

The Kerryman

13/12/17

Environment Watch

NIAMH NÍ DHUILL
TRANSITION KERRY

We need leadership and community champions

ON November 11 Transition Kerry held a community climate action conference in Tralee, entitled 'Up for the challenge? Community solutions to climate change'. Over 130 people attended from all over the county. On the day there were a range of speakers and local representatives who spoke on the challenges and opportunities facing communities in the face of climate change.

Rob Hopkins, who founded the transition movement in Kinsale 12 years ago spoke about the importance of have local champions telling local stories of transition. Here are two of our local climate champions in Kerry who spoke on the day. We will cover more of them in future articles.

WE NEED
LEADERSHIP



KERRY SUSTAINABLE ENERGY CO-OPERATIVE (KSEC):

Barry Clarke, chairperson of Kerry Sustainable Energy Co-Operative spoke about how they are a community based co-operative business, who actively promote more local ownership of renewable energy. KSEC aims to substitute imported fossil fuels with locally sourced renewable energy, creating benefits to the local community. They also seek to fulfil the vision of the Transition Kerry Sustainable Energy Roadmap, which aims to have a 100 per cent Renewable Energy Kerry by 2030.

Look up www.ksec.ie for more information on this.

TRANSITION KERRY COMMUNITY ORCHARDS PROJECT:

Niamh Ní Dhúill spoke about the 'Building Community Resilience' education programme that Transition Kerry has delivered in six communities around Kerry since 2014, including Tralee, Killarney, Kilorglin, Beaufort, Tarbert/Listowel and Dingle.

Some of these groups chose to plant a community fruit and nut orchard as part of this programme. These orchards have been planted in Tralee Town Park with Kerry County Council and TY students form The Green, Listowel Ball Alley with Tidy Towns Listowel and the grounds of the new Dingle hospital with Transition Corca Dhuibhne.

We will be looking for communities to run more of these community climate action workshops in early 2018. If your community is interested in taking part, contact Niamh at info@transitionkerry.org.

You can look up www.transitionkerry.org for more information.

One of the inspiring outcomes of the day was the stories of local community-based leadership. We know what needs to be done but no one body or authority is taking up the lead, so communities must take the lead themselves! This statement was captured by local artist Lisa Fingleton in the picture above.

We will soon be posting a report about the conference and uploading a video of the conference to our website - www.transitionkerry.org.