### Free Juice Alert: Solar Steals the Spotlight as Gas Takes a Siesta

Electricity Market: May began with higher-than-expected prices due to low wind output and a rising gas price. From the w/c 5th there was low wind generation, with this trend mostly continuing until the last week of May. As wind output levels increased, electricity prices began to fall considerably, even with a rising gas price. The past week saw a considerable number of negative prices. During these negative pricing periods, we were actually paid to take this power. Negative day-ahead prices in Ireland emerge when "must-run" or subsidy-backed wind generators are willing to pay to stay online during low-demand, high-wind periods, and when limited export capacity prevents offloading surplus. These factors combine to push the generators bids below zero, leading to negative clearing prices.

Solar generation broke another record in May, with a record output on May 21st. As mentioned in previous issues, this is something we expect to happen regularly as the capacity of solar generation increases. Further development of grid infrastructure is required to ensure we fully utilise the sources available to us.

Gas Markets: Gas prices rose at the start of the month to reach a peak of 91.7p/therm on 21st May. Prices then dropped off towards the end of the month which was down to higher-than-average wind levels. The monthly average finished at 82.31p/therm, which was the lowest since July 2024. There were indications of increased gas demand, particularly as Norwegian maintenance was expected to limit pipeline supplies. This maintenance was anticipated to constrain gas storage injections during June, potentially leading to higher prices to attract supply.

as Pric	es								
Previous Period	12 Months (p/Therm)	May G	as Prices	2023-202	5				
Jun-24	82.19								2023 Average
Jul-24	75.05			• • • • •		• • • • •			
Aug-24	83.84								_
Sep-24	86.86	75.00			••	·	······································		2024 Average
Oct-24	98.18	a GB							
Nov-24	110.42	p/Therm GBP							
Dec-24	111.24	50.00							
Jan-25	122.00								
Feb-25	126.34								
Mar-25	102.61								
Apr-25	86.58	25.00 1/05	05/05	09/05	13/05	17/05	21/05	25/05	29/05
May-25	82.31		Fig. 1:	May 25 gas price	s (Green) compar	ed to averages for	or month of May 2	:023 and 2024	
Forward Period	Curve Data (p/Therm)	Forward	d Gas Pric	ce (GBP p	/Therm)	Q3 '25 - (	Q4 '26		

Forward	Curve Data
Period	(p/Therm)
Jun-25	80.40
Jul-25	78.95
Aug-25	80.53
Q3 '25	81.05
Q4 '25	89.33
Q1 '26	92.53
Q2 '26	80.70
Q3 '26	78.60
04 '26	84.98



Q4 '25 Q1 '26 Q2 '26 Q3 '26 Fig. 2: The forward gas pricing curve from Q3 25 to Q4 '26, compared to average gas price 2024.



# **Commodity Summary**

-4.9% Change from Apr '25

**NBP** Forward Curve

82.31 p/Therm

+5.8% Change from Apr '25

EUA Carbon - Annual

70.41 €/Tonne

+2.4% Change from Apr '25

**ATW** Coal - Annual

95.90 \$/MT

- NBP (National Balancing Point) refers to forecast Natural Gas market. Future gas prices have a major impact on energy prices as the majority of electricity in Ireland is generated by gas fired power stations
- EUA (EU Allowance) is an EU wide emission allowance. EUA affects energy prices when fossil fuels are used in energy generation
- \* ATW = price of Rotterdam Coal Futures. Coal is a lesser but primary energy fuel source hence ATW prices have an influence on energy generation costs

## All-Island Fuel Mix - May 2025

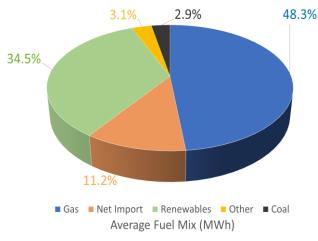


Fig. 3: Average fuel mix across the island of Ireland for May 25.

### Fuel Mix - Island of Ireland

Gas was the principle source of electricity generation for Ireland in May

Other includes Peat, Waste, Distillate, CHP, DSU and others

## **Key Points**

- Electricity and gas prices fell for the 4<sup>th</sup> month in a row to its lowest level.
- Interconnection beginning to play a bigger role in the fuel mix with the introduction of Greenlink to the Irish market.
- Common theme of spring is solar generation records being broken again this year.

## Outlook

- The market is preparing for a potential increase in LNG imports to meet injection demands, especially as maintenance schedules for Norwegian gas assets are expected to ramp up.
- Norwegian infrastructure maintenance could constrain flows in June and potentially push prices up.

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