



TGBN Newsletter June 2020

The past few months have been difficult for businesses in all sectors. As we emerge from lock down and businesses begin to reopen, it is a good opportunity to take stock. While the consequences of Covid-19 have been extremely difficult for both people and the economy, the one good thing to come out of it is that nature has had time to heal and restore. This is evident everywhere; from the quality of the air we breathe to the astonishingly rapid recovery of our water systems worldwide. The canals in Venice, as we saw on TV and online are great example of this. This year for the first time in a long time, we have reports that Cuckoos were heard in the Galtee mountains. You might have examples yourselves to add – do let us know and we can spread the good news online.

One of the events we had planned for this year to celebrate National Biodiversity Week, was a farm walk on Cloncannon Biofarm. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, this was unable to go ahead, but [here](#) is a link to photos taken from last year's farm walk. David Beecher spoke at that event on soil biology and we hope to get David back to talk again on regenerative farming and soil biology as soon as we can organise public events again. In the meantime, we are looking at running some webinars and we will keep you notified.

Below is information on the Re-start grant for business and some articles by members of Tipperary Green Business Network Steering Group. We want to continue with a newsletter, so if you have any articles, updates about your business or other news, please send them to info@tgbn.ie

Re-start grant scheme for business

The government has announced details of the new €250 million Restart Grant, which will give direct grant aid to micro and small businesses to help them with the costs associated with reopening and reemploying workers following COVID-19 closures. The Grant Programme is devised as a contribution towards the cost of re-opening or keeping a business operational, and reconnecting with employees and customers.

See <https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/news/re-start-grant-scheme-business> for full details and how to apply for businesses.

Also the Local Enterprise Office, Tipperary (LEO) is there for advice and business supports - see <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Tipperary/>

Energy Information Webinar with network member Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative by Derry O' Donnell, ECTC

A public energy information webinar was organised by Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative (ECTC) in association with Templemore Community Development Association (TCDA) on Thursday 14th May.

Householders learned about how to save money on energy costs and home heating, details of grants available for energy upgrades and community owned renewable energy projects. The event was organised in association with Templemore Community Development Association. Speakers included representatives from Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative, Drombane Upperchurch Energy Team, SOLA Energy Solutions, EV Chargers & Wind Turbine Trees and Community Power, Ireland's first community owned electricity supplier.

To view a recording of the webinar and get contact details of the presenters visit

<https://energycommunitiestipp.ie/energy-information-webinar-recording-from-templemore/>

Tipperary Green Business Network member ECTC nominated for EU Sustainable Energy Awards



Photo caption: Pictured at a Community Power CVPP Sub Partners meeting in January are Sarah Ward, Bill Kelly, Sarah Fogarty, Derry O' Donnell, Gregg Allen, Michael Quilligan, John Power, Kate Ruddock, Pat O Donoghue, John Fogarty and Liam Lynch

Nenagh based Community Power are delighted to announce that the CVPP (Community-based Virtual Power Plant) project they have been working on with partners in Ireland and EU has been nominated for the EU Sustainable Energy Awards. Partners include Tipperary based Tipperary Energy Agency and Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative. Community Power is Ireland's first community owned electricity supplier.

Every year the European Commission recognises the most outstanding individuals and projects for their innovation in the energy sector and renewables. This year, 9 finalists will compete in 3 award categories: Engagement, Innovation and Youth. The Interreg NWE-funded Community-based Virtual Power Plant (CVPP) project that they are involved with has been nominated to the Engagement category and they are one of the three finalists!

Community Power is seeking public support to vote for the CVPP project! Full details on how to vote are on the news section of the website www.communitypower.ie

Why should you vote for CVPP?

Because it is a game changer:

1. It is a radical sustainable innovation, but it is different from others: while empowering prosumers and communities, it can also offer advantages for the larger energy system.
2. It accelerates energy transition by showing that alternative ways of organising the energy system is possible.
3. It embeds a trans-national and trans-disciplinary set of partners and presents thereby a unique example of socially relevant R&D.

Community Power and partners are already very happy to be nominated but winning this prestigious award would be even better. If you want to support this local business, you can do it by voting here <https://eusew.eu/awards-public-vote>

The winners will be announced on 23 June during a live, online Awards ceremony.

Business and Biodiversity by Sean O' Farrell, Cloncannon Biofarm

This spring it seems that many people have opened their eyes to the beauty and dynamic relationships of Nature. Since its inception over 3 Billion years ago, the journey of life has been jolted severely on several occasions with a few mass extinctions along the way. The human population on the planet has been jolted over the past few months by this invisible corona virus. This organism of nature has brought the globalised system to a halt. The home zone has become the dominant habitat for many people.



Our emotional responses to the trauma of the sudden dilemma may not have been so good if the pandemic occurred outside of Spring/Summer, as the emerging flowers and the busy birds created a scene of beauty and wonder. The migrant birds such as the Willow Warbler, the Chiff-Chaff, the Blackcap, the Cuckoo and the Swallow, Swift and House Martin arrived from Africa and joined our resident species to get busy in the home zone. As the temperature improved, the many pollinators buzzed into action to find the rich food sources for their families and unconsciously provide the huge knock-on benefits to the human species. The various media platforms have been displaying the many images of human joy in Nature over the past few months of lock-down.

