ENERGY WEST

Community | Catalyzing | Innovation

FUINNEAMH AN IARTHAIR

Pobal | Comhchruthú | Nuálaíocht

Supported by: WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Energy West Convening Advisors 2026

James Glynn
Convenor | Energy Systems

Yvonne Comer
Operating Agent | Portershed

Dara Ó Maoildhia
People & Community

Rory Monaghan
Research | Engineering

Gratton Healy
Renewables Development

Cormac Madden
Large Energy / Industry

Clare Noone
Science & Climate

Alastair McKinstry
Data & Computing

Matt Kennedy
Business & Industry

Pauline O'Reilly
Heat

David Connolly
Heat

Alex Revez
Research | Community

ENERGY WEST
Community | Catalyzing | Innovation

PorterShed®
#supportedbyAIB

FUINNEAMH AN IARTHAIR
Pobal | Comhchruthu | Nuálaíocht

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Our Vision

ENERGY WEST
Community | Catalyzing | Innovation

PorterShed®
#supportedbyAIB

FUINNEAMH AN IARTHAIR
Pobal | Comhchruthú | Nuálaíocht

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

We see the West of Ireland as a global beacon for clean energy, where community, innovation and policy align to create a fairer, more sustainable future.

From Galway's Atlantic edge, we are building a place where the world comes to learn, test, and be inspired, a place rooted in local strength and reaching toward global leadership. We start local, grow together and lead by example.

Our Mission

ENERGY WEST
Community | Catalyzing | Innovation

PorterShed®
#supportedbyAIB

FUINNEAMH AN IARTHAIR
Pobal | Comhchruthú | Nuálaíocht

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

To spark a just and inclusive energy transition in the West of Ireland by amplifying local voices, shaping bold policy, and unlocking the region's power to lead in clean energy innovation.

We bring people, ideas and influence together to empower communities, strengthen strategic planning, and build energy resilience through insight, collaboration and action

Our Values

ENERGY WEST
Community | Catalyzing | Innovation

PorterShed®
#supportedbyAIB

FUINNEAMH AN IARTHAIR
Pobal | Comhchruthú | Nuálaíocht

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Purpose-Driven Progress

We act for the long-term good of people, place, and planet.

Every step we take serves the public interest, fuels inclusive prosperity and respects planetary boundaries. We accelerate a clean energy transition that is just, lasting and aligned with what matters most.

Evidence with Empathy

We lead with science and listen with care

We cut through noise with clarity and transparency, grounding decisions in data while honouring lived experience. We balance rigour with respect in everything we do.

Cathedral Thinking, Strategic Doing

We build for generations and act with focus.

Like the cathedral builders of old, we think long-term. We plan for legacy, resilience and systems change, while making smart, practical decisions that drive immediate impact.

Our Values

From West to World

Rooted in the West of Ireland, ready for the world.

Our strength begins locally, but our vision is global. What we pilot here, models partnerships, ideas, we share widely to shape the future of energy far beyond our shores.

Inclusive by Design

Everyone has a stake and a say.

The energy transition must benefit all, not just a few. We open doors, dismantle barriers, and amplify diverse voices, co-creating solutions with communities, not just for them.

ENERGY WEST
Community | Catalyzing | Innovation

PorterShed®
#supportedbyAIB

FUINNEAMH AN IARTHAIR
Pobal | Comhchruthú | Nuálaíocht

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Agenda

15:00 - 15:05 - Welcome and Introduction - James GLYNN

15:05- 15:15 - Denis Duff - Opening Statement

15:15 - 15:25 - Niall Murphy - Opening Statement

15:25 - 16:00 - **Debate: Should Ireland Consider Nuclear?**

16:00 - 16:30 - Town Hall Discussion

16:30 - 16:55 - Networking, Refreshments & Close.

ENERGY WEST
Community | Catalyzing | Innovation

PorterShed®
#supportedbyAIB

FUINNEAMH AN IARTHAIR
Pobal | Comhchruthú | Nuálaíocht

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Thank You

hello@energywest.ie

https://portershed.com/energy-west/

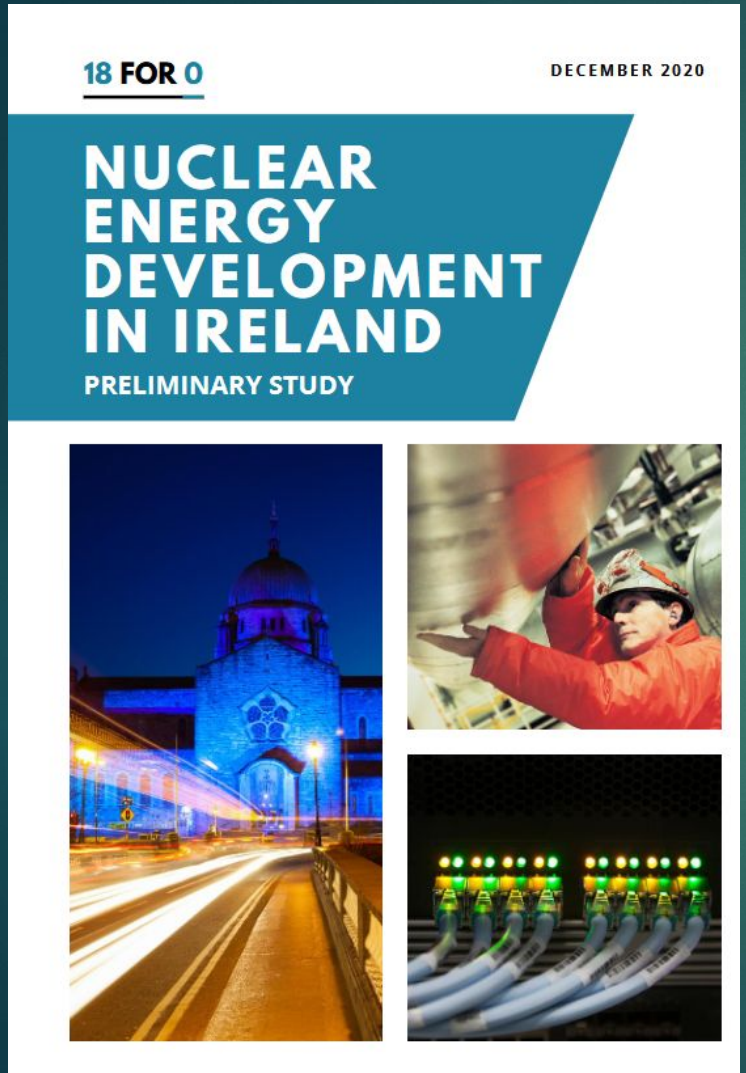
https://www.linkedin.com/company/energy-west-ireland/

Should Ireland Consider Nuclear?

