



Irish
District
Energy
Association

Ireland's Leading District Heating Event

IrDEA 2023 SPEAKERS BIOS

IRISH DISTRICT ENERGY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023

THURSDAY, 26TH OCTOBER 2023
8:30am – 4:30pm
Camden Court Hotel, Dublin City Centre

#IRDEA23

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Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications

Eamon Ryan TD is the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. He was appointed to this role in June 2020.

Eamon Ryan was elected to represent Dublin Bay South in the 2020 general election.

He was born in Dublin and raised in Dundrum and Dartry.

He studied commerce in UCD before taking a job managing a marketing course in the university's School of Business. He went on to found a cycling tourism company, Irish Cycling Safaris, in the late 1980s and in 1996 won the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award.

He was the founding chairperson of the Dublin Cycling Campaign and began his political career as a Dublin City Councillor for the Rathgar-Rathmines ward. He then went on to serve both as a TD for Dublin South and as a Government Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

In recent years he has worked for a European climate organisation and chaired the digital policy group in the Institute of International and European Affairs. He is currently leader of the Green Party/Comhaontas Glas.

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Barry Quinlan, Head of Energy – built environment, retrofit and heat policy, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Barry has a track record of policy development and implementation across complex public policy areas. Barry is currently leading on Energy – Built Environment, Retail and Regulation – overseeing Ireland's objectives in energy efficiency, renewable heat and energy poverty cur

Previously, Barry led on Social and Affordable Housing including affordable purchase and cost rental. Before that, he headed up the Local Government Division leading on all areas of Local Government political and operational modernisation, including major shared services and sectoral re-structuring.



Margie McCarthy, Director of Research and Policy Insights, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)

Margie is Director of Research and Policy Insights, with key responsibilities for analytical and research functions within SEAI including the development and delivery of energy data and insights to support and inform policy decisions, and investment in innovative energy research which contribute to Ireland's energy transition. As a member of the Executive Leadership Team of SEAI, she contributes to the development and implementation of organisational strategy and operationalising that strategy for optimal delivery of results.

Margie is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of Engineers Ireland. She joined SEAI from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), where she served as Head of Education and Public Engagement and as Interim Director of Science for Society. Margie contributes to national energy related task forces and has served on several national education and skills policy groups. She is currently a Board member of the National Gallery of Ireland.

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Yvonne Murphy, Chief Executive Officer, Irish District Energy Association

Yvonne is a policy and advocacy professional with approx. 20 years of experience across politics, academia, community and voluntary organisations, and private industry. Her academic background is varied, with degrees in Geography and Law and an ongoing PhD in Political Science.

Having spent several years working in Irish electoral and parliamentary politics, Yvonne moved out of this field to combine a part-time PhD in Political Science with a professional focus on university teaching and research, and advocacy, coalition building, and policy/ public affairs roles in the private and charitable sectors.

A member of the boards of EuroHeat and Power, Renewable Energy Ireland, SECAD, and the Citizens Information Phone Service, Yvonne brings a rich and varied background to bear in her current role as CEO of the Irish District Energy Association.



David Connolly, Chairperson, Irish District Energy Association

David Connolly is currently Chairperson of the Irish District Energy Association, which he co-founded in 2017 and CEO of HeatGrid Ireland, which is developing low-carbon district heating networks in Ireland. He previously worked as an Associate Professor in Aalborg University Denmark, where he specialised in national energy planning and in particular the potential for district heating across Europe. He led the Heat Roadmap Europe project which underpinned the first Heating & Cooling Strategy ever developed by the European Commission. He returned to Ireland from Denmark in 2017 and went on to become the CEO of Wind Energy Ireland, Ireland's largest energy association and also worked on the delivery of solar PV and high-temperature heat pumps for industrial customers, including as part of the team which delivered Ireland's (and the UK's) first ever heat pump to supply over 100°C.

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Terry Mc Givern, Managing Director, LOGSTOR

With over twenty years of experience as a Managing Director in UK, Ireland, France and Germany, Terry brings considerable managerial skills and international exposure to the Logstor business.

Terry has a law degree with accounting from the UK, business education in USA and executive education in London Business School and Insead. He is passionate about building teams and developing positive culture in a client led environment.



John O'Shea, Senior Energy Systems Analyst & Heat & Electricity Lead, Codema – Dublin's Energy Agency

John is an expert in district heating and cooling networks, having worked in the areas of heat planning, policy development, detailed design, and project delivery of such systems across Europe and the Middle East over the last decade. Since joining Codema in 2018, John has worked extensively on new large-scale district heating projects in Dublin as a technical advisor supporting the local Councils in design evaluation, stakeholder engagement, procurement, contract development and strategic development.



