seconded to North West Shelf Australia LNG as Senior Vice President Marketing. Martin holds an MA in economics and engineering from the University of Cambridge.



**Ian McCarlie** is a Partner at Pinsent Masons LLP who has extensive experience of acting for developers, stakeholders and funders in the renewables and alternative energy sectors across the United Kingdom and Ireland. Ian's expertise includes advising on joint ventures, project acquisitions and development, fund raising and project construction, procurement and financing (onshore and offshore wind, solar, biomass, AD, wave and tidal technologies).



**Peter McClenaghan** is a regulation and strategy consultant who specialises in energy policy projects. His on-going work with energy clients includes advising GB companies on the development of Business Plans for the RIIQ-2 Price Control. Prior to founding Engage Strategy Peter was head of the Regulation Department in the market leading integrated energy supply and distribution company Firmus Energy where he was responsible for regulatory projects, compliance and engagement. Peter led the development of two Firmus Energy price control business plans and was a member of a three-person senior management team who directed the Company's appeal to the Competition and Markets Authority.



**Sam McCloskey** is Director of the Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy (CASE). Sam joined CASE in 2011 following an 18-year career in consultancy. She can call upon broad ranging experience of leading energy, sustainability and resource efficiency projects across a number of industry sectors, from local to pan-European projects, and with a strong focus on research & development / programme management. Through the MATRIX government science advisory panel she was intrinsically involved in the development of a Road Map for sustainable energy to 2035 in Northern Ireland. She is also a Non-Executive Director of the Workspace Group, one of the largest social enterprise organisations in Northern Ireland.



A dynamic entrepreneur, **Paul McCormack** is a past DTI SMART Award recipient, holds several international patents and was the first Northern Ireland recipient of a National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts (NESTA) award. Paul is the author of several international reports on renewable energies, smart hydrogen, innovation & entrepreneurship and collaborative networking. Paul has a robust record of achievement in all levels of management roles including founder/CEO of multi-award winning start-up SMEs, securing several international awards for innovation and leading highly successful international collaborative projects. Project successes include forming, submitting and winning several EU R&D bids including the €12.36M GenComm renewable energies bid and the H2020 BIMcert project - the first H2020 project secured by any college in the FE sector. Other project work includes leading winning project bids on renewable energy, energy storage, green technology, clean technology, cyber security, IoT adaptations and Smart Cities.



**Michael McKinstry** is a qualified accountant and has been with Phoenix Natural Gas since its formation in 1996, initially as Financial Director, joining the Group board in 2006, before being appointed Group CEO in 2014. Michael has been a key member of the executive management team responsible for driving Phoenix Natural Gas throughout the growth and evolution of the business and taking a lead role in guiding the business through the various changes in ownership and financial and operating structures during those 20 years. Prior to Phoenix Natural Gas, Michael gained extensive financial management experience across a broad range of business sectors, including Premier Power (energy), GEC (engineering) and Ulster Weavers (textiles).



**Richard Murphy** is a Partner at Pinsent Masons and specialises in energy projects. His energy expertise and experience includes advising clients on a range of regulatory, advisory and transactional matters. Richard is rated as a leading individual for energy work in both Chambers UK and the Legal 500. Richard sits on the Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group Committee (NIRIG) and is a regular speaker at energy industry events and conferences.