Denis Duff

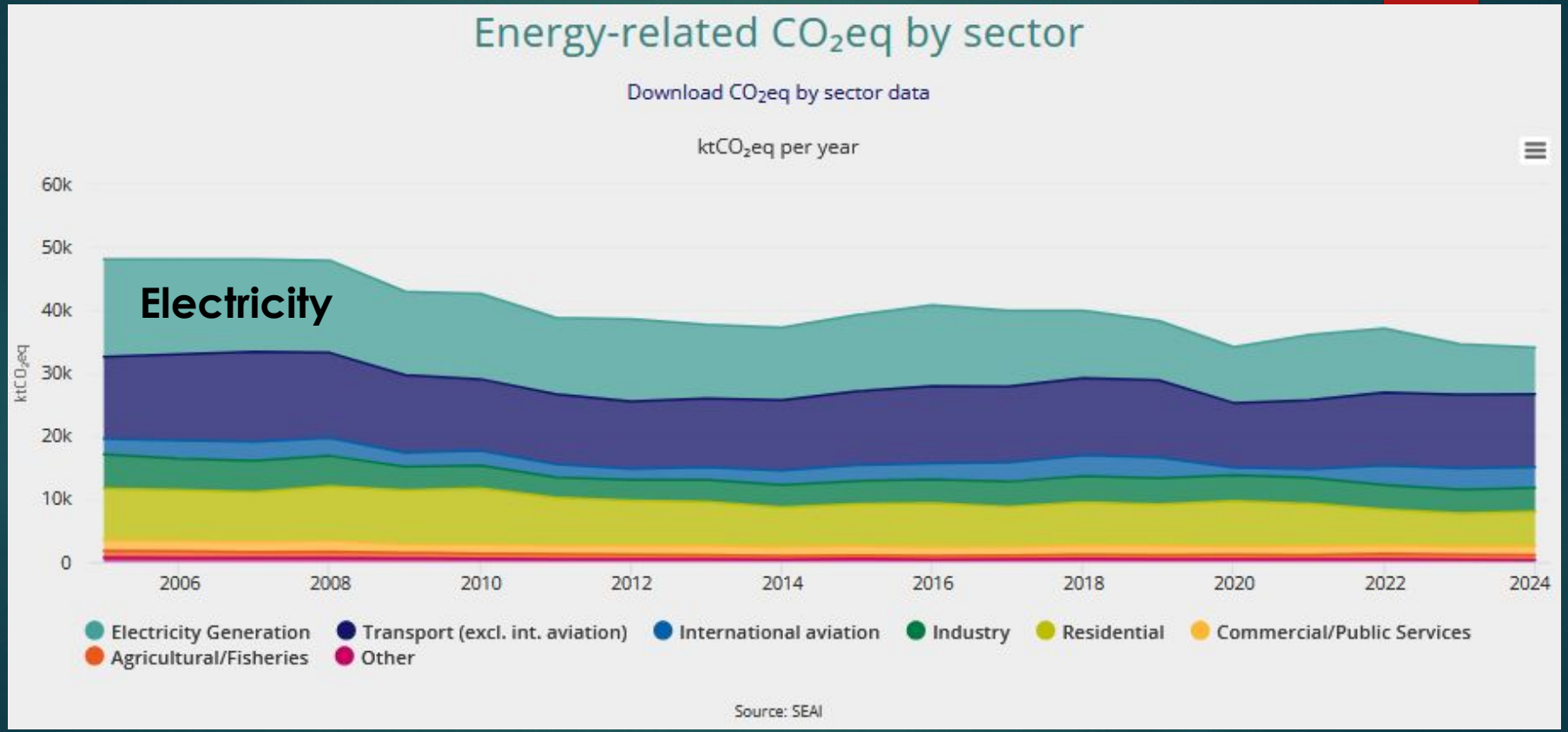
Denis Duff, Energy West, July 2026 www.18for0.ie

Considering: ~2 years, €25 million



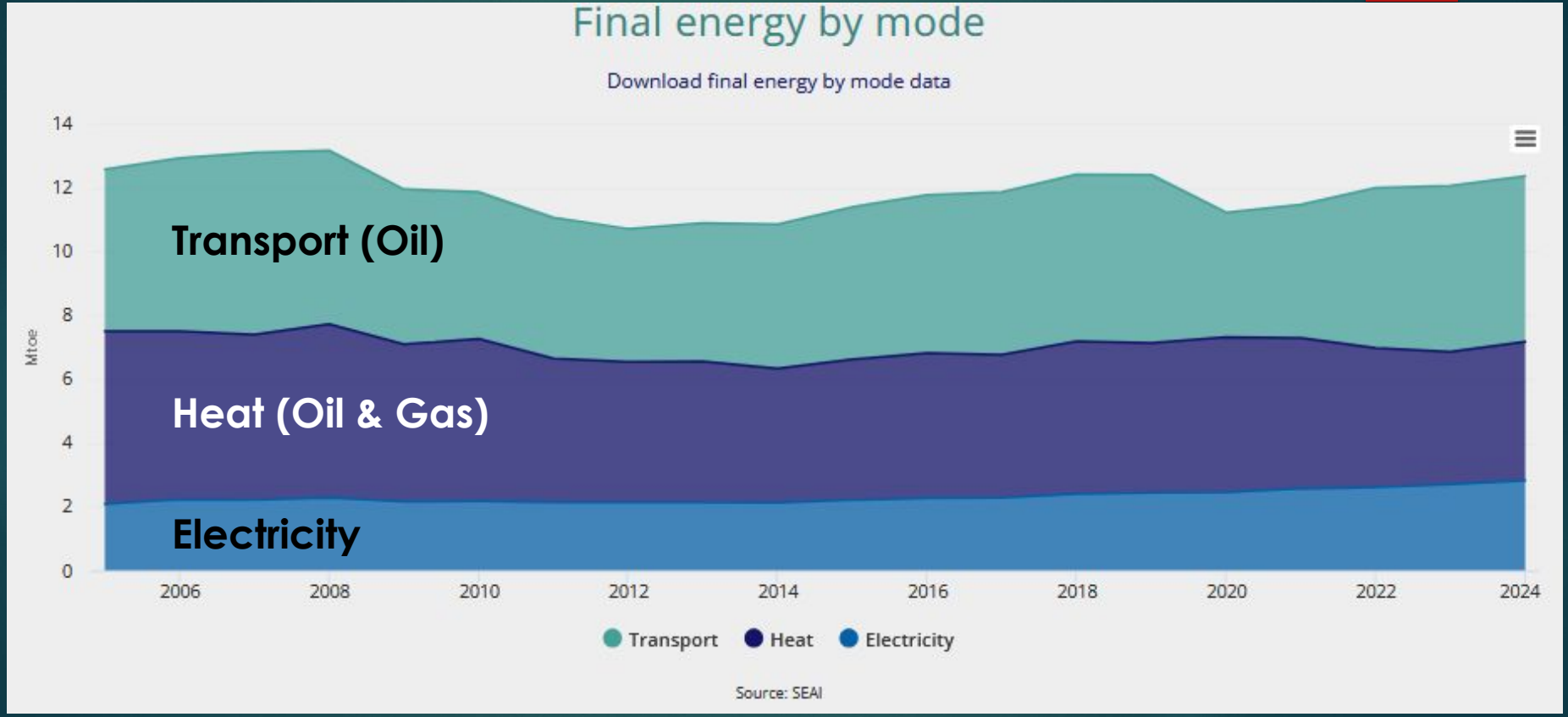
Voluntary
professional
advocate
environmentalist
concerned
open-minded
solution-focused

