

Speakers



Mervyn Adams, Senior Consultant, ESB Wind Development

Mervyn's career in the electrical industry has spanned 36 years with NIE in a variety of construction, operational and management posts, his final position being Programme Delivery Manager responsible for all capital investment projects and annual maintenance programmes. Since leaving NIE in 2007 Mervyn has been involved with the renewable sector as a grid advisor and Senior Authoriser Person; working principally with ESB Asset Development but also with a variety of other renewable operatives. Mervyn is actively involved in renewable industry support, being the Grid group chairman for NIRIG as well as participating in the DS3 Advisory Committee, working party and the Joint Grid Code Review Panel.



Rory Mullan, Director and Senior Project Engineer, MullanGrid Consulting

Rory Mullan is a senior consultant and director of MullanGrid Consulting. A qualified Electrical Engineer, Rory has worked in the Irish Electricity Industry for over 15 years in various commercial and technical roles in utility and consultancy sectors. Rory is also a member of the IWEA council and the IWEA & NIRIG Grid Committees.



Noel Thompson, Presenter, BBC Northern Ireland

Noel Thompson is the presenter of BBC Radio Ulster's Good Morning Ulster programme. He also anchors the popular Spotlight Special discussion programme on BBC1NI. He is a two time winner of the Royal Television Society's Presenter of the Year Award, and is the recipient of an honorary Master's degree from the Open University. He was educated at Campbell College in Belfast and St Catharine's College Cambridge.



Angus Kerr, Director of Planning Policy Division, DOE

Angus Kerr is a chartered Town Planner with 19 years' experience working in a wide range of planning posts. He worked in the team that prepared the original Regional Development Strategy and has more recently worked on several development plans across Northern Ireland. In his previous post Angus led the team developing the new Development Plan system for Northern Ireland as part of the wider Planning Reform process. He was then involved in the team that took the Planning Reform Bill through the Assembly, which is the largest Bill to go through the Assembly thus far. His current post is in DOE Planning Policy Division leading the team responsible for Planning Policy in Northern Ireland.



David Manning, Director of Corporate Affairs, SSE Ireland

David Manning is Director of Corporate Affairs for SSE Ireland and is responsible for SSE's corporate communications, public affairs, community, and research and development programmes in Ireland. Previously Head of Public Affairs for SSE Ireland, David joined the company in July 2008 from the Irish Business Employers Confederation where he was Head of Energy Policy. He has worked in the areas of energy and environment policy for over a decade.



Fergal O'Donnell, Community Development Officer, Rural Community Network

Fergal has over ten years' experience working in the public, private, voluntary and community sectors. He has managed a number of youth work, community development and peace building initiatives in rural and urban communities across the region. With a BSc Hons in Management and a Postgraduate qualification in Community Youth Work, he is an experienced trainer, facilitator, evaluator and researcher. Fergal is currently leading on a local initiative to explore a number of community owned wind and hydro schemes. He is employed as Community Development Officer with Rural Community Network and is involved in the lead advisory group for the community benefit fund of Crockagarran wind farm in Co. Tyrone.



Kenneth Matthews, Chief Executive, IWEA Ltd

Kenneth joined IWEA as CEO in September 2011. He has over 14 years' experience in the energy industry in Ireland having worked with Intel, EirGrid and ESB. He worked in power system operation, protection and transmission access planning in EirGrid. Kenneth has also worked in ESB Power Generation holding numerous management roles including Production Manager Poolbeg Power Station and Station Manager Ardnacrusha Power Station. He has been involved in delivering numerous projects across power generation from safety to power plant overhauls, he also developed and led a stakeholder management and engagement programme for ESB's hydro portfolio. A BEng Hons graduate from University of Ulster, he holds a diploma in Industrial studies.

Exhibiting Companies



"Partnership for Progress"

NIRIG 2014 Policy Workshop

30th January 2014, Hilton Hotel, 4 Lanyon Place, Belfast

Main Sponsors:



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"Partnership for Progress"

NIRIG 2014 Policy Workshop

Thursday 30th January 2014 - Hilton Hotel, Belfast

8:00am Registration, Tea, Coffee & Exhibition Viewing

Session 1 Partnership for Progress Chair: Gary Connolly, Outgoing NIRIG Chairperson

09:20	Gary Connolly, Outgoing NIRIG Chairperson & NI Development Manager, ESB Wind Development	"Welcome Address"
09:30	Arlene Foster MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment	"Ministerial Address"
09:50	Jenny Pyper, Chief Executive, NIAUR	"Keynote Speech"
10:10	Questions & Answers	
10:45	Tea, Coffee & Exhibition Viewing	

Session 2 Partnerships for Markets Chair: Dorit McCann, Associate, Carson McDowell

11:15	Robin McCormick, General Manager, SONI & SEMO	"Towards 2016 - High-Level Principles"
11:35	Maf Smith, Deputy Chief Executive, RenewableUK	"EMR and Access to Markets in Northern Ireland"
11:55	Seamus Hegarty, Senior Development and Project Manager, Energia Renewables	"Perspective on Regional Integration"
12:15	Questions & Answers	
12:30	Lunch	

Session 3 Partnerships for Grid Chair: Richard Murphy, Head of Energy & Natural Resources (Ire), Pinsent Masons LLP

14:00	Robert Wasson, Asset Management Director, Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE)	"RP5 and Network 25"
14:20	Mervyn Adams, Senior Consultant, ESB Wind Development	"Developer's Perspective on Grid Development in NI"
14:40	Rory Mullan, Director and Senior Project Engineer, MullanGrid Consulting	"The Future Grid in NI"
15:10	Questions & Answers	
15:20	Tea, Coffee & Exhibition Viewing	

