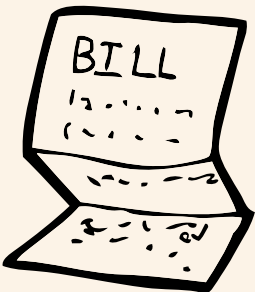


10 Energy Gamechangers

To bring down **energy bills** and **protect people** from the next **fuel crisis**

Right now, everyday people are struggling to pay the bills, while big tech and gas companies pocket billions. **A better energy system is possible – one where everyone can heat their homes, care for loved ones and get where they need.** But it requires this government to respond with more than just quick bandaid solutions. **We need a new story, and solutions that are as big and bold as the challenges we're up against.**

These 10 Energy Gamechangers are about making it easier for people to power their homes, transport, and lives with clean, cheap energy. The best part is these **solutions are ready to go now; we just need the political will to make it happen.**

Transform our energy grid			
1 Invest in more homegrown renewables	2 Ensure local energy benefits local communities	3 Boost battery storage	4 Get cheap, clean energy to where it's needed
	Cut fuel costs		
	5 Electrify farm machinery	6 Help more people drive electric	7 More public transport, more often
	Stop data centres		Invest in warm homes
	8 Tightly regulate data centre growth	9 Make it cheaper to heat our homes	10 Solar and batteries for every home

TRANSFORM OUR ENERGY GRID



What could it look like?

Ireland generates all of its own homegrown energy with cheap, clean solar and wind powering our homes, businesses, and public transport. Profits from renewable energy projects are re-invested in local communities and public services. With a strong energy grid, backed up with battery storage, there's no need for expensive, imported gas so our bills stay low.

What do we need now?



1. Invest in more homegrown renewables

Invest in publicly-owned clean energy – to speed up the delivery of renewable projects that will bring down the cost of energy bills. If projects are publicly owned, profits can get reinvested in public infrastructure (more renewable energy, roads, hospitals, and schools) instead of going into the pockets of big international developers.

Support more clean energy – to curb Ireland's reliance on expensive, imported gas. At the moment, our electricity prices are dictated by the price of gas on the international market, because more than 40% of our electricity is generated using imported gas. The more renewable energy we can make here, the less we have to rely on this expensive gas.

3. Boost battery storage

Mandate battery storage for new renewable energy projects – so that cheap, clean energy can be stored up and used later. More battery storage will make our energy grid more stable, reliable, and affordable.

Scrap projects that lock in more imported gas – more battery storage means we're less reliant on expensive, imported gas. Instead of pouring money into expensive projects like Shannon LNG which tie us to volatile electricity bills, the government can invest in alternatives that protects us from the unstable international gas market.

2. Ensure local energy benefits local communities

Enforce guidelines for co-ownership and benefit sharing – so that new renewable energy projects support and re-invest in the communities where they're based. This could take the form of co-ownership, where the local council owns a stake and receives a portion of profits, or community benefit sharing, where local residents get a discount on electricity or a payment.

Empower Sustainable Energy Communities – and remove the barriers that are preventing local communities from building and owning their own renewable energy projects.

4. Make sure cheap, clean energy can get where it's needed

Connect Ireland up with the North-South Interconnector – so every home across the island can access cheap, clean energy, and we don't have to waste it.

Make big energy users pay their fair share – All data centres suck up almost a quarter of Ireland's energy, putting our grid under massive strain. A data centre levy would help pay the cost of upgrading and maintaining the grid, instead of this falling on ordinary people.

Establish a forward-looking energy strategy – for better cooperation between our transport, agriculture, home heating, and energy sectors. A long-term strategy will help decision-makers understand and prioritise what infrastructure is needed where and when.

ENERGY FOR PEOPLE, NOT DATA CENTRES



What could it look like?

An energy system that prioritises clean, cheap energy for people – not big AI data centres. Strict regulations ensure data centres add more renewable energy than they take from the grid.

What do we need now?

