



Dr. Matt Kennedy

Nationality: Irish | **Phone number:** (+353) 872650621 (Mobile) | **Email address:**

matthewbkennedy@gmail.com | **Website:** www.matthewkennedy.org |

Address: Boann House, Woodgrange, A92T6D3, Ireland (Home)

● ABOUT ME

Matt Kennedy (Phd) is a chartered environmental professional and energy engineer, with over 25 years' experience in delivering national and international transformation and climate change initiatives, advocacy and advisory services within infrastructure, buildings, cities, transport, and energy sectors. Matt has built a career in providing policy advice and thought leadership for clients, building a reputation among global peers. He is an internationally recognised expert, developing policy advice across governments and providing advice to businesses. Matt is a Fellow of IEMA.

● WORK EXPERIENCE

2024 - CURRENT Dublin

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GLOBAL LEADER OF CLIENT TRANSFORMATION IDA IRELAND

As Executive Director for IDA Ireland Matt is a member of the Executive Leadership team where he leads the portfolio of transformation initiatives including R&D, Sustainability, Talent Development and Digitalisation.

Key Achievements include:

- Leading a team of 50 executives that deliver transformational initiatives to enhance Ireland's value proposition enabling the companies with whom IDA partners to strengthen and grow.
- Establishing the new 'Client Transformation Division' to drive change and working across all sectors and clients to enable investment and ensure industry enhances resilience, productivity and economic performance.
- Collaborating across stakeholder including government departments and higher education entities, enhancing engagement between research and innovation.
- Establishing new talent and skills development initiatives that focus on digitalisation transformation.
- Driving client engagement across initiatives to secure Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) and Disruptive Technology Innovation Fund (DTIF) investment.
- Delivering on IDA strategic targets across areas including investment, employment, carbon abatement and skills development.

2020 - 2024 Dublin, Ireland

DIRECTOR, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LEADER (EUROPE), GLOBAL LEADER, CLIMATE STRATEGY, PLANNING AND REPORTING ARUP

As European Sustainable Development Leader and Global Climate Leader Matt directed climate strategy, managed stakeholder relations with key clients, and shaped climate offerings for cities and corporates, enhancing Arup's internal and external reputation.

Key Achievements include:

- Embedding sustainability across Arup's European operations, leading a team of 100+ sustainability professionals.
- Providing advisory, ESG, EU Taxonomy and decarbonisation services to MNCs across engineering, technology, financial services, biopharma, medtech and business services.
- Directing the delivery of Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Sustainability Implementation Plan, Climate Action Roadmap to 2030, Emissions Inventory and Adaptation Strategy.
- Directing the NTA on its Great Dublin Transport Demand Management Strategy.
- Directing the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development's (EBRD) delivery of Green City Action Plans for Semey and Ust, Kazakhstan and Walbrzych, Poland.
- Leading advisory services to Allied Irish Bank (AIB) on its approach to achieving a net zero target.
- Leading advisory services for VGP to deliver an assessment of its input and output streams across Scope 3.
- Directing a framework for developing Blue Green Infrastructure & Nature Based Solutions for the Irish Southern Region.
- Working with local authorities, such as Galway City Council, to deliver Energy Masterplans to 2030 and decarbonisation zones.

- Directing the delivery of Irish statutory forest agency (Coillte's) Forest Estate Land Use Plan.
- Delivering a 'Green Space strategy' for Galway City, enabling the City to make and shape decisions around public realm and ecosystems, whilst enhancing its natural and built heritage
- Directing the delivery of advisory services across energy and resilience to Resilient Cities Network, including the assessment of city profiles for Cape Town, Lagos and Rio.
- Directing Gap to Target assessments for corporate and public bodies, such as St Vincent's University Hospital and Sport Ireland.
- European Expert Evaluator for the European Commission's call for 100 Climate Neutral Cities initiative.
- Providing thought leadership and climate science services as a member of Arup's global Climate Futures Project.
- Facilitating UNFCCC negotiations at subsidiary bodies meeting, Bonn, 2022

15/11/2015 – 31/05/2020 Ireland

HEAD OF STRATEGY AND BUSINESS TYNDALL NATIONAL INSTITUTE (INTERNATIONAL ENERGY RESEARCH CENTRE), UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

- Lead E.U. Negotiator (technology and trade) representing 28 Member States at COP21 UNFCCC Climate Agreement, Paris.
- Chair of the U.N. Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), a UNEP/ UNIDO institution delivering adaptation and mitigation projects to developing countries with a network of 600 organisations.
- Led the Tyndall National Institute (International Energy Research Centre) sustainable energy strategy, commercialisation and communications functions, including engaging with international businesses, stakeholders and Government and managing a team of 20 researchers.
- Directed initiatives including the development of new innovative products, services and emerging technologies in the energy, environment and engineering sectors.
- Directed business development to deliver of €20m investment portfolio of projects on behalf of Enterprise Ireland, including identification of new member avenues resulting in 500% growth in industry collaborators.
- Led the Centre's quality assurance standards and procedures, including reporting on metrics, quality and regulatory affairs personnel, and project delivery processes.
- European Commission's Independent Expert for Climate Change Performance and Mitigation for its European Green Capital Award, and the Green Leaf Award for smaller towns, that recognise and reward cities and urban areas that are committed to sustainability.
- European Commission's Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Finance, EU (2018-2020), developing the EU taxonomy for climate change mitigation and climate change action.
- Led goal and target setting, SDG/ESG mapping and negotiated financial agreements on behalf of industry with Government and European Union.
- Chair of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership

