Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve

Strengthening Ireland's Energy Security

Gas Networks Ireland

Public Information Event

November 2025

Event Information Boards

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About Gas Networks Ireland – Moving Ireland's Energy

Delivering energy safely, reliably, and sustainably across Ireland

Who we are

Gas Networks Ireland is a state-owned company responsible for operating and maintaining Ireland's national gas infrastructure. We ensure homes, businesses, and industries have access to secure and reliable natural gas.

The role of Gas Networks Ireland

Supply, secure, and efficient supply

Gas Networks Ireland is responsible for the safe operation, maintenance, and development of Ireland's national gas network, which spans **14,758 km** and serves more than **720,000** customers. We are a team of more than 800 employees.

Transporting gas through our network

Gas Networks Ireland operates and maintains Ireland's **€3-billion national gas network**, which is considered one of the safest and most modern renewables-ready gas networks in Europe.

Managing our gas emergency service

We manage a 24-hour gas emergency service handling more than **14,000 call-outs** a year with an average response time of **28 minutes**.

At the heart of Ireland's energy system

Natural gas provides around **30% of Ireland's primary energy** needs and generates over **40% of the country's electricity** generation. Gas Networks Ireland is aiming to deliver a repurposed, resized, and fully decarbonised gas network. Our "Pathway to a Net Zero Carbon Network" envisions transforming the existing gas network into two separate systems carrying 100% renewable gas, one dedicated to biomethane and the other to green hydrogen.



Statistics are based on data as of 14th November 2025.

Learn more

To learn more and stay up to date with the latest information visit **www.gasnetworks.ie**.

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Ireland’s energy security

The Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve (SGER) was established as part of the Government’s strategic response to growing energy security risks and the need for a stable transition to renewable energy. It originates from the **“Energy Security in Ireland to 2030”** report, approved by Government in November 2023. This report outlined 28 actions under the pillars of sustainability, affordability, and security.

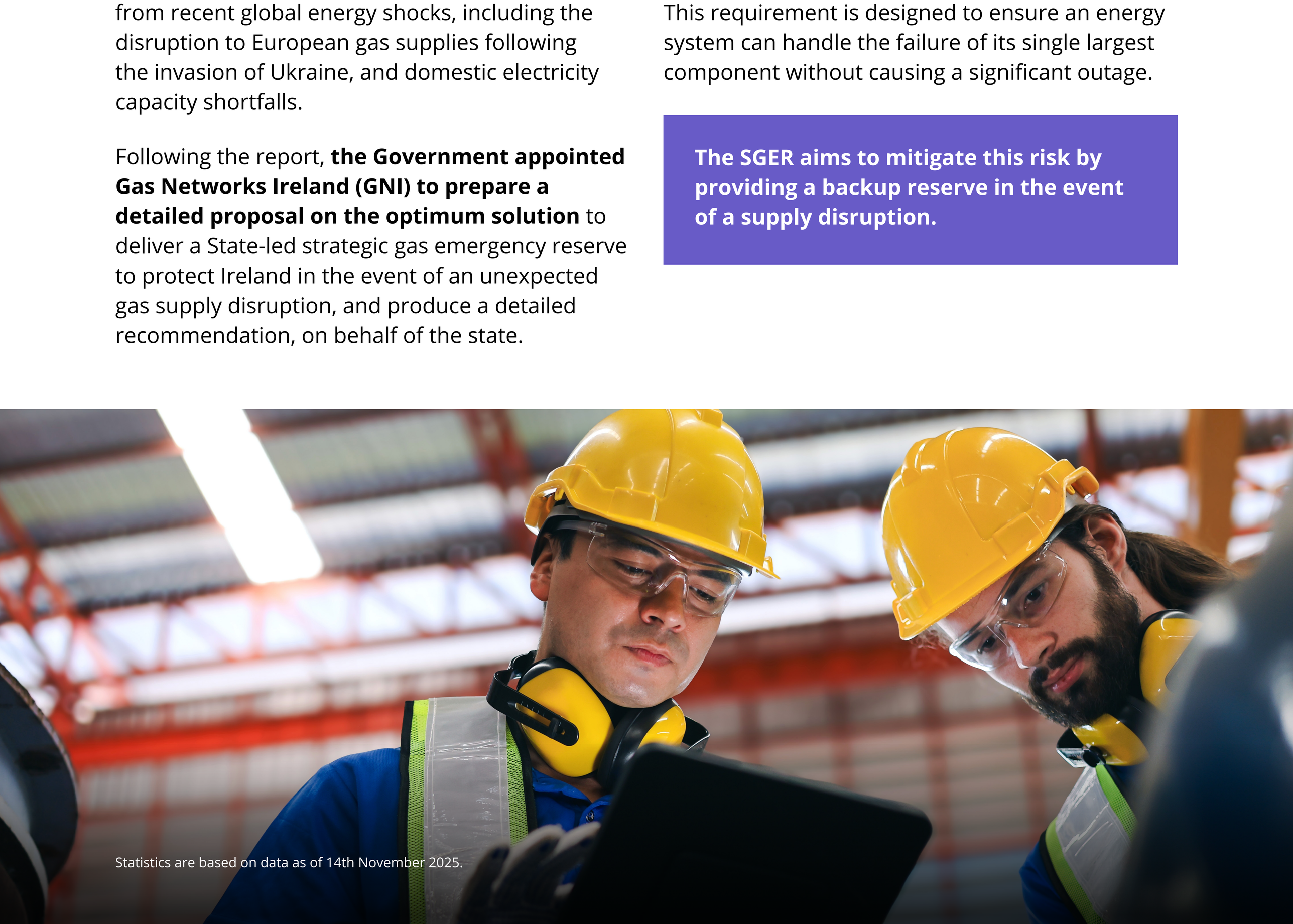
Action 17 of the plan called for the development of a state-led strategic gas reserve to protect Ireland against supply disruptions. The decision was informed by lessons from recent global energy shocks, including the disruption to European gas supplies following the invasion of Ukraine, and domestic electricity capacity shortfalls.

