



Renewable Gas Forum Ireland

IRELAND BIOMETHANE CONFERENCE 2022

PROGRAMME

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WELCOME

Welcome from RGFI Chair JP Prendergast

Welcome to the Ireland Biomethane Conference 2022, hosted by Renewable Gas Forum Ireland (RGFI).

This national conference aims to mobilise to deliver the vision for an Irish, agri-feedstock based, AD biomethane industry. The vision is that biomethane production in Ireland will stimulate a wider bioeconomy and address national, EU and global needs to decarbonise industry, reduce fossil fuel reliance, support farmers, and improve our energy security.

In response to concerns for global energy supply, this year the EU has raised its ambition for biomethane production to 350TWh by 2030, in particular, from sustainable, agricultural, biodegradable materials.

The Irish Government has included biomethane in its Climate Action Plan, emphasising the potential to decarbonise industry and earlier this year the Government also consulted on a policy for renewable fuels for transport with feedback recognising the potential for biomethane to address HGV decarbonisation. Most recently, it has announced plans to introduce a Renewable Heat Obligation Scheme to provide a fair and stable means of bridging the funding gap for biomethane production. We, and our members, have worked tirelessly and collaboratively, alongside Government officials and funding bodies to help achieve these milestones and we welcome them wholeheartedly.

The challenge ahead is to meet Ireland's increased target for indigenous biomethane production of 5.7 TWh by 2030, a move that will require 150 to 200 large scale agricultural anaerobic digestion plants to be developed within eight years to supply around 10% of Ireland's total gas demand.

Thankfully, Ireland is well placed to develop an "at scale" agri-feedstock based AD biomethane industry and a wider bio-economy, with farmers and rural communities at the core.

We are, therefore, delighted to welcome Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue, to provide the Plenary Address at this event.

The opportunity is enormous, however, the way ahead is not without its challenges and a forward looking, energetic and cohesive approach is needed, across all sectors, to deliver the best possible outcomes for Ireland.

This is the basis for our 2022 Ireland Biomethane Conference, bringing together speakers and panellists at the forefront of policy making, market development and R&D to identify the issues and help to create the long-term Roadmap for Biomethane and the Bioeconomy.

Importantly, this Conference and the Workshop on Day 2 will inform the EU Biomethane Industrial Partnership and help deliver the REPower Plan through a National Biomethane Strategy. To this end, we look forward to hearing from the European Commission, European Biogas Association and the German Energy Agency, as well as representatives from Ireland.

It is also a pleasure to welcome Senator Marc R. Pacheco, Dean, MA Senate, a renowned leader on climate action, who will provide a transatlantic collaboration perspective.

We are delighted to have such support from our sponsors, Gas Networks Ireland, FBD Insurance, The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Nephin Energy and the Irish Farmers' Association; and supporters, Fáilte Ireland, and the EU REGATRACE programme.

We also warmly acknowledge our members and all of our delegates and look forward to meeting you in Clontarf.



Request for Information from Biomethane Producers

Gas Networks Ireland has launched a Request for Information (RFI) process to identify new and feasible projects to supply biomethane into the Irish gas network.

We are now inviting responses from producers that have started or are planning to deliver projects that will supply biomethane into the Irish gas network between now and 2030.

The closing date for submissions is **Monday, December 19th**.

This information will be used confidentially to prepare plans for future gas network developments and facilitate the most cost effective connections for renewable gas producers.

Learn more at gasnetworks.ie/RFI



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**Gas
Networks
Ireland**

Gas Networks Ireland operates and maintains Ireland's national gas network, which is one of the safest and modern renewables-ready gas networks in the world. Gas Networks Ireland have launched a Request for Information (RFI) process for biomethane producers to identify new renewable gas production projects to supply biomethane into the Irish gas network.

Visit www.gasnetworks.ie/RFI to learn more about the RFI and submit your response.



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Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine plays a lead role in promoting competitive and sustainable economic development in the agriculture, food, forestry and fisheries sectors, including overall responsibility for public policy and administration. Food Vision 2030 will deliver significant benefits for the agri-food sector, society, and the environment.

