

18for0 in Action

Our **Denis Duff** had an excellent [conversation on Ireland's clean energy outlook](#) on **LMFM Radio** (18 mins, from minute 1)

Denis also outlined why [Ireland probably needs nuclear energy](#), and should consider it, on Newstalk's Hard Shoulder with Kieran Cuddihy

We continue to engage with students, colleges, researchers and media about Ireland's energy options - let us know if this interests you

We've a new initiative to **end the 'temporary' moratorium** on Large Energy Users in Ireland and may help the LEUs to take effective action

Opinions on nuclear & energy in Ireland

[55% of us want MORE climate change action](#) from this Government compared to the last one, and only 21% want less (Ireland Thinks poll). What better action than to **drop their unhelpful nuclear bans**?

Mark Foley (ex-CEO of EirGrid) said there is [no net zero electricity without nuclear](#) being part of the mix. And he should know!

[Ireland had new record electricity demand of 7,442 MW](#) on 9 Jan last - a cold, still evening when wind supplied 142 MW and Solar PV gave 0

Chris Horn wonders about the Government response if a top-tier cloud vendor asserted that their [continued presence here depended on them being allowed to co-locate nuclear with their data centres](#)

Michael McDowell asks whether "we have to [face up to the hard questions concerning nuclear power?](#) Is a strategy based wholly on wind and solar power sustainable or safe?"

Fine Gael's EU group, the EPP, **plans to abolish renewable energy targets** and [allow member states to decide the technologies they will use](#) to achieve the EU's climate targets

Britain is forming an AI energy council to explore [growth zones to power data centres with small modular reactors](#)

British Unions and business groups approve of plans to make it [easier to build mini nuclear power](#) stations in more parts of England and Wales by removing "blockers" and changing planning rules

British Gas warned there was "[only a week of supply left](#)". As Britain supplies 81% of the gas that powered 52% of our electricity during last month's peaks, we must look at alternatives, including nuclear!

Angelica Oung summarises the [top global nuclear news of 2024](#)

IEA explains how **nuclear energy can address energy security and climate** concerns - [The Path to a New Era of Nuclear Energy](#)

Fatih Birol welcomes [a new era for nuclear energy](#) (historic high output in 2025, most construction projects in 30 years, over 40 countries to expand nuclear, SMRs are coming), but challenges remain

Microsoft outlines how [AI can reduce nuclear permitting bottlenecks](#)

Good graphic of the [top 8 countries building nuclear reactors](#)

Denmark to [halt all offshore wind tenders](#) as the existing framework with **no subsidies does not work** under current market conditions

Denmark poll shows [majority in favour of nuclear](#)

Poland backs \$14.7bn funding for its [first large nuclear plant](#) - will also develop SMRs

Sweden makes progress on its [first new reactor in over 40 years](#)

Sweden urges [Britain to join European mini-reactor pact](#)

Sweden starts work on [new storage site for partially used nuclear fuel](#)

Italy's plan for their [nuclear return to be ready by end of 2027](#)

Czech Republic Unveils Plans For [68% Nuclear Share By 2040](#)

Norway identifies potential sites for [4 SMRs in Norway](#)

France exported [19 TWh of electricity to Germany in 2024](#) - enough for 60% of Ireland's total 2024 demand

Estonia begins to [select sites for their first SMR reactors](#)

Canada: Ontario considers a [huge nuclear expansion](#) programme

USA [majority \(56%\) supports nuclear](#)

New York [revisits nuclear energy](#) 2 years after closing Indian Point NP

Texas [considers SMRs](#) -

Japan government panel supports [reversing the phase out of nuclear](#)

USA Terrapower receives construction [permit for natrium in Wyoming](#)

China [fusion progress](#)

Russia Akademik Lomonosov [SMR completes first fuel cycle](#) -

USA Minnesota considering [removing ban on new nuclear](#) -

Microreactors to [rival batteries for clean energy](#) (FT paywall)

What About the Waste?

Isotope compares "[perfectly safe, indestructible "waste"](#) that sits in a parking lot, harms no one and we know where every single piece of it is" with "plastic waste that harms entire ecosystems or the fossil fuel waste that kills more than 4 million people each year"

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.