Jackie Keaney, Policy & Commercial Director, Indaver Ireland & UK

Jackie is Policy & Commercial Director of Indaver in Ireland & UK and has worked with the company for over 25 years focusing on policy, communications & business development. Indaver has been operating Ireland's first waste-to-energy facility since 2011 and has advanced plans to develop other facilities on the Island as well as in England and Scotland.

Jackie is also Vice President of CEWEP Europe (the Confederation of European Waste to Energy Plants) and President of CEWEP Ireland. Representing CEWEP members in Ireland, she contributes to the development of circular economy, energy and net zero carbon policy at an EU level.

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George Robinson, Head of Finance and Investment, Heat Networks Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, UK

George co-leads the Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) within the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero with a key focus on addressing investment and commercial barriers facing the sector. He forms part of the core leadership within heat network zoning policy, leading on how heat network zones will be brought to market and the possible role of a central authority to co-ordinate the strategic roll out of heat network zones. He has a background in project finance advisory having worked for over a decade in a big 4 accountancy firm where he specialised in decentralised energy networks prior to joining DESNZ.



Amy Radlberger, EU Funding Expert, Wiener Stadtwerke Competence Center EU Funding

Amy Radlberger has been working on EU funding for over 20 years in the UK, Brussels and Vienna. She is currently working for the Competence Center for EU Funding at the municipal utilities company Wiener Stadtwerke, which includes Wien Energie (Austria's largest energy provider) and Wiener Netze (Austria's largest electricity and natural gas distributor). Amy mainly works on projects which will decarbonize Vienna's district heating network (one of the longest in the world).



Chris Garside, Director, Legal and Commercialisation Lead, Resourceful Futures Limited

Chris Garside has 20 years legal, investment and commercialisation experience in urban infrastructure with a long-term specialism in urban heat and cooling networks. Chris worked for international law firms Eversheds Sutherland and DAC Beachcroft and is former Legal and Commercial Director at SDCL, manager of a UK impact fund deploying capital into net zero infrastructure on behalf of the UK Green Investment Bank and European Investment Bank.

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Chris is, alongside the Swedish Environmental Research Institute, co-founder of the European collaboration platform – TEN21 (www.ten21.eu). TEN21 advises projects, policy-makers and investors on unlocking actions to deliver decarbonised thermal grids. This includes work around advanced modelling, incorporation of recycled heat, smart storage and grid flexibility. Chris also works on UK Government Advanced Zoning Pilot, the UK Coal Authority on minewater heat extraction and with Dublin's Codema on development of its Tallaght district heating scheme and its energy efficiency project, DeliverRee..

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Matteo Pozzi, CEO and Partner, Optit

Matteo Pozzi, following a MSci in Physics and a Diploma in International Relations, is CEO and partner of Optit, innovative SME that provides Decision Support Systems based on Analytics & AI to improve operational performance of District Energy utilities. He serves as Vice-Chair of DHC+, Research & Innovation hub platform of EuroHeat & Power, where he coordinates the working group on digitalization.



Jeremy Bungey, Director, lEnergy Group Limited

Jeremy is recognised as one of the leading figures in the development of district heating across the UK. A chartered accountant by background, Jeremy created and ran the UK's market leading district heating company whilst at E.ON. Jeremy is now leading lEnergy, a start up at the vanguard of city scale retrofit projects.



Rita Gnehm, Project Manager for Energy and Climate, Partner, Planar

Rita studied environmental sciences at ETH Zurich. Since 10 years she has been working for PLANAR AG für Raumentwicklung, where she mainly develops energy plans (heating and cooling plans) and climate strategies for and with cities and municipalities. In these projects, gas decommissioning has been consistently considered for the past five years. As a speaker, she is happy to share her experience in energy planning, as well as the tendering of heating networks and the implementation of energy regulations in land use plans. Since 1st of July this year, she is one of six board members at PLANAR.

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Kristina Lygnerud, Intrapreneur and senior energy expert, IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute

Kristina has worked on district energy since 2004 when she initiated her PhD. It addresses innovative capability and risk management in district energy companies. After the PhD Kristina worked as a strategy and business developer at one of Sweden's ten largest multi utility companies (Borås Energi och Miljö). She left this position for returning to academia (20% at Halmstad University) and for working at the Swedish Environment Research Institute (80%). In these roles she has coordinated projects for both the IEA-DHC and EU on low temperature implementation (projects Annex TS2 Guidebook for implementation of low temperature district heating and ReUseHeat targeting demonstration of low temperature waste heat recovery). She was elected on the board of the European knowledge hub for district energy (DHC+) in 2018 and later as chair (2021). In September last year she has left Halmstad University for a role as Professor at Lund University. Kristina is an economist specialized in industrial and financial economics and tends to bridge the gap between engineers and economists.