Electricity decarbonised the most



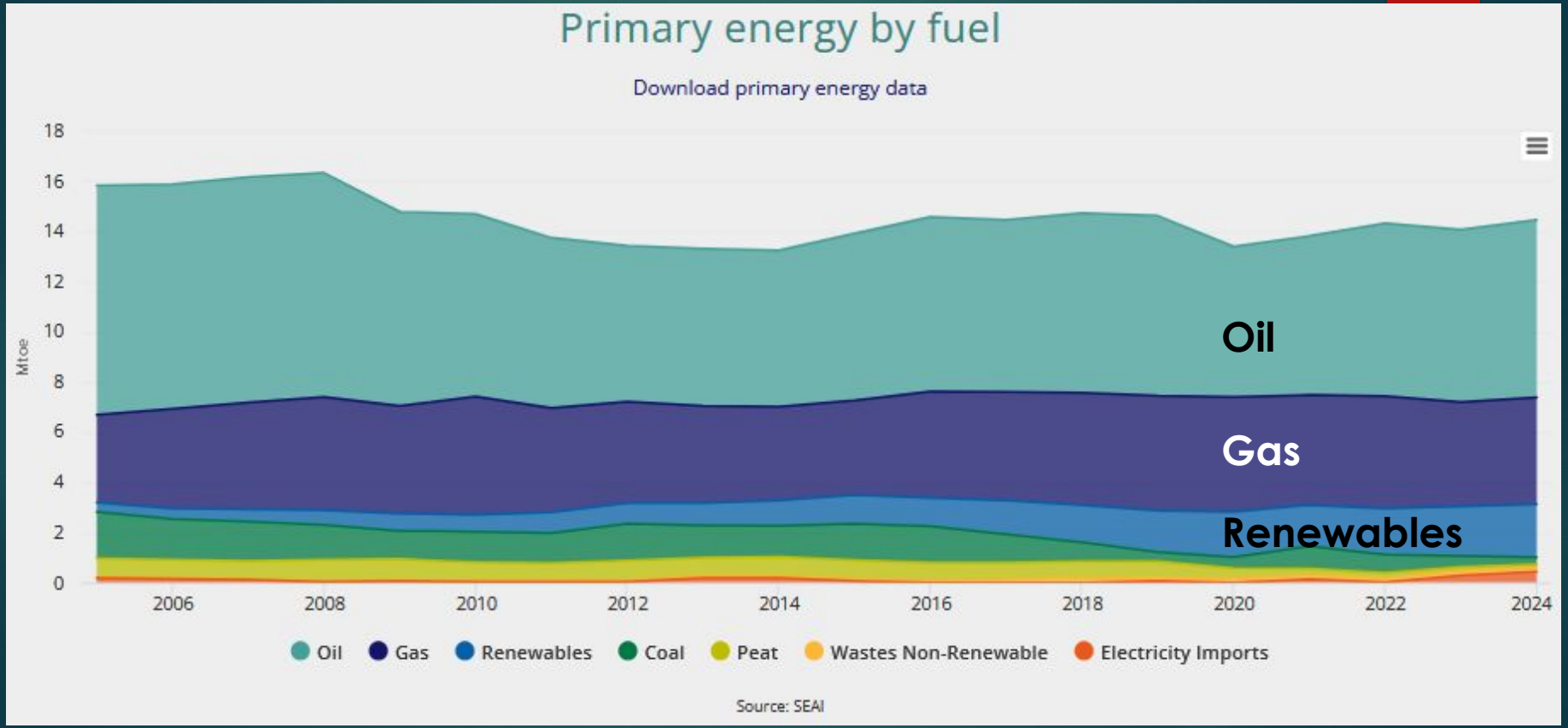
Electricity down 50% in 20 years – low-hanging, Pareto fruit?

