



# ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN

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## IN THIS EDITION

- DESIGN PLAN FOR THE ROLL-OUT OF SMART ELECTRICITY METERS
- LOW CARBON HEAT CONSULTATION
- SMART ENERGY CONFERENCE & ELECTRICITY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND CONFERENCE – ZERO E-MISSION FUTURE
- ENERGY MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE
- SAVE ENERGY, SAVE MONEY CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

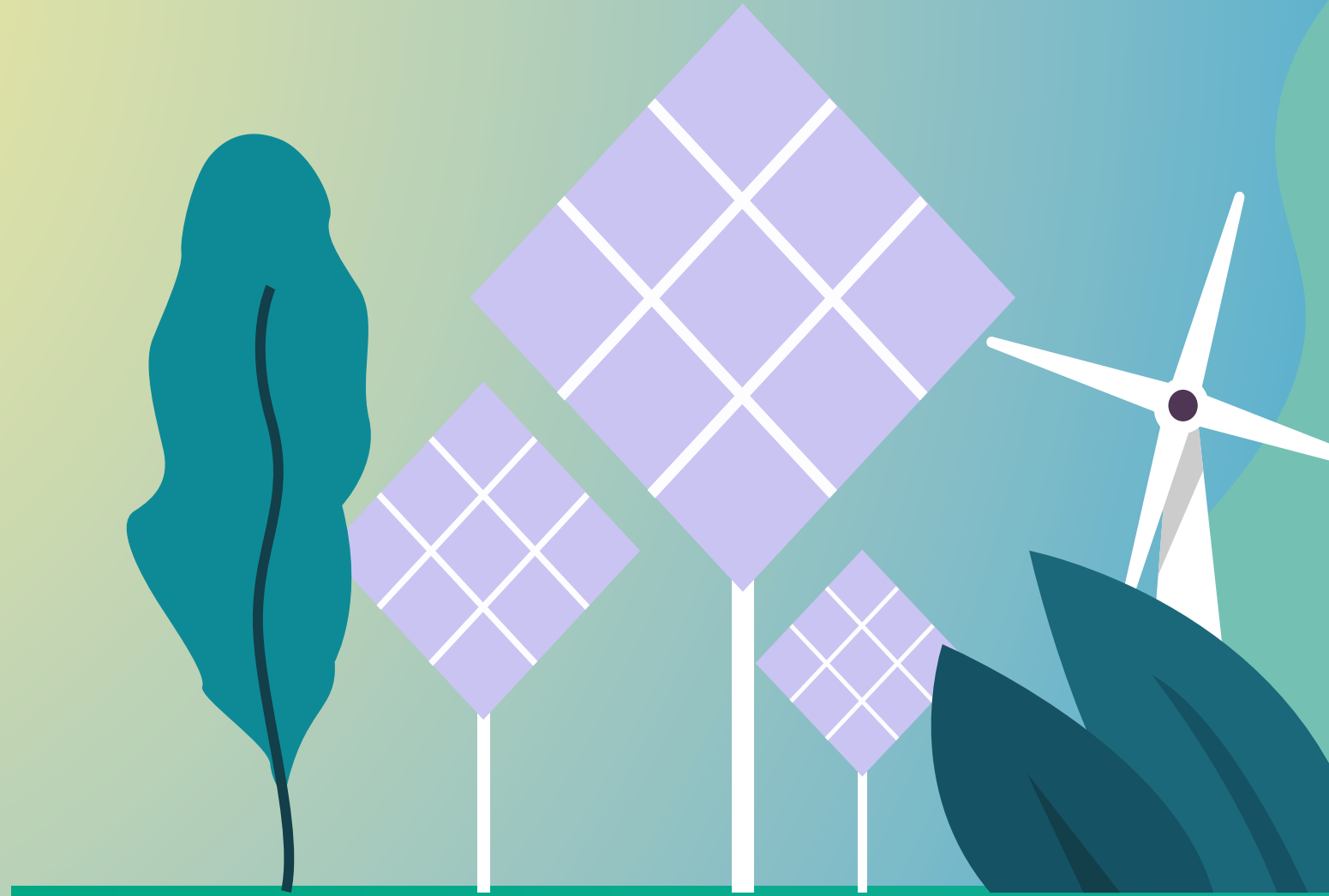




## WELCOME TO THE ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN – ISSUE 28

**In this edition we highlight the consultation on Low Carbon Home Heating, and the consultation on the Design Plan for the roll out of smart electricity meters.**

We share an update from Energy Management Team on the Energy & Resource Efficiency (ERE) Programme, a new Energy and Carbon Data Repository, and The Invest to Save Fund. We also have details on the Smart Energy Conference and the Electricity Association of Ireland Conference, and the launch of the 'Save Energy, Save Money' Campaign for 2024/25.



