



Liquid Gas
Ireland



Liquid Gas Ireland's General Election Manifesto

**Delivering a 'Just Transition' to decarbonisation
for rural Ireland**

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-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 for parties and candidates contesting the next General Election in Ireland.

1 | Deliver a **'Just Transition'** to decarbonisation in Ireland

Nearly 70% of households outside Dublin, Cork City and Galway City currently rely on high carbon oil, peat, or coal as their primary energy source for home heating.* A large majority of these households are 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 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.

2 | Champion a **'mixed technology'** approach to emissions reduction

Liquid Gas Ireland strongly argues that 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.

For most rural households and businesses, the decarbonisation policy of prioritising 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 Irish bungalow from oil to a renewable ready high efficiency gas boiler, 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 **domestic 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 off grid rural homes and businesses at a much lower cost compared to a full deep retrofit for heat pump installation.

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 that can be combined with other renewable technologies** such as hybrid heat pump installations, 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 & 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.
- Ensure **equal treatment and support** for the development of renewable energy solutions in both off natural gas grid and on grid areas.

* 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.





W: lgi.ie
T: 01 500 0810
E: info@lgi.ie
X: @LiquidGasIE
ln: liquid-gas-ireland

DISCLAIMER AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY

All contents of this paper have been compiled with the greatest possible care and attention. The authors of this report assume no guarantee for the topicality, correctness, completeness or quality of the information made available. The authors shall not be liable for any damages, whether of a material or immaterial nature, that are directly or indirectly caused by the usage or nonusage of the information provided, as long as they cannot be proven to have acted with wilful intent or gross negligence.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided in this document has been compiled with the greatest possible care and attention and is accurate and up to date. If you notice any errors or omissions, please let us know as soon as possible. It is our policy to respond and correct errors within 7 working days of receiving accurate and verified information. To report an error, please call us on +353 1 500 0810.

The authors of this document, LGI and its employees or agents assume no responsibility for and give no guarantees, undertakings or warranties concerning the accuracy, completeness or up-to-date nature of the information provided in this document at this time and do not accept any liability whatsoever arising from any errors or omissions and shall not be liable for any damages, either of a material or immaterial nature that are directly or indirectly caused by the usage or non-usage of the information. The document may have links to external sites over which LGI has no control and accepts no responsibility. Any links in this document to external websites are provided as a matter of convenience only. They should not be taken as an endorsement of the contents or practices of those external websites.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

All LGI material in this document is copyright unless otherwise stated. Copyright is implied irrespective of whether a copyright symbol or a copyright statement is displayed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This manifesto was prepared with Instinctif Partners and LGI members Calor and Flogas.