Introduction

Tipperary Energy Agency is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2018. As part of our celebrations and in conjunction with the Covenant of Mayors and the National Dialogue on Climate Action, the agency is organising a 1-day conference entitled Citizens Leading the Energy & Climate Transition. An appropriate local & regional response to the cause and effect of climate change is a key challenge of our time. The Conference will seek to develop capacity and knowledge of key local actors while addressing how effective collaboration and partnership can facilitate a successful transition.

As part of our celebrations, Tipperary will also be hosting, for the first time, the FEDARENE General Assembly. FEDARENE is a European network of regional and local organisations which implement, co-ordinate and facilitate sustainable energy and environment policies. Up to fifty representatives will travel from all over Europe for this General Assembly on September 11, followed by the Citizens Leading the Energy & Climate Transition Conference on September 12.

About the Conference

This conference is a partnership between the European Covenant of Mayors Initiative, The Irish Government’s dialogue on climate action and the Tipperary Energy Agency. It will focus on how citizens can lead the energy & climate transition in their regions. It will share success stories about citizens (whether employees of local authorities or working in their communities) leading the change through personal and professional leadership. It brings key insights from some of Europe’s leading regions and counties that can aid other municipalities to become independent self-sustaining communities. It will look at what’s happening now in Tipperary in terms of planning, communicating the energy and climate transition and supporting our citizens to invest in their future.

The Covenant of Mayors is a key European initiative with 9000+ signatories, including many Irish local authorities. The Conference is a capacity building event of the Covenant of Mayors and will showcase some leading local policies implemented in Ireland to support the energy and climate transition. The ongoing establishment of Local Authority Climate Action Regional Offices provides an excellent opportunity to further embed the Covenant of Mayors within local government in Ireland and the conference will look to explore this further during its climate dialogue session.

The National Dialogue on Climate Action is an Initiative of the Government of Ireland and seeks to engage citizens in informing and supporting Ireland’s response to climate change. In seeking to collaborate with the National Dialogue, this Conference will also host a dialogue on climate action. This dialogue will seek to understand how local authorities and citizen led initiatives can collaborate with other key actors to promote and support our energy and climate transition which builds on national policy in terms of achieving a low carbon and climate resilient future.

Who will attend?

- Policy Makers
- Representatives from Local Authorities
- European Energy Agencies
- Local Community & Development Organisations
- Sustainable Energy Communities
- Academics

Speakers

Minister Denis Naughten T.D, Minister for Communications, Climate Change & Environment

Jim Gannon, CEO, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)

Joe MacGrath, CEO, Tipperary County Council

Marie Donnelly, Former Director, Renewables, Research & innovation and Energy efficiency at DG Energy For the European Commission

Local Energy Champions, John Fogarty & Gearoid Fitzgibbon
Citizens Leading the Energy Transition
September 12, 2018
1 Day Conference
Hotel Minella, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

AGENDA

9.30  Conference Welcome and Opening Remarks
9.45  Keynote - Ireland’s energy Transition and the Role of Communities and Citizens
      TBC
10.05 Sustainable Tipp – Tipperary’s Covenant of Mayors Journey
      Joe MacGrath, CEO, Tipperary County Council
10.25 How National policy coupled with local Energy actors will support the energy transition.
      Jim Gannon, CEO Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
10.45  Panel Discussion
11.05  BREAK
11.30  Facilitating the Bio- Rural Economy
      Christiane Egger, Upper Austrian Energy Agency
11.50  An energy Independant Ireland by 2050? Who can deliver it?
      Marie Donnelly, Director, Tipperary Energy Agency
12.10  How the Covenant of Mayors can Aid the Local Energy Transition
      Anette Jahn, EASME
12.30  Planning for the Energy Transition
      Nuala O’ Connell, Tipperary County Council
1.00   LUNCH
14.00  Retrofitting Communities
      Gearoid Fitzgibbon, Director Energy Communities Tipperary Co-operative
14.20  Citizen Power
      John Fogarty, Templderry Community Windfarm
15.00  A Dialogue on Local & Regional Responses to Climate Action
      Chair Marie Donnelly, Tipperary Energy Agency
16.30  Conference Close