## DESIGN PLAN FOR THE ROLL-OUT OF SMART ELECTRICITY METERS

**At the start of October, the Minister launched a public consultation with the Design Plan for the roll-out of smart electricity meters.**

Smart meters were proposed as a tool in the Energy Strategy to enable the development of an accessible and digitalised energy system, where data provides value for consumers and a more efficient system operation – effectively supporting the delivery of dynamic balancing of supply with demand.

There are already over 335 million smart meters installed worldwide. Great Britain began its mass rollout in 2011, and Ireland started in 2019. This puts Northern Ireland in the advantageous position of being able to identify and benefit from lessons learnt elsewhere.

Roll-out represents a significant investment and economic opportunity for Northern Ireland, providing meter installations in

around 920,000 electricity consumer premises and a communication strategy to ensure that consumers understand the smart metering opportunities. Benefits to consumers will include:

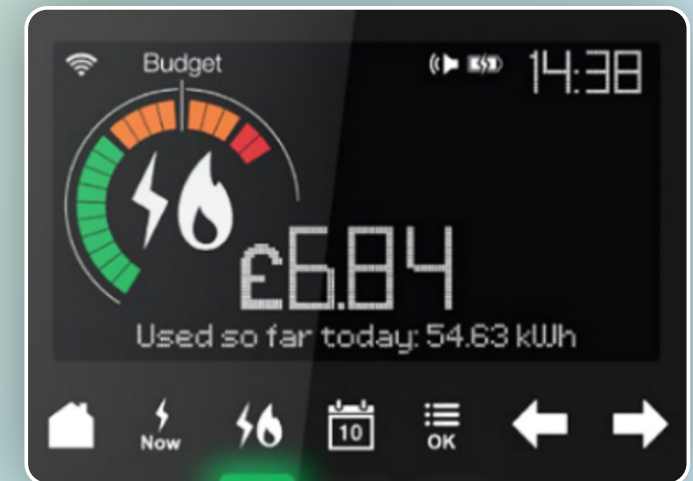
- Accurate billing – no more estimated bills
- More controllability and awareness of usage
- Enables energy saving technologies
- Flexible and time of use tariffs offered in the future.

Real-time information will give more visibility to the network operator to help monitor the operation of the network and respond quickly when issues arise. Other benefits include more transparent operation of the energy system, allowing the network operator to operate the system more flexibly.

DfE has planned the fundamental steps for smart metering by engaging with stakeholders and completing an analysis of roll-outs across Europe.

The consultation closing date has been extended to 16th January 2025.

[Consultation on the Design Plan for the Roll-out of Smart Electricity Meters in Northern Ireland - NI Direct - Citizen Space](#)



## CONSULTATION ON LOW CARBON HOME HEATING

### Consultation on support for low carbon heating in residential buildings.

On the 8th October, Minister Murphy launched a consultation developed by the Heat Policy Team on “support for low carbon heating in residential buildings”. The purpose of the consultation is to evaluate support options for low carbon heating technologies within the residential sector. It consists of five chapters which aims to cover the key areas of discussion in developing the proposed support scheme.

The consultation will provide feedback to the team to help shape decisions on what technologies will be viable for a potential future support scheme, taking into account what energy efficiency prerequisites (if any) would be needed for a property, will there be consideration of participants income level, how will the support be delivered, could there be extra support under certain circumstances and how might a future support scheme impact the wider low

carbon heating industry from a skills and supply chain perspective. Feedback is welcomed from a broad range of stakeholders, the public, academia, heat pump installers, heat pump manufacturers, businesses within the broader heating industry and other public organisations and government bodies.

Responses from the consultation will assist the Heat Policy Team in forming the design, rules and guidance for a potential future low carbon support scheme. If a scheme is launched, it will play a significant role in helping energy related emissions to reach a 48% net reduction by 2030. With less than 0.5% of the population solely using a renewable system for heating the challenge is significant, but the proposed low carbon heating scheme is a part of solving the puzzle in reaching net zero.

