

Findings / decisions from today's LEAP Zoom meeting (14th March 2020):

1. Zoom as a high-quality video conferencing platform worked very well, with crisp audio and screen-sharing. Participants joined on different devices by following the link circulated on WhatsApp and our Webpage. Internet connections worked. This may be because the meeting was Saturday morning before community-wide use of the internet increased – so good to have these meetings in the morning. To improve: let's be on mute, unless talking, so as not to bring extra noise into the call.
2. An overview of the content of the LEAP pre-feasibility study was presented. This went over the five research areas as set out at the beginning of January (Figure 1). The full presentation of this will be available on the LEAP webpage from afternoon of 20mar20. The full report is being worked on for clarity to make it an easier read. Will be made available once clean – you already have the un-edited version posted on the LEAP WhatsApp group earlier on.

3. Brain McNally gave a very informative presentation of how Western Development Commission (WDC) operates and can help with funding – great opportunities for us here – his presentation is available on the LEAP webpage.

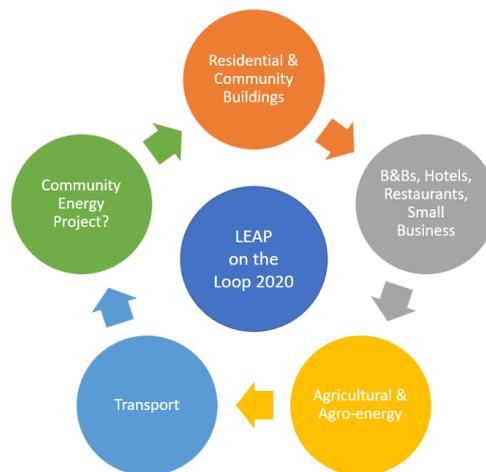


Figure 1: The five LEAP research areas 2020

4. Thomas Van Rensburg gave an overview of the work NUI Galway are doing on policy for energy projects with the relevant government departments. He is open to work with us and help out where needed as we progress this initiative.



5. Decisions from this meeting:-

- A. We all invite those on the Loop who would be interested in LEAP to join the WhatsApp group– send names and numbers to me. Deadline: 28th March 2020, Responsible: all current WhatsApp group members.
- B. Using the WhatsApp group, we create a LEAP membership list. Using this list, members indicate those near them who are also interested but who, for whatever reason, would prefer not to be on a WhatsApp group. Preferred email addresses are included for all on the membership list. Deadline: 4th April 2020; Responsible: John with LEAP Partners.
- C. We give a presentation on how to create a SEC (Sustainable Energy Community) and start the process outlined therein. To take place on the 4th April 2020. Responsible: John with LEAP Partners.
- D. As energy is very much an underlying concern for all activities on the Loop, and will need to be addressed holistically with these activities, we create an overarching Loop Head Regional Development Strategy (LRDS) in parallel to creating the SEC(s). This will be created from the perspective of all the members of LEAP and anyone outside the LEAP membership open to being involved in this sustainable development initiative. Part of this will be the identification of a governance system and a Council / Committee / Executive Team to drive the development of LEAP in a way that its local potential is optimised. Deadline: We would want to create this overarching strategy by the summer (and have it nicely written up and presentable to the powers that be by September 2020). John to circulate a draft outline in early April.
- E. The decision-making structure for LEAP will come out of the LRDS work. It may most likely build on the existing Loop Head Tourism (LTH) experience. The principles of democracy will be optimised to ensure full inclusiveness.
- F. Regarding the LRDS in D above, the conversation would not be limited to energy but would include agriculture, tourism, services, commute and remote working, etc. i.e. all that can benefit from cooperating to create win-wins to help the Loop fly! And benefit from optimised energy. Deadline: same as D.
- G. As part of the above we will identify local expertise, examine and prioritise local projects, agree on ownership and decision-making structure, identify and mobilise any required external support, etc.