Not electrifying enough

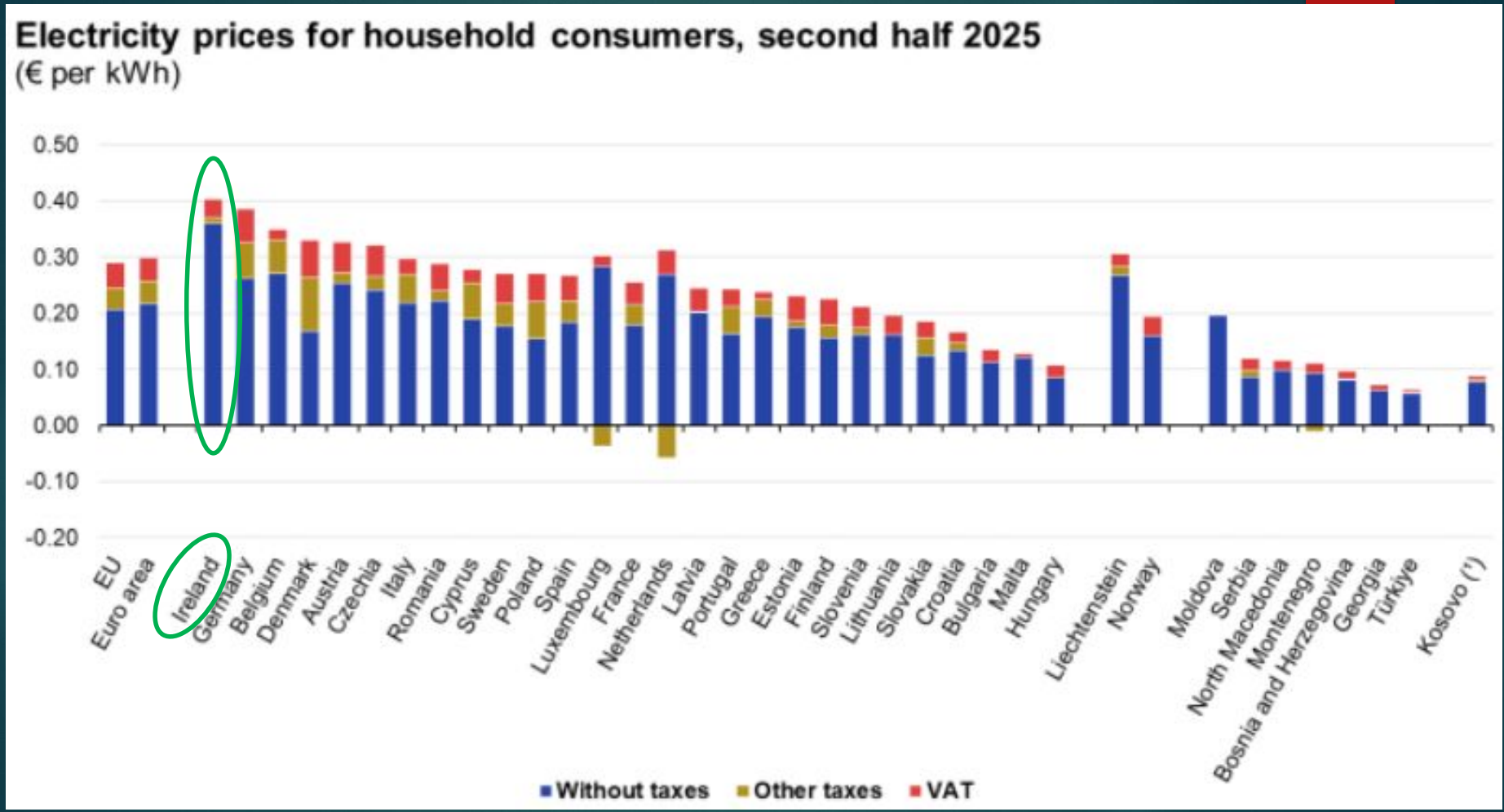


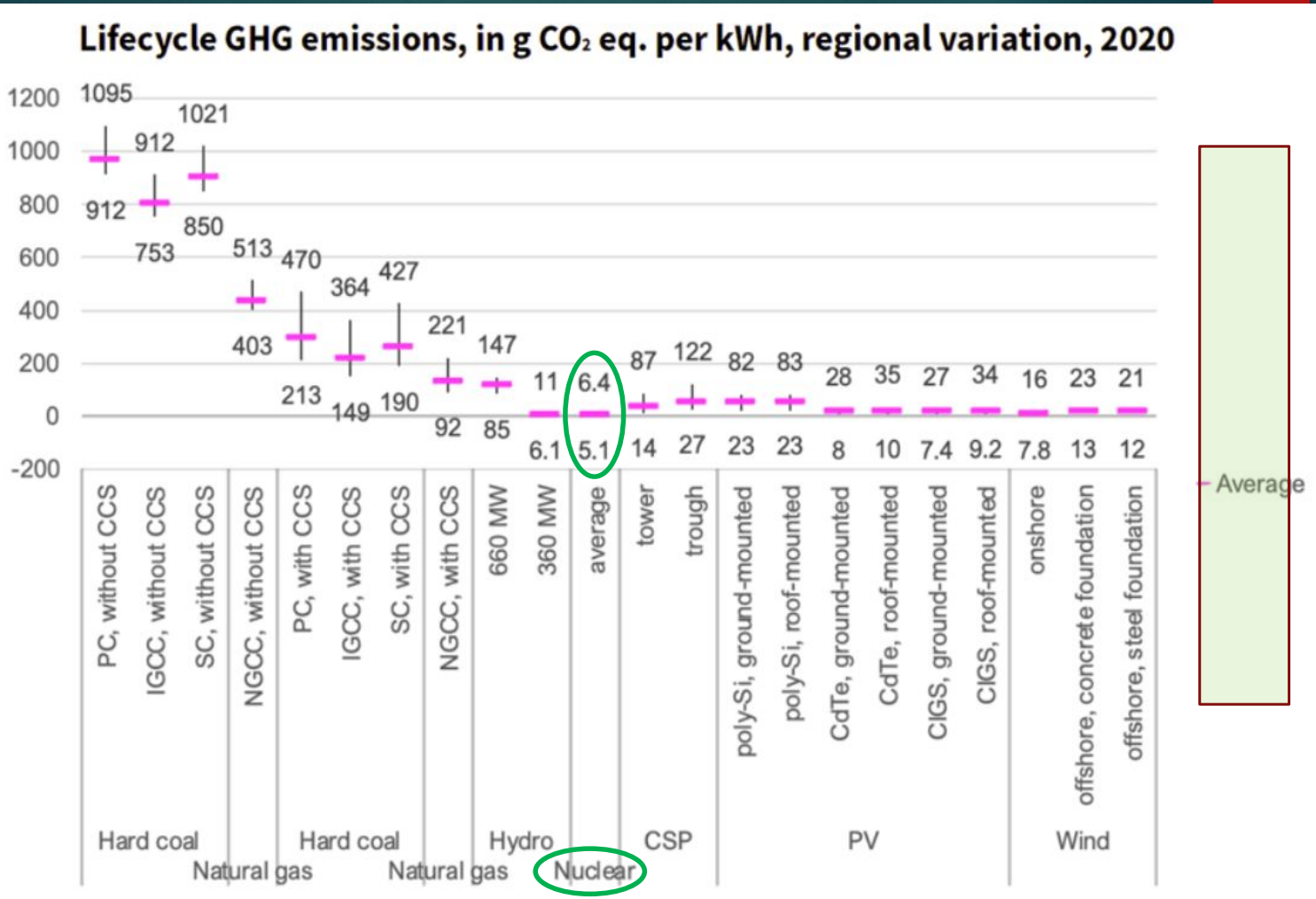
Cost a major

Energy not transitioning



Plenty of work but not enough


Electricity prices for household consumers, second half 2025
(€ per kWh)
0.50
0.40
0.30
0.20
0.10
0.00
-0.10
-0.20
EU
Euro area
Ireland
Germany
Belgium
Denmark
Austria
Czechia
Italy
Romania
Cyprus
Sweden
Poland
Spain
Luxembourg
France
Netherlands
Latvia
Portugal
Greece
Estonia
Finland
Slovenia
Lithuania
Slovakia
Croatia
Bulgaria
Malta
Hungary
Liechtenstein
Norway
Moldova
Serbia
North Macedonia
Montenegro
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Georgia
Türkiye
Kosovo (*)
Without taxes
Other taxes
VAT