2014 – 2020

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CONSULTANT (DECARBONISATION, RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCE) SELF-EMPLOYED

- Climate Science Specialist for the UNDP project 'Advancing Albania's Planning for adaptation through the development of a national adaptation project'-aimed at strengthening capacities to better inform decision-making on climate risks and catalyse and direct climate investments.
- Lead Consultant for the deliver of the UNEP Climate Technology Centre and Network Five Year Programme of Work and the UNEP-UNIDO Programme Document on technology transfer.
- International Expert for Iraq's GCF Project 'Building institutional capacity through the second Green Climate Fund readiness project'.
- Lead Author for 'Ensuring a climate resilience recovery after Covid-19' (2020): a guidebook for developing countries focusing on how countries could meet climate change goals while improving economic competitiveness by utilising low-carbon pathways, supply chain circularity and resilient business models.
- International Climate Change Expert, Iraq, UNDP. As Lead Consultant I prepared the Government of Iraq for their role in negotiation at COP26 and enabling the delivery of a GCF project aimed at strengthening the capacity of the NDA and ensuring access to GCF funds and support to national organizations seeking accreditation at GCF.
- Workshop facilitator for 'NDC Workshop on raising NDC ambition and sharing best practice' (2021): collaborated with UNFCCC and its Technology Executive Committee to moderate events aimed at raising NDC ambition from the perspective of NDCs and SIDs. Engagement focuses on Dominican Republic, Chile, Eswatini and international organisations such as GCF and NDC Partnership.
- Lead International Consultant for Climate Resilience, Technology Needs Assessments, UNEP and UNIDO. This portfolio of climate resilient projects involved collaboration with LDCs in Africa and Asia in conducting individual technology needs assessments and the development of sectoral action plans in terms of adaptation and mitigation action on behalf of UNIDO and UNEP for the Governments of Botswana, Georgia, Ghana, Iraq, Nigeria and Zimbabwe, in preparation for the Green Climate Fund readiness support programme.
- Lead Consultant for 'Climate Promise Initiative', Iraq, UNDP. This involved identifying mitigation action for the Government of Iraq in terms of raising its ambition for action within its updated NDC.

- Chief Technical Advisor for 'Policy Reform and Market Transformation', Iran, UNDP. The Global Environment Fund and UNDP collaborated with the Government of Iran to develop the Policy Reform and Market Transformation of the Energy Efficient Buildings Sector Project. This project involved delivery of a city-wide energy efficiency programme of building retrofit, white certificates and market mechanisms.
- Lead Consultant for 'Climate Resilience, Electro-mobility and Market Readiness Framework' for Nigeria, UNEP and UNIDO (2019-2020).

31/08/2005 – 31/10/2015 Ireland

SPECIAL ADVISOR, LOW CARBON TECHNOLOGIES MANAGER SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY OF IRELAND

- Led the execution of SEAI's corporate strategic plan, 2010-2015, including working with the Board to define mission, targets, objectives, stakeholders, values, KPIs and outcomes.
- Chaired the cross-Government Wind Energy Planning Steering Group for the Irish Government, delivering for the Irish Government and engaging with stakeholders from civil society, business and academia to inform the revised national wind energy planning guidelines in terms of environmental impact, land-use and spatial planning.
- Led Ireland's industrial engagement in national and international initiatives and support actions on on behalf of Department of Energy and the Department of Enterprise, driving technology demonstration, prototype development
- Chair of the International Energy Agency's Renewable Energy Technology Partnership Programme and its Committee on Energy Research.
- Led start-up and spin-out engagement through a national energy Incubator programme.
- Delivered six of Ireland's 2050 technology roadmaps and insight pathways for the Irish Government
- Lead SEAI's development of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan, Renewable Energy Action Plan, National Research Prioritization exercise, and establishment of National Energy Modelling Unit.
- Managed Ireland's engagement in Horizon 2020 Research Initiative, including responsibility for delivering on national targets for academic success

31/08/1999 – 31/08/2005

MANAGER IRISH SPORTS COUNCIL

- Member of a small corporate affairs function that established the statutory body.
- Established the ISC research function and scoped, designed and managed the development of a research and technology strategy (12 projects).

● **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Mother tongue(s): **ENGLISH**

● **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

31/05/2010 – 31/05/2013

PHD SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING Trinity College Dublin

31/08/2002 – 31/08/2004

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION University College Dublin

31/08/1996 – 31/08/1998

MASTER OF ARTS (DEVELOPMENT) National University of Ireland Galway, Wageningen University, Netherlands

31/08/1993 – 31/08/1996

BACHELOR OF ARTS (POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIOLOGY) National University of Ireland Galway

● **NETWORKS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

01/06/2023 – CURRENT

Non Executive Director, An Post

Government appointed Board Member/ on Non-Executive Director to An Post.

01/03/2023 – CURRENT Dublin

Non Executive Director, Failte Ireland

Government appointed Board Member/ Non-Executive Director to Failte Ireland

2025 – CURRENT Brussels

New European Bauhaus Facility Expert Group/ Mission Board

Appointed by the European Commission as a Expert member of the New European Bauhaus Facility Mission Board.

2023 – CURRENT Brussels

EU Expert Evaluator

European Commission Expert Evaluator for its initiatives including 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities and its LIFE Programme.

● **HONOURS AND AWARDS**

14/06/2023

Fellow (FIEMA) and Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) – Society for the Environment

Fellow and Member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment