

Decarbonising Dublin Summit



*Shaping a fairer, greener Dublin
through community, collaboration and change*

Meet the Speakers

9am-3.30pm, Tuesday, 21st October 2025
Aviva Stadium, Dublin

#DECARBONISINGDUBLIN



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Meet the Speakers

SESSION 1

SUMMIT WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION



DONNA GARTLAND

CEO, Codema - Dublin's Energy Agency

Donna is responsible for driving Codema's strategy, providing direction, oversight and leadership. Donna is also a member of the Board of Codema directors.

She is known for driving the development of District Heating in Ireland over the past 10 years and is a Director at the IrDEA and HeatWorks. Since taking on the CEO role in 2020, Codema has more than doubled in staff numbers, she has introduced innovations such as a 4 day week and an equal paid family leave policy for all staff.

Donna holds a BSc in Energy & Environmental Engineering and MSc in Energy Systems Planning & Management.



HANNAH BYRNE

**Communications and Engagement Coordinator,
Codema - Dublin's Energy Agency**

Hannah is Codema's Communications and Engagement Coordinator. Hannah holds an MSc. in Climate Change: Policy, Media and Society from DCU and a B.A. in Politics and Sociology from Maynooth University.

Before joining Codema, Hannah worked for a number of years in the non-profit sector and more recently in the local government sector with a focus on digital communications and content management.

Hannah also holds a Professional Diploma in Project Management from the UCD Professional Academy, and a Diploma in Digital Marketing from Irish Times Training.

SESSION 2

PROGRESS AND POSSIBILITY - DUBLIN'S 2030 PRIORITIES



FERGUS SHARKEY

Head of Business Supports, SEAI

Fergus is an experienced engineer and proven leader in the energy and sustainability sector. Currently, he's Head of Business Supports in SEAI, helping to lead Ireland's energy transition. His team provides a wide range of supports to businesses looking to improve energy efficiency and adopt renewable energy.



MARIE DONNELLY

Chairperson, Climate Change Advisory Council

Marie Donnelly spent thirty years with the European Commission, ultimately as Director for Renewables, Energy Efficiency and Innovation, and was a leading advocate of future oriented policies and strategies: providing a fair deal for consumers; putting energy efficiency first; and achieving global leadership in renewable energies. Marie is a member of the Governance Committee of MaREI, and an Advisory board member of UCD Energy Institute.

Marie was the first Chairperson of Renewable Energy Ireland - an open partnership of sustainable energy associations working collectively to support the energy transition in Ireland. She was also a non-executive director of Tipperary Energy Agency - a social enterprise for energy efficiency; and E3G, a European climate change think tank operating to accelerate the global transition to a low carbon economy. Before joining the Commission, Marie was a Director of the Federation of Irish Chemical Industries, prior to which she was an executive with the Kerry Group. Marie is a Senior Advisor in Brussels to Penta, a global Communications Agency.



PROFESSOR BRIAN CAULFIELD

Professor in Transportation, Trinity College Dublin

Prof Caulfield is Professor in Transportation in the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering. His research addresses global issues such as the environmental impacts of transport and methods to reduce the carbon impacts of transport.

He is an Editor of Transport Policy, a leading international highly ranked journal. Additionally, he is a member of the International Editorial Board of Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment, Case Studies on Transport Policy, the Journal of Cycling and Micro-mobility Research, and the Journal of Transport Geography.

With over 200 published papers in international journals and conferences, Prof Caulfield to date has been awarded approximately €10 million in research funding. He currently has 9 PhD students and 6 postdoctoral researchers in his research group.



PAULINE O'REILLY

Chief Executive Officer, Irish District Energy Association

Pauline O'Reilly is the CEO of the Irish District Energy Association, which promotes district heating and cooling in Ireland. Prior to taking up this role Pauline served as a Senator, City Councillor, and Chairperson of the Green Party. She also worked as a solicitor in Galway and has been in leadership roles across the environmental, educational and social justice sectors in Ireland.



ERIC DENNIS
Programme Manager, KSN Energy

Over the past 11 years, Eric has worked on several national energy upgrade programmes and pilot projects with KSN Energy. He is as a Mentor on the SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities programme in Fingal since 2020, and on the Regional Co-ordinator team in the Dublin and Mid-East region since 2024.



