



IERC Conference 2021

Online – April 27th -29th 2021 (Daily: 10:30 – 13:00)

THEME: POST-PANDEMIC CHARGE TOWARDS OUR 2030 TARGETS

ABSTRACT

In 2020, the coalition government committed, as part of its final programme for government, to an average 7% per annum reduction in overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 2021 to 2030 and to achieving net zero emissions in Ireland by 2050. The Covid-19 crisis and its direct impacts on economic activity, has resulted in a 6% reduction in GHG emissions in 2020 compared to 2019 levels with the majority of this drop driven by the transport sector whose declines were due to highly restricted travel. This reduction in GHG emissions, while very welcome brings, brings into focus the challenge that we face in achieving our targets for 2030 and beyond.

Our 2021 conference, which will be held virtually over three-days from Tuesday 27th April to Thursday 29th April, will be a timely opportunity to assess the next steps for to achieve these targets in the context of the early stages of the Covid-19 vaccination programmes in Ireland and the Irish government's approval for the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill.

Keynote contributions from **William Walsh, CEO at SEAI; Marie Donnelly, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council and Marion Jammet, Head of policy and advocacy at Irish Green Building Council**, breakout sessions with IERC researchers, networking opportunities and panel sessions with experts from government, industry and academia, will provide opportunities to explore and evaluate priorities for policy, research and innovation in the energy sector to enable the decarbonisation of the Irish economy.

All sessions will be recorded and made available to view on-demand after the event.

IERC Conference 2021 full agenda

Tuesday, 27 th April 2021 10:30 – 13:00	
<p>Achieving Ireland’s carbon reduction targets for 2030</p> <p><i>Abstract: In 2020, Ireland’s coalition government committed, as part of its final programme for government, to an average 7% per annum reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions from 2021 to 2030 (a 51% reduction over the decade) and to achieving net zero emissions in Ireland by 2050. This goes beyond the targets that have been set previously and will require significantly deeper decarbonisation of the energy, heat and transport sectors than previously planned. This session will explore the implications of this commitment and what might need to happen from a technology, policy and societal point of view to make this 51% reduction in carbon a reality.</i></p>	
10:30	IERC Research Showcase*
10:35	Prof. Brian Norton – IERC
10:45	Keynote 1: William Walsh - SEAI
11:05	Piyush Verma – IERC Speaker
11:25	Break & Networking Event

Wednesday, 28 th April 2021 10:30 – 13:00	
<p>Reimagining the role of the energy market in the transition to Net Zero</p> <p><i>Abstract: Electrical power systems and markets were conceived in an era when large-scale fossil fuel generation plant, connected to the transmission grid, was used to achieve economies of scale and reduce costs for all electricity users. In order to reach Net Zero, the electricity sector will need to be completely decarbonised and become instead highly reliant on renewables installed off-shore, on-shore and distributed deep within the electricity system including in people’s homes and communities. Ireland is at the cutting edge of this revolution within one of highest penetrations of renewable energy in the world. This session will focus on the challenges of developing an energy market that equitably delivers value for all customers and energy producers in the context of zero-marginal cost renewable energy distributed across the system from micro-generators up to multi-GW offshore windfarms.</i></p>	
10:30	IERC Research Showcase*
10:35	Una Nic GiollaChoille - DECC
10:45	Keynote 2: Marie Donnelly - Climate Change Advisory Council
11:05	Shafi Khadem – IERC Speaker
11:25	Break & Networking Event

Thursday, 29 th April 2021 10:30 – 13:00	
<p>Championing Low Carbon Heat & Decarbonising Buildings</p> <p><i>Abstract: Building and construction are responsible for 39% of all carbon emissions across the globe. In Ireland, the residential sector accounts for almost a quarter of Ireland’s carbon emissions with over two thirds of these coming from fossil fuels used primarily to heat residential buildings. Decarbonisation of buildings is non-trivial and existing approaches are expensive and disruptive, in particular to their occupants. Experts from across the building sector provide insights into some of the challenges associated with decarbonising buildings and the potential for low carbon heat generation, in all its forms, to support this transition.</i></p>	
10:30	IERC Research Showcase*
10:35	John Mullins - Amarengo
10:45	Keynote 3: Marion Jammet - Irish Green Buildings Council
11:05	Brian Norton – IERC Speaker
11:25	Break & Networking Event

Tuesday, 27 th April 2021 10:30 – 13:00	
<i>Achieving Ireland's carbon reduction targets for 2030</i>	
12.00	Opening thoughts and panel introduction
	Prof Phil Taylor – University of Bristol, UK
	Prof Brian Ó Gallachóir – MaREI, University College Cork
	Clare Duffy – ESB Networks
	Dr. Piyush Verma - IERC
12:15	Panel debate and Q&A
12:45	Closing Remarks Day 1 Prof. Brian Norton - IERC

Wednesday, 28 th April 2021 10:30 – 13:00	
<i>Reimagining the role of the energy market in the transition to Net Zero</i>	
12.00	Opening thoughts and panel introduction
	Prof Andrew Keane – University College Dublin
	Daniel Ring - Lawler Sustainability
	Ruth Mourik – DuneWorks
	Dr Venizelos Efthymiou - University of Cyprus
12:15	Panel debate and Q&A
12:45	Closing Remarks Day 2 Dr. Pdraig Lyons - IERC

Thursday, 29 th April 2021 10:30 – 13:00	
<i>Championing Low Carbon Heat & Decarbonising Buildings</i>	
12.00	Opening thoughts and panel introduction
	Donna Gartland - Codema
	Siona Daly – Tipperary Energy Agency
	John Beirne - Ervia
	Prof Brian Norton - IERC
12:15	Panel debate and Q&A
12:45	Conference Close Professor Sarah Culloty – University College Cork

*Video showing the IERC projects, team etc.