Visit [www.gov.ie/en/organisation/departments-of-agriculture-food-and-the-marine/](http://www.gov.ie/en/organisation/departments/departments-of-agriculture-food-and-the-marine/)



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Nephin Energy is Ireland's largest domestic producer of natural gas and the largest stakeholder in the Corrib Gas field project. Nephin is backed by CPP Investments, one of the largest pension funds globally. Nephin is focused on growing in Ireland and Europe through the development and acquisition of energy assets across the energy spectrum. Visit www.nephinenergy.com



The IFA is Ireland's largest farming representative organisation. The IFA have protected and defended the interests of Irish farmers in all sectors for more than 65 years. The organisation represents Irish farmers at home and in Europe, lobbying and campaigning for improved conditions and incomes for farm families. Visit www.ifa.ie

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DAY 1 SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

09:00 Registration

09:45 Welcome

- JP Prendergast, University of Limerick, BioWill, Chair, RGFI
- Damien O'Reilly, Journalist and Conference Moderator

10:05 Session 1: Biomethane in Europe / RePowerEU / Biomethane Industrial Partnership (BIP)

- Harmen Dekker, CEO, European Biogas Association and Joint Secretariat for EU BIP
- PJ McCarthy, CEO, RGFI

10:35 Session 2: Ireland – Funding AD Biomethane Development

- Russell Smyth, Director, KPMG Sustainable Futures
- Hans van den Boom, Investment Manager Renewable Energy, Rabobank



Panel Discussion with:

- Nick Ashmore, CEO, Ireland Strategic Investment Fund
- Lorcan Allen, Business Editor, Business Post

11:25 Coffee break

11:45 Session 3: The Journey to Green Fuels – industry decarbonisation

- Milenko Matosic, Senior Expert Renewable Gases, German Energy Agency (DENA)

Panel Discussion with:

- Paul Murphy, Climate Action Solutions Lead, Climeaction
- Conor Mulvihill, Director, Dairy Industry Ireland
- Pdraig Fleming, Biomethane Market Development Manager, Gas Networks Ireland
- Tom O'Brien, CEO, Nephin Energy



12:30 Lunch

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DAY 1 SESSIONS WEDNESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER (CONTINUED)

13:30 **Session 4: Afternoon Plenary 'Agriculture & AD Biomethane'**

- Minister Charlie McConalogue, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Jorge Pinto Antunes, Deputy Head of DG Agri Cabinet, EU Commission

Panel discussions moderated by:

- Stephen Robb, Renewables Editor, Irish Farmers Journal

Panel discussion with:

- Dr Paul Crosson, Beef Enterprise Leader, Principal Research Scientist, Teagasc
- Mike Magan, Dairy Farmer, Chair of National Fodder and Food Security Committee
- Joe Crockett, Dairy Sustainability Working Group Chair
- Tadgh Buckley, Director of Policy / Chief Economist, Irish Farmer's Association
- John McLenaghan, Farmer, Deputy President, Ulster Farmers' Union

14:45 **Session 5: Transport Opportunity for Ireland**

- Anna Venturini, Transport Policy Specialist, European Biogas Association
- John Pakenham, Director, Vision Green
- Darren Carty, Director, Sustainable Flight Solutions Ireland

Q&A

15:40 **Session 6: Climate Action and Bioeconomy Collaboration and Opportunities**

- Marc R Pacheco, Dean, MA State Senate
- JP Prendergast, University of Limerick, BioWill and Chair, RGFI

Panel discussion and Q&A

- Patrick Barrett, National Bioeconomy Forum, DAFM
- Dr Anne Marie Henihan, Centre Director, Dairy Processing Technology Centre, Limerick (DPTC) and RGFI Board Member
- Dr James McGreer, Chair, EBA Biogenic CO₂ working group
- Stephen Nolan, Director Biomethane Production and Optimisation, Green Generation

16:40 **Closing remarks**

- Justin McCarthy, Editor and CEO, Irish Farmers Journal
- PJ McCarthy, CEO, RGFI

18:30 **Reception and Dinner**

- **Pre-dinner speaker, Marc R. Pacheco, Dean, MA State Senate**
Founding Chair of the standing Senate Committee on global warming and climate change.



