

Creating new local Energy Community Co-Operatives

ECCO



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



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- Interreg Project Operational to March 2022
- 11 Project Partners
- Total EU wide Budget: €5.4m
- Other Partners based in:
 - France
 - Germany
 - Wales
 - The Netherlands
 - Belgium
- 44 Associated Partners (7 from Ireland)

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- ECCO Budget: Total: €5.4m
- 60% INTERREG Funded
- SKPD Match Funding Secured from:
 - Department of Rural & Community Development
 - Department of Climate Action
 - Kerry Group
 - FEXCO

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SKDP Project Steering Group:

Board Approved Steering Group

Kevin O'Sullivan (Chair)

Eugene Dennehy

Breda O'Dwyer

Anne Marie Nic Gearailt

John O'Leary

Stephen O'Sullivan

Michael Ryan

Donal Mangan

Padraig Mallon

Donald Lynch

Enda Gallagher

Noel Spillane - CEO

Sean de Buitlear SKDP

SKDP Board Members

(ICMSA)

(FEXCO)

(Community)

(Community)

(Kerry Group)

(Industry/Farming)

(Department of Comm., Climate Action & Env.)

ECCO: Reasons for Project

- Lack of/No Real Community Led Renewable Energy Projects in Ireland – Develop?
- Many existing small community energy co-ops in EU MS– Scalability –transfer knowledge
- Opportunities – Economic & Social (rural regions) ; Environmental

ECCO: Community Benefits

- Farm additional income
- Return on investment for shareholders
- Virtual Power Plant – shareholders use the energy produced?
- Community/citizen rather than conglomerate ownership
- Local business/employers offset carbon footprint – more sustainable local employment?
- Local sense of achievement?

ECCO - Goals

- Develop a Community Owned Energy Co-op in South Kerry
- Key Principle - Open/Accessible to all
- Shovel Ready Project
- Transferrable Model – blueprint to other communities?
- Additional Potential Projects

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Challenges and costs:

- Feasibility Study
- Grid Connection
 - - Availability of suitable grid access points
 - - Securing grid connection
 - site proximity to connection point
- Planning
 - - resistance to renewable energy projects
- Securing viable RESS price
- Community Engagement
 - - Difficulty in bringing proposals far enough to present to communities
- Design of ownership structure
- Initial community seed capital

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Wider Challenges and Opportunities:

- Engaging Openly and Fully with Communities
- Lobbying at National and EU Level
- Developing Policy Proposals
- Educating/Showcasing Best Practices

Thank you

