

A big month of nuclear news. We link to the best bits and to Irish media and shows, and list those Open, Anti and Not Sure about looking at all clean energy options

Very significant nuclear news this month

[European Commission approves SMR working groups](#) to support their deployment in Europe

[Microsoft to buy 835MW nuclear](#). **Three Mile Island** Unit 1 to re-start

[Amazon signs up to develop high-temperature nuclear energy](#) and to promote construction of several Small Modular Reactors (**SMRs**)

[Google to buy 500MW from small modular reactors](#) being developed by Kairos Power by 2030

[Oracle gigawatt data centre to be powered by nuclear SMR](#)

[Canada](#) held a public hearing on Ontario Power Generation's licence application to construct a **300MW SMR** at Darlington. Part 2 of the hearing will be held in January 2025

[Britain advances 4 SMRs to final stage of its competition](#) (GE-Hitachi, Holtec, Rolls-Royce and Westinghouse)

[Wales plans four 20MW reactors](#) in £300 million, privately funded, Last Energy project, with at least 10% of materials and services to be sourced locally. The first unit is planned to start operating in 2027

[Slovenia to hold referendum on new nuclear in November](#), to go beside the type of reactor that Ireland rejected for Carnsore Point in 1980

[Italy plans to return to nuclear](#) 35 years after closing last reactor

[Jamaica to look at nuclear](#) with Canada's help to diversify energy and reduce the cost of living

[USA makes \\$900 million available for SMR development](#)

[14 large financial institutions support tripling of global nuclear energy](#)

[IAE say nuclear must triple by 2050](#) - must reach 812 GW Net Zero

[Von der Leyen - EU needs "more nuclear"](#)

[IAEA makes progress on standardized SMR designs](#) and licensing in several countries to enable their fast and safe deployment

[USA adults' nuclear support up to 56% in 2024](#) from 43% in 2020

Media events last month...

[Google goes nuclear for Data Centres - time for Ireland to follow suit.](#) Prof **Paul Deane** (MaREI) discusses with Irish Independent's **Adrian Weckler**, where 'fear' of nuclear could be Ireland's biggest barrier

[If Ireland keeps dithering on wind and solar energy, it's time we went nuclear.](#) **Adrian Weckler** continues the theme of the radio interview above in an article in the Irish Independent

[Should Ireland stop using coal power for electricity.](#) Prof **Aoife Foley** outlines a shortage of options with Newstalk's **Pat Kenny**

[Irish Times letter](#) - strange outcomes of a conflicted Energy Policy

[Irish Times Editorial](#) claims wind is the answer to supplying energy for data centres and that nuclear won't be allowed in Ireland because a political consensus is unlikely. Strangely incorrect and unambitious.

We made a list; checking it twice...

Irish in favour of looking at nuclear energy:

Eamon Ryan, Energy Minister ("[Nuclear power should be considered](#)")

Engineers Ireland ([Nuclear can support energy security and reduce fossil fuels](#))

Irish Academy of Engineering ("[Especially small modular reactors](#)")

ESB ([SMRs could make it "appropriate to reconsider nuclear"](#) - p31)

EirGrid CEO Mark Foley ("[nuclear should now be considered](#)")

Bono, U2 singer ("[Nuclear is the answer](#)")

The Edge, U2 guitarist ([backs nuclear solution to climate problem](#))

Patrick Collison, Stripe co-founder ("[nuclear transformatively helpful](#)")

Alex White, former Energy Minister ("[nuclear must be explored](#)")

Denis Naughten, former Energy Minister ("[nothing to fear](#)")

David McWilliams, economist ("[nuclear is compelling](#)")

Michael McDowell, Senator ([It's nuclear or gas](#) & [No wishful thinking](#))

Colm McCarthy, UCD Economist ('an Bord Snip', 'an Bord Snip Nua')

Billy Kelleher, FF MEP (has an [open mind on clean energy sources](#))

James Lawless, FF Minister Environment, Climate, etc ([Open minded](#))

SEAI ([Nuclear is an option, especially SMRs](#) - p63)

Meath County Council ([Motion to consider nuclear passed](#) by MCC)

Michael O'Leary, Ryanair CEO ([Ireland needs nuclear power](#))

Young people ([TheJournal.ie poll](#))

Most Irish people ([Sampled at Electric Picnic 2024](#))

More Irish people Twitter poll ("[Should Ireland seriously consider developing a Nuclear Power plant?](#)")

Northern Irish professionals ([Nuclear is worth considering](#))

KPMG ([Small reactors might suit Ireland's scale](#))

The Workers Party ([In favour of nuclear energy for socialist reasons](#))

The silent majority - "not anti-nuclear":

An Taoiseach Simon Harris, and Fine Gael (FG acts "[regardless of dogma or ideology](#) and recognises the threat from ... bad planning", yet they will pass an ideological anti-nuclear law in the Planning Bill 2024. Is this just a temporary oversight?)