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DAY 2 WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

Theme: Mobilising and accelerating project development to realise Ireland's biomethane ambition and achieve the REPowerEU 35bcm 2030 biomethane target.

Outputs will inform:

- Ireland's Biomethane Strategy under REPowerEU and the Biomethane Industrial Partnership
- Ireland's Biomethane Roadmap
- A programme of collaborative events and activities

09:00 Welcome

- PJ McCarthy, RGFI
- Harmen Dekker, European Biogas Association

09:15 Session 1:

- Planning (including community engagement)
- Mobilising technology
- Skills gaps

10:45 Session 2:

Research and innovation needs:

- Sustainable feedstock
- Commercialisation / co-product development

Workshops sessions will be led by Paul Murphy, Climeaction and Anne Marie Henihan, DPTC, with a number of specialist contributors who will discuss the issues and the opportunities, before opening to the floor for a session using a visual collaboration platform to share ideas.

12:15 Closing remarks

- Harmen Dekker
- PJ McCarthy



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Charlie McConalogue, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Minister Charlie McConalogue was appointed as Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on 2 September 2020.

From Gleneely in Co. Donegal, the Minister is from a farming background and studied Economics, Politics & History at UCD.

After working in Fianna Fáil Headquarters for a number of years, as well as working abroad in Australia, Minister McConalogue returned home to work on the family farm, before being elected as a Donegal County Councillor in 2009. In 2011, Charlie was elected TD for Donegal North East.

Minister McConalogue was appointed previously as Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality with responsibility for Law Reform and prior to that, he held the positions of Fianna Fáil spokesperson for Children, Education and Skills, and Agriculture, Food and the Marine.



Jorge Pinto Antunes, Deputy Head of Cabinet of the Commissioner for Agriculture & Rural Development, European Commission

Jorge Pinto Antunes is the Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Wojciechowski (Agriculture) of the European Commission, where he is responsible for forest policy, long-term vision for rural areas, organic farming, and, more generally, for the green and digital transitions in agriculture.

He has extensive experience in the European Commission, covering the Directorate-General for Environment and the Directorate-General for Health, where he led a team in charge of strategy and innovation.

Until recently, he was part of the EU team of negotiators for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

He holds academic degrees in 'International Relations' and 'Environment and Development' from Minho University and the University of Cambridge.



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Marc R. Pacheco, Dean of the Massachusetts Senate

Senator Marc R. Pacheco was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1988 and to the Massachusetts Senate in 1992.

Senator Pacheco is the Chair of the Council of State Governments State Legislative Climate Alliance, founding Chair of the Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change, and Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. He also serves on the National Conference of State Legislatures's Task Force on Energy Supply.

Senator Pacheco is Senate Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (TUE) and a member of the Joint Committee on Higher Education, the Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets, and the Joint Committee on Export Development. Throughout his tenure in the State Legislature, he has served as Chair of the Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight, the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, the Joint Committee on Commerce and Labour, the Joint Committee on Federal Financial Assistance, the Joint Committee on Health Care and the Joint Committee on State Administration, and Senate President Pro Tempore in addition to numerous other committee and leadership roles.

He was selected by Al Gore in 2007 to become a Climate Leader to increase awareness around climate change and to encourage action to prevent its worst effects.



Harmen Dekker, CEO European Biogas Association (EBA)

Harmen Dekker is CEO of the EBA, which is an essential stakeholder in the path towards European decarbonisation. Biogas, biomethane and other renewable gases have a key role to play in helping Europe's transition towards a clean energy system with a genuinely resource-efficient and circular economy.

