



Note for UMT – Energy Crisis and Energy-Efficiency Measures

Date: 10/10/2022

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Introduction

In April 2022 the Government published the National Energy Security Framework to address Irelands energy security needs in the context of the war in Ukraine. Ireland imports over 70% of its energy needs and natural gas, which delivers 45% of Ireland's energy needs is primarily used in electricity generation, in the Industrial sector and in residential heating. The framework notes that "Ireland's imports of natural gas come from the UK and therefore not directly from Russia (3%). However, the European gas market is an interconnected market from both a physical and wholesale price perspective. The physical supplies to, and the wholesale market price of natural gas in Ireland are therefore influenced by the supply of natural gas from Russia into the European market."

Minister Eamonn Ryan recently said "The European Council recently agreed a regulation on reducing gas demand by 15% this winter. This regulation requires all Member States to put in place a demand reduction plan. Preparations are underway to put a voluntary demand reduction plan in place." Separate to the war in Ukraine there are challenges to the security of electricity supplies in Ireland, caused by a growing demand coupled with reduced generation capacity.

Public Sector Mandate and Scenario Planning Reduce Your Use (Instructed 7th September 2022)

The **Reduce Your Use** energy efficiency campaign is designed to target reductions in energy use. This includes targeted reductions in energy use by public sector bodies, through simple and easy to implement measures.

University of Galway actions from 10th October 2022:

1. All non-essential up-lighting of buildings will be switched off during the period as set out under the government mandate. This will include the lighting of the Quadrangle, signage lighting around campus and back lit signs.
2. Lighting for security and wayfinding will be maintained on campus.
3. A single decorative pole will be lit in the Quadrangle to provide a gentle light.
4. A single Christmas tree with LED will be lit during the Christmas period.
5. All lights in office, theatres, corridors, research spaces and toilets in buildings must be switched off at the end of the day. A new program of Vampire Lighting checks will take place weekly and lights left on will be identified back to the users.
6. Energy saving measures will be demonstrated to all students, staff and community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C".

Signed:

Michael Curran

Head of Building Services Energy and Utilities.