Lifecycle GHG emissions, in g CO₂ eq. per kWh, regional variation, 2020
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
-200
1095
912
912
1021
912
753
850
513
403
470
213
364
149
427
190
221
92
147
85
11
6.1
6.4
5.1
87
14
122
27
82
23
83
23
28
8
35
10
27
7.4
34
9.2
16
7.8
23
13
21
12
PC, without CCS
IGCC, without CCS
SC, without CCS
NGCC, without CCS
PC, with CCS
IGCC, with CCS
SC, with CCS
NGCC, with CCS
660 MW
360 MW
average
tower
trough
poly-Si, ground-mounted
poly-Si, roof-mounted
CdTe, ground-mounted
CdTe, roof-mounted
CIGS, ground-mounted
CIGS, roof-mounted
onshore
offshore, concrete foundation
offshore, steel foundation
Hard coal
Natural gas
Hard coal
Natural gas
Hydro
Nuclear
CSP
PV
Wind
Average

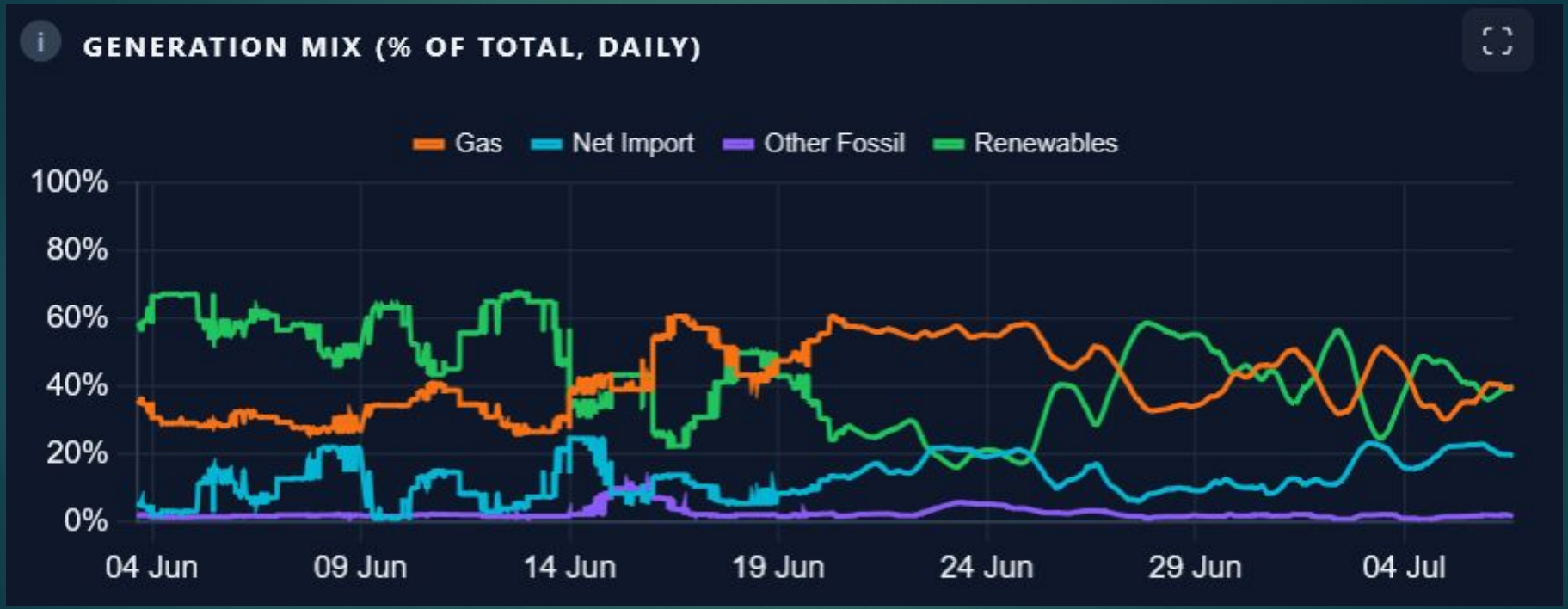
SMRs are being built

2 SMRs Estonia

Continue RE + Storage; Consider more; Act with conviction

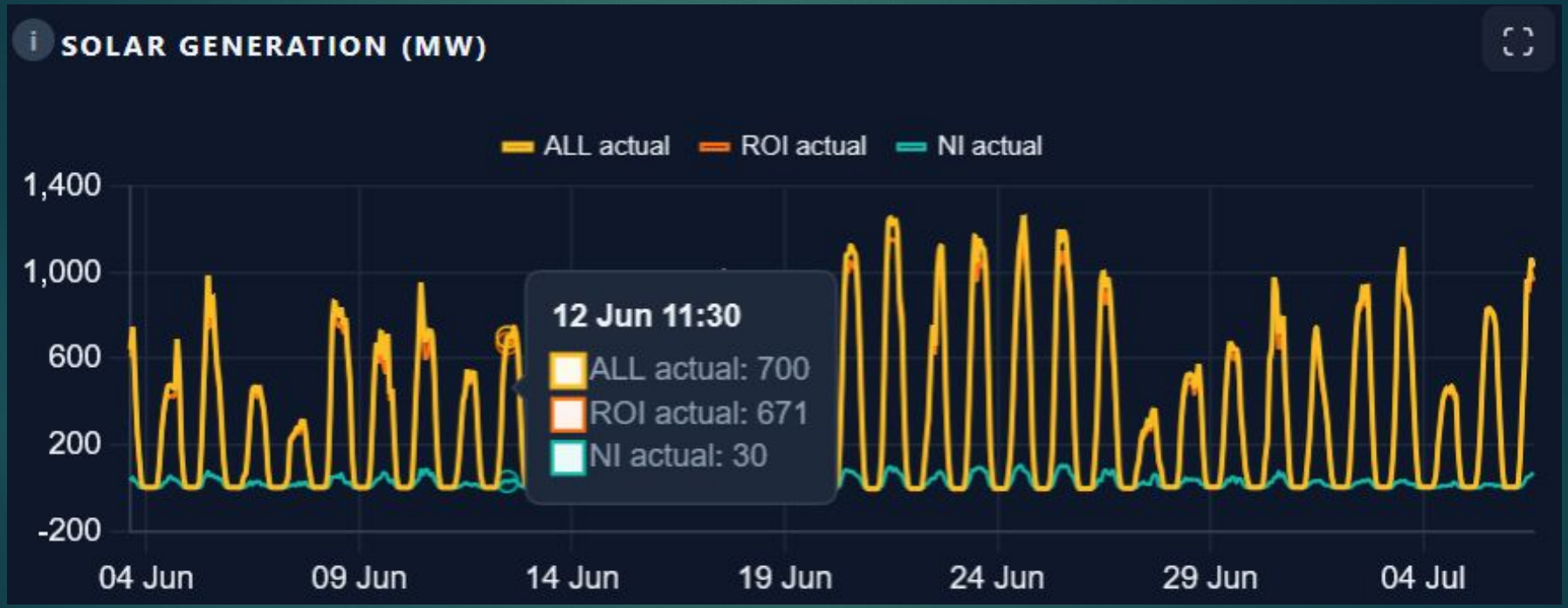
- Lower emissions
- Faster
- More secure
- Less land
- Less materials
- Lower bills