Saška Rihtaršič, Vice President District Energy, Danfoss

Saška has been part of Danfoss for 24 years. As a mechanical engineer, she joined the company in 1999 as a supply chain coordinator, for the past few years she headed the development department, and this year she took up a new position as Vice president for district energy in the Danfoss Hydronics division. Saška is passionate about digitalization, end-to-end optimisation and modernisation of district heating technology, particularly the 4th generation of district heating, which enables and supports integration of variable energy resources, particularly renewables and waste energy.

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Victor Ferré, Senior Director of Vertical Marketing for Building Solutions, Xylem Europe

Victor leads the development and execution of go-to-market strategies for Xylem's water solutions portfolio in the built environment. During the 20 years of customer-facing, international business development experience in the water technology sector, Victor has identified new opportunities and built long-term partnerships. A natural communicator, networker, and creative thinker, Victor inspires his team to venture into new strategic directions, foster a culture of innovation and collaboration, and deliver exceptional results. Victor's goal is to make Xylem the trusted partner and leader in smart water solutions for buildings in Europe and beyond. Growing Xylem's presence in District Heating & Cooling plays a big role in Victor's daily work.

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Mark Sheridan, Product Support and Compliance Engineer, Hevac

Mark Sheridan studied at Dublin Institute of Technology, Bolton Street and graduated with a B.Eng (Hons) in Building Services Engineering.

He joined Hevac in 2017 as a Technical Sales Engineer before advancing to the roles of Office Manager and Specifications Manager. Mark emigrated to Canada in 2019 and rejoined employment with Hevac upon his return to Ireland in 2022.

Mark is the Product Support and Compliance Engineer for Hevac, working with the High-Density Residential department currently designing and supplying Air to Water heat pump systems, Underfloor Heating, Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery, District Heating pipework and Heat Interface Units for numerous housing and apartment developments across the country.



Brian Keville, Managing Director, MKO Ireland

Brian is the Managing Director of MKO, Ireland's largest planning and environmental consultancy with renewable energy a company specialism. He has 20 years' professional consultancy experience as a project director, project manager and lead coordinator of environmental impact assessments for renewable energy and other large-scale infrastructure projects. MKO have advised on over 2.5GW of Irish wind energy projects, 500MW+ of solar, and every manner of utility infrastructure. MKO has been at the cutting edge of the environmental planning fields in Ireland for the last decade. Director of MKO, Ireland's largest planning and environmental consultancy with renewable energy a company specialism. He has 20 years' professional consultancy experience as a project director, project manager and lead coordinator of environmental impact assessments for renewable energy and other large-scale infrastructure projects. MKO have advised on over 2.5GW of Irish wind energy projects, 500MW+ of solar, and every manner of utility infrastructure. MKO has been at the cutting edge of the environmental planning fields in Ireland for the last decade.

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Finola Igoe, Senior Associate, Project, Construction & Energy Group, Philip Lee

Finola Igoe is a senior associate in the Project, Construction & Energy Group in Philip Lee LLP with over 12 years' experience advising clients – to include developers, contractors, funders, design professionals and sub-contractors – on all aspects of large-scale commercial and residential developments in both the private and public sector. Finola is part of the team in Philip Lee LLP advising on the contractual and regulatory landscape for district heating in Ireland.



James Enright, District Heating Manager, Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)

James Enright is the Manager of the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) District Heating team. He is responsible for the delivery of the CRU's regulatory framework for District Heating. He is also responsible for the CRU's certification of High Efficiency Combined Heat and Power plants for the purposes of renewable energy supports.

He previously worked in the CRU's Networks and Economic Regulation Division. Prior to this, he held roles as an energy market reporter for publications in London and as a reporter for the Sunday Business Post. He holds Bachelors (Business) and Masters (Journalism) Degrees from the University of Limerick.



Samantha Shea, Head of Policy Insight and Engagement, Gemserv

Samantha is Head of Policy Insight and Engagement in Gemserv's Low Carbon team specialises in the management of complex projects to support the development of low carbon policy and markets for industry partners, local and national government. She specialises in providing policy advocacy support, developing engagement strategies and delivering qualitative and quantitative research across a range of energy topics with a particular emphasis on the built environment.

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She leads on our work on heat networks and has worked with the UK Government since 2017 on capital funding for the sector. This included supporting the Heat Networks Investment Project, Heat Network Efficiency Scheme, and Green Heat Network Fund. She is also working with the industry to develop heat network technical standards. Throughout her work, she has achieved successful engagement evidenced significant investment to drive cutting edge heat network applications in across England and Wales.

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