

Welcome to the first Edition of the Newsletter where we want to keep you, our members, up to date on the development of the Co-op and we encourage you to share the newsletter or the information from it amongst your network of contacts. We plan to produce a newsletter 3 maybe 4 times a year and we welcome feedback, comment and suggestions.

## Membership and AGM:

Our membership has grown steadily over the 18 months we have been in existence. We now have 87 members and this makes us the largest Energy co-op in Ireland. Our target for our first year was 50 and we exceeded that target by 25 by December '16. We are driving for 200 by December '17 and 300 by Dec. '18.

**Joining and renewing are made easier through our website so don't delay, join or renew today.**

The co-op held its first Annual General meeting in early February. February 11<sup>th</sup> turned out to be a very popular calendar date but despite the competition we had about 20 members present. In late January our part-time worker Vikki moved on to new employment. She guided and supported us very well as we got on our feet and this was possible through financial help from Transition Kerry and Kerry County Council. Two members of the Committee stood down at the AGM and we were fortunate to have a number of new volunteers willing to serve. The current members of the committee are: Barry Clarke (Chair). Thomas O'Donnell (Treasurer). Sylvia Thompson, (Secretary) Mary Shanahan( assistant secretary) Anne-Marie Fuller, Gerry Cunnane, James Clifford, Niamh Ni Dhuill, Maggie Connolly, Pat Massey, Robert Brosnan, Paula O'Sullivan.

## Better Energy Communities (BEC)

In December/January we sent out information about the BEC scheme which is part of Sustainable Energy Ireland Grant award scheme for communities. We had an encouraging response and a lot of interest. We submitted an application and last week received confirmation that our submission was successful. In total 8 residential homes and 10 community/business/public dwellings will receive various levels of retrofit throughout the summer. The level of grant awarded varies from 30% to 80% depending on circumstances. Included in the submissions are a number of fuel allowance dwellings. As fuel poverty reduction is part of our remit we are doubly pleased with the outcome of our submission.



## Membership Registration and Membership renewal

Everyone who joins the co-op and pays 10 euros becomes a member and receives 10 shares and one vote. There is no time limit on membership unless a person wishes to cancel or withdraw. We are asking our members to consider ongoing support for the work of the co-op by an annual membership renewal of 10 euros. Ideally this would be done at the time of the AGM. Such a contribution would help build up revenue to enable the co-op to promote its service eg. The purchase of energy monitors and moisture meters for use at exhibitions and for donation to local libraries. Etc, etc. Renewal is easy through the website.

## Website and facebook

Daithi Carr of Hightides Design gave his time and expertise to the co-op in designing and setting up the website. Mary Shanahan will update and manage any web correspondence for the time being. Any expertise from amongst the membership is always welcomed.

Niamh ni Dhuill and Maggie Connolly will keep in touch with the facebook page.

## Proposed bike scheme for Tralee

On behalf of KSEC James Clifford is working with a network of agencies in Tralee who want to develop a pilot project bike scheme. Watch this space for information on the development of this project.



## Other News and Events

'Engineers Ireland' held a talk last Dec.6th at IT Tralee titled '**Retrofitting to reduce energy consumption**'. This was presented by the assistant estates manager of ITT and dealt with their efforts to reduce the college energy costs of over **600,000 euro/annum** (electricity, oil, gas). On 28/3/17 'Engineers Ireland' had our own Gerry Cunnane give a talk at ITT titled '**Introduction to photovoltaic (PV) solar electric system.**' Pat Massey attended both talks, as did about 100 others, half of whom were male engineering students in the early to mid- twenties age group. The attendance included 2 women!

**Feile Na Bealtaine, Dingle 28 April-1May 17.** KSEC had an information stand in the Town Park on Saturday promoting the work of the co-op and the projects it is involved in.

**SEC Scheme (Sustainable Energy Communities).** This scheme is initiated by SEAI to enable local groups work towards more sustainable communities. **KSEC is working in collaboration with Transition Kerry and Kerry County Council** to submit separate though related proposals to this scheme. (Just to confuse us SEAI have two schemes that KSEC is involved in, one is BEC referred to on page 1 and SEC above).

### SOME ENERGY FACTS

1. Ireland imports more than 90% of its energy with energy demand increasing by approximately 5% per year. This makes Ireland the most import-dependent country in Europe for energy and therefore the most vulnerable. Source Teagsac
2. 1000 litres of home heating oil  
= 2-2.5 tonnes of wood pellets  
= 3 tonnes of firewood (at 30% MC)  
= 3-4 tonnes of wood chips (at 30% MC)  
Source Teagsac
3. Estimated Number of People 'Who Had to go without heating during the last year through lack of money'  
Kerry = 26,500 (17.9% population).  
Source Unite (union)
4. Imported fuels cost Ireland over €6 billion per annum. Source SEAI.



### REMEMBER

The Co-op sells good quality, locally-grown firewood to its members all year round. More info at [www.ksec.ie](http://www.ksec.ie)

### Other News

Valentia Island Development Company (VIDC)

In collaboration with University College Cork an energy audit has taken place within the Island. This was completed by two students as part of their thesis studies. The findings of the audit will be used as a foundation for the completion of a full carbon footprint report on the Island, providing the team with an approximate tally of how much money leaves the island each year in fuel and transport costs. Source: The Kerryman April '17

If your membership is due for renewal and you haven't yet done so it can be done online via paypal at [www.ksec.ie](http://www.ksec.ie) or by post. Thank you