

## Energy Matters!

*Energy Matters is a monthly email bulletin from Cavan Community Forum which will provide information about sustainable energy initiatives and ideas. It will promote local Cavan initiatives, whether they are from local communities, the private or public sectors. If you have any information relating to the environment that you think could be interesting or useful, please let me know at [kateennals@cavancoco.ie](mailto:kateennals@cavancoco.ie).*

### Contents

- Cavan Grow It Yourself Branch Out – Tuesday 30 March, Lavey Inn, 8pm
- Audit of Land in Cavan for Growing Purposes
- Cavan Energy Audit
- Allotments in Virginia and Cavan Area
- Your Country Your Call – Energy and Environment Ideas
- Proposed Wind Farm at Templetuohy, Ireland
- Irish 2020 Renewable Energy Targets On Track
- Sustainable Energy Week: 22-26 March 2010
- Cavan Visits Kilkenny
- Current Grant Programmes Available to Homeowners:
- SEI provides free, one-to-one advice and Mentoring to Private-Sector SMEs
- Community Food Initiatives
- National Tree Week 7 – 13 March

### **Cavan Grow It Yourself Branches Out – Tuesday 30 March, Lavey Inn, 8pm**

Grow It Yourself groups are local food growers networks that recreate the camaraderie of allotment growing for back-garden vegetable growers by getting them together on a regular basis to learn from each other and exchange tips, war-stories and produce.

GIY membership is free and open to people interested in food growing at all levels, i.e. from growing a few herbs on the balcony to complete self-sufficiency, from beginners to old hands. The first meeting of the Cavan Branch takes place on Tuesday 30 March at the Lavey Inn at 8pm.

### **Audit of Land in Cavan for Growing Purposes**

The Gardeners Group of the Cavan Energy Team are working with the Peace III Networking Officer on a new project '**Common Ground in Cavan**'. This project will involve carrying an audit of the land that could be available in the county to community groups to develop community gardens and allotments, a workshop that looks at why we grow what we do and cross border visits to farms, community gardens and allotments.

**Kate Ennals for further information at [kateennals@cavancoco.ie](mailto:kateennals@cavancoco.ie)**

### **Cavan Energy Audit**

Cavan Energy Team has sought quotes from experienced local firms to carry out an energy audit in Cavan. The proposed Cavan Energy Audit will look at

- Current and potential business opportunities

- Resources available
- Markets
- Barriers to development
- Funding opportunities
- Policy guidelines
- Action plan

Cavan Community Forum is applying to CML leader for funding to support the Cavan Energy Audit.

**Further information, Kate Ennals at [kateennals@cavancoco.ie](mailto:kateennals@cavancoco.ie)**

### **Have You the Appetite to Grow Your Own? Allotments in Virginia and Cavan Areas**

Allotments are available to let in Virginia and Cavan. Free farmyard manure and top soil provided. So grow your own vegetables and flowers. Gardening training is starting in Drumlane this month. Or if you get a community group together who want training, the VEC will provide it for you!

For Virginia allotments contact Elizabeth 0871240599

For Cavan Allotments contact Noel on 0862517925

[www.cavanallotments.com](http://www.cavanallotments.com)

### **Your Country Your Call**

This is a website set up by Martin McAleese which is looking for interesting ideas to develop the Irish economy. One of the categories is Energy and the Environment. Check out the proposals...there are so many brilliant ideas for greening Ireland, creating new jobs and making us the Energy Capital of the world!

**<http://www.yourcountryyourcall.com/>**

### **Proposed Wind Farm at Templetuohy, Ireland**

Bord na Móna has embarked upon a strategy of diversification beyond its traditional peat-based businesses. As part of this diversification it intends to develop a portfolio of electricity generating plants, including wind farms, flexible gas fired generation and peaking units. Bord na Móna has selected some of its existing cutaway peatlands near Templetuohy for the development of a new wind farm. The proposed site is located in parts of Counties Kilkenny, Laois and Tipperary between Templetuohy and Johnstown. It will have a generating capacity of approximately 40MW and will comprise of 16 wind turbines, access trackways, crane hard-standings, underground cables between the turbines, a 38 kV electricity substation and a 38 kV overhead line to Lisheen substation.

When operational it will improve the geographical distribution of wind energy facilities nationally and hence contribute to a more balanced input of wind energy to the grid in support of the Government's 40% target for electricity from renewable energy sources.