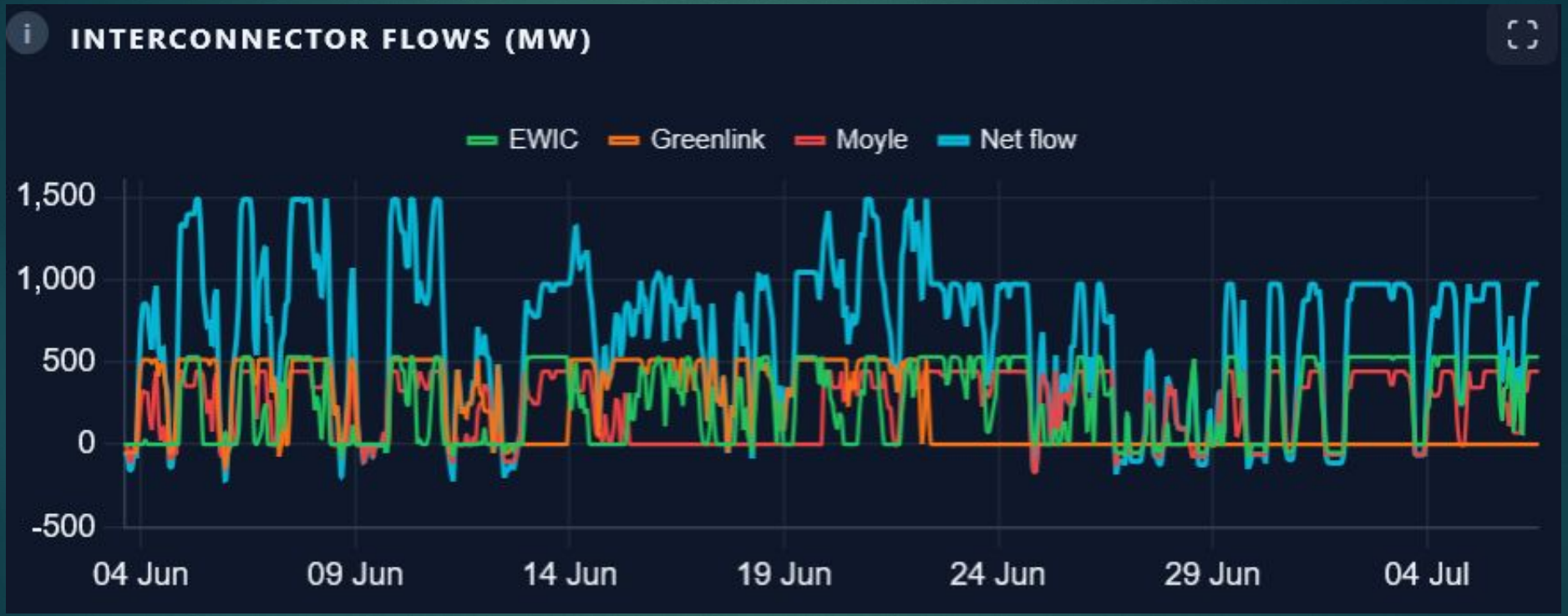
"Understand more; Fear less"; Marie Curie


GENERATION MIX (% OF TOTAL, DAILY)
Gas
Net Import
Other Fossil
Renewables
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
04 Jun
09 Jun
14 Jun
19 Jun
24 Jun
29 Jun
04 Jul


SNSP (%)
All-island
100
80
60
40
20
0
System limit 75%
04 Jun
09 Jun
14 Jun
19 Jun
24 Jun
29 Jun
04 Jul

