

Submission Regarding Introduction of a Renewable Heat Obligation 2021

1. Heating Energy Suppliers are very aware customers are looking to optimise the renewable resources they use, as per [Switcher.ie's helpful overview](#):

“More and more [people] are looking for ways [they] can reduce [their] carbon footprint, and a good way to do this is to change over to a renewable energy supplier or tariff.

The [2020 SEAI \(Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland\) report](#) shows that 33.2% of electricity generated in Ireland is from renewable sources - with a national target of 40% by the end of 2020. Overall renewable energy supply in Ireland was 11% of gross final consumption, with an EU target of 16% due by the end of 2020.

The [Commission for Regulation of Utilities \(CRU\)](#) requires energy suppliers disclose the sources they use to generate their energy each year. CRU's latest report [Fuel Mix Disclosure 2020](#) reveals which energy suppliers in Ireland are offering 100% renewable energy...”

2. Considering that Ireland is committed to the [Climate Action](#) and Low Carbon Development Bill 2021, [Social Partnership](#), SDGs, EU Directives, UN Resolutions, and other relevant policies, laws and objectives, there can really be no question about whether energy suppliers would be obliged to include a renewable energy component and urged to increase this as quickly as possible to 100 per cent. It is long overdue.

3. The IPCC warnings confirm that maintaining business as usual for the rest of this decade, up to 2030, constitutes catastrophic irreversible risks to future generations.

4. The recently-announced transport element of the NDP includes an innovative climate impact assessment to be carried out on all projects under seven headings: climate mitigation, climate adaptation, water, air, waste, nature and Just Transition, so as to ascertain a favourable impact, no significant impact or a negative impact on the environment. This approach should be adopted for all energy outlays too.

5. Renewable aspects of biomass and biofuels need to be balanced with emission and pollution risks. The documentary Pump shows how the earliest network of trams in America were successfully fuelled by ethanol made by biomass and waste until forced out of business by oil companies.

6. If it is true that “the [political power](#) of the fossil fuel and nuclear lobbies is much greater than the renewables”, this is an obstacle that needs to be explicitly acknowledged, and particularly firm ESG governance measures need to be adopted at executive and legislative levels to counter this aggressive retrograde force.

7. Nuclear industry promotion promises much and stays silent on unsustainable consequences. An awful lot of [extreme hazards](#) precede and follow production of carbon-light nuclear energy, which is described by the reputable international clean transition [Project Drawdown](#) as a ‘regret’ technology.

8. This leaves a wide range of true renewable energy options on the table including solar, wind, waves, many types of bio-mass, liquids and gases, preferably derived from raw material waste, gravity, green-only hydrogen, and more in exploration.

9. The practice of subsidising peat, coal, oil and ‘natural’ gas supplies should be phased out and replaced by divestment plans and prohibitions.

10. Regulating for a steady growth in the proportion of renewable energy to surpass non-renewable sources in the shortest possible time-frame would bring bonuses in the form of solving other problems as well, such as lowering pollution, safer workplaces, keeping water, earth and air cleaner, and populations of humans and other species healthier.