



West Offaly Power Station Newsletter

Welcome to the ESB West Offaly Power Station community newsletter.

We are in the process of preparing a planning application to change the fuel source for the power station from peat, through peat and biomass, and finally to biomass only. This process of change may take up to 12 years, so that by 2030 we will be independent of peat as a power source. This change is an important part of ESB's overall strategy to create a Brighter Future for the customers and communities we serve, by leading the transition to reliable, affordable, low-carbon energy. These are exciting times and, by making these changes, we intend to be fully carbon neutral in 2030 and to maintain jobs in the Midlands, which otherwise would have been lost to the region.

Activity to date

ESB has been testing biomass as an alternative fuel source. This exercise has been very positive. In the run up to 2030, biomass will be imported in reducing quantities as locally-sourced material becomes more abundant.

When we hosted our community engagement event, we had the opportunity to meet people from the local area and bring them up to date with progress. We also got feedback on the impact of our plans. Generally, there is a welcome that, if we are granted planning permission, we will be continuing our power generation operations in the region. Also, our move from peat as a fuel source to biomass is viewed as a very positive move. Some local concerns have been voiced about disruption during this phase. We will address these in our planning application.

Project timeline

The timeline for the overall project from 2018 to being biomass only in 2030 is:

- We plan to submit our planning application in Q2 / Q3 2018;
- Commence the introduction of biomass into the station following planning in 2019.

Contact information

We have appointed a Community Liaison Officer to ensure that the local community have a 'go to' person with any questions about the project.

He is David Linnane and you can contact him at 086 255 8111 or david.linnane@esb.ie – and he is available to talk at any time. You can also contact us via midlandstations@esb.ie. If you get in touch with us, ESB will only use your contact information to respond to your query about our proposed transition to biomass for West Offaly Power. For more details, please refer to our Privacy Notice, available at <https://www.esb.ie/fns/privacy-notice-and-cookies-policy>

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and for your input during our recent consultation,

John O'Connor
ESB Midland Stations Manager