

Community newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of Gas Networks Ireland's newsletter for the Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve (SGER) project.

The delivery of the SGER is essential to strengthening Ireland's energy security, and we want to ensure the local community is kept informed as this vital project progresses.

In November 2025, we announced that Cahiracon, Co. Clare, along the Shannon Estuary, was selected as the site for Ireland's SGER. Following this announcement, we held our first Community Information Event at Kildysart Community Centre on Thursday 26 November 2025.

This event provided an initial opportunity to meet our team, learn about the project and ask early questions.

Thank you to all who attended this initial event. We were delighted to welcome over 200 members of the local community, and we hope that we can welcome many more at future events.

More opportunities to engage with the project will be available at every stage of development.



Project overview

The Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve (SGER) is a state-led, temporary natural gas facility designed to protect Ireland in the event of a disruption to its gas supplies.

The reserve was established as part of the Government's response to increasing energy security risks and the need for a stable transition to renewable energy.

Ireland currently imports approximately 80% of its natural gas via two interconnectors from Britain. If the larger of these pipelines were disrupted, homes and businesses across Ireland could face extended heating and electricity generation challenges lasting several months.

The Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve will help reduce this risk by providing an alternative emergency gas supply.

The SGER will be delivered in the form of a Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU). This specialist ship stores liquefied natural gas (LNG) and converts it to natural gas when required.

FSRUs are a proven and widely used technology, with more than 50 operating globally for over two decades.

Natural gas is an important back-up for renewable energy as Ireland increases its use of wind and solar power. Once the country completes its transition and the risk of supply disruption is removed, the FSRU can leave, and the State-owned jetty and onshore facilities can be repurposed for future uses.



For an overview of the project, [watch our project explainer animation.](#)



Latest updates

Site investigations

Since announcing the site for the SGER, we have begun detailed studies of the site and surrounding area. These assessments will investigate the ground conditions, and the findings will inform the detailed design. We look forward to updating you on the outcomes of these assessments as the project progresses. Marine surveys will commence in the coming weeks.



Community information event



We are delighted to share that our second community information event will take place on **Thursday 26 February 2026 from 4pm to 7pm** in Kildysart Community Centre. Similar to the first information evening, this drop-in event is open to all members of the public and forms part of Gas Network Ireland's ongoing engagement with the local community. Members of the SGER project team will be available throughout the evening to provide information and to listen to feedback from residents and local stakeholders.



Community Liaison Officer

We're hiring

We are delighted to also share that we are recruiting a Community Liaison Officer. This role will be based in Kildysart, with a preference for a local candidate to act as a key point of contact between GNI and the community. This appointment will mark the first of many local job opportunities available throughout the proposed lifetime of the project.

To find out more about the role and how to apply, please email **SGER@gasnetworks.ie**. or scan this QR code to be directed straight to the job description.



Next steps

We are now progressing with a series of key project development activities. These steps are designed to ensure the project is delivered safely, efficiently and in line with environmental and planning requirements.

Here is an overview of some of our immediate next steps in 2026.



Site investigations

Detailed studies of the land and surrounding area to understand ground conditions and inform design

Planning application

Preparation and submission of a formal application to the relevant planning authorities, supported by findings from the investigations and assessments



Marine surveys

Offshore assessments to examine seabed conditions, water depth and environmental factors relevant to the FSRU and jetty



Community engagement

We want to ensure the local community is kept informed and has opportunities to engage at every stage

Community Benefit Fund

We plan to include a Community Benefit Fund as part of our project and are open to early conversations with the community to identify local priorities.



Front-end engineering design (FEED)

Early-stage design work to define the technical scope, layout and operational requirements of the facility

Environmental assessment

Comprehensive evaluation of potential environmental impacts, including on biodiversity, water quality and emissions



In the news

We have attached a variety of news clippings from local and national newspapers that discuss this project.

Irish Examiner | Cahiracon in Clare chosen to host Ireland's floating emergency gas reserve

The Clare Champion | States strategic gas reserve to be housed at Cahiracon

RTE | Shannon Estuary location for new Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve

How to keep in touch



Join our second community information event on **26 February 2026**. We hope to see you there!



To unsubscribe from our mailing list please email "**UNSUB**" to **SGER@gasnetworks.ie**.

If you have any queries relating to the project,

✉ email **SGER@gasnetworks.ie**

☎ or call **1800 340 500**.

💻 To learn more and stay up to date with the latest information, visit:
www.gasnetworks.ie.