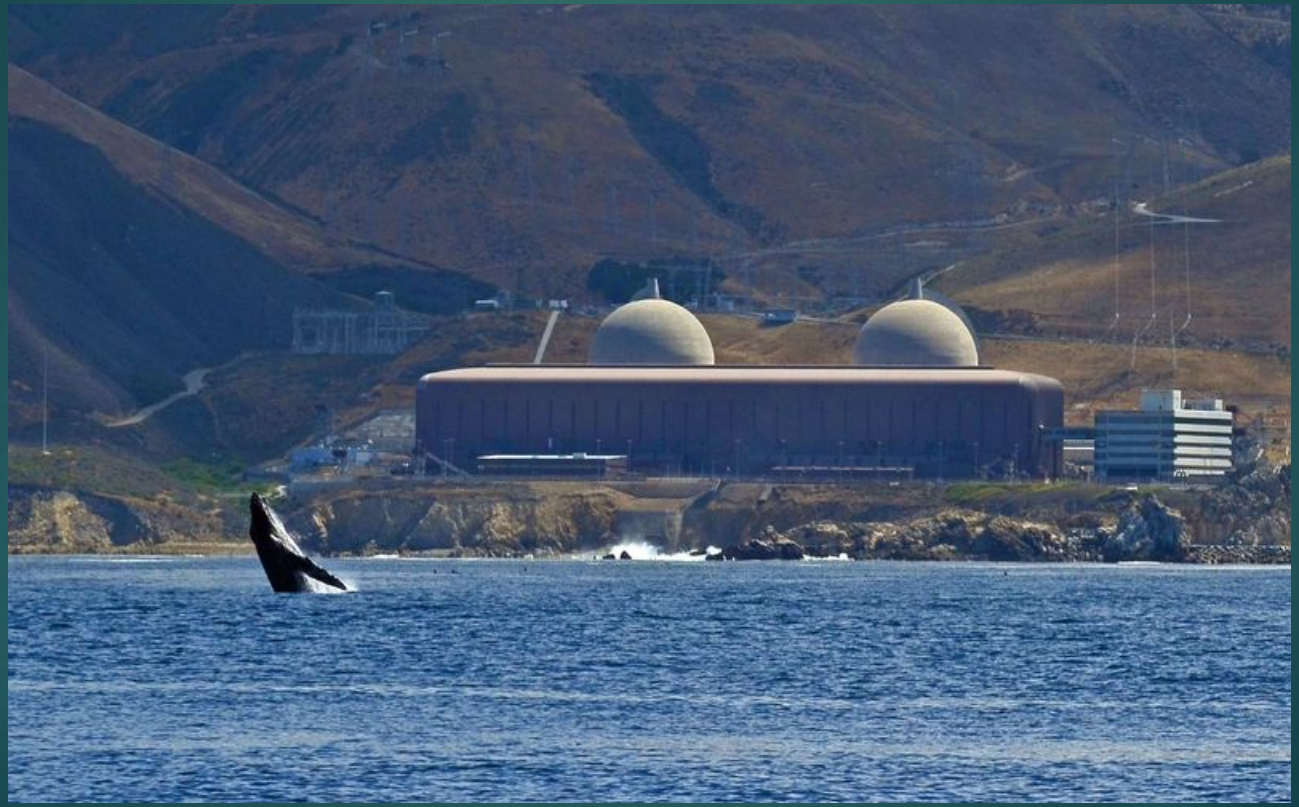

CO₂ INTENSITY (G/KWH)
ROI
350 g/kWh
300 g/kWh
250 g/kWh
200 g/kWh
150 g/kWh
100 g/kWh
50 g/kWh
0 g/kWh
04 Jun
09 Jun
14 Jun
19 Jun
24 Jun
29 Jun
04 Jul
28 Jun 16:15
ROI: 166
030 target (105 g/kWh)


SOLAR GENERATION (MW)
ALL actual
ROI actual
NI actual
1,400
1,000
600
200
-200
12 Jun 11:30
ALL actual: 700
ROI actual: 671
NI actual: 30
04 Jun
09 Jun
14 Jun
19 Jun
24 Jun
29 Jun
04 Jul


INTERCONNECTOR FLOWS (MW)
EWIC
Greenlink
Moyle
Net flow
1,500
1,000
500
0
-500
04 Jun
09 Jun
14 Jun
19 Jun
24 Jun
29 Jun
04 Jul


WIND GENERATION (MW)
ROI actual
3,000
2,500
2,000
1,500
1,000
500
0
04 Jun
09 Jun
14 Jun
19 Jun
24 Jun
29 Jun
04 Jul

Diablo Canyon



- 2007 Bertie Ahern: won't fall for the fools paradise of nuclear energy
- 2007 Ryan nuclear neither sustainable nor the answer
- 2007 McManus: wasting time on having a debate on nuclear power

Nuclear being built

- China
- Turkey
- Bangladesh
- Slovakia
- Canada
- India

SMRs in planning

- Poland
- Sweden
- Estonia
- Netherlands
- England
- Wales
- Canada
- Usa

SHOULD WE?

- WHY QUESTION IS IMPORTANT: Affordable energy directly correlates to how well and how long people live.
- WHAT DOES CONSIDER NUCLEAR MEAN? - SLIDE - 19 issues – discuss in detail LOL
- We considered 12 of these issues in 2020 SLIDE – Report – our traits
- Ireland well positioned on all 12 issues. After 2030, adding 18% nuclear to 70% RE is fastest, least cost, most sustainable way to net zero (18for0) – peer review
- No surprise – ESB found Ireland could go nuclear 50 years ago (2 sites in West)
- WHY WE DON'T Kinsale; 1980 recession -> gas & coal. '99/'06/'24 laws. AIGS '09 max RES; nuke blocked by Min
- PROGESS Plan: Decarbonise elec; electrify to max; @ acceptable cost & security & enable society/economy
- REPORT CARD AFTER Huge work on the everything-but-nuclear plan: **Elec** - Decarbonise elec **D** ; Electrify to max **D**$^{-}$; Cost: **E**; Security **D**$^{-}$; RE:**C**, Reliability:**A**, Adequate:**E**, **Energy**:**E** (3rd lowest RE in EU)
- Easy solns? Nukes less speculative than ORE Wave, Ocean, LDEStorage (H2, etc) by 2040 re cost, tech & scale
- RE-only is slower, less effective & more expensive than inclusive policy - a distraction from our primary goals?
- WHAT WE'D FIND Nuclear suitable (AP1000, RR, GE-HV, Centrica etc); cost; emissions; Transmission elephant
- Onus on opponents to show that we don't need it, 20+ years later
- I'm cautious on nuclear, so recommend considering it before making informed decision on whether to adopt
- 85%+ favour considering nuclear – FF want ban dropped – SEAI & EirGrid studies, less obscurantist

Nuclear
Not for a Small Island

Niall Murphy

cisco

green party
comhaontas glas

Fianna Fail Think Nuclear will solve our energy Challenges !!

Does Nuclear work for a Small Country

- Government has to cover the insurance
  - So one Fukushima accident would bankrupt us.
  - 150 Billion Euro over 30 years to clean it up

- Eggs in one basket
  - Shutting down the plant is covered by interconnector and batteries
  - But a design recall or an accident means long term loss of all nuclear on the grid – and it is too big a percentage
  - France has 56 power stations with 4 different designs

Waste !?

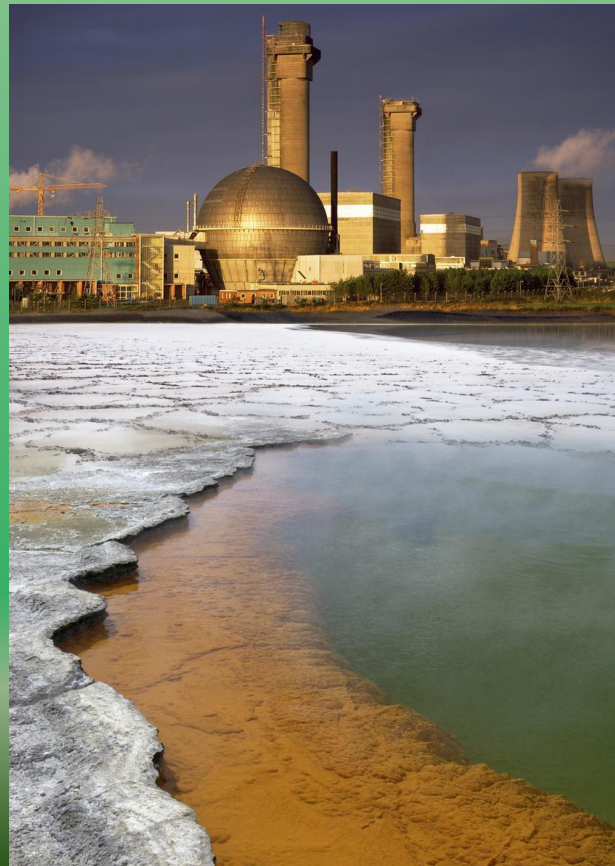
- 500,000 metric tonnes of nuclear waste worldwide
- … in temporary storage
- Waiting for someone else to solve it
- Or to dig a hole deep enough.