Session 4 Panel Session: Partnership with Communities Moderator: Noel Thompson, Presenter, BBC Northern Ireland

15.45	Angus Kerr, Director of Planning Policy Division, DOE David Manning, Director of Corporate Affairs, SSE Ireland Fergal O'Donnell, Community Development Officer, Rural Community Network Kenneth Matthews, Chief Executive, IWEA Ltd
16:45	Workshop Close

Speakers



Gary Connolly, Outgoing NIRIG Chairperson & NI Development Manager, ESB Wind Development

Gary Connolly has worked with ESB Wind Development for over six years managing the development of wind projects in Northern Ireland. In addition to his projects role, Gary has worked closely with other developers through NIRIG to represent the opinions and concerns of the onshore wind industry in Northern Ireland. Gary obtained a degree in Agricultural Engineering in 1992 from Cranfield Institute of Technology. He spent 15 years working for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) in engineering education and technology transfer. Farm scale renewable energy technologies became the focus of his attention in the latter stages of his time with DARD.



Arlene Foster MLA, Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

Arlene Foster is MLA for Fermanagh and South Tyrone. She was first elected in November 2003, re-elected in March 2007 and again in May 2011. Arlene Foster MLA was appointed to her second term as Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment on 16 May 2011, having previously held the portfolio from 10 June 2008 until 5 May 2011. Prior to that she held the position of Minister of the Environment from 8 May 2007 to 10 June 2008. By profession she is a lawyer and was in private practice as a Solicitor from 1996 until she became a Minister.



Jenny Pyper, Chief Executive, NIAUR

Jenny Pyper joined the Utility Regulator as Chief Executive on 1 November 2013. Jenny is a BSc Honours graduate of Queen's University, Belfast who joined the NI Civil Service in 1985. She was appointed to the senior civil service in 2004 as director of energy policy in the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment where she managed policy and legislative responsibilities in relation to the electricity, gas and renewable energy industries in Northern Ireland. She moved to take up the post of director of regional planning and transportation in the Department for Regional Development. She was promoted to deputy secretary in the Department for Social Development in July 2011, with responsibility for urban regeneration and community development.



Dorit McCann, Associate, Carson McDowell

Dorit heads up the EU, Competition & Regulation Team at Carson McDowell LLP. She specialises in EU, competition and regulatory law, particularly in the energy sector. Dorit advises a wide range of clients in the renewable energy sector and most recently was involved in providing regulatory advice to Bord Gais in relation to the proposed sale of its energy business. She is also currently advising Mantlin Limited on the sale of Slieve Rushen Wind Farm.



Robin McCormick, General Manager, SONI & SEMO

Robin McCormick has extensive experience in the power industry in a regulated utility environment. He was General Manager of SONI when it partnered with five organisations-EirGrid, DETI, DCENR, NIAUR and CER -to establish the Single Electricity Market in 2007. Subsequently EirGrid acquired SONI in 2009 and in his role as an Executive Director carries a portfolio of responsibilities including responsibility for Group Customer Relations and SEMO, the single electricity market operator. He has participated in the board to establish the transmission system operators' regional association with ENTSO-E. Robin is a fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, a Member of the IET Engineering Policy Group-Northern Ireland and IoD. He holds an MBA from the University of Ulster, Jordanstown and an MSc from Napier University Edinburgh.



Maf Smith, Deputy Chief Executive, RenewableUK

Maf Smith is the Deputy Chief Executive of RenewableUK - the trade and professional body for the UK wind and marine renewables industries. Formed in 1978, and with over 600 corporate members, RenewableUK is the leading renewable energy trade association in the UK. Prior to joining RenewableUK Maf worked at grid and regulatory consultancy Xero Energy, and for much of this time was seconded to the Department of Energy and Climate Change to work on Electricity Market Reform. Between 2006 and 2011, Maf worked as Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Scotland for the Sustainable Development Commission, acting as advisor and scrutiny body to the Scottish Government. Between 2002 and 2006 Maf was Chief Executive of Scottish Renewables, Scotland's leading renewable trade association.



Seamus Hegarty, Senior Development and Project Manager, Energia Renewables

Seamus Hegarty joined Viridian Power and Energy in 2005 from NIE where he had over 20 years' experience in planning, construction and commissioning of electrical infrastructure. He is currently responsible for delivering Energia's Northern Ireland wind generation portfolio. Prior to his appointment as Senior Development and Project Manager he held the position of Renewables Development Manager, securing off-take supply contracts from renewable generators on the island of Ireland. In NIE he has held the senior positions of Network Operations Manager, NIE Infrastructure and Six Sigma Black Belt, Business Improvement, NIE. Seamus is the current Markets Group chair of the Northern Ireland Renewables Industry Group (NIRIG).



Richard Murphy, Head of Energy & Natural Resources (Ire), Pinsent Masons LLP

Richard Murphy is Head of Energy & Natural Resources (Ireland) at Pinsent Masons LLP and is based in the firm's Belfast office. Richard specialises in energy related projects and acquisitions/disposals. His energy expertise and experience includes advising clients on energy regulation and legislative/licensing matters, transactional and advisory work, all-island energy market issues and competition law. 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 also the current Chairman of the Company & Commercial Lawyers Group in Northern Ireland.



Robert Wasson, Asset Management Director, Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE)

Robert Wasson was appointed Asset Management Director at Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) in 2011. He led the transition process after the acquisition of NIE by ESB in 2010. An electrical and electronic engineering graduate of Queen's University Belfast, Robert previously worked at ESB and ESB International. In 1999, Robert moved to consulting, where he led KPMG's organisational review practice in Ireland.