Following the report, **the Government appointed Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) to prepare a detailed proposal on the optimum solution** to deliver a State-led strategic gas emergency reserve to protect Ireland in the event of an unexpected gas supply disruption, and produce a detailed recommendation, on behalf of the state.

Ireland imports around 80% of its natural gas via two interconnectors from Great Britain and will depend almost entirely on imports by the early 2030’s as indigenous supplies decline. If the largest of these interconnectors were to fail, there would be disruption to electricity generation for an extended period of up to several months. **The SGER will address the critical risk of a sudden and high-impact disruption to Ireland’s natural gas supply.**

The SGER will ensure Ireland is compliant with the **EU N-1 infrastructure standard** and provides resilience in the event of a major outage. This requirement is designed to ensure an energy system can handle the failure of its single largest component without causing a significant outage.

The SGER aims to mitigate this risk by providing a backup reserve in the event of a supply disruption.



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Ireland’s Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve (SGER)

The Government approved the development of the SGER in March 2025, confirming that the reserve will take the form of a **Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU)**. The FSRU will be owned and operated on behalf of the State by Gas Networks Ireland, as a State-led non commercial emergency only facility.

This is a similar approach to that used for oil security by the National Oil Reserves Agency.

In the event of an emergency disruption, **the SGER will provide an alternative supply of energy to keep homes and businesses running**.

This approach is consistent with Ireland’s climate law and avoids fossil fuel lock-in by ensuring **the reserve is temporary, transitional, and does not support increased gas demand**.

Key outcomes of the SGER

- Energy system resilience
- Protects society and the economy
- Opportunities for skills development
- Renewable deployment
- Minimised impact
- Future investments



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Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU)

An FSRU is a specialised ship that stores liquefied natural gas (LNG), converts it to gas on board, and sends it into the national gas network during a supply disruption.

This is a **proven technology for gas storage and regasification**, used widely across Europe with approximately 50 in use globally.

The FSRU will be approximately 300 metres in length - **comparable in size to the large tankers and cargo vessels commonly seen navigating the Shannon Estuary**. To put that in perspective, it's roughly three times the length of a standard football pitch.

It will be moored on a **purpose-built jetty**, which will have access to the gas network, in the event of a national emergency supply disruption.

When fully loaded, the FSRU will typically hold up to 170,000 cubic meters of liquefied natural gas (LNG). **That's enough to supply gas to around 200,000 average households for six months.**

Alternatively, it could meet Ireland's entire national gas demand during an average week.

The FSRU is refuelled periodically by an LNG carrier vessel, to prevent a loss of gas due to a natural evaporation called "boil-off".

This means the Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve could be topped up to six times a year to ensure it's always available when needed. However, we are actively exploring engineering solutions that could reduce the number of shipments required.

In the event of a major State emergency, the FSRU would be used to deliver consistent gas supplies to the national network.