An Tánaiste Micheál Martin, and Fianna Fáil (Reportedly)

Sinn Féin ([No mention of nuclear](#) found in their policies)

Social Democrats (No mention of nuclear found in their policies)

Independent Alliance

Seán Kelly FG MEP (Likes Ireland-France interconnector, so presumed supportive despite his acknowledged lack of nuclear info. Confusingly, also mentions importance of moving away from "[dependence on fossil or nuclear energy](#)", although nuclear is central to EU energy policy)

EPA ([Balanced view of nuclear energy for Ireland](#). p91)

The vocal minority - won't look at nuclear:

Eamon Ryan TD Minister for Energy ([Prefers emergency gas to nuclear and disputes expert engineers research on cost and effectiveness](#))

Green Party (formed after anti-nuclear 'success' in 1980 that led to a coal-fired station instead. "[Greens stand for a nuclear-free Europe](#)")

Labour Party (Labour TD pushed for the 1999 nuclear ban. [Energy policy](#) is very lacking in detail)

People Before Profit Party (against nuclear energy for [socialist reasons](#) - article includes a photo of a burning oil refinery!)

Friends of the Earth (Still adopt the poor "voodoo economics" & "[Ireland must not buy British nuclear](#)" arguments of 1999)

Friends of the Irish Environment ([vehemently opposed to nuclear](#) energy development in Ireland and Britain)

Michael McGrath FF EU Commissioner ("[It's not nuclear](#)"; disagrees with Engineers Ireland but produces no evidence to support his view)

These lists are [stored on our 18for0.ie website](#). Please let us know of any additions or amendments you are aware of. Thank you!

Ireland News

18for0 at the EU SMR Alliance

We represented Ireland at the first full meeting of the [SMR Industrial Alliance](#) Technical Working Group on Public Outreach.

2023 Planning Bill signed - doesn't prevent nuclear fission

Ireland's anti-nuclear laws don't forbid electricity generated by nuclear fusion in Ireland, or by nuclear fission imported from Britain or France, or

hydrogen or heat generated by nuclear fission in Ireland. They forbid only Irish nuclear fission electricity generation, for no apparent reason other than the Green Party is fundamentally opposed and other parties don't see a problem with continuing with the senseless clauses.

What About the Waste?

A common but easily answered question concerns 'The Waste'. These 3 items outline the small amounts of nuclear waste created given the amount of energy produced, and how it is safely managed.

Picture: See [what 45 years of used nuclear fuel](#) from a North American nuclear power plant looks like.

Video: [How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love Nuclear Waste](#)

Article: Did you know that nuclear waste can be an asset, not a burden. The International Atomic Energy Agency discusses the key benefits of [using fast neutron reactors in a closed fuel cycle](#), where:

1. Power generation can be 60-70 times more fuel efficient
2. Much less waste is generated
3. The waste is only radioactive for ~250 years, not thousands of years

Outreach

Cabinet's ill-conceived, unhelpful and unnecessary **bans on Irish nuclear reactors** in the 2023 Planning and Development Bill and the 1999 Electricity Regulation Act have serious negative impacts on the effectiveness and cost of Ireland's clean energy plans, and should be reversed.

Sensible energy policy and a credible decarbonisation plan must feature in Ireland's next general election. Excluding nuclear from our energy policy puts us at a significant disadvantage internationally and seriously jeopardises our chances of achieving Net Zero by 2050. Meanwhile, support for nuclear energy is growing steadily here.

Please email [TDs and Senators](#) - start with this [sample letter](#) - if you **disagree with the bans on Irish nuclear energy and want a more inclusive and credible Irish energy policy.**

We can address your local club, village or extended group of friends.

Please [get in touch](#) to arrange an event, either online or in person.

Have you ideas about how to engage more people in **our message of hope** for an affordable clean energy future? [Contact us here](#)

Helpful 18for0 Links

- [18for0 Objectives](#)
- [18for0 Publications](#)
- [Got questions? See our FAQ!](#)
- [Would you like to get involved? Reach out to us!](#)
- Got this newsletter via a forward? Subscribe [HERE](#)

18for0 - an Irish voluntary group of professionals - firmly believe that Ireland must assess every technology for its ability to assure our clean energy future. After all, if we haven't got all the information, how can we know that we're making the right decisions?

This newsletter is important to us. It keeps you updated on relevant developments about nuclear energy suitable for Ireland, confirms your vital part in our community and lets you know what we've been up to.

We welcome any [ideas, help or feedback](#) that you might like to offer.