



TGBN Newsletter December 2020

Now more than ever, it is important to support local businesses, many of whom are selling online. In Tipperary Green Business Network three such businesses, The Green Sheep, (Thurles) <https://thegreensheep.ie/> Brookfield Farm, (Nenagh), <https://www.brookfield.farm/> and The Apple Farm (Cahir) <https://www.theapplefarm.com/> have beautiful, tasty, and sustainable Christmas gifts ideas.



Tipperary County Council are supporting Shop Local Tipperary and have an online directory of Tipperary businesses. See <https://shop.localtipperary.ie/> You can also register your businesses on the site for FREE and let everyone know that you are open for business either by delivery, collection, or take away.

Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative recruiting homeowners and communities

35% - 80%

Home Energy Grants Available!

Up to **50%** for Community Buildings
Up to **30%** for Commercial Buildings

**ENERGY COMMUNITIES
TIPPERARY COOPERATIVE**

Measures available:

- Attic Insulation • Heating Controls
- Cavity, Internal & External Wall Insulation
- Heat Pumps • Wood Burning Stoves
- Windows and Doors • Solar panels - PV & Water

Homeowners in receipt of certain Social Welfare payments will be eligible for the higher grant amount

Phone: 086-860 9698 / 086-108 0356
Register: energycommunitiestipp.ie/register

Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative (ECTC) are now seeking homeowners, businesses and community buildings who wish to avail of grant funding to carry out retrofit measures and energy upgrades on buildings throughout Co. Tipperary.

ECTC is a community led, home insulation upgrade and retrofitting organisation which provides a One Stop Shop Retrofit Service. This takes the hassle out of getting grant aid, sourcing contractors, and overseeing projects for homeowners, businesses and community groups.

Grants are available through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) for measures which include: Attic Insulation; Heating Controls; Cavity, Internal &

External Wall Insulation; Heat Pumps; Wood Burning Stoves; Windows and Doors; Solar panels – PV & Water. **Grants are available for homeowners from 35% to 80%, for community buildings up to 50% and for commercial buildings up to 30%.** ECTC applies for these grants on behalf of homeowners, businesses, and community groups.

Click here to register: <https://energycommunitiestipp.ie/register/>

€995,000 boost to Community led Energy Efficiency Project with Energy Communities Tipperary Co-op

Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative has been announced as one of the successful applicants in the provisional offers of funding made under the Just Transition Fund. The 'Community Led Just Transition North Tipperary' Project is a collaboration between ECTC and Littleton Development Association CLG. and Ballingarry (Thurles) Community Development CLG. The project aims to mobilise community-led energy efficiency in communities around Littleton, affected by Peat Plant Closures. A provisional offer of €995,000 has been made to support the project under the Just Transition Fund

Success for Community Power in first Renewable Electricity Support Scheme

The results of the first Renewable Electricity Support Scheme Auction (RESS 1) were announced in September, granting support for 82 wind and solar projects (including 7 community led projects). This support scheme will see a further 2,200 GWh of renewable electricity generated in Ireland.

Among the winners includes two solar parks with Tipperary Green Business Network member, Community Power, in Counties Mayo and Galway. Community Power is Ireland's first community owned electricity supplier. This scheme marks a turning point for the people's ownership of renewable energy in Ireland. It is the first time community led projects have been given priority access to the energy market and also sets a welcome precedent for communities across Europe, as approval from the Director General of Competition at the European Commission was required to ensure the scheme was compliant with the strict State Aid Rules.

Citizen and community owned energy in Ireland is rare, however the message from the European Commission is that diversity of ownership in energy is an important part of a fair and fast energy transition. The Clean Energy Package includes a number of Directives which grant new rights to citizens and communities to generate, sell, store and share renewable energy. This auction is the first step at making this more commonplace in Ireland.

John Fogarty of Community Power, said:

'When we built Ireland's first community owned wind farm in Templederry we were excited to be the first. But we never wanted to hold the tile of being the only one for so long!

We have been working for the last 5 years to support other community energy groups around Ireland to get to a point where they could lead their own projects. It is our vision that every citizen and every community in Ireland can have the opportunity to really be active participants in this energy transition. For us that means inspiring people to build their own renewable project, whether in a farm or on a roof, and then buying and selling that clean power to and from themselves.”

For more information visit the website communitypower.ie

Celebrating our Heritage, as a source of lifelong learning at Cloncannon Biofarm during Heritage Week.

The farmland habitats, cultural heritage, craft, herbal therapies, music and the Irish language, all formed part of the Heritage Week tours at Cloncannon Biofarm. The event on Sunday 16th August was organised in partnership with Tipperary Green Business Network and kindly supported by the Local Enterprise Office. It was a great opportunity to meet up after the lockdown and since the event was outdoors, there was plenty of room to social distance. The attendees were of all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens. The atmosphere of the occasion was very much enhanced by the excellent music performances. Jim, Greta and Aine Ryan of ‘Jim O’ the Mills’ Upperchurch and other musicians joined in with the tin whistle and the mandolin. Mara Van Aelst played the harp, as her mother was busy nearby making willow baskets.



