

## **170+ page community energy prefeasibility report entitled “A LEAP towards energy sustainability for Loop Head communities” has been handed over from Flensburg university to the local partners of the Loop Head Energy Action partnership (LEAP)**

- **7.3 Million Euros are sent from the Loop annually to import mainly fossil fuel energy to meet local energy demand.**
- **The current total heat energy demand on the Loop is 26 GWh, the electricity demand is 18.4 GWh and the fuel (diesel and petrol) demand is 30 GWh.**
- **LEAP are examining the findings of the 170+ page report and will be in a position to publish the findings later this month.**
- **The Flensburg team will be back next year; LEAP has 10 months to prepare.**

LEAP members met online with the Western Development Commission (WDC) and NUI Galway via video conferencing on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> to continue to build a team to enable the local energy revolution in a responsible way. This replaced the planned seminar at the Kilkee Bay Hotel in light of Covid-19.

*“An active participation from all of the stakeholders is needed to get the work done. With the mindset of community inclusion, Loop Head communities have great potential in reducing its dependence on imported energy”,* said Prof Bernd Moeller before he returned to Germany at the end of February. He added *“We believe that this bottom-up initiative within LEAP will have a great impact within the community and will help set an example for the Government as a policy maker. As a team, this has been a great opportunity to implement and enhance our knowledge and competencies. Moreover, it has enabled us to fulfil our passion for community development. We hope this report will be a stepping-stone in challenging the status quo and becoming a sustainable community, while facilitating and documenting the process of learning, planning and making it happen.”*

*“LEAP and its partners are demonstrating a stimulating conversation that paves the way for communities to think about the local energy balance. They are now examining not only the results of our study, but also how to become a Sustainable Energy Community over the next number of years. The energy transition road is one that requires full engagement with the community at all levels and needs to address core and peripheral issues,”* he concluded.

The diverse team of Engineers from the University of Flensburg who carried out the different components of the pre-feasibility study to ascertain a possible starting point towards a sustainable energy community, said *“As candidates for a Master’s Degree of Engineering in Energy and Environmental Management we are motivated and inspired to be part of the building process of the Loop Head Energy Action Partnership. Driven by the community’s aspiration to become self-sufficient through the implementation of renewable heat technologies, energy efficiency and energy from renewable sources, we have examined in*

*depth relevant sectors, including residential, businesses (hotels, B&Bs and restaurants), transport, agriculture and agro- energy as well as community energy”.*



**The 2020 Flensburg International Team in Carrigaholt, February 2020.**



**The 2021 Flensburg International Team in their university studying the Loop Head energy models during the first week of March 2020 as they prepare to come to Carrigaholt in January 2021.**

## **Background**

LEAP is a partnership between the local community development organisations from Carrigaholt, Kilballyowen and Kilkee, Flensburg University, Loop Head Tourism, Astoneco Management together with local residents, business owners, and individuals. The partnership will enlarge as the program advances and as interest is shown. Currently the dialogue includes the WDC, NUIG, LIT and SEAI.

This partnership is part of a larger initiative to combat a population decline of 30% in the Loop Head area, which includes the development of sustainable tourism and a sustainable development strategy under a vision of ‘a place you love to be’.

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