Planning For the Energy Transition Policy into Action

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Tipperary Renewable Energy Strategy

• A New Council
• New Impetus for Energy
• Opportunity for Plan Making & Delivery
• Co-ordination of initiatives
• Role of Planning Authority
• What’s Next?
Planning, Energy & Local Government

Ireland’s Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015 – 2030:

‘Our Vision of a low carbon energy system means that greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector will be reduced by between 80% and 95%, compared to 1990 levels, by 2050, and will fall to zero or below by 2100’.

How do we plan for this and make it happen?
Organisational Structure

Energy Principles - Covenant of Mayors

Partnership - Energy Agency and the Local Authority

- Renewable Energy Strategy & the County Development Plans
- Sustainable Energy Action Plan
- Support for Research, Innovation and Training
- Enabling an Active Citizen
Tipperary: A new Council and a new Strategic Planning Framework
Tipperary, Stakeholders, Communities & the Energy Transition
Tipperary: Renewable Energy Developments

• Wind is the main generator of energy for export to the National Grid, Tipperary is 4th highest producer.

• Biomass mainly for domestic heating, greater commercial uptake expected with Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.

• Solar is mainly domestic thermal, however, recent interest in large-scale solar photovoltaic (31 proposed grid connections)

• Geothermal mainly for domestic heating

• Hydro limited to three small grid-connected facilities

➢ Agreed vision and county-wide commitment to move away from imported energy and to produce energy from local resources.

➢ Identifies and assess the Renewable Energy Resources and future potential.

➢ Provides a planning framework while protecting our environment.

➢ Objectives to be achieved by the Council and Tipperary Energy Agency.

➢ Create awareness of the economic and community gains and benefits.

➢ Underpin and support our move towards a green economy.

➢ Continual monitoring and review as part of the next Tipperary County Development Plan.
Plan-Making Process Overview

- Legal Requirements of Planning and Development Acts
- National Guidelines - Energy Management and Climate Action
- SEAI Guidelines for Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategies
- EPA Guidelines for Climate Change Adaptation Strategies
- Strategic Environmental Assessment/Habitats Directive Assessment
- Role of Elected Members
- Public Consultation
- Monitoring and Implementation
Plan-Making Process: Public Consultation

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Plan-Making Process: Role of the Elected Members

- How do we support the farmers?
- How do we create jobs?
- How can we support communities with their own projects?
- Why are Renewable Energy Development successful in Denmark?
- How we re-use our peat lands for sustainable purpose?
- Protection of Amenity, property values and the Environment
Plan-Making Process: The Citizen Challenges and Opportunities

- Public Concerns and Community Engagement
- Planning through an Evidence Based Approach
- Community Involvement and Public Acceptance
- The journey for the energy citizen
- How can Tipperary gain?
Plan-Making Process: New Approaches

- TEA Partnership
- Public Consultation/Social Media
- Engagement with the Elected Members
- Field Trips
- Up-Skilling
- Plan into Action
- National Awards and recognition
- Tipperary Co Co leading the way i.e. Solar panels
- Research and Development and Third Level Institutions
Plan-Making & Delivery

Research and Development:
SEAI research funding – ‘Legislative Mechanisms for Local Community Ownership and Investment in Renewable Energy Infrastructure’ - Published in Irish Planning Institute Pleanáil 2018.

A model similar to the Danish ‘Option to Purchase’ scheme, to be regulated through the planning system, would be most suitable in an Irish context. An ‘option to purchase’ planning condition for renewable energy development over a certain scale, would provide a positive pathway for local investment, whilst at the same time securing local investors.
Plan-Making and Delivery

Partnership and Education

• Energy in Agriculture’ Conference

• Showcasing Technologies
• Networking
• Advisory
What Next?...National Planning Framework

National Policy Objective 53

Support the circular and bio economy including in particular through greater efficiency in land management, greater use of renewable resources and by reducing the rate of land use change from urban sprawl and new development.

CASE STUDY

Tipperary Energy Agency

Tipperary County Council has long recognised the importance of the low carbon energy transition, both to the quality of lives of citizens and the opportunities it brings in terms of rural economic growth and development.

The partnership approach of Tipperary County Council, Tipperary Energy Agency, Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT), business and communities has resulted in a thriving and innovative energy sector in the County.

Some key achievements and initiatives include:

- The Council has met and exceeded national targets for energy efficiency in public buildings. Tipperary County Council is the owner of the largest solar installation in the country and has switched 90% of its heat use from fossil fuels to renewable combined heat and power.
- The Tipperary Energy Agency (TEA) is internationally recognised, and in particular, is leading research and delivering exemplar community initiatives such as 'Superhomes', 'Better Energy Communities', 'Insulate Tipp' etc.
- Tipperary is home to Cloughjordan eco-village and Templederry community owned wind farm.
- The Council, through a partnership approach with LIT, is committed to research and development to promote the low carbon economy.
What’s Next?: Regional Spatial and Economic Framework

- Opportunities for Rural Counties
- Strategic Energy Zones
- Synergies between Third Level Institutions, Business Sectors and Local Authorities
- Sustainable Communities
What's Next?....Pilot Spatial and Energy Planning at Town Level

• Integration of Spatial Land Use and Energy Planning
  – Energy Infrastructure
  – Heat Demand Mapping
  – Assessment of local energy supplies and demands
  – Local Community Investment opportunities
  – Climate Change adaption measures
  – Catchment Management for water resources
What Next? Revitalising our Villages: Cluster Housing Demonstrator Project

• Revitalisation of our Villages

• Sustainable Development

• Best Practice Energy Efficient Homes
Key Messages

▪ Role of Local Authorities has changed from being a service provider to a driver of socio-economic development.
▪ The adoption of the RES is the start of public engagement which we need to continue.
▪ Plan delivered through partnership achieve the best results.