

Ireland should assess the potential of every reasonable technology to contribute to our clean energy future - we can't have confidence in decisions that lack vital information.

Our newsletter contains brief updates about nuclear energy suitable for Ireland, confirms your vital part in our community, and lets you know what we've been doing on your behalf.

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

Nuclear in Ireland - seeing the need?

EirGrid analysing nuclear

In 2024, EirGrid began a high level analysis of the potential of dispatchable energy (particularly nuclear energy) to address the technical and economic challenges in achieving net zero.

In March, **EPRI** advised that small modular reactors (SMRs) [may warrant further investigation in Ireland](#), as our competitors can use nuclear energy that (unlike renewables) can provide constant, resilient, low carbon electricity that affords them a competitive advantage not easily contested by Ireland.

The Board then requested high level assessments of:

- 1. Advanced nuclear deployment** in neighbouring regions
- 2. Risks** to technology, deployment and viability
- 3. Nuclear cost** - in what 'feasible region' does it become economic by 2035-2040
- 4. SMR readiness roadmap**
- 5. Technology and site screening.**

- Ken Foxe (The Story.ie) published this [detailed story](#).
- The EirGrid Chairman [explains the rationale](#).

John Fitzgerald: We should explore nuclear

Fitzgerald calls [nuclear "another possible option"](#) for Ireland. This is encouraging, although he appears to prefer maximum renewables over reliable clean energy at least cost.

Workshop - should Ireland consider Nuclear?

18for0 is considering a "*Should We? - Could We? - What Next?*" nuclear energy workshop with government, industry and academia in early 2026. Offers of help or funding would be very useful, as our voluntary resources are thinly spread.

Signs Ireland needs nuclear

SEAI wants [plausible assumptions for the Climate Action Plan](#) and sees need to consider alternative pathways to power sector decarbonisation. Experts deem it unlikely that Offshore Wind, Hydrogen and CCS will deliver the desired emissions reductions by 2040.

NESC reports that [cheaper, cleaner energy including nuclear in UK and FR compromises our efforts](#) to address the energy trilemma, which are already extremely unlikely to succeed

Highest emissions in Western Europe and falling too slowly

Electricity [only 31% supplied by Wind energy](#) so far in 2025. After 20 years of concerted effort, we're nowhere near the target of 80% renewable electricity by 2030

Most expensive electricity in the EU

Industry restricted due to a shortage of clean electricity

DECC highlights the [37GW Offshore Wind Plan's precarious balance](#) on items that could put it beyond practical levels (p17). While bids must fall by 30%, one 2024 auction winner already withdrew and the other 3 are unlikely to deliver by 2030, if at all

Ireland's Solar PV potential is the poorest of [230 countries assessed by World Bank \(Table 3.8\)](#).

Nuclear in Europe

EU SMR Action Plan adopted

The European Industrial Alliance on Small Modular Reactors' [Strategic Action Plan](#) provides a detailed overview of planned activities to facilitate the development, demonstration, and deployment of SMRs in Europe by the early 2030s.

Germany and France agree on nuclear and H2

Germany and France agree to [include nuclear energy](#) in technology neutrality and energy policy harmony.

France will also support Germany's Southwestern Hydrogen Corridor connecting Spain, Portugal, France, and Germany, comprising the H2Med and HY-FEN pipeline projects.

EU plans for small reactors

Poland: Plans [at least two SMRs in service by 2035](#) - the 300MW GE-Hitachi BWRX-300 SMR

Estonia: Fermi Energia plans [2 SMRs by the mid 2030's](#)

Czechia: Plans the first [Rolls-Royce SMR in the mid-2030's](#)

Finland: [Helsinki to test nuclear district heating](#)

Slovenia: [Include SMRs in Spatial Development Strategy.](#)

EU plans for large reactors

France: Plans [at least 6 to 8 additional large reactors](#)

Poland: Plans [6 large reactors by 2040](#); start building in 2026

Sweden: Plans [2 large reactors by 2035 and 10 others by 2045](#)

Bulgaria: Has advanced [plans for 2 new reactors](#)

Romania: Has plans for [2 new reactors](#)

Czechia: Plans [another new reactor](#)

How are renewables doing in Europe?

European Offshore Wind energy **auctions are disappointing:**
[Germany received NO BIDS](#) in its recent Offshore auction

UK Wind 2025 [maximum guaranteed prices](#) have **increased**
(these are quoted in 2012 money, so they're higher in 2025):

-Offshore wind: £113 per megawatt-hour, up from £102 in 2024

-Floating offshore wind: £271/MWh, up from £245

-Onshore wind: £92/MWh, up from £89

-Solar PV: £75/MWh, down from £85/MWh in 2024.