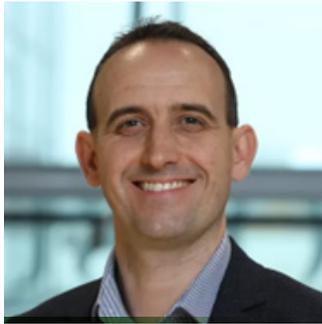
Harmen Dekker has worked for over 15 years within the sustainability sector and is devoted to the mitigation of climate change. With a technical as well as a business administration background, he has built his career in the water and gas sector, where he has held various management positions. He joined the EBA after being involved in the biogas sector for over 5 years. During those years, he not only focused on the expansion of biogas and in particular biomethane production, but also on the implementation of techniques such as bio-LNG, bio-methanol, bio-hydrogen and bioplastics.



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Russell Smyth, KPMG Sustainable Futures

Russell leads KPMG's Sustainable Futures team. He has over 15 years' experience in renewable energy, low carbon fundraising and project finance transactions, as well as corporate strategy and mergers & acquisitions advisory services.

He has led various research and business case projects for Irish industry, gas consumers and the agricultural sector which concludes there is a compelling business case for the establishment of an indigenous Irish, biomethane industry, based on gas produced largely from agricultural waste.



Nick Ashmore, Director of ISIF

Nick Ashmore is the Director of the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund within the National Treasury Management Agency. From 2015 to 2021, Nick served as the Chief Executive of the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland. He joined the NTMA as part of the team managing the National Pensions Reserve Fund in 2006, where he served as Head of Private Equity and Infrastructure, before becoming Deputy Director in 2011. He is a graduate of the University of Aberdeen in Accountancy, a member of the Scottish Institute of Chartered Accountants and holds an MSc in Management Practice from UCC.



Hans van den Boom, Sustainable Energy Investment Manager, Rabobank

Hans van den Boom has been a Renewable Energy Sector Manager with Rabobank, specialising in biogas projects, since 2006. He structures the financing of sustainable energy projects for a broad range of European clients, including farmers, dairy processors and international investors. This ranges from small farm scale (< €10m Capex) to large biogas projects (€50 – €100m).



Lorcan Allen, Business Editor, Business Post

Lorcan Allen joined the Business Post as Business Editor in April 2021, having spent the previous seven years as Business Editor with the Irish Farmers Journal. He is an award-winning journalist having been awarded both the 2020 Newsbrands Ireland Business Journalist of the Year as well as the 2020 Guild of Agricultural Journalists Award for his investigative work exposing the complex financial structure behind Larry Goodman's €4 billion business empire. He hails from a farming background on the Offaly/Westmeath border.



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Conor Mulvihill, Director, Dairy Industry Ireland

Conor Mulvihill was appointed director of Dairy Industry Ireland in February 2016. Dairy Industry Ireland represents primary and secondary dairy manufacturers including the specialised nutrition sector in Ireland and is affiliated to IBEC, Ireland's business umbrella body. Coming from a farming background in the mid-west of Ireland, he has worked as a political advisor in the Irish Houses of Parliament (Oireachtas) before taking up the role as head of EU affairs for the Irish Co-operative Organisation Society in Brussels, where he focused on dairy policy. Conor currently is a board member of the European Dairy Association. He is on the executive committee of Food Drink Ireland and is on the consultative council of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.



Tom O'Brien, Managing Director Nephin Energy

Nephin Energy is Ireland's largest domestic producer of natural gas. Tom has over 20 years' experience in the energy industry including over 10 years in the Projects & Energy Department of one of Ireland's leading law firms, focusing on renewable energy, (including Ireland's first on and offshore windfarms) large scale real estate and infrastructure projects. He has also held senior executive roles at a number of Irish companies, including two PLCs. (Providence Resources plc, Ireland's most active oil and gas exploration company and Malin Corporation plc a global life sciences investment company).

Tom was senior adviser and project lead in Ireland for Canada Pension Plan Investment Board's (CPPIB's) \$1.23 billion acquisition of Shell's interest in the Corrib Gas Field. He was subsequently asked by CPPIB to build out and lead the company that would eventually own CPPIB's interest in the field, Nephin Energy. Tom has mentored on the Irish Stock Exchange's #IPOready leadership programme and is a regular contributor to energy policy debate in Ireland. He holds an LLB from University College Cork, an LLM from University College London and a Diploma in Finance from University College Dublin.