SIOBHÁN O'SHEA
Chief Infrastructure Officer Onshore, EirGrid

Siobhán O'Shea was appointed Chief Infrastructure Officer Onshore (Interim) in May 2025. In her role, she is responsible for the planning and consenting of onshore grid infrastructure, including the public consultation processes and landowner engagement, and customer connections across the Republic of Ireland.

Siobhán has held a range of senior leadership roles in EirGrid Group in Group Regulation and External Affairs as well as Head of Front Office for the Single Electricity Market Operator, Head of Connections & Contracts in Ireland & Northern Ireland, Head of Customers & Connections, Head of Network Projects Ireland and Head of Infrastructure Delivery.

She has a Masters of Science degree in Environmental Resource Management and a degree in Economics & Geography from UCD and a postgraduate diploma in Project Management from TCD.

SESSION 3

NEW COMMUNITY-LEVEL ACTION - GRASSROOTS SOLUTIONS FOR LOCAL IMPACT



MEAGHAN CARMODY

Senior Sustainability Adviser, Business in the Community Ireland

Meaghan Carmody is a Senior Sustainability Adviser with Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI), where she leads the ambitious Accelerate Pact campaign which aims to establish an Irish Centre of Excellence dedicated to developing corporate Climate Transition Plans. She brings ample experience in fostering engagement for climate action, gained through her leadership roles in Coalition 2030, a multisectoral alliance advocating for Ireland's achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, as well as her work with Friends of the Earth Ireland, the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition, and the UCD School of Social Work, Social Policy, and Social Justice. She holds a Master's degree in International Political Economy from University College Dublin (UCD).



EAMONN DONLYN

Balbriggan Sustainable Energy Community

Eamonn Donlyn is a critical thinker with a career spanning 20 years in media and technology including two Emmy Awards in TV. He has founded multiple startups, a Think Tank and currently works in Smart Cities at Trinity College along with serving as the Chairperson for the Balbriggan SEC CLG.



CÉLINE REILLY
Phibsboro Village Climate Club

Céline Reilly is a Civil Engineer and currently chairs the Phibsboro Village Climate Club/SEC where she is involved in projects to deliver on their Energy Master plan and drive decarbonisation in Phibsboro.

Céline retired in 2021 from her role as Executive Manager with the Environment and Transportation Department at Dublin City Council. She is a graduate of both the University of Galway and University College Dublin (Masters in Water and Environmental Engineering), is a Chartered Member of Engineers Ireland and previously chaired Vita Ireland, an Irish development partner supporting farmers and communities in East Africa.

Prior to her retirement, Céline combined her role as Executive Manager with that of Energy Performance Officer for the Council and developed the Climate Change Action Plan for Dublin City Council, progressing initiatives on climate mitigation, adaptation, and communications. Céline was also involved on the national committees on Climate Action with the City and County Managers Association.



GARY TYRRELL
Climate Action Officer, South Dublin County Council

Gary Tyrrell is the Climate Action Officer with South Dublin County Council (SDCC). In this role, he is involved in a range of duties related to climate change, including working on the SDCC Climate Change Action Plan, promoting and implementing climate action initiatives and engaging with SDCC staff and the community on environmental issues.



ALANJAMES BURNS

Neurodivergent, environmental and audiovisual artist, curator and festival maker

AlanJames Burns (they/them) is a neurodivergent, environmental and audiovisual artist, curator and festival maker producing interactive, socially engaged and site-specific projects. The focal points of their highly collaborative practice are disability, climate emergency and a just society.

Their projects include; 'I, Clondalkin', 2025, a just transition project with Clondalkin communities supported by CODEMA, South Dublin Arts Office and Climate Office; 'Disrupt Disability Arts Festival', ongoing, an annual festival taking place on at Project Arts centre and online; 'Divergently Together', 2024-26 a national Creative Ireland and Research Ireland climate action project exploring the climate crisis through the perspective of disability; 'Our Place', 2023-26, a collaborative place making visual arts project with artist Sinead McCann and co-designed alongside adults with intellectual disabilities supported by SJOG Liffey Service and Carlow Arts Festival.



