

Ireland's gas network

Keeping Ireland's energy moving

July 2025



Our vision is to be at the heart of Ireland's energy future

Gas Networks Ireland operates and maintains Ireland's state owned €3bn, 14,758km national gas network, which is considered one of the safest and most modern renewables-ready gas networks in Europe.

Over 720,000 Irish homes and businesses across 23 counties trust Ireland's gas network to provide efficient and reliable energy to meet their heating, cooking, manufacturing and transport needs.

The gas network is a vital national asset, transporting 30% of Ireland's primary energy needs and is a major contributor to electricity supplies. On average 41% of Ireland's electricity is produced from gas. We are transforming our business to deliver a repurposed, resized, and fully decarbonised gas network, to transport renewable gases (biomethane and hydrogen) and to support the Irish governments climate ambitions of a carbon-neutral economy by 2050.

The gas network is:

Safe

 One of the most modern and safest networks in Europe, operated to the highest ISO and safety standards



- Managed safely to ensure that publicreported escapes of gas are responded to within the hour, with an average response time of 28 minutes
- Safer due to public awareness created through safety campaigns on Gas Emergency Service, Dial Before You Dig, Registered Gas Installers, Meter Tampering and Carbon Monoxide Awareness.

Reliable

 Providing a safe and secure supply of gas, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, designed to be resilient even during the harshest weather conditions



- Providing almost one third of Ireland's primary energy today, and delivering essential backup for intermittent renewable electricity generation
- Supplying energy crucial for economic and societal growth, job creation and attracting and retaining foreign direct investment

Flexible

 Supplying multiple sectors of our economy across power, industry, homes and transport



- Providing instantaneous on-demand energy if and when you need it
- Capable of transporting renewable gases such as biomethane and hydrogen

Transforming

 Serving Ireland's energy needs today, while transforming into a fully decarbonised network



- Part of an integrated energy system and by collaborating with stakeholders we will develop a more integrated approach to planning our future energy system
- Supporting the government's ambition to achieve long-term climate and energy goals

Gas value chain in Ireland

A wide range of stakeholders are engaged in the delivery of Ireland's natural gas and renewable gas needs. These span the breadth of the supply chain from production to delivery to the customer.

How it works

Gas producers (1) produce the gas which shippers (3) deliver to the gas network, which is owned and managed by the network operator, Gas Networks Ireland (2). Within the Irish market, seven suppliers (3) provide gas to end customers (4). Customers engage with Gas Networks Ireland to secure a connection to the network and pay their chosen supplier to deliver gas to their homes and businesses. The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) (5) is the regulatory authority for the gas market in the Republic of Ireland and has responsibility across the entire value chain.



1. Gas producers

Produce gas for gas shippers to deliver to the gas network

Shippers also source and import gas from the UK.









2. Network Operator - Gas Networks Ireland

Gas Networks Ireland operate and maintain the gas network in Ireland, facilitating the delivery of gas to end customers by transporting gas through the network for shippers.

Gas Networks Ireland also facilitate customer supplier switching to enable competition in the market.





3. Gas shippers and suppliers

27 shippers and suppliers utilise the gas network in Ireland.

Of these, 7 are actively supplying gas to end users in Ireland.















9

4. Gas customers

Customers
engage with Gas
Networks Ireland
to secure a
connection to the
gas network and
pay their chosen
gas supplier
to deliver gas
to homes and
businesses on a
daily basis.



5. Regulator - CRU

The regulatory authority for the gas market in the Republic of Ireland is the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU). The CRU is responsible for licensing Gas Networks Ireland, shippers and suppliers to operate in the market. The CRU also approve the charges for use of the gas network and for regulating the safety of the network.



The Gas Network -A Vital National Asset

The gas network plays a vital role in complementing intermittent renewable energy, such as wind and solar. In 2024, gas met 30% of the country's energy needs.