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Padraig Fleming, Biomethane Market Development Manager, Gas Networks Ireland

Padraig Fleming is the Biomethane Programme Manager for Gas Networks Ireland. He is an engineer with experience in gas, electricity and water utilities. He is currently working on increasing the amount of renewable gas that Gas Networks Ireland transport to start the transformation of gas industry to a sustainable energy business.



Paul Murphy, Founder and Lead at Climeaction

Paul Murphy established Climeaction, part of the Leading-Edge Group of companies, in 2021. Leading Edge is an international consultancy focused on operational excellence, digital solutions, and business decarbonization. At Climeaction, Paul provides Climate Action Solutions to national and international organizations of all scale, including the dairy and life sciences sector. Prior to setting up Climeaction, Paul led the consultancy business unit of another international consultancy – where he advised several leading Irish dairy companies.

He has significant international experience in technical consulting to the large industrial and business sector on energy and decarbonization solutions and all related services in the Food & Dairy, Life Sciences, Manufacturing and Commercial sectors. His educational background is in Energy and Process Engineering from MTU and UCC. Paul is passionate about supporting communities, business and government to develop integrated practical solutions to sustainability and in recent years has made significant contributions to national and political party policies in relation to transportation and energy.



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Milenko Matosic, Senior Expert Renewable Gases at German Energy Agency (DENA)

As Senior Expert for Renewable Gases at the German Energy Agency (DENA), Milenko co-ordinates European projects related to biomethane and renewable gases. He has been involved in the revision process of the CEN Standard EN16325, which extends the concept of guarantees of origin from electricity to more energy carriers, such as gas, hydrogen, heating, and cooling. He also led the work package and tasks assigned to DENA from the EU project REGATRACE (Renewable Gas Trade Center in Europe), where he supported the project's target countries in setting up an electronic registry for biomethane certificates. Prior to his current appointment at DENA, he worked at the German Embassy in Mexico as Advisor for the Co-operation Program on Energy Matters. He also has experience in international technical cooperation programs in the energy sector, which he acquired during his appointments at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Mr. Matosic holds a B.Sc. degree in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and earned his Master's degree in Renewable Energy Management from the University of Freiburg, Germany. His main interests lie on the integration of technologies for achieving a greater sector coupling and a sustainable industrial and economic development.



Dr Paul Crosson, Teagasc, BAgrSc PhD Agricultural Systems Analysis

Dr Paul Crosson is Beef Enterprise Leader and a Principal Research Scientist with Teagasc at the Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre, Grange where his responsibilities include co-ordination and management of the Teagasc Beef Research Programme.

Dr Crosson's current research programme includes the economic and environmental analysis of the anaerobic digestion of grass/grass products and cattle slurry. This research coincides with the commissioning of a pilot scale AD plant at Teagasc Grange.

He has collaborated with Bord Bia (the Irish Food Board) in the development of a national-scale beef farm carbon audit initiative. He has contributed to reviews of the beef breeding indexes used in Ireland and was an expert contributor to Technical Working Groups of the Sustainable Agriculture initiative (SAI) Platform – a global food industry initiative and is a member of the Animal Feeds Technical Advisory Group of the UN FAO LEAP Partnership. He is on the Editorial Board of the international Elsevier scientific journal, *Agricultural Systems*. He was a Fulbright Scholar and is a past-president of the Irish Grassland Association. From 2016 to 2019 he worked in the dairy industry where he was Supply Strategy Manager at a farmer-owned processing co-operative.



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Mike Magan, dairy farmer and Chair of the National Fodder and Food Security Committee

Mike Magan is a dairy farmer from Co. Longford who farms in partnership with his son, Mick.

