



Liquid Gas  
Ireland



# Manifesto for the 2024 Local Elections

# Introduction

**Liquid Gas Ireland (LGI) is the association representing companies operating in the liquid gas (LPG) and BioLPG industry in Ireland. Members include LPG and BioLPG distributors, equipment manufacturers, and service providers.**

LGI's mission is to ensure that policy makers continue to recognise LPG and BioLPG as the clean, versatile, and alternative energy of choice for off natural gas grid energy users in the residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, leisure and transport sectors in Ireland. LGI is committed to working with consumers, stakeholders, and policy makers to support Ireland's goal to tackle regional air quality, drive rural decarbonisation, and achieve net zero emissions. The following are our four key asks of candidates if elected to local government on 7th June 2024.

## 1 | Prioritise a **'Just Transition'** to decarbonisation locally

**Nearly 70% of households outside Dublin, Cork City and Galway City currently rely on high carbon oil, peat, and coal as their primary energy source for home heating.\* A large majority of these households are located outside major urban centres, in areas off the natural gas grid and in older building stock. Switching to a heat pump system is often not logistically viable or is prohibitively expensive, leaving homeowners with limited alternative options to decarbonise their heating system.**

When it comes to energy and heating supply there is significant scope to expand the focus beyond the narrow set of options currently being put forward to help homes and businesses decarbonise. A 'mixed technology' approach which supports the use of lower carbon liquid gas (LPG) and renewable liquid gas (BioLPG / rDME) combined with other renewable technologies, would accelerate the decarbonisation of homes and businesses in rural off natural gas grid areas. LPG and BioLPG can also be used seamlessly in cutting edge heating systems, such as hybrid heat pump installations.

### OUR KEY ASKS

- Ensure that a **'Just Transition' away from high carbon fuels** including oil, peat, and coal is one which provides accessible, affordable, and fair options to all homes and businesses, particularly those located in rural off natural gas grid areas.
- Promote policy from local authority level upwards that provides rural dwellings the same **variety of choices to decarbonise** as those in urban settings.
- Move the focus away from the current 'one size fits all' electrification approach to achieving emissions targets, by **embracing a technology neutral position** which realistically allows citizens in rural areas to support Ireland's decarbonisation journey at a local level.

## 2 | Champion a **'mixed technology'** approach to emissions reduction that offers affordability to all

**For most rural households and businesses, the decarbonisation policy approach being prioritised through heat pump installation and associated retrofitting is simply too expensive. This can potentially cost more than €60,000 where a deep retrofit is required.\*\* Even with support grants and low-cost loan schemes, this remains a significant financial barrier for most, resulting in a slow move away from high carbon oil, peat, and coal in rural areas.**

By comparison, Liquid Gas Ireland has demonstrated how taking a 'mixed technology' approach to transitioning a typical 1970's built rural Irish bungalow from oil to a renewable ready high efficiency gas boiler, run on lower carbon LPG or renewable BioLPG with moderate building fabric and energy upgrades is achievable for just over €11,000 and can deliver a BER uplift from D1 to B1.\*\*\*

### OUR KEY ASKS

- **Recognise the role that lower carbon LPG and renewable liquid gas (BioLPG and rDME)** can play as part of a 'mixed technology' approach to decarbonising rural homes and businesses.
- Ensure local as well as national policy **supports a switch to renewable ready gas boilers for consumers located off the natural gas grid.**
- As part of a 'mixed technology' approach, **align a switch to lower carbon LPG or renewable BioLPG with existing and new national energy efficiency schemes** to lift the BER of rural dwellings at a much lower cost compared to a full deep retrofit for heat pump installation.
- **Encourage your local authority to adopt a 'mixed technology' approach** to the upgrade of heating systems in its housing stock.

### 3 | Support cleaner air quality across regional towns and villages

As clean burning fuels with extremely low levels of air and particulate pollutant emissions, lower carbon LPG and renewable BioLPG give households in regional urban settings an alternative option to contribute to improving local air quality by switching away from high carbon solid fuels.

In Ireland, poor air quality is a significant challenge in rural towns and villages where households traditionally rely on high carbon solid fuels like peat and coal for heat and energy. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has emphasised that we can improve air quality by using less solid fuel and instead use cleaner fuels to heat our homes.\*\*\*\*

A switch to LPG, BioLPG or, in the future rDME would have an immediate and lasting impact on regional air quality in rural towns and villages, supporting Ireland's clean air objectives.

#### OUR KEY ASKS

- Encourage the replacement of peat and coal fired heating systems as well as those using oil, with highly efficient renewable ready gas boilers, to improve the air quality of regional towns and villages.
- Ensure that consumers in regions most impacted by poor air quality in Ireland where there is a heavy reliance on high carbon peat and coal, have the option and are supported to **utilise the clean air benefits of LPG and BioLPG.**

### 4 | Drive development and local production of renewable liquid gas

As an industry it is our ambition that by 2050, Irish demand for liquid gas can be supplied by renewable liquid gas (including BioLPG and rDME). To fulfil this ambitious target, a strong and enabling legislative environment is needed to enhance production, distribution, and use of renewable liquid gases in Ireland.

Renewable liquid gases provide a clear 'Just Transition' pathway towards decarbonising energy and heating for rural homes and businesses located off the natural gas grid, while also ensuring security of supply.

Continuing innovation in the liquid gas industry has led to the development of rDME, a low carbon, sustainable, liquid gas which is complementing the advances being made by BioLPG. Made from a wide range of renewable and recycled carbon feedstock, including waste streams, there are opportunities for rDME production facilities in Ireland if the necessary investment and regulatory framework is put in place.

#### OUR KEY ASKS

- Advocate for policy mechanisms and support schemes as well as research and development that **place renewable liquid gases as an integral part of the energy transition** as Ireland works towards its 2050 net zero target.
- Support policies which **encourage the development of advanced feedstock** in Ireland which will facilitate the production of renewable liquid gases such as rDME.
- Leverage the existing liquid gas infrastructure network to **effectively decarbonise local authority homes and industry** in off-grid areas as well as transport.

\* CSO Census 2022

\*\* Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)

\*\*\* Gemserv heating system analysis report using SEAI DEAP4 software conducted on behalf of LGI.

\*\*\*\* EPA Air Quality in Ireland Report 2022.



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