Could it be possible that if the Corona virus did not arrive that the human species was about to cause a 'Lock-down' of Nature, through our over-exploitation of nature, natural resource, waste and greed?

There are indicators that as society and economies emerge from the pandemic that a Green Transition will become a priority. There seems to be greater recognition that Nature is the foundation for social and business progress as is illustrated in the UN Sustainable Development Goals graphic below.



Some multinational corporations and business lobby groups including some farming groups are demanding policies at global, regional, and national level to implement stringent Nature conservation measures.

The Links below give details of Business engagement in supporting Nature conservation and its sustainable use. You will find Case Studies, Tools and Mechanisms for nature conservation. The EU has Action Plans on a New Circular Economy; Biodiversity Strategy for 2030; and a Green New Deal.

<https://www.cbd.int/business>

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/index_en.htm

www.businessfornature.org

www.cloncannonbiofarm.com

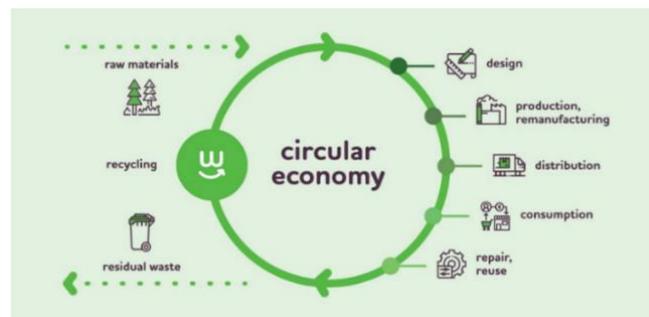
Upcoming WEBINAR: Monday 15 June 2020 Building business resilience: How collective leadership will reverse nature loss Organized by World Economic Forum, WBCSD, ICC, UN Global Compact, IUCN, Business for Nature <https://saipatform.org/event/building-business-resilience-how-collective-leadership-will-reverse-nature-loss/>

Can you create a little space for Biodiversity on your business grounds? If so, you can have a Free Oak sapling and a potted Blackcurrant bush while stocks last, courtesy of Cloncannon Biofarm, 087 9227957.

The Circular Economy by Margaret Murphy, Southern Region Waste Management Office (SRWMO)

“A circular economy is based on the principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems.”

Source: www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org



Source: www.mywaste.ie

What is the Circular Economy?

The industrial model of relatively recent times has generally been the Take-Make-Dispose linear model, where only minimal amounts of used items and materials get brought back into the loop, but instead are discarded as waste.

The Circular Economy model encourages a Cradle to Cradle closed loop system, which mimics the natural cycle in nature, leading to a reduced need for virgin raw materials, through recoupage of used materials back into the process, as well as improved EcoDesign to allow for greater resource efficiency, durability, reparability and recyclability of products.

What are the benefits of the Circular Economy?

As well as saving on scarce resources and protecting our environment, the Circular Economy also provides cost savings and job opportunities along the supply chain, from production through to reprocessing of materials as well as facilitating community and social enterprise initiatives around reuse, repair and recycling. Consumers too can benefit from a cost savings viewpoint, through increased durability and reparability of the products that they purchase.

EU Circular Economy Plan

The EU Circular Economy Action Plan- Closing the Loop, adopted in 2015, includes stricter targets for reducing waste, but also addresses how to facilitate seeing wastes as valuable resources and their recovery back into production processes. Building on activities since 2015, in March 2020 the European Commission adopted a new Circular Economy Action Plan – For a Cleaner and More Competitive Europe and this forms a significant block of the new European Green Deal. Circular Economy actions tie in with other European targets, such as boosting the economy through increased jobs and growth, climate and energy, the social agenda, industrial innovation, and international sustainable development goals. Leading on from the Circular Economy Action Plan, the European Plastic Strategy has also been agreed which includes increased plastic recycling targets. Furthermore, the Single Use Plastics (SUPs) Directive targets ten categories of SUPs – either banning them or curtailing their use, in order to reduce marine litter.
<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/>

Promotion of the Circular Economy in Ireland

A number of Irish organisations and agencies either promote the Circular Economy in general and/or are involved in a particular project centred on the Circular Economy. Examples are as follows:

- Promotion of the Circular Economy - Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment www.dccae.ie

- Promotion of the Circular Economy - the Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.ie
 - MyWaste.ie is co-ordinated by the Regional Waste Management Offices and funded by the Government of Ireland www.mywaste.ie
 - The Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun, Dublin has been designated The National Centre for the Circular Economy: www.rediscoverycentre.ie
 - Community Resources Network Ireland- a network of reuse enterprises: www.crni.ie
 - CirculÉire is a new Circular Economy initiative for the manufacturing sector, co-ordinated by Irish Manufacturing Research www.imr.ie
 - Producer Responsibility Compliance Schemes:
 - o Repak Waste Packaging Compliance Scheme www.repak.ie
 - o WEEE Ireland www.weeeireland.ie
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REMEMBER - This is your network. Do you want to update the network with news about your business? Would you like your business profile featured in the next newsletter? Can you submit an article or a photograph for the next edition? We would love to hear from you. Contact us at info@tgbn.ie We look forward to hearing from you and hopefully seeing you soon. In the meantime, stay safe and well.
