

Successful Conference held in Castleblayney

The Retrofit Ready home energy saving project hosted its Retrofit Ready Mid-Programme Conference recently in the Íontas Centre, Castleblayney, County Monaghan.

The Conference was organised by the Irish Local Development Network (ILDN), with the event programme planned and delivered in association with Retrofit Ready and its partners.

The project is funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, administered by POBAL and involves a consortium of the Irish Local Development Network, Atlantic Technological University Sligo, Plan Energy Sligo and four Local Development Companies namely Monaghan Integrated Development, Cavan County Local Development, Sligo LEADER Partnership and Leitrim Development Company,

The focus of this Conference was to showcase works that have been carried out on the Retrofit Ready programme since its launch eighteen months ago and to disseminate the learning to date.

Keynote speakers included, Dr. Barry McCarron, Managing Director of KORE, Michelle Mullaly, Programme, Impact and Communications Officer with the Irish Local Development Network, Niall McCaffrey, Director, Ipsos B&A representing the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Peadar Geelan, Retrofit Ready trainer at ATU Contract Research Unit, in Sligo and Gavin Forkan, Managing Director with Plan Energy.

A panel discussion provided all attendees with an opportunity to hear about the knowledge and experiences gained by the Retrofit Ready project team to date. On the panel were Eve Hughes, Community Energy Engineer with the ATU, John Tracey Retrofit Coordinator with PlanEnergy and Owen McConnon, Community Retrofit Champion with Retrofit Ready.



Owen McConnon and Francis McCarron share a lighted heated moment during the Mid-Term Conference.



Local Development Companies representatives at the Retrofit Ready Mid-Term Conference in Castleblayney.

New Community Retrofit Champion for Sligo/Leitrim

The Retrofit Ready programme was set up as a pilot programme in May 2023. Four counties are involved in Retrofit Ready, Cavan and Monaghan together with Sligo and Leitrim.

Owen McConnon has covered the Cavan and Monaghan areas since its inception while Sligo/Leitrim has recently employed a new Champion to cover the two counties.

Luke Tarmey is a graduate from Ballymote in County Sligo. Having studied Arts in Dublin City University he was introduced to all Retrofit colleagues at the Mid-Term Conference in September.

Luke's interests include GAA, Rugby and is a volunteer community activist and will be based in Drumshambo sector based in Drumshambo and can be contacted on **086 168 6203** or **luke@ldco.ie**

Website: **www.retrofit-ready.ie**

Meanwhile in Cavan a support person has been appointed to work on the Retrofit Ready programme. **Aisling Carolan** will join the team as a Home Energy Assistant Advisor and she can be contacted on **087 131 5964** or **acarolan@cclid.ie**

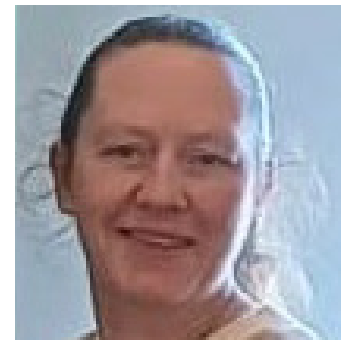
Website: **www.retrofit-ready.ie**



Peadar Geelan, Retrofit Ready trainer at ATU Contract Research Unit, in Sligo in conversation with Luke Tarmey, Community Retrofit Champion for Sligo and Leitrim.



Luke Tarmey Community Retrofit Champion for Sligo and Leitrim.



Aisling Carolan Home Energy Assistant Advisor Cavan.

Newspaper Features

Further to negotiations with Anglo-Celt newspaper in Cavan and Monaghan based Northern Standard an agreement was reached an agreement that Retrofit Ready would supply a monthly Energy feature (500 words) that would cover all aspects of retrofitting from in-depth detailed information to simple energy savings tips and grants available for retrofitting.

The column was designed to help readers (general public) to fully understand the concept of retrofitting and the steps to take to get their retrofitting journey up and running.

This endeavour has been a great success with more and people contacting the Retrofit Ready team for information, direction and application forms to commence their journey.

The Anglo-Celt

The Northern Standard

Retrofit Ready Website

Retrofit Ready launched its website in May 2024 at the Hive Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim, and it is now live.

The easily navigated site provides information on a wide range of retrofitting topics from simple insulation processes to a One Stop Shop project. It also contains all available SEAI grants information. The main advantage of having a website is its ability to enhance our online presence, providing visibility and accessibility to a national audience not just within the four counties.

The website was designed by Peadar Geelan (ATU Sligo) in association with the Community Retrofit Champions, ATU Sligo, Plan Energy, the Irish Local Development Network and the four Local Development Companies in Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo & Leitrim namely Cavan County Local Development, Monaghan Integrated Development, Leitrim Development Company and Sligo LEADER Partnership.



Pictured at the launch of the new Retrofit Ready website are:
Front row: (L to R), Bernie Donohoe (LDCO), Peadar Geelan (ATU Sligo), Eve Hughes (ATU Sligo). Back row: (L to R), Michelle Mullally (ILDN), Michael O'Brien (Plan Energy), Chris Gonley (LDCO), Owen McConnon (Retrofit Ready), Carol Durkin (Retrofit Ready), John Tracey (Plan Energy).

Get all your retrofitting questions answered, at your fingertips, at www.retrofit-ready.ie



Community Events pave the way for Retrofitting

The success of the Retrofit Ready programme accredited to the many community events that have taken place in various locations throughout the region.

These events give an opportunity to communities and individuals to explore retrofitting opportunities and various grants that are availability available.

Contractors are also in attendance at the events to give attendees expert knowledge on various retrofitting options and the products they will require to complete the works.



A large crowd attending an Virginia Energy Event in Virginia, Co Cavan.



Glaslough in Monaghan attract an interested audience

Upcoming Events in November and December

Cavan: Bailieborough Development Association – Energy Event
Thursday 21st November at 7.30pm.

Leitrim: Ballinamore Hen's Shed - Presentation/Clinic
Monday 25th November - 11am

Cavan: Terry Coyle GAA Clubrooms – Community Breakfast
Friday 29th November at 10.00am.

Sligo: St. Brigid's Hall, Tubbercurry - 'Meet the Builder Event'
Thursday 5th December - 5.00pm - 8.00pm.

Monaghan : Doohamlet - Knowing Me Knowing You
Friday 6th december -10am - 1pm