Interesting observation

In France and Germany, high [Solar PV output causes the nuclear energy output to reduce](#) and leads to no reduction in emissions, as nuclear is cleaner than PV

Beyond Europe

USA

Two 1,120 MW AP100 units came [online in Vogtle, Georgia](#), in 2023/4 - the first new reactors built in the U.S. in 30 years.

Westinghouse announced a [plan to build 10 large reactors](#) in the U.S., with construction starting by 2030, in partnership with Cameco and Brookfield.

The **Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)** lists [many light-water reactor applications](#) for new builds across USA.

X-energy is constructing [four Xe-100 reactors](#) at the Dow Chemical plant in Seadrift, **Texas**

Oklo plans to commission a [fast reactor in Idaho](#) (up to 75 MW)

Google [agreed to help finance 50MW small modular reactors](#) by Kairos Power in Tennessee by 2030.

18for0 activities

Electric Picnic outreach

A superb EP weekend in August, with games, quizzes, Poolbeg Nuclear (!) seating, temporary tattoos, posters and exhibits. We had over 95% positive public response to our poll: "Should Ireland remove its nuclear ban and consider all forms of clean energy?". Our participation in a 'Community Energy' talk in the Solar Saloon was very well received.

Newstalk interview

The Hard Shoulder heard that our energy transition has stalled, nuclear energy isn't nuclear weapons (!) and [nuclear may be very helpful for Ireland's energy cost, emissions and reliability](#).

Energy Transition Summit

Croke Park heard others say that our transition has stalled and our energy policy is 'headed into fog'. We said that [nuclear with renewables would lower energy cost and emissions, increase security](#), and minimise fossil fuels in our clean energy future

Irish people surprisingly(?) pro-nuclear

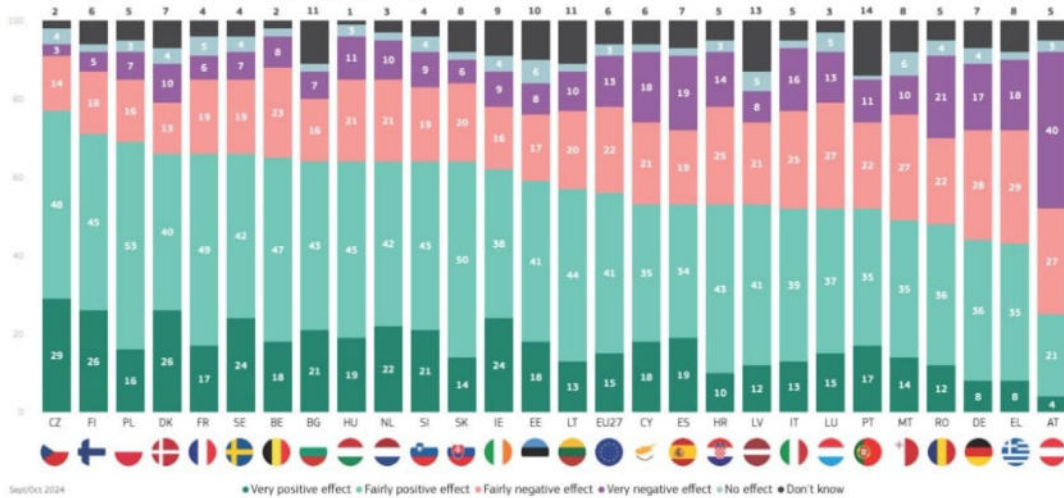
Ireland polled **62% positive towards nuclear** energy (2024 Eurobarometer poll), a very positive response to: "Do you think Nuclear energy for energy production will have a positive, a negative or no effect on our way of life in the next 20 years?"

25% were negative, a decrease of 14% from previous poll.

It's time for Ireland's leaders to consider nuclear energy.

As the image below is hard to read, it is also available [here](#).

QA6a.8. The following is a list of areas where new technologies are currently being developed. For each of these, do you think it will have a positive, a negative or no effect on our way of life in the next 20 years?—Nuclear energy for energy production (%)



Europe is clearly pro-nuclear

An 18for0 [summary of nuclear policies](#) shows impressive support for nuclear energy in Europe's 30 largest countries.

21 nations now operate or plan nuclear power plants, with **5 others considering** them. Ireland and the 3 other anti-nuclear countries only use nuclear energy that is imported - an odd attitude concerning Europe's largest source of clean energy.

It's time for Ireland to properly consider nuclear energy.

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?