In addition, it provided gas to 23 counties and 28,349 industrial and commercial customers including power stations. The gas network is transforming to transport renewable gases only. The network will enable hard to abate sectors to decarbonise and it will be crucial to provide continued resilience to the electricity system as the level of renewables continue to increase.

Gas Demand in 2024

In 2024, total annual gas demand of 54.3 TWh represented a 2% increase compared to 2023. Gas supplied 30% of Ireland's primary energy needs.

Gas continues to play a critical role in ensuring the resilience of our electricity system



Gas demand for Power Generation 2024 increased **+2%** on 2023





Gas continued to be a major contributor to electricity supplies, powering 41% of Ireland's electricity requirements in 2024. The contribution gas made to power generation peaked at 83% in 2024 and never dropped below 10% at any point in the year. Gas played a vital role in supporting electricity supply during periods of calm weather when less wind and solar energy was available to generate electricity, highlighting the flexibility and the criticality of the gas network in ensuring electricity supplies remain resilient as we transition to a renewable-led energy system.

This partnership between flexible gas-fired power generation and intermittent renewable generation is key to optimising Ireland's renewable energy production into the future. Unlike intermittent renewables, the outputs of gas fired power stations can be flexibly adjusted to meet the demands of end users on the system. This means that gas is available to power homes and businesses on those days when the wind isn't blowing or the sun isn't shining. This critical reliability is vital for ensuring the resilience of our electricity system, upon which the economy is so heavily dependent, and will increase in importance going forward, as Ireland progresses towards the target of delivering 80% renewable electricity by 2030. In recognition of this critical role, the Irish Government has set a target to install an additional 2,000 megawatts (MW) of flexible gas-fired power generation by 2030.

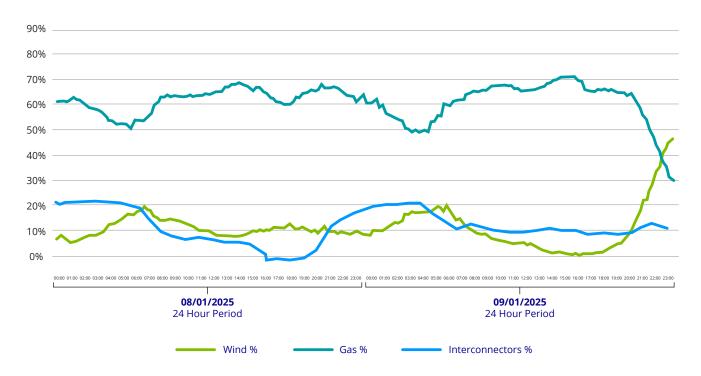
Demand for BioCNG sees another record breaking year



The government is committed to decarbonising Ireland's transport sector, which currently accounts for over 20% of Ireland's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, by transitioning away from the use of fossil fuels towards lower carbon alternatives, such as BioCNG and hydrogen. Gas in transport continues to support this ambition, experiencing growth of 67% in 2024 with BioCNG accounting for 90% of all gas consumed in the sector in 2024.

A new peak day demand record

Winter 2024/25 saw sustained periods of high gas demand. January 8th recorded the highest ever gas demand day in the Republic of Ireland at 370 GWh/day, with January 9th ranking as the third highest. These peaks were driven by a combination of extreme cold weather conditions creating a surge in residential and commercial energy consumption, as well as minimal wind and solar energy generation and reduced electricity imports combining to significantly elevate the requirement for gas fired power generation.



Electricity provided by Natural Gas, Wind and Interconnection on the 8th and 9th of January 2025 (%)

Between the 8th and the 9th of January, gas produced 62% of electricity while wind produced 11%. During this period, gas had a maximum contribution of 70%, at the same time and over the same resolution, wind had a maximum contribution of 46% and dropped as low as 1%. Electricity interconnector flows also varied widely across the day, peaking at imports equivalent to 22% of the supply mix on the 8th January. This once again demonstrates the strategic role that gas plays in providing resilience and flexibility to complement technologies such as wind, solar and interconnection as part of an integrated energy system.