He has a self-confessed lifelong interest in the development of the dairy industry in general with specific interest in maximising the return for the farmer. Mike has wide experience in representing the sector, having served as Chairman and a Director of Lakeland Dairies, Chairman of the Irish Holstein Friesian Association (IHFA) and Animal Health Ireland. He has been a board member of Agri Aware, ICBF, and ICOS, and is currently on the Board of the Agricultural Trust (Farmers Journal) where he is deputy chairman. In 2022 Mike was invited by the Minister for Agriculture, Charlie McConalogue, to Chair the national Fodder and Food security committee – which was set up to support the national response to the unfolding feed, fertiliser and energy supply issues created by the war in Ukraine.



Tadhg Buckley, Director of Policy/Chief Economist IFA

From a farming background, Tadhg joined in IFA in 2020 from AIB where he was Head of Agriculture. He has a strong knowledge of Irish farming and its policy environment at national and EU level.

Tadhg holds a Degree in Agricultural Science from University College Dublin as well as a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from University of Limerick.

Tadhg is also a Nuffield Scholar, a member of the Agricultural Science Association and a Qualified Financial Advisor.

Prior to assuming the role as Head of Agriculture, Tadhg was team leader of AIB's agri advisory team in the South of Ireland.



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Joe Crockett, Chairman of Dairy Sustainability Ireland Working Group

Joe is the Chairman of the Dairy Sustainability Ireland Working Group, an industry led initiative, part of a whole of Government/whole of Sector approach to addressing on-farm sustainability challenges with the Dairy Co-ops in Ireland. He has extensive experience in local and central Government, and was formerly CEO and County Manager of Kilkenny County Council, and of Carlow County Council. He also worked in the Department of the Environment and Local Govt, in local government policy, planning and land policy, water services, and housing regeneration.



Stephen Robb, Renewables Editor Irish Farmers Journal

Stephen Robb is the Renewables Editor at the Irish Farmers Journal. Stephen, who is from a tillage farming background in Donegal, had previously worked as Tillage, Ag Innovation & Renewables Specialist with the company for five years.

He completed a Food and Agribusiness Management undergraduate degree from UCD in 2015 followed by a Masters in Agricultural Innovation support from Teagasc/UCD with a focus on bioenergy. He has also led several projects exploring the feasibility of developing a farm-based anaerobic digestion industry in Ireland.



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John McLenaghan, AD operator and Deputy President of the Ulster Farmers Union

John farms near Garvagh, Co. Derry/Londonderry. In the early 2000's he began to consider renewable energy as a means of controlling his energy costs and in 2005 imported the first 250kw wind turbine into Northern Ireland. At this time he also obtained planning approval for a Biogas Plant. The first 250 kw plant became operational in 2016 and a second 80kw chp was added six months later. The plant is farm based, using silage feedstocks (grass and whole crop) produced on his own and neighbouring farms, along with cattle slurry, chicken manure and some liquid by-product from a local milk processor. The digestate is spread on both John's and neighbouring farms.

The farm now produces about 3 million kWh of electricity per year (approx 2.6 million from AD) and does not import any electricity or heat for the farm or farm house.

In April 2022 John was elected Deputy President of the Ulster Farmers Union.



Anna Venturini, Transport EBA Policy Officer

Anna Venturini joined the EBA in June 2022 as the Policy Officer in charge of following the transport dossiers and managing EBA Working Groups dealing with transport related topics. Before joining the EBA Team, Anna worked in Brussels for almost five years, first at the European Parliament for an Italian MEP member of the TRAN Committee, then as Policy and Communication Advisor at the Federation of European Private Port Companies and Terminals. Anna graduated with a Master's in European Studies at ULB in 2017 and holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from the University of Trieste.



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John Pakenham, Director, VisionGreen

John Co-Founded VisionGreen sustainability consultancy in 2019. John had previously worked at Tesco Ireland and FoodCloud, which is where his passion for delivering sustainable change was developed and nurtured. John has 20+ years' experience working across Logistics, Supply Chain, Retail Operations, Loss Prevention, and Business Development.