There were 3 different guided tours provided to the large attendance. Kay Hanrahan and Michael Long (Cabragh Wetlands Environmental Education Centre) gave their followers an informed introduction to nature's remedies by using herbs, wild fruits, nuts and flowers. Recipes and best practice in preparing these natural health foods were shared. Many recipes will have been passed- on over the generation and form part of our heritage.

A second tour was led by the well know ecologist Albert Nolan, ably assisted by his son Harry. Hedgerow plants, animals and insects were investigated in this 45-minute tour. Albert identified creatures and he also told his audience about ‘who eats who’ within the web of life in the hedgerows and the strategies of creatures to avoid getting eaten. The hedgerow been studied has 17 different tree species, most of which are considered native. There is ash, alder, birch,

holly, bird cherry, elder, hawthorn, blackthorn, scots pine, elm, crab apple, whitebeam, willow, oak and a few non-natives, such as, sycamore, beech and larch. Lower level plants include furze, honeysuckle, bramble, dog rose and the various ground flora and herbs. Dr. Connie Grace and Sean O' Farrell led the third tour.

Dr. Grace identified the various grasses and herbs in the sward and spoke about the importance



of diversity in terms of providing minerals and nutrients to the animals. She stated that the different plant species will have varying root depths and the ability to find minerals for the plants, as well as improving the soil structure and drainage. These factors she maintains can help a farm be more resilient to weather extremes and climate change. Linking on from Dr. Connie Grace's advice, Sean spoke of his studies of dung beetles and their importance for recycling the dung pad and its' nutrients into the soil to enhance the

conditions for the earthworms and the biology underfoot, such as, bacteria, fungi, nematodes, protozoa, mites, centipedes, millipedes and others. Dung beetle larvae will feed on the eggs of stomach and lung worms and on the eggs of flies, which at the adult stage can torment cattle and sheep. Birds and bats will feed on the dung beetles. At the end of this tour the attendees had a greater appreciation for the 'whole system' interconnectivity on the farm (above and below ground).



Tipperary Waste Awareness Week to highlight supports available to the People of Tipperary in the fight against waste.

Tipperary Waste Awareness Week will take place from November 30 - December 4, 2020.

Providing information and tips that will help Tipperary reduce its waste production, is just one of the driving forces behind **Tipperary Waste Awareness Week**, which begins on **Monday November 30, 2020**.

The five day virtual event organised by Tipperary County Council, in association with the Southern Regional Waste Management Planning Office, will highlight the role of the county's

five civic amenity sites, inform citizens on what they can do to correctly dispose of their waste and will provide up-to-date information on reusing, reducing and recycling. The local authority will also use this week to highlight the work undertaken by local small and medium sized businesses that reuse materials and work within the circular economy.

Some recent recycling figures from County Tipperary include:

- 70% households in the county availing of a waste collection service with 56% of those householders using a three-bin service.
- 35% increase of organic waste collected from households in 2019 compared to 2016
- Average of 10.64kg of WEEE (Waste Electrical/Electronic Equipment) per person collected in the county
- 34.1 tonnes of textiles collected from textile banks in 2019
- 175 tonnes of textiles collected to-date in 2020
- 3,286 tonnes of glass collected to-date in 2020 – a 25% increase in the amount of glass collected in the county's 113 bring banks, compared to the same period in 2019.

Through a series of online videos, a social media campaign, workshops and leaflets, Tipperary County Council will provide information, tips and fun facts each day, relating to different topics of interest or concern, including:

Monday, November 30: Tipperary County Council Civic Amenities

Tuesday, December 1: Greener Cleaning/Hazardous waste

Wednesday, December 2: Food Waste

Thursday, December 3: Recycling in Tipperary

Friday, December 4: Textiles

Tipperary Waste Awareness Week will highlight the work of 10 businesses, **including some members of Tipperary Green Business Network**, that are supporting both the local economy and the circular economy.

Tipperary Waste Awareness Week takes place from November 30 to December 4, 2020. Further information is available on www.tipperarycoco.ie and everyone is encouraged to follow the Council on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. Plenty guidance is also available on www.mywaste.ie.

Further enquiries in relation to events and information relating to Tipperary Waste Awareness Week can be directed to anmarie.clifford@tipperarycoco.ie

Tipperary Green Business Network: Notification of AGM 2020

Date: Wednesday, 16 December 2020

Time: 7.30 pm

Online via Zoom (link will be provided to all who RSVP)

An email will be sent out with Agenda etc.

REMEMBER - This is your network, and this newsletter is your platform. Do you want to update the network with news about your business? 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 are also on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn and can promote your updates on these platforms as well (tag@tgbn on Twitter). We look forward to hearing from you and in the meantime have a very happy, peaceful and relaxing Christmas and stay safe and well.