Overall, in response to the heightened demand, the gas network played a pivotal role in ensuring that gas supply remained uninterrupted. The gas network continued to provide a secure reliable supply and support to the electricity sector in meeting the demand of its customers through severe weather conditions. With a clear pathway to incorporating renewable gases like biomethane and hydrogen, our network will continue to play a critical role in delivering a cleaner and more secure energy future.



Ensuring a Reliable and Secure Gas Supply

Gas Networks Ireland is committed to ensuring that gas is transported to end users in an efficient, economic, safe and reliable manner. As an island nation with no direct connection to the European gas network, Ireland is currently progressing options to enhance its security of gas supply.

While the gas network is resilient and benefits from a secure connection to diversified supplies in the UK, enhancing the security of supply on the island of Ireland will be key to maintaining a resilient energy system. Gas Networks Ireland has an established history of proactively identifying risks to the security of gas supplies and investing to ensure that the gas network is the safe and resilient backbone of Ireland's energy system.



Gas Supply Mix

Approximately 20% of Irish gas supplies came from the Corrib gas field in 2024, while the vast majority of the remainder was imported through the gas interconnectors from Scotland with 61 GWh of biomethane entered onto the network in 2024.

While Gas Networks Ireland has robust operational and security of supply procedures in place with our counterpart in the UK, National Gas, our dependence on the UK is further underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding on 'Cooperation of Natural Gas Security of Supply' that was signed between the UK and Ireland in September 2023 to ensure cooperation between the two States in the event of a reduction or disruption to supply.



Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve

The Government's Energy Security Package was published in November 2023. The package outlines measures to ensure energy security in Ireland for this decade, while ensuring a sustainable transition to a carbon neutral energy system by 2050. The package sets out that the most effective means of underpinning the security of supply of Ireland's energy system is to develop a strategic gas emergency reserve which will facilitate enhanced diversification of supply during periods of emergency, consistent with Ireland's Climate law and allowing Ireland to comply with EU regulations for security of gas supply. Gas Networks Ireland was appointed by government to assess the potential options to deliver on this need and in March 2025, the government gave approval to proceed with the development of a State-led strategic gas emergency reserve in the form of a Floating Storage and Regassification Unit (FSRU), to be owned on behalf of the State by Gas Networks Ireland. Gas Networks Ireland is now working to progress the delivery of this project of critical national infrastructure.



Increasing Indigenous Biomethane and Hydrogen

Indigenous biomethane produced at scale can provide an additional renewable energy source for Ireland, further enhancing the country's security of supply. Our gas network is 100% compatible with biomethane, and today, we are transporting small but growing quantities. Ireland published its first National Biomethane Strategy in 2024, recognising this opportunity and committing to delivering 5.7 TWh indigenous production by 2030. In addition, by developing an indigenous green hydrogen industry, Ireland has the potential to reduce reliance on imported energy and the national gas network can provide a secure and cost efficient transportation vector for this, as recognised in Irelands National Hydrogen Strategy.



Delivering for our customers during the most severe climatic conditions

During the recent severe weather conditions of Storm Éowyn which took place on 24th January 2025, the gas network continued to provide a secure and reliable supply of gas to all customers. Due to the underground nature of the gas network, it is less susceptible to disruption during severe climatic events. In contrast, the electricity system lost supply to over 760,000 customers, water services were lost to over 120,000 customers and broadband to over 160,000 customers during this event. The gas network played a critical role in providing back up power to priority sectors such as hospitals during this time, demonstrating the critical role the gas network plays in underpinning the resilience of our energy system.



Fostering a culture of sustainability

Realising our net-zero carbon pathway and shaping Ireland's sustainable energy future requires that Gas Networks Ireland foster a culture of sustainability in every aspect of our work and strengthen our status as a trusted leader in sustainability.