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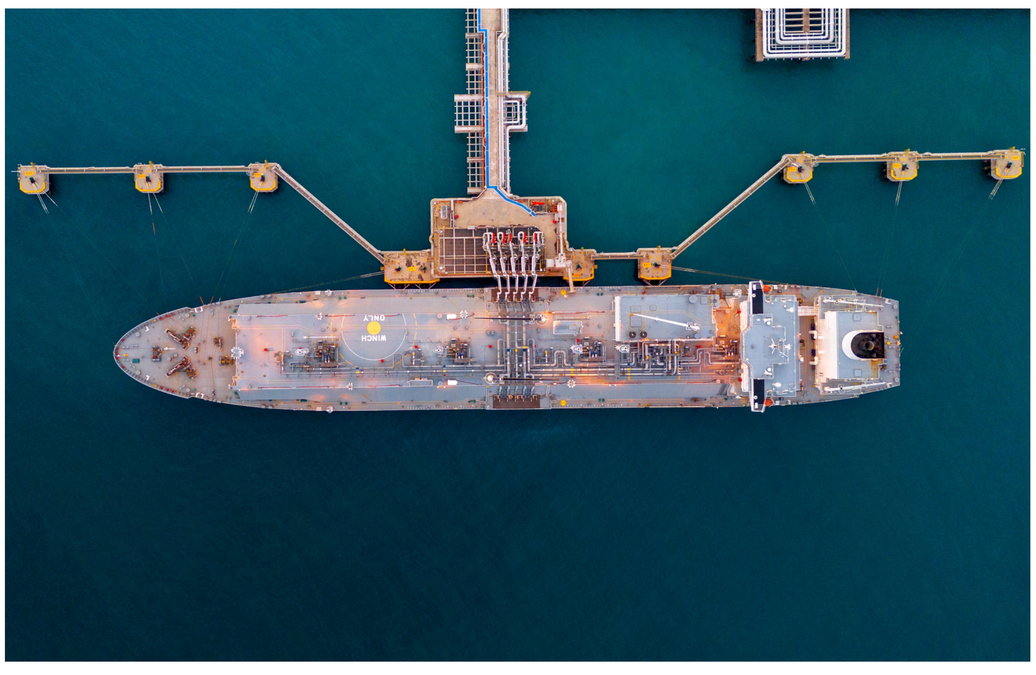
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FSRUs in operation vs marine vessels on the Shannon

FSRUs in operation



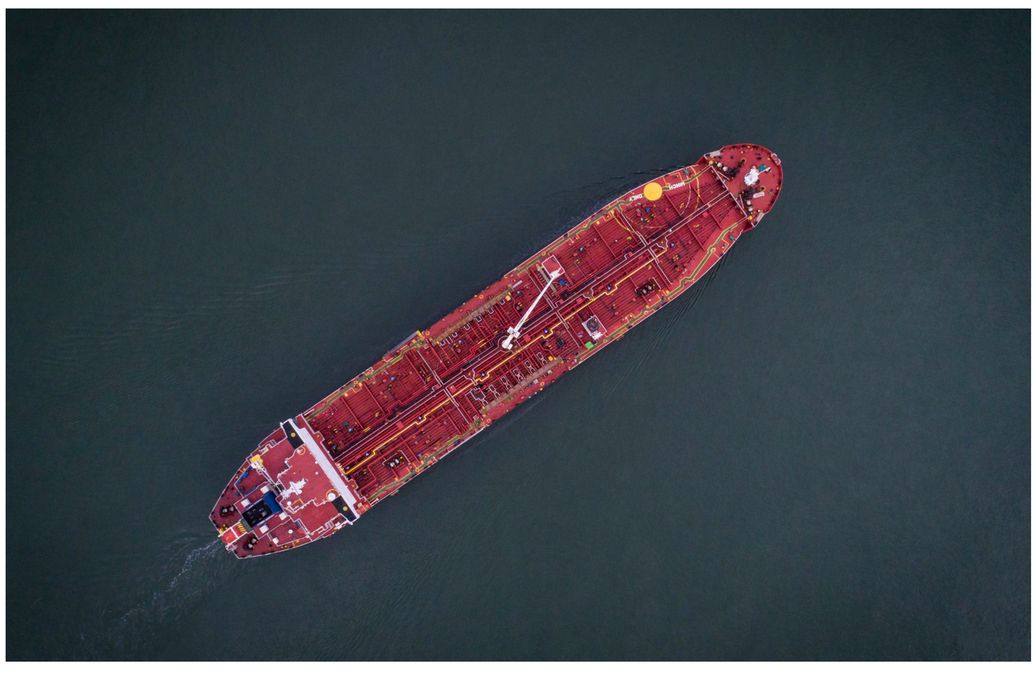




Large marine vessels on the Shannon







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The site selection process

Gas Network Ireland has selected the location for Ireland’s Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve (SGER).