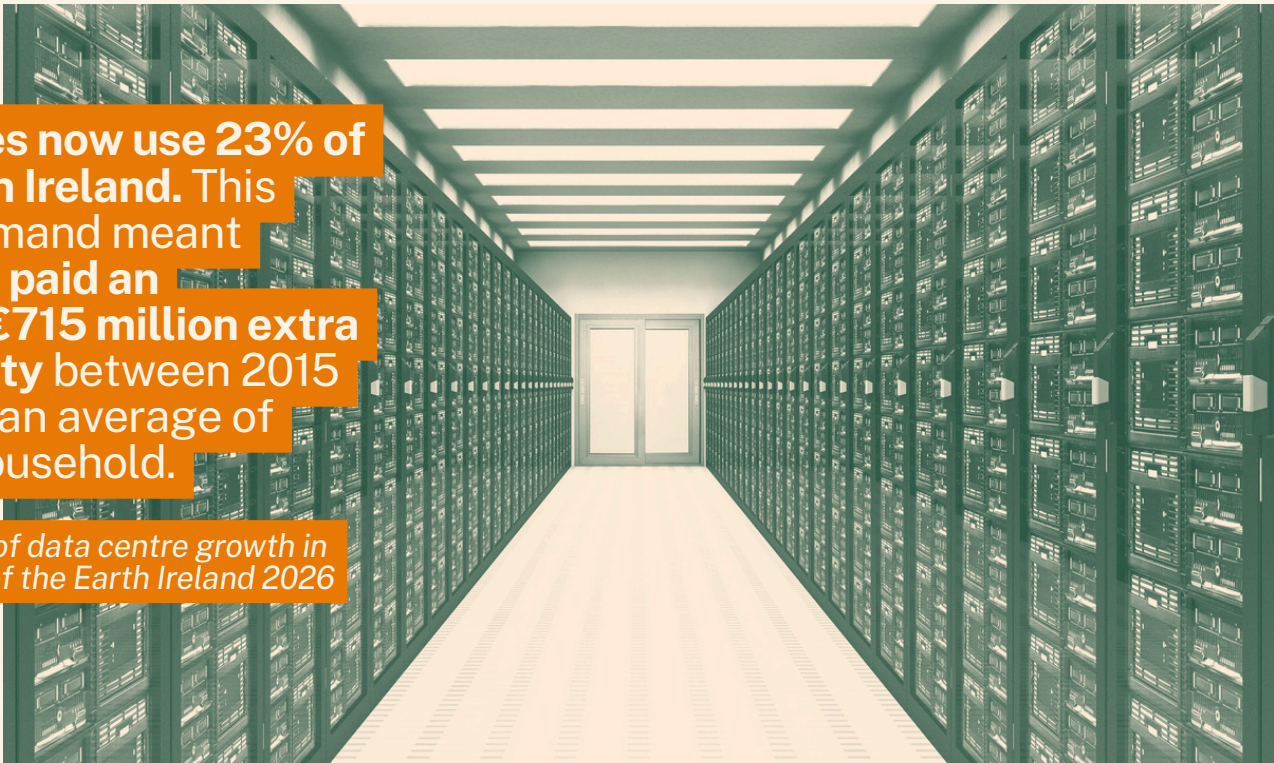


5. Tightly regulate data centre growth

Re-establish a moratorium on new data centres – until the government addresses the harms that data centres are having on our communities: increasing our reliance on expensive gas, which is pushing up people's energy bills; disrupting communities with relentless noise; making it difficult to connect houses to the electricity grid; and sucking up huge amounts of water.

No more energy discounts – data centres shouldn't be paying less for electricity, while driving up energy bills for the rest of us.

Scrap the Private Wires legislation – to stop big tech billionaires getting priority access to clean, cheap energy instead of this going to homes.



Data centres now use 23% of all energy in Ireland. This massive demand meant households paid an estimated €715 million extra for electricity between 2015 and 2023 – an average of €263 per household.

Source: *The cost of data centre growth in Ireland* | Friends of the Earth Ireland 2026

CUT FUEL COSTS



What could it look like?

Everyone can get to where they need – in town, and from one end of the country to the other – cheaply, cleanly, and reliably. Workers on the farm, and those who need to travel to the office, are protected from skyrocketing fuel costs.

What do we need now?



6. Electrify farm machinery

Improve supports – to help farmers switch smaller diesel-powered machinery to electric e.g. for mowing, spraying, and light transport. This would help ease reliance on expensive fuel and cut farm running costs.

8. More public transport, more often

Reduce fare prices – to make public transport affordable, and help people reduce how much they need to drive and spend on fuel. Public transport is a cost of living solution.

Expand bus routes and schedules – to help more people get where they need, without having to use the car.

Complete Dublin City Traffic Plan – to help keep Dublin moving (now the second most congested city in the world). Reducing traffic congestion means more reliable public transport, and more space for buses and cycling lanes.

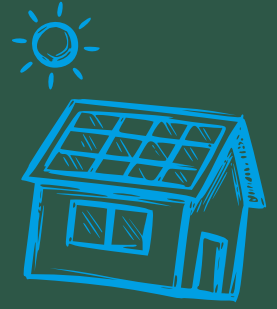
7. Help more people drive electric

Increase subsidies and grants – to make purchasing an electric car (EV) more affordable. Targeting higher grants for lower income households will help more people get onboard.

Invest in more public EV charging points – to make it easier to travel cheaply from one part of the country to another.

Extend ICE2EV Scrappage Scheme – to include secondhand EVs. This would help make EV ownership more affordable, allowing people to save money when they scrap a petrol or diesel car older than 13 years, in favour of a new or secondhand EV.

INVEST IN WARM EFFICIENT HOMES



What could it look like?

Every person in Ireland can afford to live in a warm, comfortable home – whether they rent, are in social housing, or own their own home. Solar panels and battery storage are helping families take control of their own clean, cheap energy, instead of being at the whim of profiteering energy companies and illegal wars.

What do we need now?



9. Make it cheaper to heat our homes

Help more people access grants for retrofitting – that make their homes more efficient and cheaper to heat, such as upgrading insulation and windows. SEAI grants should be given upfront, with a tiered system that provides greater support to those on a lower income.

Enforce minimum energy standards for rental homes – to push landlords to ensure the homes they rent are efficient, warm, and cheap to run. Make sure renters are also protected in law: retrofits can't be used as grounds to terminate a lease or increase the rent.

More subsidies for heat pumps – to help people make the switch from expensive oil and gas heating. Heat pumps are the most energy-efficient heating, but people need greater financial support to take advantage of these benefits.

Provide free home assessments and advice – to help people understand what home upgrades would help bring down their energy bills, and support them in the process.

10. Solar and batteries for every home

Extend grants for solar panels – the government should be helping more people get solar.

Boost the roll-out of plug-in solar panels – to help more homes generate their own cheap, clean energy. Plug-in solar panels are much cheaper than regular rooftop panels and don't usually require planning permission which means more households, including renters, can use them to reduce energy bills. The Irish government needs to speed up legislation to get these onto market asap.

Reinstate grants for household batteries – so more households can make the most out of the clean, cheap energy they generate.

Lock in a standard, fixed rate for solar tariffs – there's no reason energy companies should be reducing the amount people get back for providing electricity to the grid, while also raising electricity prices. A fixed rate, consistent across companies, can make sure homes get a fair price for the electricity they generate.



Find out more and share your thoughts
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