



The Energy Crisis has exposed Ireland’s parlous energy security

The only short-term response available is to continue to operate Moneypoint for a decade beyond its planned closure in 2029

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The **Irish Academy of Engineering** has, today, published two reports responding to the current Energy Crisis:

Worst Ever Energy Crisis?
*Ireland needs to act decisively and relearn
lessons from previous energy shocks*

**Energy Security and the Future of
Moneypoint Power Station**

Moneypoint - the country’s largest power station - stopped burning coal in June 2025 and, under current plans, will close altogether in 2029. In the meantime, it will operate on Heavy Fuel Oil.

While the decision to bring Moneypoint to its end of life was in line with national climate law and with the Climate Action Plan, in the absence of replacing the energy security which Moneypoint provided over the last 40 years, **the decision was a mistake and has made Ireland’s energy insecurity even worse than it already was.**

Recent events in the Strait of Hormuz have highlighted this exposure and the decision to close Moneypoint needs to be reversed:

- If it is not too late, Moneypoint’s coal handling equipment and large coal yard should be brought back into operation to have the station available to operate as a last resort with the potential to run at full capacity for up to 90 days.
- If this is not possible, then two additional Heavy Fuel Oil tanks – for which planning permission has been secured – should be constructed to double Moneypoint’s Heavy Fuel Oil storage capacity to permit operation for up to 22 days.
- **The planned closure in 2029 should be postponed to 2036** to provide strategic energy storage for the electricity system for 10 years while a significantly larger LNG facility than is currently proposed in the State-led *Strategic Gas Emergency Reserve* project is developed elsewhere.

Ireland is an island - located at the end of vulnerable energy supply chains – with no indigenous resources to adequately and reliably meet the country’s needs. These needs are, today, met overwhelmingly by fossil fuels (83%) with, as yet, only a small contribution coming from indigenous wind and solar (8%).

It will take many years to significantly improve the country’s energy security. In the meantime, **the only short-term measure available to improve energy security is to keep Moneypoint in operation as a power station of last resort.**

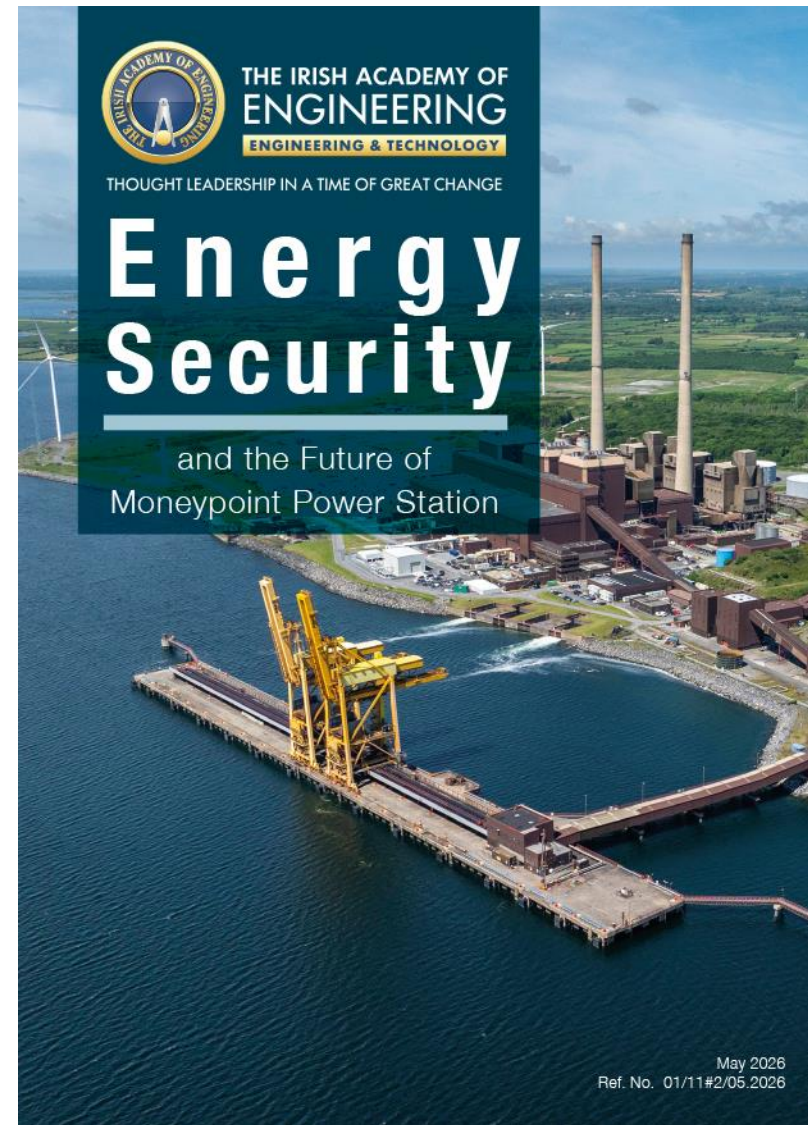
Notwithstanding that this would increase GHG emissions beyond what they otherwise would be, the impact would be relatively small and, **when balanced against the energy security objectives which national energy policy must deliver, it would be justified.**

Progress in replacing fossil fuels in transport and heating has been slow and the timescale to eliminate fossil fuels in electricity generation is indeterminable.

Ireland will continue to have a significant dependence on fossil fuels until 2050 and, most likely, beyond. **In the meantime, the reality of Ireland’s energy supply risk exposure must be recognised in policy and, where possible, mitigated.**

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The two reports are available at www.iae.ie



Background to the Irish Academy of Engineering

The Irish Academy of Engineering is an all-island academy founded in 1997.

The Academy is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and has charitable status in the Republic of Ireland.

The aim of the Academy is to advance the wellbeing of the country by marshalling the expertise and insights of experienced engineers to provide independent, evidence-based advice to policy makers on matters involving engineering and technology. Its members are prominent Irish engineers, drawn from a wide range of disciplines, and membership currently stands at 190.

Further details and all of the Academy's publications are available at www.iae.ie.

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