

Budget 2027

**Opportunity to use Surplus
Renewable Energy, which
would otherwise be wasted,
to End Energy Poverty**

Pre-Budget Submission From EnergyCloud Ireland

July 2026

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Existing Commitment in Programme for Government

In January 2025, the Programme for Government committed to ensuring that surplus renewable electricity would be used to benefit households experiencing energy poverty, ensuring that all communities benefit.

Since that commitment was made, more than €800 million worth of renewable wind energy has been wasted, an average of over €1.6 million per day and the levels of waste are increasing year on year.

Budget 2027 provides a real opportunity to begin delivering on that commitment and help over 550,000 homes in Ireland to exit energy poverty.

According to the ESRI, there are **550,000 homes** in Ireland in energy poverty *and in 2025 Ireland wasted enough wind energy to help almost 1.1 million homes (twice that number) exit energy poverty.*

First Key Recommendation

Establish Ireland's first **Targeted Surplus Renewable Energy Credits** for homes experiencing energy poverty.

Second Key Recommendation

Take the lead, as the UK Government has, on building a **National Fleet of Smart, Flexible Energy Assets** that can absorb energy that would otherwise be wasted.

Third Key Recommendation

Under the National Housing Action Plan, over 70,000 homes will be built during the lifetime of this Government and millions will continue to be spent each year on retrofits. **Ensure that all social homes built and all future retrofits should have Demand Flexible heating and storage devices installed**

Economic Case to Support the above Recommendations

The recommendations above, in addition to helping end energy poverty, will deliver public value and good economic benefits across Government and society in the following ways:

1. They will reduce renewable curtailment costs
2. Use more of our renewable energy resources, increasing energy security and supporting our climate action targets

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3. Reduce future network investment
4. By supporting warmer, dryer homes improve health outcomes and reduce HSE costs of dealing with this social issue
5. Improve overall energy system flexibility

Why Budget 2027?

The Government has now been in power for a little over a year and Budget 2027 will shape the agenda and delivery for the remaining lifetime of this Government. EnergyCloud believe that action is critical now on the recommendations above as:

1. This is an existing commitment in the Programme for Government
2. The levels of wasted renewable energy are growing quickly and according to Eirgrid will continue to grow for the next three years at least
3. Work on social tariffs and dynamic tariffs is progressing and these recommendations support both of these policies
4. Demand Flexibility is a key part of current and future energy policy in Ireland and throughout the EU
5. EnergyCloud has demonstrated that it is possible to link times when there is waste in the system to homes in energy poverty. By the end of 2026 we will be helping between 7,500 and 10,000 people heat their homes and water for free on an average of 10 nights a month all through the support of our private donors, partners and retailers. By deploying Demand Flexible solutions as Government policy the Government could quickly scale this number.

Conclusion

We have over €600 million of wasted renewable wind energy per annum in Ireland and for a cost of €375 million per annum we can help 550,000 homes in Ireland exit energy poverty, significantly impacting the affordability crisis for our citizens and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

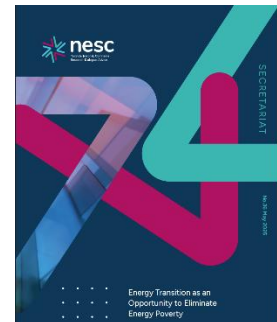
If not now, then when?

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Appendix: Overview of EnergyCloud

EnergyCloud is a registered charity that has a vision to end energy poverty and this vision is aligned with NESC Secretariat Report No. 36 'Energy Transition as an Opportunity to Eliminate Energy Poverty'.

We will partner with the Government and industry stakeholders to use renewable energy, that would otherwise be wasted, in a targeted fashion to support the over 550,000 Irish homes that are in energy poverty.



EnergyCloud's sole agenda is to help those in energy poverty. As a result, we believe we are perfectly positioned to be an honest broker that pulls all relevant stakeholders together.

While we were initially focused on the over 180,000 homes in energy poverty in Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) and Local Authorities (LAs), many people in privately owned and rented housing are also in energy poverty and we plan to help them as well as we grow and scale and have started this process with our award winning pilot with Age Friendly Ireland in Cork.

It is a key part of our strategy to continue working with Government and all of our stakeholders to support the Government to deliver on its commitments in the Programme for Government through a combination of targeted credits, full retrofits, single measures that can help those in energy poverty and will work with the Minister of Climate, Environment and Communication and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) in this regard.

EnergyCloud's work also aligns to Ireland's **Climate Action Plan** in helping to deliver 80% of Ireland's electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

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EnergyCloud Heating Homes and Water

EnergyCloud began by providing free hot water to those in energy poverty, when there is waste in the system, which in 2025 was on 124 nights.

This relatively small intervention has a real and tangible benefit to our residents, as for many this is the only hot water they got each month.

We have expanded our work to include heat pump controllers (Planet Devices), smart storage heaters (Elnur) and will soon expand this to solar and batteries.

This work is demonstrating what is possible. That when there is waste in the system that it is possible to use Demand Flexible heating and storage devices to help those in energy poverty and to shift usage from peak to night time which also helps decarbonise the grid.

And of course by heating people's homes and water for free we are helping to lift people out of energy poverty.

Today, EnergyCloud are helping over 2,500 people in energy poverty with free hot water and heat on an average of 10 nights a month. By the end of 2026 we will be helping between 7,500 and 10,000 people, all through the support of our private donors, partners and retailers.

But to bring this to scale we require a change in Government policy to insist that as much of the available waste as possible is used to help those in energy poverty and that the some/all of the recommendations above are adopted in the budget in October 2026.



"I'm actually so happy with this, my 1st tanked filled up ready for my busy household, it's like magic my children said!"
EnergyCloud Resident

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Eirgrid and ESB are advisors to our Board and we are fully supported by the relevant trade associations, Wind Energy Ireland (who also serve on our Board) and Solar Ireland.



EnergyCloud has been privately funded to date by Amazon, SSE Airtricity, Microsoft, Bord Gáis Energy, FuturEnergy and Perigus Energy (formerly Orsted).



In addition, we have received financial support from our Local Authority and Approved Housing Body partners which co funded our installations.



Almost all Electricity Retailers including Bord Gais Energy, Electric Ireland, Flogas, Pinergy, PrePayPower and SSE Airtricity are partners of EnergyCloud today and are generously paying for the free tanks of hot water and free heating that are being provided for the EnergyCloud residents.



EnergyCloud originally launched our pilots with a **smart immersion controller** which delivers free tanks of hot water on nights when there is surplus wind energy but have since expanded and now deliver free heat as well through the use of smart storage heaters and heat pump technologies.

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EnergyCloud are now delivering **free heat** and hot water to thousands of people on an average of over 120 nights a year and we will be helping thousands of homes by the end of 2026 using **Demand Flexible** technologies including **Smart Storage Heaters, Heat Pump Controllers** etc.



We are demonstrating that it is possible to link surplus renewable energy with energy poverty in a really impactful way. Our residents speak not of the money save, but of the fact that they now have a warm home and hot water to wash themselves, their children, their dishes and homes. This is real impact, removing the appalling choice of heating or eating.