A five-step process, based on professional experience in undertaking site selections for large scale infrastructure projects in Ireland, was used to identify the site for the SGER.

1. Project Scope
Defines the rationale and objective of the project. Our overarching goal is to deliver an SGER in the form of a Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU).

2. Study Area Definition
Defines the boundaries of the area(s) considered for the delivery of the FSRU and associated infrastructure. The study area was defined considering the requirements to deliver both onshore (gas terminal and gas pipeline) and offshore infrastructure (FSRU and LNG Jetty).

3. Initial Screening (Elimination)
Involves identifying potential constraints within the study area that could significantly impact project development. These constraints represent physical, technical, legal, environmental, topographical, or other considerations which may limit or confine the location or other aspects of the project.

4. Options Shortlisting
Focuses on identifying and assessing sites within the unconstrained areas. Possible site options are identified utilising the constraints map defined in Step 3, with any unfeasible options then removed. The outcome is a refined set of potential sites and pipelines routes that will undergo rigorous evaluation in Step 5.

5. Detailed Assessment
Assesses the sites and pipeline routes shortlisted in Step 4 to identify the least constrained route, which is called the “emerging preferred route”. This route assessment is carried out using a qualitative rating system that compares pipeline routes based on environmental, planning, technical, and economic criteria.

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The site selection process

Over the last number of months, Gas Networks Ireland has selected the location for Ireland's Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve (SGER) using a robust site selection process, to progress towards the next milestone of the project.

Multiple possible locations were considered around the coastline of Ireland, and from those, three locations were identified.

Gas Networks Ireland's experts have been undertaking further detailed site assessments at locations in Cork Harbour and the Shannon Estuary. Each site is being evaluated against specific criteria - technical, environmental, financial, schedule, and planning considerations. This helped identify the location that best meets the project's needs.

In simple terms, the site location will need to be located in a sheltered, deep-water location, close to the gas network.

Each site was scored against a range of practical criteria, including:

- Land availability
- Space for safe mooring of the FSRU and LNG carrier
- Distance from busy commercial port areas
- Access to utilities and services
- Safety considerations
- Local terrain and construction challenges
- Proximity to the existing gas network



Sites were rated based on how well they performed across these criteria. The site with the most favourable overall score was selected. This method ensured a balanced decision based on evidence.

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Next Steps

Activity timeline

- Site investigations
- Marine surveys
- Front end engineering design (FEED)
- Environmental assessment
- Community engagement
- Planning application
- Planning and consenting
- Final business case
- Detailed design
- Construction
- Commissioning
- Operations

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Community engagement at Gas Networks Ireland

Keeping you informed and involved

Community benefit fund

We are launching a community benefit fund to support local initiatives. Before we proceed, we want to hear from you.

What does your community need most? What projects or services would make a meaningful difference?

Your input will help shape the fund to reflect local priorities and deliver long-term value.

Community liaison officer

A dedicated community liaison officer will be appointed in the coming months to serve as your local point of contact. They will be available to answer questions, listen to concerns, and ensure your feedback is heard.

Project website

Visit www.gasnetworks.ie for the latest information, FAQs, and updates on the SGER project.

