Local Energy Action – Why Local Energy Agencies are needed to drive the Energy Transition.

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Today's Discussion

- Climate Action is Local
- Local Energy Agencies
- Case Study on Tipperary Energy Agency
- Policy recommendations
Climate Action is Local

- What is Climate Action?
  - Retrofitting buildings including renewable energy (heat pumps & PV)
  - Renewable energy infrastructure (Wind & Solar)
  - Cycling, walking infrastructure
  - Public transport
  - EV charging
  - More Local and seasonal food
- All needs to be local.
- History has told us that activities needing local services are delivered locally.
  - Education;
  - TEAGASC; MABS,
  - Childcare committees, sports partnerships
- Climate / Energy Transition is no different.

Tipperary Co Co Members visiting renewable energy installations in advance of RE strategy.
What is an Energy Agency?

- Staff: Engineering, Communication, engagement, expertise in energy Transition
- Delivered at a local level
- Governed for the public good (Elected members, development companies, education etc.)
- Non-profit, independent, CLG, Social Enterprise
- Flexible (can increase and decrease resources)
- Technical experts (ring fenced, not generalists).
- Entrepreneurial
  - Need to deliver a service that washes it’s face.
  - Need to innovate to deliver solutions to real problems.
- Once 16 in Ireland, now effectively 3.
- Tipp Energy; Dublin (CODEMA); 3 counties (Wexford /Carlow/ Kilkenny)
Tipperary Energy Agency

- 21 years old
- 30 staff
  - 21 technical, 7 Marketing & administration,
  - Motivated, Entrepreneurial, Innovative
- Voluntary Board
  - Local Authority/ Educational / Local Development
  - Sectoral Experts (Former CEO of SEAI, Former Head of DG Energy, Founder of Irish Wind farmers Association)
- Leading the way:
  - 1st domestic grants, 1st deep retrofit, 1st Community owned wind farm.
  - Lead by doing approach
Sustainable Tipp

- Consortium of Civic bodies in the county (LA, Development companies, education, Teagasc, PPN)
- Steering Committee of Covenant of Mayors 30% by 2020
- Transformation of Tipperary’s communities, homes, businesses
- EIB “Sustainable Tipp” funding €1.5M to support development of Sustainable Energy Projects
- Leader Programs, Development contribution scheme for energy.
- Backed by communications campaign to normalise the energy transition.
- 10 Engineers delivering Better Energy Communities funding, energy upgrades, real projects 2GWh last year.
- Piloted Deep retrofit in Ireland.
- Developed one stop shop for energy efficiency
- Trusted, independent professional service
- 260+ homes deep retrofitted to date
Community Power

- Ireland’s Only Community windfarm
- Electricity supply company (buy your power communitypower.ie)
- Soon will be launching share offer to make citizen owned energy company
- Money used to develop solar farms which will supply power to owners.
- Cooperation of 5 energy co-ops.
Policy Recommendations

- **All Party Plan on Climate Action:**
  “The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment should enable each local authority, individually or jointly, to establish a one-stop-shop or other suitable structure”
  “Refer to the Tipperary Energy Agency as a good model of a one-stop-shop type structure.”

- **Current plan:**
  - Engage 1 local authority staff member or consultant to act as “community energy liaison”
  - Fund consultants to mentor volunteer Community Members (sustainable energy communities) to develop plans & apply for difficult grants.

Local Authority Members and Executive should engage as they know “local”.
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» Energy In Local Authorities
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