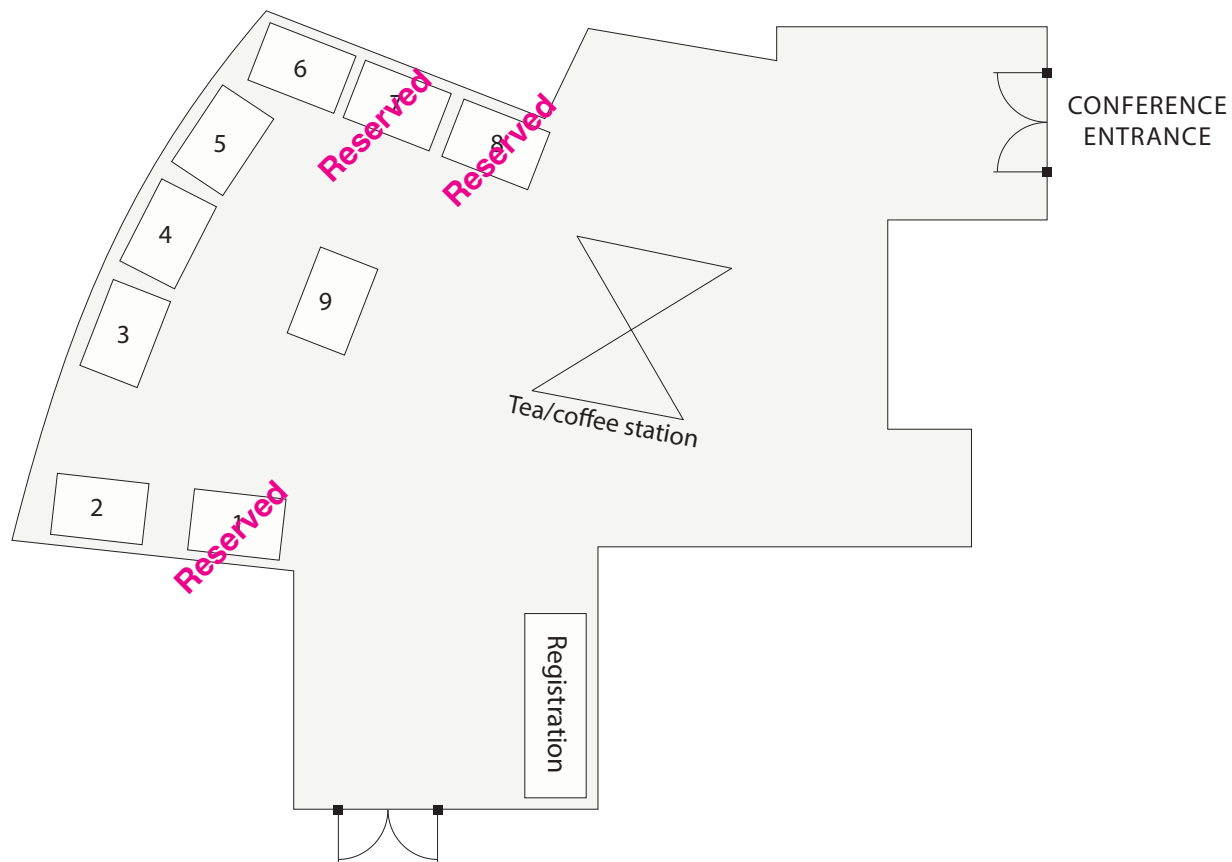
**Richard Rodgers** is Head of Energy Policy at the Department for the Economy. He has more than 25 years of experience working across the energy sector. He started his career with British Gas working in Manchester, Edinburgh and London. He worked for Carillion plc (which acquired Eaga plc) from 2008 until 2013 as Managing Director. Prior to this he worked for Phoenix Natural Gas in Belfast from 1996 to 2008. Richard has also worked for the Strategic Investment Board and been a Non-Executive Director at the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation.



**Dr Benjamin K. Sovacool** is Professor of Energy Policy at the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex Business School in the United Kingdom. There he serves as Director of the Sussex Energy Group. Professor Sovacool works as a researcher and consultant on issues pertaining to energy policy, energy security, climate change mitigation, and climate change adaptation. More specifically, his research focuses on renewable energy and energy efficiency, the politics of large-scale energy infrastructure, designing public policy to improve energy security and access to electricity, and building adaptive capacity to the consequences of climate change. He is a Lead Author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), due to be published in 2022, and an Advisor on Energy to the European Commission's Directorate General for Research and Innovation in Brussels, Belgium. He has played a leadership role in winning and managing collaborative research grants worth more than \$19.6 million, including those from the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. National Science Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Energy Technology Development and Demonstration Program of Denmark, the Danish Council for Independent Research, and the European Commission.

# CONFERENCE EXHIBITION

There are a limited number of opportunities for interested organisations 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 policy and decision makers from across Northern Ireland's energy sector. The 2019 Northern Ireland Energy Forum provides a great opportunity to make contacts and network. For further information on how your organisation can benefit, contact [Olivia Carragher](mailto:olivia.carragher@agendaNi.com) on **028 9261 9933** or email [olivia.carragher@agendaNi.com](mailto:olivia.carragher@agendaNi.com).



## I WISH TO:

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at the Northern Ireland Energy Forum 2019

Delegate fee £235 + VAT @ 20% = £282

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 future agendaNi events and publications

Receive details of sponsorship and exhibition opportunities at the Forum

### Delegate details

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

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### QR code



### 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@agendaNi.com to confirm your booking.

### Terms and conditions

\* For those unable to attend, a substitute participant may be sent at any time for no additional charge. Alternatively for cancellations received in writing, by fax or email, the following charges will apply:

- More than 14 days before the conference: 25% fee
- Less than 14 days before the conference: 100% fee
- Failure to attend: 100% fee.

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