

Getting Kerry ready to be 100% renewable by 2030

Welcome to the Second Edition of the Newsletter where you will read about some of the projects KSEC has been working on over the last while and some of its ongoing plans. We encourage you to share the newsletter or the information from it amongst your network of contacts. KSEC values your support and we welcome feedback, comments and suggestions.



Membership and AGM:

Our membership continues to grow steadily and is now has 130 members. KSEC is the largest Community-based Energy co-op in Ireland. **Joining and renewing are made easier through our website so don't delay, join or renew today.**

The co-op held its Annual General meeting in early February 2018. Three members stood down at the AGM and two new members have joined the committee. The current committee members 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, Vanda Mesnjak Barsic, Tim Leahy.

If you are interested in offering your time and skills to the co-op committee for a year or two please let us know – you could even sit in on one of our monthly meetings to see if it is for you.

ENERGY MASTER PLAN (EMP)

KSEC's mission towards a 100% Renewable Energy supply for Kerry took a significant step this week with **the submission of our Energy Master Plan (EMP) for the town of Killorglin**. The Town has a rich history and is known for the beautiful River Laune and the world famous Puck Fair Festival.

With a population of 2085 (cso 2011) Killorglin also has a new history with Renewable Energy with leading local businesses like Astellas and Temmler generating a large part of their Energy Load through Renewables.

The **EMP** will build on from KSEC successful **Better Energy Community (BEC)** scheme which saw energy upgrades for a number of domestic, community and business buildings in the town. Notable are the Killorglin Family Resource Center and Crowley's clothes store.

The Killorglin EMP will:

1. Analyse the local energy use such as, fuel types, energy systems and energy spend.
2. Conduct Energy audits of local buildings.
3. Establish a building energy rating (BER) baseline on homes.

Barry Clarke



Website, facebook, twitter

Any expertise from amongst the membership on managing KSEC's website would be appreciated. Meantime Mary Shanahan seeks to keep it current.

Niamh Ni Dhuill and Vanda Barsic manage the facebook page.

Gerry Cunnane manages Twitter

www.ksec.ie.

www.facebook.com/kerryenergycoop.

Twitter@KSECTralee



PLASTIC WASTE

Plastics are everywhere but too much of it is used only once before **been** thrown away.

It takes 5 seconds to produce a single-use plastic bottle and 5 min to consume whatever it contains but more than 500 years for it to break down

If we recycle 15 million tonnes of plastics, that is the equivalent of taking 15 million cars off the road.

How can we reduce generating plastic waste?

Buy food in zero waste shops (you can bring your own bags, pots, cups...)

When there's a choice, buy items with paper or cardboard packaging

Use cotton bags

Buy vegetables without plastic packaging

Avoid buying water in plastic bottles (use tap water or a glass bottle)

Try to buy wooden toys or board games

Use shampoo bars rather than plastic containers

Buy a reusable coffee cup for takeaways.

Wrap your sandwiches up in wax wrap etc.

Vanda Mesnjak Barsic

With funding from Agenda 21/KCC, KSEC secured funding to raise awareness on this issue. Vanda has prepared a powerpoint presentation on the issue and has contributed to events held in Killorglin and could also take this to other community groups.

SELLING RENEWABLE ENERGY

Of course I personally don't sell it at all but having been part of a team on a KSEC stall at a variety of public events since the birth of the Co-Op four years ago I certainly feel as if I have been selling the 'idea' of sustainable energy.

And so with KSEC t-shirt donned I watch the passers by saying to myself 'Should I approach him/her?...I wonder would he /she be interested?' .. 'They look interested...here goes' and so off I go and politely ask...'Are you interested in this?'.. pointing to my leaflet, the tent logo or an energy monitor. I try to do all my active listening, watching their response for interest, for the brush-off or for a specific question or query. Sometimes it's the wood that draws people in...and then the children say 'Mom/Dad stop look at this', so then another member can take over and show how the wood moisture metres work and then the energy monitors....'Plug in your Hoover and you'll never Hoover again...!'

It's always fun, and of course, a privilege to engage with the public. We have our leaflet telling of all the benefits of membership and the aim of the Co-op including: **100% renewable energy in Kerry by 2030.**

Sylvia Thompson

SOLAR ELECTRIC PANELS (PV)

For anyone wishing to save some money on electricity bills and reduce their Carbon Footprint, solar electric panels (PV Panels) are a good choice. Installation is relatively simple and, once installed, PV will immediately help to power your electrical loads during daytime. A PV system works in parallel with the Electricity Grid, sometimes powering the loads alone or at least contributing, during periods of high demand with the balance coming in from the Grid. Alternatively if PV production exceeds usage then the excess power is exported to the Grid. The system works seamlessly – the only thing you notice is a reduction in your ESB bills!

At KSEC we actively encourage households and businesses to install rooftop solar. Apart from it being the responsible thing to do from a Climate Change point of view, the economic benefits go directly to the system owner. Our ambition at KSEC is to encourage the replacement of fossil fuels with locally produced renewable energy in such a way that the money saved stays in the local community. Individually owned roof top solar systems achieve this in a way which Solar Farms do not. Solar Farms are largely owned by outside investors and all earnings inevitably leave the community and indeed the country as the investment finance often comes from abroad.

Gerry Cunnane

REMEMBER

The Co-op sells good quality, locally-grown firewood to its members all year round. More info at www.ksec.ie