As a sustainable business we are mindful of the impact of our operations on the environment and in the communities in which we operate. In 2024, we retained our certification to the ISO26000 Business Working Responsibly (BWR) mark. We are proud of the fact that we are one of only 40 companies in Ireland to hold the BWR mark for responsible and sustainable business practices.

Our sustainability strategy is to ensure that our activities have a positive social and environmental impact, and it is framed by the three pillars of Environment, Social and Governance, (ESG) and underpins our business strategy, with each sustainability priority directly aligned to our strategic ambitions and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). We constantly refine our sustainability strategy to ensure we continue to focus our attention in the right areas. For example, we are currently assessing how we can accelerate the reduction of emissions at our compressor stations in Scotland and are working with the CRU to explore the potential to procure Biomethane as part of our own gas usage needs for the network.

In June 2024, Gas Networks Ireland was appointed as one of only 21 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Champions for Ireland. As an SDG Champion, we actively promote sustainability awareness among our employees and our stakeholders through community engagement, business practices, workshops, external communications, conferences and webinars.

Further details on our sustainability strategy and the work we are doing can be found in our <u>Annual Sustainability Report</u>.



Ireland's gas network

a national asset of size and scale

Delivering Ireland's Energy

30% of Ireland's total energy needs



41% of Ireland's electricity generation

2

subsea interconnectors

54.3 TWh

transported through the network for Republic of Ireland - **up 2%** v 2023

20%

of gas used in Ireland sourced indigenously from Corrib gas field

14,758km pipeline

- 2,488 km high pressure steel transmission pipes
- 12,270 km lower pressure polyethylene distribution pipes

Delivering for Ireland **O**

€3bn

publicly-owned national asset

800 AAA

staff directly employed by Gas Networks Ireland €158m

Taxes paid



€44m

dividend payment to the Exchequer

Corrib Gas Field Corrib Gas F

Existing Pipelines

Entry Point

Pipelines Owned by Others —
Interconnection Points

Renewable Gas Entry Point

Decommissioned Entry Point

Delivering

on safety

5



ISO Management Systems recertified 28

minutes average call (on site) response time

14,561

responses to calls from the public supported by public safety awareness campaigns



Delivering

Ireland's Energy Security



4

new gas fired generation connections construction complete



4

further gas fired generation connections construction commenced

Construction complete to enable independent operation of the two compressor halls at **Brighouse Bay Compressor Station**

Proposal submitted to Government to create a **Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve** to protect Ireland in the event of a gas supply disruption



Delivering for Customers

111,937

PAYG meters

3,200+

gas credit top up outlets in Ireland 127,733

change of supplier actions facilitated

68,000+

customer appointments kept with 99% compliance rate

720,000+

customers in 23 counties, with 28,349 industrial and commercial customers, including power stations

drop in complaints compared to 2023, lowest level raised in 10 years 1.86m

meter reads undertaken

94%

Hydrogen

Key progress made in

Government's Hydrogen interdepartmental Working Group

Supporting development

of a European Network of Network Operators for Hydrogen (ENNOH)

relation to Network Technical Readiness and Hydrogen compatibility

Participation in

Engagement with

Operator'

DCEE in relation to Ireland's designation of a 'Hydrogen Network

customer satisfaction score remains at an excellent score



Delivering a sustainable future

Pathway to a Net Zero Carbon Network In June 2024, we published our Pathway to a Net Zero Carbon Network by 2045

Biomethane

- **61 GWh** injected into the gas network
- **2** new Biomethane connections
- **2** new partnerships with Biomethane producers

f 8 public and f 3 private compressed natural gas (CNG) stations operational by the end of 2024

Scope 1 (direct emissions) 16% reduction from 2010 baseline

Scope 2 (indirect emissions) 43% reduction from 2010 baseline

Gas Networks Ireland appointed UNSDG Champion





€219,595

in financial support to local communities



community projects supported



5 sustainability awards in the year including Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) award at the 50th Business and Finance Awards

Responsibly certified

Certified to the Business Working Responsibly Mark Achieved the Investing in Volunteers quality standard Achieved IBEC (Keepwell mark) for our Health and Wellbeing Programme Engineer's Ireland (CPD Employer of the Year) for our Female Development Programme



Supporting the transition to a climate neutral economy

Climate action is one of the most pressing challenges of our time. Both the European Union (EU) and the Irish government have set legally binding targets for decreasing emissions, and ultimately transitioning to a net zero economy by 2050.