<http://www.thebioenergysite.com/news/5318/proposed-wind-farm-at-templetuohy>

### **Irish 2020 Renewable Energy Targets On Track**

Under the directive, Ireland is committed to a 16% domestic renewables target by 2020. The current state-of-play is estimated at a 7% share according to a national forecast document, submitted to the European Commission in mid-January but this reflects good progress since 2005 and a Sustainable

Energy Ireland analysis indicates that the 2020 goal remains on course. It is intended that in a decade's time, renewables will account for 44% of national electricity production (currently 21%), 12% of heating and cooling (currently 5%), and 11% of transport fuels (currently 3%). Some Member States including Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Spain have announced that they expect to exceed their goals and would consider trading credits in excess of intermediary targets to underperforming countries if necessary. Indeed, a key aspect flagged up in the Irish document is that of the need for further development of energy interconnections, including possible joint projects, to harness the export potential of offshore wind and ocean power.

**EU News Bulletin. Jan 2010.**

### **Sustainable Energy Week: 22-26 March 2010**

Become part of Europe's green energy revolution and sign up for an [Energy Day](#) community. The EU Sustainable Energy Week is the reference event for sustainable issues in Europe. Energy Days include a wide range of activities, exhibitions, conferences, online events, performances, guided tours, open door days, workshops, celebrations, media campaigns. Your event could promote energy efficiency or the use of renewable energy.

Check <http://www.eusew.eu/index.cfm>

### **Cavan Visits Kilkenny**

The Cavan Energy Team and Community Forum members toured a variety of initiatives last month in Kilkenny. Many of the eco initiatives are supported by a voluntary organisation 'Summerhill Camps' which operate all over the world. They provide residential and other supports for people with disabilities. They also operate using sustainable energy techniques. They have a variety of initiatives in Kilkenny.

The tour included a visit to 'solar panels', a 'woodchip burner', 'a bio-digester', and a 'hydro-turbine'. For the report of the visit, check out the Cavan Community Website under 'Sustaining Cavan'.

**See Forum News for further information.**

### **Current Grant Programmes Available to Homeowners:**

The [Home Energy Saving \(HES\)](#) scheme provides grants to homeowners who invest in energy efficiency improvements in one or more of the following areas: Roof Insulation, Wall Insulation, Installation of a High Efficiency (> 90%) Gas or Oil fired Boiler, Heating Control Upgrades.

The [Greener Homes Scheme \(GHS\)](#) provides grant assistance to owners of existing homes who invest in renewable energy based heating systems under the categories of Solar Panels, Heat Pumps, Wood Chip/Pellet Boilers and Stoves or Wood Gasification Boilers.

The [Warmer Homes Scheme \(WHS\)](#) aims to improve the energy efficiency and comfort conditions of homes occupied by vulnerable households in receipt of the National Fuel Allowance Scheme through the installation of draught proofing, attic insulation, lagging jackets, low energy light bulbs and cavity wall insulation where appropriate.

Please check out the following link:

[http://www.sei.ie/Power\\_of\\_One/Grants\\_Available/](http://www.sei.ie/Power_of_One/Grants_Available/)

**SEI provides free, one-to-one advice and Mentoring to Private-Sector SMEs**

Sustaining Energy Ireland have employed registered and accredited energy advisors to help and motivate SMEs to assess their own energy use, to identify opportunities for savings and to take action to realise these savings. This service commences with a telephone, Consultation or site assessment, a written report with suggestions for energy savings, plus 90 days follow-support by phone and email.

**To book your survey log on to [www.hireabrain.com](http://www.hireabrain.com) or for more details contact Mark Robertson 087 2301949, [mark@hireabrain.com](mailto:mark@hireabrain.com), JohnB Smith 087 2891595 [john@hireabrain.com](mailto:john@hireabrain.com)**

### **Community Food Initiatives**

Community Food projects are taking place in Killarney, Limerick, Louth, Cork, Derry and Belfast. They involve community gardeners working with local citizens, community projects to encourage gardening and volunteering. They are funded by Safefood.

Safefood is a North-South body, responsible for the promotion of food safety on the island of Ireland. It was established in 1999 under the terms of the [British-Irish Agreement Act 1999](#) and the North-South Co-operation (Implementation Bodies) Northern Ireland Order 1999. It works on

- Promotion of food safety
- Research into food safety
- Communication of food alerts
- Surveillance of foodborne disease
- Promotion of scientific co-operation and laboratory linkages
- Development of cost-effective facilities for specialised laboratory testing.

In addition to these specific functions, safefood has a general remit to act as an independent source of scientific advice.

<http://www.safefood.eu/en/About-Us/What-we-do1/>

### **National Tree Week 7 – 13 March**

Twenty Ten – Plant Again' is the message from the Tree Council this week to encourage people to plant trees. This year 15,000 trees sponsored by Coillte will be distributed to community groups by local authorities. So contact Cavan County Council and get your supply of trees. Ireland remains one of the least wooded countries in Europe with only 10% of our land planted with trees compared with the EU average of 36%.