Waste Storage - Dry Casks

- Waste storage after 8 years in water
- Casks last 100 years
- Some are 40 years old!

Waste - the Windscale / Sellafield Debacle

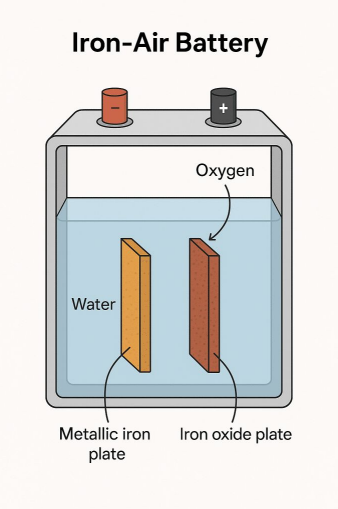
- Fire in Windscale in 1957 was their low point.
- A leak of 2 cubic metres of water per day discovered in 1970's
- Still leaking today !
- It will be sorted by 2050 when the pools are drained



Reliability

Renewable

Sometimes the wind does not blow, and sun does not shine



Short Term

Batteries : alternatives to Lithium can give 100 hours backup

Reliability

Renewable

Sometimes the wind does not blow,
and sun does not shine

Long Term - Seasonal

Interconnectors

Hydrogen or Ammonia storage

Reliability

Nuclear

Always on – no supply issues

Reliability

Nuclear

Always on – no supply issues

Except …

The Siene and the Rhone rivers are so warm that they can not cool the nuclear stations and they have been shut down

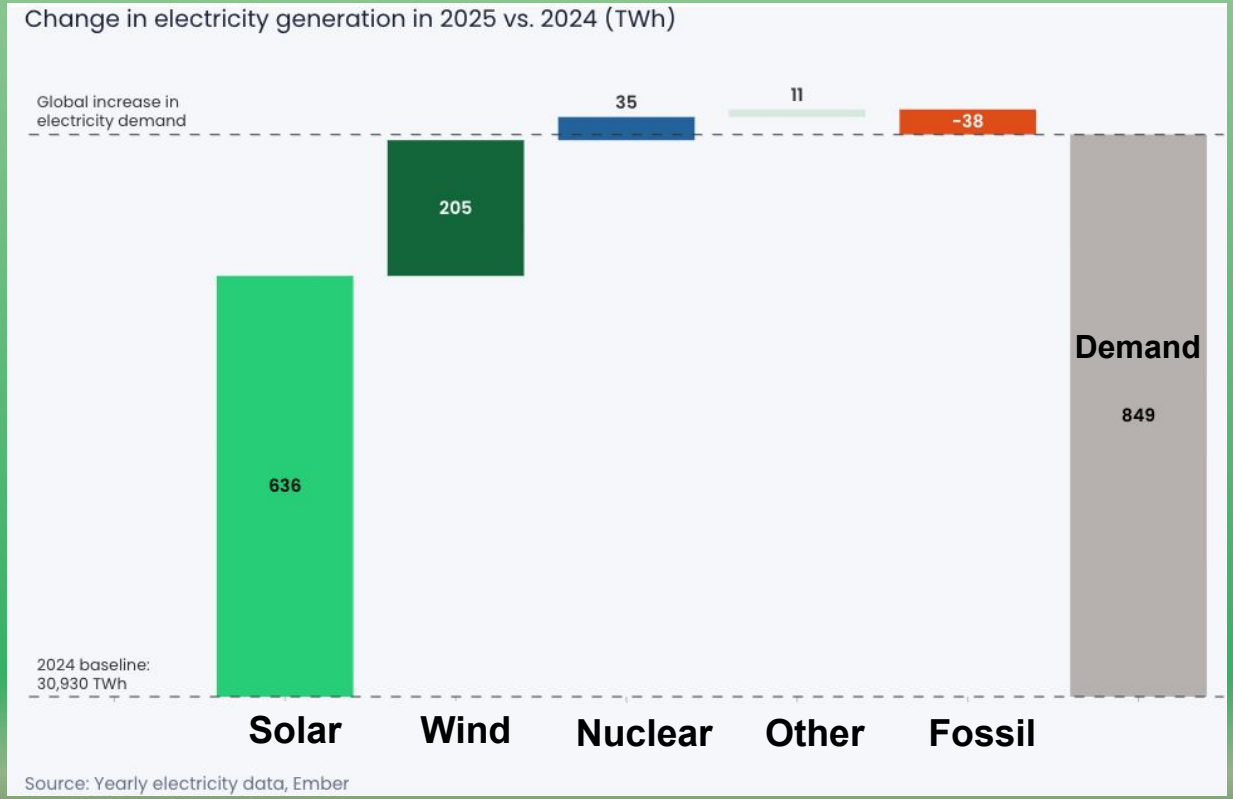
It’s the Economy Stupid !

A timeline for Ireland

2021–2022	~1 year	Citizens' Assembly
2022–2030	~8 years	Wait for commercial SMRs
2030–2035	~5 years	Political process, Dáil, referendum, legislation
2035–2040	~5 years	Policy, environmental assessment, planning framework updates
2040–2047	~7 years	Planning permission, appeals and judicial review
2047–2059	~12 years	Licensing, regulator, grid connection, financing
2059–2066	~7 years	Construction and commissioning
Total	**45 years**	**2021 → 2066**

The squeezing Out Problem

Do we need nuclear because renewables cannot keep up with demand - **NO**



More Info...

www.galwaygreens.ie/nuclear.pdf

for slides plus references.

ENERGY WEST
Community | Catalyzing | Innovation

PorterShed®
#supportedbyAIB

FUINNEAMH AN IARTHAIR
Pobal | Comhchruthú | Nuálaíocht

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Should Ireland Consider Nuclear

Niall Murphy

Denis Duff

ENERGY WEST
Community | Catalyzing | Innovation

PorterShed®
#supportedbyAIB

FUINNEAMH AN IARTHAIR
Pobal | Comhchruthú | Nuálaíocht

WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Thank You

hello@energywest.ie

https://portershed.com/energy-west/

https://www.linkedin.com/company/energy-west-ireland/