Ireland has committed to a **51%** reduction in emissions by 2030



The EU has committed to a **55%** reduction in emissions by 2030

By gradually transitioning to a network which transports renewable gases such as biomethane and hydrogen, the gas network can play an important role in achieving these targets. Both EU & National Policy support this position across a variety of policy initiatives, some of which are set out below:

Hydrogen and Decarbonised Gas Market Package sets the market rules for the future hydrogen market across the EU.

Methane Emissions Reduction Regulation sets rules on Measurement, Reporting and Verification of methane emissions across the energy sector.

Renewable Energy Directive III sets a binding target of at least 42.5% of energy from renewable sources by 2030, with sub targets for hydrogen in industry and transport.

National Hydrogen Strategy sets out the strategic role that hydrogen will play in Ireland's energy system, and the short-term actions needed to support the development of the sector.

Energy Security in Ireland 2030 acknowledged the strategic role that gas plays and appointed GNI to develop a strategic gas emergency reserve project to enhance security of supply.

Annual Climate Action Plans recognise the role for biomethane and green hydrogen across the electricity, agriculture, transport, residential and industrial heating sectors.

National Biomethane Strategy recognises Irelands opportunity for biomethane production and commits to delivering 5.7 TWh by 2030.

Gas Networks Ireland play an active role in supporting policy by:

- facilitating biomethane injection on the gas network and supporting BioCNG to enable the reduction of emissions in the transport sector;
- supporting the implementation of the National Biomethane Strategy through membership of the Biomethane Implementation Group, and as a key stakeholder on six actions;
- providing certification and traceability of renewable gas that is transported in our network between producers and consumers;
- preparing the existing gas network to accept hydrogen through investing in our Network Innovation Centre to ensure safety and operability of pipelines, meters and appliances;
- supporting the implementation of the National Hydrogen Strategy through the Interdepartmental Hydrogen Work Group and future Task Force once established; and
- supporting the implementation of the Energy Security Package by working to create a Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve to protect Ireland in the event of a gas supply disruption.

Our Pathway to a Net Zero Gas Network

Gas Networks Ireland published its ambitious "Pathway to a Net Zero Carbon Network" in June 2024 which highlights the essential role the national gas network can play in transitioning Ireland to a carbon-neutral economy.

By focusing on transporting renewable gases like biomethane and green hydrogen, the plan aims to ensure a secure and reliable energy supply and a fully decarbonised gas network by 2045, aligning with the broader objective of a carbon-neutral economy by 2050. Our pathway is dependent on the timely progression and realisation of key energy policy developments and the emergence and necessary scaling of enabling energy technologies, renewable gases and supporting economics. The actual basis and timing for the full decarbonisation of our network will become clearer as energy policy and new energy sources and technologies progress, but we know that by embracing innovation in these areas, leveraging our expertise, and collaborating with stakeholders, we can realise this ambition.

Hydrogen pipeline

Biomethane pipeline

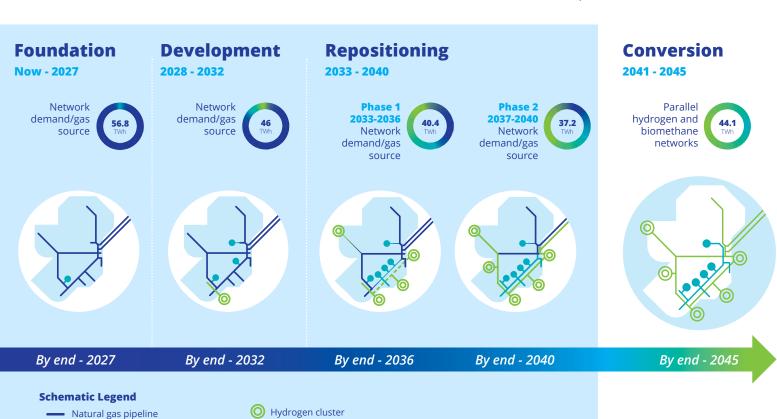
--- Hydrogen pipeline under construction