CLARE KELLY

Associate Professor, Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience

Clare Kelly (PhD) is an Associate Professor in the School of Psychology and School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin. Clare is a neuroscientist who uses brain imaging to better understand psychiatric conditions by tracing their origins in the developing brain. Recently, Clare's focus has shifted towards teaching, research, and advocacy on the climate and biodiversity crisis. Her teaching on the psychology of the climate crisis has been recognised with a Sustainability Leadership Award and two Teaching Awards. In her research and advocacy, Clare argues that universities must embrace their social and moral responsibility to educate and to act on our planetary crisis.

SESSION 4

RETHINKING DUBLIN - FAIR AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR A LOW-CARBON FUTURE



ALI SHERIDAN

Chair, Just Transition Commission of Ireland

Ali has spent almost 20 years working across the public, private, and civil society sectors at both domestic and international levels with a key focus on mobilising diverse societal actors towards ambitious and fair climate action.

In late 2024, Ali was appointed Chair of the newly established Just Transition Commission of Ireland. She also currently works with the UN High Level Climate Champions and has held a diverse range of climate leadership positions including at the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, IKEA, and Bord Bia, as well as previous roles with the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative, and the Green-Schools programme of An Taisce.



SARAH LONGLANDS

Chief Executive, Centre for Local Economic Strategies

Sarah is the Chief Executive of CLES, the Centre for Local Economic Strategies, one of the leading UK think tanks for economic change. Sarah is an advocate for investment in local public services and the creation of places which enable people to live good lives. Before joining CLES in 2021, Sarah was Director of the institute of Public Policy Research in the North of England where she campaigned for greater devolution of powers and resources from Whitehall. She has a PhD in Urban Studies from the University of Glasgow. She grew up in Coleraine, Northern Ireland.



SARAH BLAKE

Senior Geologist, Geological Survey of Ireland

Dr Sarah Blake leads the Geothermal Programme at Geological Survey Ireland. Current activities include developing and maintaining the National Geothermal Database, hosting national-scale geothermal energy events for a wide range of stakeholders, and participating in the groundbreaking all-island GEMINI geothermal demonstration project.



SINÉAD MURPHY

Active Travel Unit, Fingal County Council

Sinéad Murphy is a Chartered Engineer with over 30 years of experience delivering complex, multi-disciplinary infrastructure projects and strategic policy across Ireland, the USA, and Australia. With a career spanning consultancy and senior public sector leadership, Sinéad brings expertise in strategic planning, project governance and sustainable development.

Currently serving as Senior Engineer in Fingal County Council, Sinéad manages the Active Travel Unit which delivers both sustainable infrastructure and innovative initiatives to facilitate significant behavioural change and ensure resilient transport for current and future generations. Under her leadership and working collaboratively with elected representatives, traders and residents, the unit has rapidly grown and delivered transformative projects that are already reshaping public spaces, communities and mobility across the region.

Sinéad holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) from UCD. In addition Sinéad earned postgraduate qualifications in project management, construction law/contract administration and a Masters of Engineering from Trinity College Dublin, as well as built environment qualifications from both SETU and MTU.



GAVIN HARTE
SEC Regional Coordinator & Mentor

Gavin Harte brings over two decades of expertise in sustainable development, climate action, and community engagement. As an SEC Regional Coordinator & Mentor, he has been deeply involved in the SEAI Sustainable Energy Community programme since 2016, playing a key role in its development and delivery across the Dublin MidEast region. His work focuses on empowering communities to drive their own energy transitions through strategic planning, project management, and tailored engagement. Gavin's career highlights also include founding the Cloughjordan Eco-Village, demonstrating his commitment to fostering community energy resilience and achieving net-zero emissions.



CLARE O'CONNOR
Programme Coordinator, Friends of The Earth Ireland

Clare O'Connor leads on heat and energy efficiency policy with Friends of the Earth, where she works at the intersection of sustainability, social justice, and systemic change. Her work focuses on accelerating the fossil fuel phaseout in a way that is inclusive and rooted in the lived realities of those most impacted by climate change and the energy transition.

Clare currently coordinates research and advocacy on heat decarbonisation and energy poverty, contributing to national and EU legislative and policy processes. She established and currently coordinates a civil society network on energy poverty and has played a key role in pushing for a just and equitable approach to decarbonisation. Clare's work is driven by a belief that for climate action to be effective, it must not only reduce emissions, but also address the structural causes of social inequality.

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