

Community Meeting Tuesday, 19th Dec, 7pm Community Centre

“to Approve Bere Island, as part of the West Cork Islands and Inis Bofin, joining the EU Transition to Clean Energy for Islands Initiative...”

So, what is this all about...???

“The Clean energy for EU islands secretariat, is the central platform for the clean energy transition of the more than 2,200 inhabited European islands. Despite island’s having access to renewable sources of energy, such as wind and wave energy, many of them depend on expensive fossil fuel imports for their energy supply. The Islands secretariat informs Europe’s island communities and provides dedicated advice for capacity building and clean energy transitioning...”

And what does all that mean...???

Well, Bere Island Energy Group have been working since 2019 on various projects to put renewable energy front and centre to help move the island towards *“becoming Energy Independent based on renewables as soon as possible, as it is the right thing to do for ourselves and for all our children, and all the children of the planet”*. The Group have engaged with various public bodies and gotten an Energy Master Plan done for the island, which outlines ways to move towards renewable energy and sustainability.

For example??

The recycling centre at the west end pier is now 100% renewable energy with their PV Panels and batteries, the Community Centre has Solar PV panels which will move towards energy sustainability with a charging point for the new Community Electric Mini-bus. It is hoped that the School will get PV Panels next year and also that the GAA Pitch will have an electric car Charging Point shortly.

So what has the EU Transition to Clean Energy to do with all this?

The EU established the Clean energy for EU islands secretariat to help islands all over Europe transition away from fossil fuels towards renewable sources and Bere Island has been offered a place on their next phase. It’s a 3-year Plan which will provide a framework to help islands move into a position where they can generate their own sustainable, low-cost energy and be in control of it.

Sounds like the usual load of old fertiliser, if you ask me....!

No, it's not! It could mean reduced energy costs by greatly increasing our own production of renewable energy. Some business' in the island are already seeing benefits from having put in PV Panels which means their electricity bills did not hit the proverbial fan recently, in the same way as most peoples did. If it is possible to implement this energy transition over the next number of years, the Energy Group believes it will place Bere Island in a very strong position, less reliant on outside forces when it comes to energy bills and energy resilience, like not being cut-off!

Go on, what else...?

Well, if you think about it, we have a lot of energy on our doorstep, literally! Wind and solar, and other possibilities are green hydrogen, and of course wave, or tidal energy, which will eventually come on-stream. All of these will involve things like the construction of energy facilities, require expertise in using latest technologies, the potential to be at the head of these developments.

So, looks like its all upside...?

What's wrong with the creation of new jobs and business opportunities to boost Bere Islands' economic self-sufficiency and give opportunities to the young people coming up? Also the possibility to look after those in our community who need help with their energy needs.

In an nutshell?

Better energy security for our island and our community, now and into the future; potentially cheaper bills, less reliance on imported energy, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and less impact on our beautiful islands' natural environment.

So, do say....

"Yes! Count me in, I want to be part of the future....I'll be there...."

Don't say.....

Shur it'll never happen.....because change is coming, and we want everyone to be part of that change, to control it, and to benefit from it....

Please come along to find out more:

Add you voice for Positive Change for all our Futures

When:

next Tuesday Evening, 19th Dec at 7pm

Where:

the Community Centre