How we will stay in touch

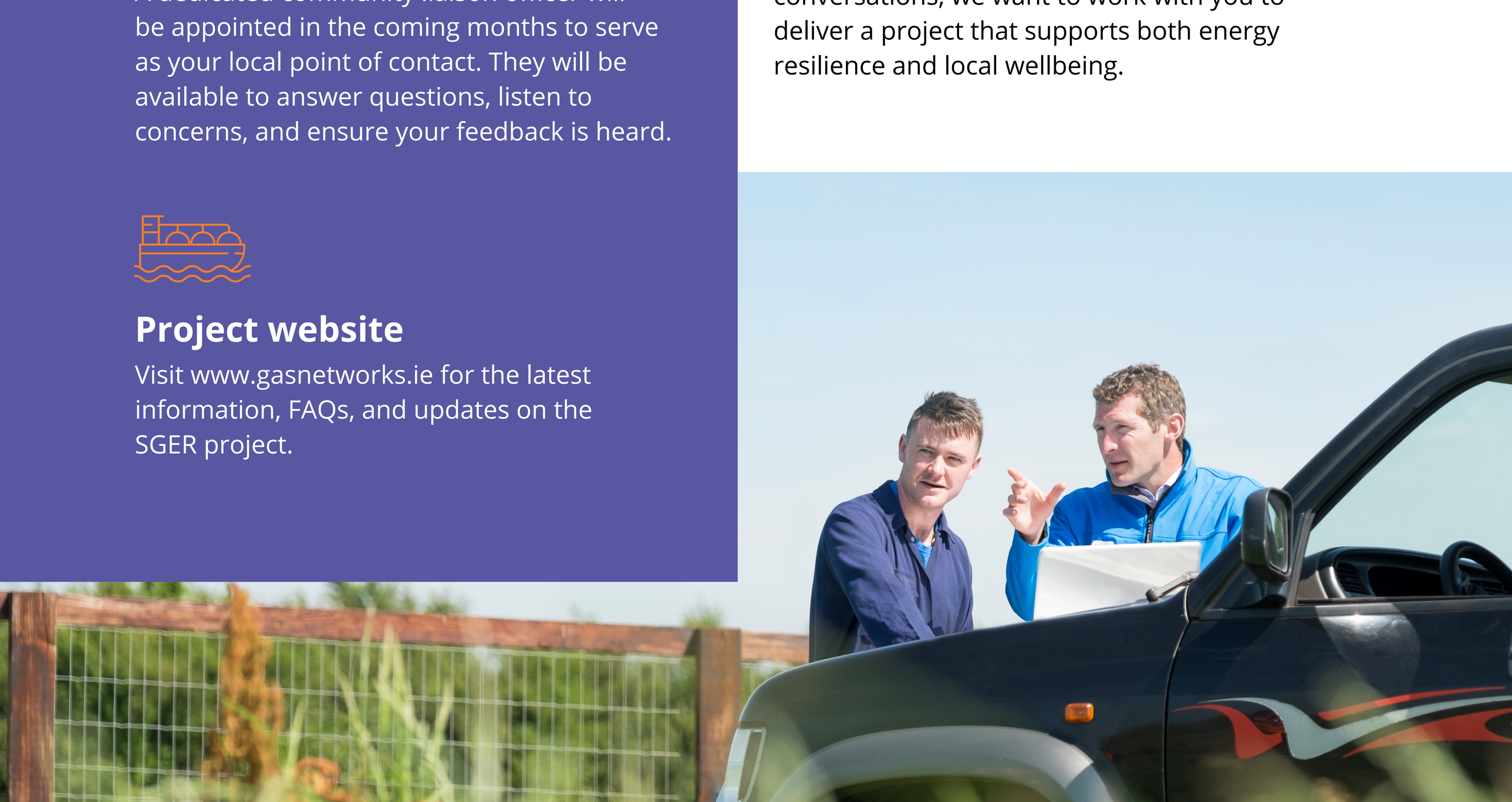
Gas Networks Ireland is committed to open, transparent communication throughout the Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve (SGER) project. We want to ensure the local community is kept informed and has opportunities to engage at every stage.

Community newsletter

We will share regular updates through a local newsletter, keeping you informed about project milestones, upcoming activities, and opportunities to get involved.

Working together

We are committed to engaging with the community in a meaningful way. Whether through events, surveys, or one-on-one conversations, we want to work with you to deliver a project that supports both energy resilience and local wellbeing.



Safety at Gas Networks Ireland

Protecting people, property, and the environment – every day.

Our safety performance

Gas Network Ireland is responsible for the safe operation of Ireland's national gas network. We manage **14,758 km** of pipeline and serve more than **720,000 customers**, with a 24/7 emergency response team ready to act.

- Extremely low incident rates across the network
- More than 20,000 emergency calls handled annually
- Regular inspections, maintenance, and upgrades to ensure system integrity
- Safety performance monitored under four CRU-issued licences

Regulated by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)

The CRU oversees gas safety in Ireland through the Gas Safety Framework. This includes regulating gas undertakings and installers, promoting public awareness of gas safety risks, and conducting audits, inspections, and safety case reviews.



Public safety campaigns

Gas Network Ireland leads **five major safety campaigns** to protect the public and raise awareness:

- **Gas Emergency Service:**
  What to do if you smell gas
- **Dial Before You Dig**:
  Preventing damage to underground gas pipes
- **Registered Gas Installers (RGI)**:
  Promoting safe installation practices
- **Meter Tampering Awareness:**
  Highlighting the dangers of interference
- **Carbon Monoxide Safety**:
  Educating on the risks of CO poisoning

What you can do

- Always use a Registered Gas Installer for any work
- Know the signs of a gas or carbon monoxide leak
- Call 1800 20 50 50 immediately if you smell gas
- Visit www.gasnetworks.ie for safety tips and resources

Safety is everyone's responsibility

Gas Networks Ireland is committed to keeping communities safe while supporting Ireland's transition to cleaner energy. Let's work together to stay informed and protected.