The consultation will be live on citizen space until the 31st December 2024.

[Support for low carbon heat in the residential sector | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk)



## CONFERENCE UPDATE

### **Smart Energy Conference, 24 October, ICC, Belfast**

Richard Rodgers, Head of Energy at the Department for the Economy (pictured), delivered the day's keynote address and detailed the programme of work the department is undertaking to meet the 80% by 2030 target. Looking to the future he highlighted the significant potential of future offshore wind and green hydrogen industries.

Decarbonising the Northern Ireland economy is one of the Economy Minister's four key priorities and offers a chance to promote regional rebalance and benefit communities in all parts of the region. The transition to net zero offers an opportunity to create transformational benefits which would not come round again.

### **Electricity Association of Ireland Conference – Zero E-Mission Future – 7th November 2024**

The Department for Economy's Permanent Secretary, Ian Snowden and Richard Rodgers, Head of Energy Group attended this event in Dublin. Ian delivered the keynote address, highlighting that achieving net zero is a key objective in the Ministers Economic Vision, and that we need to accelerate our efforts, whilst protecting consumers and ensuring that communities benefit from just transition.



**Richard Rodgers, speaking at the Smart Energy Conference in Belfast**

## ENERGY MANAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE

**The Energy & Resource Efficiency (ERE) Programme is a programme led by Invest NI, in partnership with DfE. This programme provides essential support for businesses to reduce emissions whilst also creating economic opportunities in the green economy. The programme includes a range of support in the form of Technical Consultancy, Resource Matching Through Industrial Symbiosis, a Resource Efficiency Capital Grant and an Energy Efficiency Capital Grant.**

Energy Management Team (EMT) is also continuing the Energy Invest to Save Fund for the public sector, focusing on supporting central government to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions. The fund is in its fourth year, with significant growth, particularly in health, water, and education sectors.

With support from the Strategic Investment Board (SIB), the EMT issued a call for applications for 2024/25, aiming to upscale delivery from the previous years. The team received over 70 applications from across government departments and Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs), with approvals for 59 projects totalling £27.5million.

EMT, supported by SIB, have also procured a new Energy and Carbon Data Repository (ECDR). As an Energy Reporting Tool, the ECDR seeks to unlock greater efficiency in the collection and analysis of energy, carbon and cost data, introducing a new automated process which will enable more robust, reliable and verifiable information to be used, focused on data input directly from energy suppliers. EMT have delivered ECDR information sessions for Energy Managers across Central Government and ALBs.



## ‘SAVE ENERGY, SAVE MONEY’ CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

**Economy Minister, Conor Murphy, has launched a ‘Save Energy, Save Money’ information campaign which aims to lower energy bills through energy efficiency.**

Funded by the Department for the Economy and delivered by the Consumer Council, the campaign will run until March 2025. The campaign aims to help consumers save money on their bills through energy efficiency advice and information whilst also increasing public understanding about the transition to net zero in Northern Ireland.

Minister Murphy said: “I am delighted to launch this ‘Save Energy, Save Money’ campaign being delivered by the Consumer Council. As we face into the cold winter months ahead, it’s vitally important consumers have access to trusted energy efficiency advice and information that will reduce their bills and carbon footprint. As decarbonisation is central to my economic plans, I welcome the campaign’s ambition to increase consumer awareness about our journey towards achieving net zero.”

Speaking about the campaign, Noyona Chundur, Chief Executive of the Consumer Council, said: “We know that energy bills remain a real challenge for many. We use most of our heating and electricity over the colder months, so delivering the ‘Save Energy, Save Money’ campaign will empower consumers to make essential changes in their own homes to save money on their energy bills, reduce their energy consumption and contribute to a sustainable future. We appreciate Minister Murphy and the Department for the Economy supporting this campaign.”

The campaign includes energy toolkits for electricity, natural gas, and home heating oil customers, keeping your home warm



information guides, energy price comparison tools, an appliance cost checker tool and energy efficiency advice videos. As well as digital support, the campaign involves significant community engagement across the region.

For more information on the Save Energy, Save Money Winter Energy Campaign visit: [Save energy and money | Consumer Council](#)