This transformation will also contribute to the decarbonisation of the electricity sector and an overall more integrated and sustainable energy system.

Gas Networks Ireland believe that the realisation of a decarbonised gas network is in the best interests of Ireland's energy customers, offering the most economic and least disruptive means of decarbonising energy use for many, and a vital alternative decarbonisation pathway for those consumers for whom electrification is very challenging.

Gas Networks Ireland is committed to working with the Government, policy makers, regulators and the other system operators to develop an integrated, net zero energy system for Ireland.

Further information can be found in our Pathway to a Net Zero Carbon Network <u>report</u>



Biomethane central grid injection point

Direct biomethane and hydrogen connections not included

Our Decarbonisation solutions

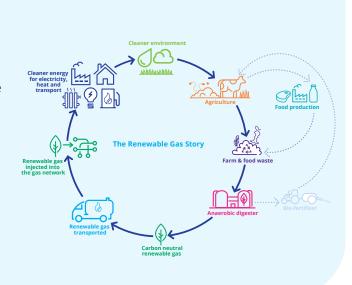
Biomethane

A carbon-neutral renewable gas made from farm and food waste, biomethane is fully compatible with Ireland's existing gas infrastructure, technologies and appliances, and has already begun replacing natural gas in the network today, with 61 GWh of biomethane injected in 2024.

National and EU Biomethane Policy

Ireland published its National Biomethane Strategy in 2024, setting out its commitment to delivering 5.7 TWh of biomethane production per annum by 2030 and to develop a biomethane industry of scale. In the Strategy it was outlined that without biomethane, Ireland is unlikely to meet its legally binding climate target. The strategy also sets out that the Renewable Heat Obligation Scheme (RHO) will be introduced to financially support the sector along with an initial tranche of capital grants (€40 million) which were fully subscribed by biomethane producers in 2024.

The role of biomethane has also been highlighted by the EU Commission in the REPowerEU plan, with an EU wide target to produce 35 billion cubic meters of biomethane by 2030.



Delivering on Biomethane in 2024

2024 saw 61 GWh of biomethane entering the network. Significant progress has also been made at our Central Grid Injection (CGI) facility, in Mitchelstown, Co. Cork with the project entering the construction phase and set to be operational in 2026. Once operational at full capacity, the facility will have the potential to inject up to 700 GWh of renewable biomethane gas annually, contributing approximately 12% of the Government's 2030 biomethane target. Four further contracts were also signed for direct connections to the gas network by other biomethane producers. This followed the signing in 2023, of the first connection agreement to directly connect biomethane production to the Gas Networks Ireland network. Gas Networks Ireland has now contracted for 6.7% of the 2030 national target with a number of other enquiries progressing towards contract execution.



Taoiseach Micheál Martin turns the sod to launch Gas Networks Ireland's construction of the Mitchelstown Biomethane Central Grid Injection facility

Delivering on Gas in Transport

Transport accounts for over 20% of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions, and is one of the most challenging to decarbonise. Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), especially suitable for heavy goods vehicles, offers a cleaner alternative to diesel, reducing emissions by up to 22%. When using compressed biomethane (BioCNG), emissions can be cut by up to 90%. With nearly 2 million gas-powered vehicles in Europe, this technology is already proven to be a reliable and cleaner alternative to diesel.

