

18 FOR 0

Newsletter #18 (Sept 2024)

Clean energy snippets this month...

Thought-provoker: *Many people stopped being anti-nuclear once they researched it more, but do you know of anybody whose research caused them to **become** anti-nuclear?*

We're making a list...

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 (Probably. [No time for 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)

Irish anti-nuclear:

Eamon Ryan TD Minister for Energy ([Says nuclear is too slow and expensive for Ireland but hasn't checked if this is correct](#). It isn't)

Green Party (formed following anti-nuclear 'success' in 1980, resulting in a coal-fired station being built instead. A Pyrrhic victory. "[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)

We plan to expand these lists in future editions and to store the results on our 18for0.ie website. Please let us know of any additions or amendments you are aware of. Thank you!

What is your opinion?

Should Ireland remove the nuclear bans and consider all forms of clean energy?

Remove the bans & consider nuclear

Keep the bans but still consider nuclear

Keep the bans and don't consider nuclear

Remove the bans but don't consider nuclear

Other

Continue

18for0 activity

18for0 at the EU SMR Alliance

18for0 will attend the first meeting of the [SMR industrial alliance](#). Ursula von der Leyen made development, demonstration and deployment of SMRs in the EU a specific European Commission priority

18for0 at Climate Week 2024 in New York

18for0's Sarah Cullen [attended](#) various events at 2024 Climate Week that brought together clean energy advocates from around the world.

Nuclear for Ireland

Nuclear for Ireland - Twitter Poll

"[Should Ireland seriously consider developing a Nuclear Power plant?](#)" 74% Yes; 20% No; 6% Undecided (1,338 votes on Sep 30)

Is it time for Ireland to discuss building nuclear energy?

A director at the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre asks if it is [time for Ireland to discuss building nuclear energy?](#) and highlights the role nuclear could play in addressing the "energy trilemma" (energy that is secure/reliable, affordable and environmentally sustainable)

Nuclear: Europe

Nuclear lowers electricity prices

[Decarbonising electricity with nuclear, renewables and storage](#) is 40% cheaper than with just renewables and storage (US Dept of Energy). Ireland should conduct a similar study - it is reckless misuse of public funds to undertake possibly the most

expensive program in Ireland's history (i.e. decarbonising electricity) without analysing the options

Financial Institution support

14 of the [largest financial institutions in the world jointly support](#) the tripling of global nuclear energy production, consistent with the COP28 pledge to triple nuclear energy by 2050. New nuclear energy is now an accepted option globally; Will Ireland continue its dogmatic opposition to nuclear or take an evidenced-based approach to clean electricity?

Most anti-nuclear nations begin to change

Most of the 8 countries with nuclear energy bans (Australia, Austria, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Serbia, Uruguay) are reconsidering nuclear. Will Ireland be the last place on earth with such a ban?

EU Needs "More Nuclear" - European Commission President

Ursula von der Leyen, at a security conference in Prague, called for the EU to be more self-sufficient in energy production. She previously highlighted the key role that nuclear energy will play in the EU's decarbonisation journey

Switzerland to Lift Ban on New Nuclear

The Swiss government [lifts its nuclear ban](#) due to geopolitical tension, climate targets and increasing electricity demand, as the ban on new nuclear was "not compatible" with its objective of achieving net zero by 2050. The decision will ultimately go to a public referendum.

Germany Looks to Nuclear Return

The Vice Chairman of CDU, Germany's largest political party, said: "the traffic light coalition must [ensure that the nuclear power plants are not destroyed](#)...and the citizens must also be able to decide whether the nuclear power plants should be put back on the grid".

The leader of the CDU, Friedrich Merz - [a candidate for chancellor](#) in Germany's next election in 2025 - previously said he would turn Germany's nuclear plants back online if he gains power.

Italy in Talks to Create Nuclear Power Company

After announcing plans to return to nuclear energy production, Italian government officials have [reportedly started preliminary talks](#) with a number of companies to create a new company to build SMRs.

Finnish Waste Repository Completes First Stage of Trial Run

The [long-term storage facility](#) for nuclear waste will see the used fuel being placed in the bedrock at a depth of about 430 metres.

Sweden to Start Building New Nuclear Reactor by 2026

The Swedish Prime Minister [said](#) that they will begin to construct a new nuclear reactor before their next legislative election in 2026. They intend to increase nuclear production by the equivalent of two reactors by 2035, with a "massive expansion" to follow by 2045.

Swedish SMR Tech Company Trials New Nuclear Uses

Blykallad to [integrate SMRs with thermochemical processes](#) to produce renewable bio-coal and bio-oil to reduce carbon emissions and enhance energy efficiency in Sweden's steel and chemical industries.

Rolls Royce Selected as Czech SMR Developer

Rolls Royce will [enter into a strategic partnership](#) with Czech state-controlled utility CEZ. The first SMR is expected to be built in the first half of the 2030s.

The UK Narrows SMR Competition to 4 Designs

Great British Nuclear wants an [operational SMR by the mid-2030s](#). The remaining companies will now negotiate development contracts. The 4 designs: Westinghouse's AP300, GE Hitachi's BWRX-300, Holtec's SMR-300 and Rolls-Royce's 470-megawatt pressurized water reactor.

Nuclear: USA, Canada & Global:

Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant to Reopen

[Microsoft wants a 20-year agreement for](#) reliable clean energy from the Constellation plant to meet its data centre energy needs.

The partial meltdown of a TMI reactor in 1979 drove anti-nuclear sentiment in the 1980s, although there is no evidence the accident had any detrimental health impacts

Data Centres in Saudi Arabia may be powered by nuclear energy

Saudi Arabia's vision for peaceful nuclear aligns with the growing energy needs of [AI and data centres](#).

Why Many Environmentalists are Warming to Nuclear Power

Utility Dive notes that [public sentiment amongst the environmental community has shifted](#) in light of the facts regarding nuclear energy's safety record and decarbonisation potential.

Oracle Plans Data Centre Powered by 3 SMRs

The company has [identified](#) a site with building permits for 3 SMRs, which it intends to use in order to power a 1GW+ data centre.

Kairos Begins Production of Demonstration SMR

The [design](#) is the first next-generation reactor to be approved for construction by the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The demonstration plant will be in Tennessee and is expected to be operational in 2027.

Ghana Signs Agreement to Build NuScale SMR

The [agreement](#) was signed as part of a US-Africa nuclear energy summit in Nairobi and is reflective of a renewed focus from the US to export energy technology globally.

Thorium Reactors in China

A new [article](#) discusses China's exploration of thorium-fuelled reactors as part of its plans to be 150 advanced nuclear reactors by 2035.

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](#):

1. It 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 short-sighted, unhelpful and unnecessary **ban on building nuclear reactors in Ireland** - in The Planning and Development Bill 2024 - has serious negative implications for 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, as 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.