

Welcome to the Spring edition of ESB Networks' stakeholder newsletter, that connects our customers, stakeholders and staff with the latest news on key strategic projects happening across ESB Networks.

ESB Networks – delivering the electricity network for Ireland's clean electric future.



ESB Networks launches its 'Networks for Net Zero' Strategy

Futureproofing Ireland's electricity network and making the country's goal of net zero by 2050 a reality, outlined at ESB Networks' strategy launch.

ESB Networks has launched its 'Networks for Net Zero' Strategy which outlines its commitment to futureproofing Ireland's electricity network and making the country's goal of net zero by 2050 a reality. This will require deploying innovative solutions today which are scalable to meet the electricity needs of the nation by 2040. The Networks for Net Zero Strategy will underpin an energy transition that will enable electricity customers to adopt new technologies, products and services in the decade ahead, changing how they generate, store and consume electricity.



In order to meet the changing needs of society and to achieve climate action targets, ESB Networks has set out an estimated €10 billion euro investment to 2030 to develop a smarter and more flexible electricity network. The

transformative plan will be a key component of delivering a clean electric future and supporting the connection of renewables. It will also meet the anticipated increased demand for electricity in Ireland as a result of growth in industry, new housing projects and the electrification of transport and heating. It will involve working collaboratively with all stakeholders towards a net zero future, powered by clean electricity.

The Networks for Net Zero Strategy will:

- Enable 9 gigawatts (GW) of onshore wind, 8 GW of solar, and at least 5 GW of offshore wind.
- Deliver capability to manage up to 30% of all electricity demand flexibly.
- Deliver a smart distribution network through ESB Networks' National Networks, Local Connections programme.
- Connect renewable generation to enable up to 80% of decarbonised electricity.
- Support Government commitments under the Housing for All programme by connecting more than 300,000 new homes by 2030.

Please read more about the full Strategy [here](#).



Stakeholders participate at the 'Networks for Net Zero' Strategy launch

Stakeholders from the Renewable Energy sector, Electrification and Academia join ESB Networks for launch of new strategy.

Nicholas Tarrant, Managing Director, ESB Networks was joined by Minister Eamon Ryan, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and Transport, along with Professor John FitzGerald, Adjunct Professor, Trinity College Dublin, Aoife O'Grady, Head of Zero Emission Vehicles, (ZEV), Department of Transport, Conall Bolger, Chief Executive Officer, Irish Solar Energy Association (ISEA), Noel Cunniffe, Chief Executive Officer, Wind Energy Ireland (WEI), Joe Duignan, Regulation and Commercial Manager, ESB Networks to launch the 'Networks for Net Zero' strategy.



At ESB Networks' we are delivering the electricity network for Ireland's clean electric future. As part our 'Networks for Net Zero' strategy launch, our stakeholder panel discussed the opportunities and challenges of futureproofing Ireland's electricity network and

making the country's goal of net zero by 2050 a reality. Our 'Networks for Net Zero' Strategy acknowledges that in the decade ahead, all electricity customers will adopt new technologies, products and services changing how they generate, store, and consume electricity.

Read more about the Networks for Net Zero Strategy [here](#).

Watch our strategy video [here](#).



ESB Networks connected 23 large-scale renewable generator projects to Ireland's electricity network last year.

Renewable connections in 2022 represent a 15 percent increase in renewable generation year-on-year.

ESB Networks connected 23 large-scale renewable generator projects to Ireland's electricity network with total green energy capacity of 688 MW, breaking all previous renewable connection records in 2022. This is enough to power approximately 350,000 homes, the equivalent of the population of County Cork.

The announcement followed the energisation of the 95 MW Gillinstown Solar Farm in County Meath, bringing a total of almost 5,400 MW of renewable generation connected to Ireland's transmission and distribution systems.

In addition, some 79 MW across four battery storage projects were connected. Ireland now boasts almost 800 MW of energy storage, which helps stabilise the network during times of low renewable generation.



Innovating to deliver a clean electric future through stakeholder consultation

Annual Innovation Public Consultation 'Innovation to Deliver the Electricity Network for a Clean Electric Future' recently issued and responses are under review.

At ESB Networks, we're delivering the electricity network for Ireland's clean electric future and Innovation is a key enabler in our Networks for Net Zero Strategy.

Our Annual Innovation Public Consultation 'Innovation to Deliver the Electricity Network for a Clean Electric Future' was recently issued to market. The consultation details our recent innovation activities and the projects ongoing in ESB Networks in 2022.

Stakeholders' views and feedback on our upcoming innovation projects and initiatives are now under review. Our new publication is now available to view [here](#).



ESB Networks hosted its first in-person Innovation Forum in Cork

ESB Networks hosted its Innovation Forum, in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork.



ESB Networks hosted its first in-person Innovation Forum since 2019, in Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork. A mixture of Innovation stakeholders, including representatives of industry, academia and technical experts, enjoyed presentations, as well as joining in with panel discussions and interactive sessions.

The Innovation Forum compliments ESB Networks' range of informative webinars, annual Innovation Consultations and project-specific information all available [here](#).



Over 1.2 million Smart Meters now installed across Ireland

Smart Meter Rollout continues to make progress with an average of 10,500 installations per week.

There are over 1.2 million smart meters installed in homes, farms, and businesses nationwide to date. The rollout is progressing well with an average of approximately 10,500 installations per week. The customer experience has been positive with 95% of customers satisfied with the meter exchange process in our latest customer satisfaction tracker.



It is important to note that there is no automatic change to customers' electricity price plans following the installation of a smart meter. Customers remain on their existing plan with their current supplier.

Smart meter customers are now receiving more accurate bills based on actual readings sent remotely by the meter, to date over 5.4m remote readings have been processed ensuring smart meter customers should never have another estimated electricity bill.

Customers with a smart meter can view and download their electricity usage data once they set up an ESB Networks Online Customer Portal [here](#). This will give customers greater insights to their consumption patterns via the My Energy Consumption option.

Smart meters also enable the interim microgeneration support scheme which was launched by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. Over 38,000 micro generation customers have a smart meter installed and now receive payments from their electricity supplier.

Since February 2021, electricity supply companies have been able to offer smart price plans and services including time of use tariffs, to customers who have had a smart meter installed. Customers must opt into these smart services. These products allow customers to move some of their consumption to times of the day when electricity is cheaper and give customers access to more information on their electricity usage.



ESB Networks' Public Safety team engages with Local Authorities

Key mitigation actions for incidents involving electricity presented as part of the series.

The ESB Networks Public Safety team, supported by our local delivery teams, have been delivering our safety message to local authorities across the country. The presentation focuses on sharing key mitigation actions for incidents involving electricity and will be delivered to nearly 700 local authority staff during the sessions.



Dublin City Council, South County Dublin Council, Galway County Council as well as Kilkenny, Waterford, Tipperary, Mayo, Westmeath, Monaghan and Cork County Council have been visited so far. Teams plan to

visit Galway City Council, Offaly, Leitrim, Limerick City and County and Wicklow in coming months.

ESB Networks' Public Safety team also recently teamed up with FBD Insurance, Health and Safety Authority and Teagasc to successfully deliver the 'Champions for Change' safety programme in all of the agricultural colleges around the country. The programme, which is running for over 10 years, is delivered to green cert students before they go on work placement around the country and aims to raise their awareness of safety issues and potential hazards around the farm so that they can be advocates for safety among the farming community.