John was part of the team that introduced change initiatives to Tesco stores including the introduction of FoodCloud in 2014 and has since worked on many initiatives in sustainable supply chain, including the introduction of the first HGVs fuelled with Biomethane. John has a Diploma in Logistics and Supply Chain Management (CMILT), is certified in carbon emissions verifying (SGS) and has completed an MSc in Sustainable Development (DCU). John specialises in business benchmarking, strategy development and change management.



Darren Carty, Director and Co-founder, Sustainable Flight Solutions

Darren is a Captain and Airbus 320 Type Rating Instructor/Examiner with Aer Lingus, operating on both European and Transatlantic routes. His engineering background is based on a Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering Master's Degree from Trinity College and has also recently completed a post-graduate diploma in Sustainable Energy Systems at DCU. In 2020 he co-founded Sustainable Flight Solutions (SFS Ireland) with Agnes Thornton, the company's mission is to develop the Irish Sustainable Aviation Fuel market.

SFS Ireland has partnered with SkyNRG from the Netherlands to jointly conduct a feasibility study on the development of a commercial-scale Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production facility in Ireland. The project is supported by three leading companies from the aviation industry. The project believes that the aviation industry has the potential to be an enabler to the growth of the BioEnergy industry.



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Patrick Barrett, Bioeconomy Strategic Policy, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Patrick Barrett is an Agricultural Inspector in the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine. He has responsibility for provision of scientific advice and strategic policy development and implementation on Bioeconomy. He is part of the secretariat for the cross-government bioeconomy policy implementation group and the bioeconomy stakeholder forum. He also recently was involved in the generation of an EU Commission report on 'Deploying the Bioeconomy in the EU - A framework approach for bioeconomy strategy development: 10 policy recommendations for building national bio economies toward a fair and just climate neutral Europe'.



Dr Anne Marie Henihan, Centre Director at the Dairy Processing Technology Centre (DPTC)

Dr Henihan is a graduate from the University of Limerick with a PhD in Waste Management and Renewable Energy. She has more than 15 years' experience working in Research, Development, and Innovation at the interface of industry and academia. She is the Centre Director at the Dairy Processing Technology Centre (DPTC). The DPTC is an industry-academic collaboration with a research agenda in dairy processing and innovation, driven by the long-term growth opportunities in the dairy sector. Anne Marie's key priority is to ensure that the Centre delivers innovative impact for one of Ireland's most important indigenous industries. She has succeeded in positioning the Centre as an essential differentiator for Irish Dairy Processors and is committed to fulfilling the ambition of the Centres' industry partners to be global leaders in sustainable processing. She represents DPTC on the Board of RGFI.



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Dr Stephen Nolan, Director Biomethane Production and Optimisation, Green Generation

Dr Nolan is an experienced agriculture, environment and renewable energy professional, with particular expertise in operation and optimisation of full-scale anaerobic digestion as well as organic fertiliser management.

Stephen studied Agricultural Science (Env) at UCD, before completing his MSc in Renewable Energy Systems. Having worked as an agricultural consultant, he then went on to a PhD in optimisation of anaerobic digestion (AD) at NUIG, with a particular focus on microbial dynamics of improved biogas yield and digestate sanitisation.

Stephen has been Green Generation's Plant Manager for the past two years, and now directs their R&D efforts, looking at further process optimisation, CO₂ utilisation, alternative feedstocks, algae production, high value intermediates and digestate management. He also provides technical input to the growing Clonbio group of AD plants, particularly around biomethane optimisation and digestate management.

Green Generation own and operate Ireland's only biomethane grid entry unit, supplying renewable gas to Ireland's transport and industry sectors. We work with food processors and retailers to convert waste to energy via anaerobic digestion, recycling the packaging and producing a high value organic fertiliser.



Dr James McGreer, Chair EBA Biogenic CO₂ Working Group

A graduate in Chemical Engineering (petrochemicals), and doctoral studies in the metallocene catalysis of polyethylene for durable construction applications, James McGreer spent his earlier career with BP Chemicals in technical market development and international sales management in petrochemical, hydrocarbons, and polymers which evolved into technology licensing of specialty polyolefins with specific emphasis on gas and water pipe.