Three new additional refuelling stations entered into operation in 2024, bringing the total to eleven CNG/BioCNG stations in operation across Ireland, with a further pipeline of stations in planning and development. Notably, the country's first dedicated BioCNG station opened in June 2024, followed by another in September 2024 at Junction 14 near Monasterevin, providing additional filling opportunities on the motorway from Dublin to Cork or Limerick.

The rollout of this infrastructure has spurred investment in gas-powered transport, with around 170 gas vehicles now operating in Ireland and 95% of them using BioCNG. Major companies like Tesco, DHL, Virginia International Logistics, and Panda have adopted biomethane fueled trucks. Although the heavy goods sector represents a small share of all registered vehicles in Ireland, they contribute nearly a third of transport emissions and BioCNG offers a significant opportunity to reduce this. In 2024, gas consumption in the transport sector rose by 67%, with BioCNG accounting for 90% of that, highlighting its growing role in Ireland's clean energy transition.



Former Minister of State, Ossian Smyth, opening the Flogas BioCNG Station in Swords



Former Minister of State for Transport, James Lawless, opening the Junction 14 Station in Kildare

Hydrogen

Hydrogen is a carbon free flammable gas that can be produced from electricity – and is referred to as 'green' hydrogen when produced via renewable electricity sources – it is well suited to storage, making it an attractive option to decarbonise energy systems.

National and EU Hydrogen Policy

The National Hydrogen Strategy, published in July 2023, sets the strategic vision on the role that hydrogen will play in Ireland's energy system, looking to its long-term role as a key component of a zero-carbon economy, and the short-term actions that need to be delivered in the coming years to enable the development of a hydrogen economy in Ireland.

The strategy identifies that hydrogen networks and storage infrastructure will play a key role in ensuring security of supply and long-term competitiveness, whilst also acknowledging that repurposing existing gas network assets to hydrogen can be done at a lower cost with less disruption than building new infrastructure.

The key role of hydrogen in decarbonising our energy system is widely recognised at an EU level also. The REPowerEU plan, introduced in 2022, aims to produce 10 million tonnes and import an additional 10 million tonnes of renewable hydrogen by 2030, whilst the Hydrogen and Decarbonised Gas Market Package, adopted in May 2024, sets out the market rules for the future hydrogen market, including the establishment of ENNOH, the European Network of Network Operators of Hydrogen, which will oversee the development of a pan European hydrogen network through the development of network codes and market rules.

Delivering on Hydrogen in 2024

To ensure that Ireland's gas network is capable of safely transporting and storing hydrogen, Gas Networks Ireland has invested in a Network Innovation Centre at its Campus at Brownsbarn, Co. Dublin, where it continues to test various network and end user equipment for different concentrations of hydrogen.

We also partnered with Daltons Chancellors Mills in Athy, a generational family business known for malting barley to test the use of up to 20% hydrogen in their plant. Supported by Gas Networks Ireland's Gas Innovation Fund, this innovative project demonstrates the feasibility of using hydrogen blends to decarbonise industrial operations. By integrating hydrogen into their energy mix, Daltons Chancellors Mills is leading the way towards a more sustainable future, showcasing the practical application of green hydrogen in reducing carbon emissions.

Gas Networks Ireland is also an active member of the government's interdepartmental hydrogen working group, which oversees the delivery of the strategy and wider policy. This group is set to be superseded by the National Hydrogen Programme task force in 2025 and Gas Networks Ireland will continue to play an active role in this task force once established, both leading and participating in a number of working groups being developed as part of it, and ultimately supporting the delivery of the national strategy.

At EU level, Gas Networks Ireland is helping to progress preparatory works for the establishment of ENNOH in 2025, becoming a founding and board member of the preparatory group setup to oversee its establishment.



The Daltons Chancellors Mills plant in Athy, where the use of up to 20% hydrogen is being tested

References

- * DATA FREEZE The data contained in this report is for the calendar year 2024, whereas general information and commentary is included based on latest available information up to May 2025.
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