

# ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN

**ISSUE 15: SEPTEMBER 2021**

## **IN THIS EDITION:**

- **Working towards energy decarbonisation**
  - Invest Northern Ireland
  - Northern Ireland Water
  - Translink
- **Keep yourself informed!**



## WELCOME TO THE ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN

Welcome to September's Energy Strategy e-bulletin. The Energy Strategy has been a hugely collaborative piece of work and, fittingly, this month we profile some of the good work already being done on energy decarbonisation by Government Departments and our colleagues elsewhere. We also look at some innovative plans for future initiatives that will support the Energy Strategy.

Finally, we are taking this opportunity to highlight how you can receive regular information on other energy and consumer issues from the Utility Regulator and the Consumer Council.



*Thomas Byrne*

**Thomas Byrne**  
Director, Energy Strategy

## WORKING TOWARDS ENERGY DECARBONISATION

### INVEST NORTHERN IRELAND

Invest Northern Ireland has been working closely with the Department for the Economy on the development of the Northern Ireland Energy Strategy, providing support through participating in a number of working groups, including the energy efficiency working group.

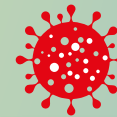
#### Energy efficiency for business

To support the delivery of the forthcoming Energy Strategy, Invest NI is currently undertaking a market review that will seek the views of business on the topic of energy efficiency. The purpose of this exercise is to better understand business opinion on what they feel is necessary to encourage the uptake of energy efficiency measures to deliver greater energy savings, cost savings and carbon reduction.

Invest NI will be launching a survey in the next month and we encourage businesses to take part and share their views. More information on this will be communicated to businesses via [nibusinessinfo.co.uk](http://nibusinessinfo.co.uk) and [Investni.com](http://Investni.com)

#### Invest NI services to build business resilience

In addition to the market review, Invest NI continues to offer a range of services to help business build resilience through green efficiencies. These include:



#### [COVID – 19 Energy Efficiency Capital Grant](#)



#### [Resource Efficiency Capital Grant](#)



#### [Technical Consultancy](#)



#### [Resource Matching through Industrial Symbiosis](#)

Further information is available at: [Investni.com](http://Investni.com)

Please also visit [nibusinessinfo.co.uk](http://nibusinessinfo.co.uk) for tips and advice on how to save energy within your business.

## WORKING TOWARDS ENERGY DECARBONISATION *(continued)*

### TRANSLINK

In Northern Ireland, 20% of all Green House Gas emissions come from transport. To address climate change, Translink has developed plans to deliver a net zero public transport system by 2040 and to be climate positive by 2050. This includes increasing modal shift from private cars onto sustainable public transport, alongside other forms of active travel.

#### **Piloting hydrogen fuel cells**

As part of the programme for introducing zero emission vehicles, the Department for Infrastructure has funded 3 hydrogen fuel cell electric buses which have entered service with Belfast Metro in December 2020 as part of a pilot programme. These innovative vehicles are powered by hydrogen, which is to be produced through renewable wind energy. From there the compressed hydrogen is taken to a bus depot in Belfast and used to refuel the buses. When in service the only emission from the bus is water from the fuel cell.



#### **Next steps for zero emission buses**

In November 2020, the Minister for Infrastructure announced funding for 100 zero emission buses made up of a further 20 fuel cell electric buses and 80 battery electric buses for addition to Translink's fleet. The roll-out of these vehicles will take place throughout the first quarter of 2022. These vehicles will operate on approximately one third of all Belfast Metro services.

This clearly sets the direction for future zero emission fleet procurement with further plans in place for the next phase of Translink's decarbonisation journey to include Derry/Londonderry.

## WORKING TOWARDS ENERGY DECARBONISATION *(continued)*

### NORTHERN IRELAND WATER

A world leading project to deploy electrolysis at waste water treatment sites is being led by NI Water and the Department for the Economy in collaboration with the Department for Infrastructure. This project has been identified for its strategic importance in acting as a UK Pathfinder.

The latest figures show that 45% of Northern Ireland's electricity comes from non-synchronous sources of generation (e.g. wind and solar). To make better use of our renewable resources and ensure a more flexible and resilient electricity system, Northern Ireland will need to store electricity when it is plentiful and use it at other times.

#### **Multi sector decarbonisation benefits from shared electrolyser capacity**

The project is demonstrating how co-operation between government, water, electricity, and transport sectors can successfully adopt “disruptor” technology to:-

- Affordably decarbonise Northern Ireland's electricity system by harnessing electricity from surplus generating capacity;
- Optimise existing infrastructure to increase waste water processing capacity in a sustainably low carbon manner;
- Provide a valuable source of green hydrogen to start the decarbonisation of heavier, longer distance vehicles that batteries are unlikely to be suitable for e.g. HGVs;
- Alleviate electricity network constraint sustainably;
- Provide a resilient source of electricity export capacity when it is critical to do so; and
- Create significant economic opportunities as a result being a Green Hydrogen leader.

This project demonstrates how integrated development can unlock a series of benefits in the water, electricity, and transport sectors to justify the wide scale deployment of electrolysis.



## KEEP YOURSELF INFORMED!

### UTILITY REGULATOR NEWSLETTER LAUNCHED

The Utility Regulator has recently launched a newsletter containing consumer updates on electricity, gas and water. The August edition outlines sources of support and advice for consumers who will be impacted by upcoming energy price increases - [The Utility Regulator Newsletter – August 2021](#)

It also contains information on the latest consultations and job opportunities with the Utility Regulator.

To sign up for regular updates, click the following link and scroll to the bottom of the page to enter your e-mail address [Contact us | The Utility Regulator \(uregni.gov.uk\)](#)



### CONSUMER COUNCIL UPDATES

Consumers can also sign up to regular newsletters from the Consumer Council NI. The Consumer Council provides free, independent support and advice for all [consumers](#) and [businesses](#) in Northern Ireland, including, but not limited to energy issues.

The Consumer Council has the powers to investigate [complaints](#) about energy, water, transport and postal services and [undertakes research](#) to understand local consumer issues.

You can subscribe to the newsletter via their website: [Consumer Council](#)