In the second phase of his career James is a "Technology Innovation Mentor" with Irish and UK universities, helping to commercialise EU-funded research initiatives in the area of environmental sustainability. Through his work with QUB (PACSAD - solvent purification of Biomethane) and UCD (AQUA-Nanobubble purification of Biomethane), he has become immersed in the "petrochemistry" of Biogas which has found a natural home as chairman of EBA's Biogenic Carbon Dioxide Working Group and their delegate to the DG ENERGY CCUS "VISION" Working Group."



Renewable Gas Forum Ireland

IRELAND BIOMETHANE CONFERENCE 2022

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



PJ McCarthy, CEO RGFI

PJ McCarthy is CEO and a founding member of RGFI, the Renewable Gas Forum Ireland, which was established in 2014 as an industry forum to represent the interests of the renewable gas industry and gas consumers. Through its advocacy at national and European level, leadership of strategic collaborations and knowledge transfer across the full supply chain of renewable gas, RGFI has established itself as the national co-ordination and design authority for AD biomethane as a key central enabler of the circular bio economy. PJ McCarthy represents RGFI on the Board of the European Biogas Association (EBA) which has over 200 members. This year PJ was appointed by EBA to Chair the National Associations Platform working on the establishment and implementation of national targets for biomethane and collaboration with the Biomethane Industry Partnership Task Force on delivering the REPowerEU strategy, new biomethane target by 2030 and beyond, working directly with Commissioner Frans Timmermans office.

Prior to RGFI, PJ spent over 20 years as a project management consultant working with Deloitte, KPMG, ACC Bank, Ulster Bank and PHM Project Management Ltd.



Justin McCarthy, CEO of Irish Farmers Journal

Justin McCarthy became CEO of the Irish Farmers Journal in January 2014, having been appointed Editor of the paper in March 2013.

Previously, Justin had held the position of Livestock Editor with the Irish Farmers Journal since August 2005. Having graduated with a Hons Degree in Agricultural Science in 2000, he spent almost two years working with Anglo Beef Processors (ABP) in Shrewsbury learning all aspects of the red meat processing sector. In 2004 he was awarded a Nuffield Farming Scholarship and travelled throughout Europe and New Zealand researching Profitable Beef Production from the Suckler herd. On completion of his scholarship he took up the role as Beef Specialist with Teagasc. During this time, he coordinated the Teagasc/Dawn Meats Partnership in the West of Ireland.

Since joining the Irish Farmers Journal, Justin has travelled extensively throughout Europe, New Zealand and South America. His reports on Brazilian beef production have been well documented both in Ireland and across the EU political arena. In 2008 his articles claimed both national and international awards.



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JP Prendergast, Chairman of RGFI

JP has over 20 years' management experience in the biopharmaceutical / biomedical, information technologies, renewable energy and public sectors. He has a number of patents in agri to pharma technologies and specialises in developing highly innovative companies in renewable energy and 2nd generation bio-refining with application in the agriculture, biotechnology and pharmaceutical sectors.

Co-Author and Lead partner on the NWE Interreg BioWILL project, developing circular economy/zero waste bio economy models for Willow, under the Department of Chemical Sciences, University of Limerick.

From County Mayo but living in Galway, JP is actively involved in the local community, founding the Claremorris Energy Co-Op. He is a member of the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) Communities Steering Board, founder of Community Power and trusted advisor to Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI).



Damien O'Reilly

Damien O'Reilly has worked with the Irish national broadcaster, RTÉ radio, for 24 years and is one of Ireland's most experienced broadcast journalists presenting a range of agriculture and mainstream programmes on RTÉ 1.

In 2009 Damien became the first host of Countrywide, on Radio 1 where he has been at the helm for the past 13 years.

He is a joint founder and current Vice-president of the European Network of Agricultural Journalists.

In October this year, Damien announced he is leaving the station to take up a new role as EU Affairs and Communications manager with the Irish Co-operative Agricultural Society in Brussels.

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