



## Up for the Challenge? Community Solutions for Climate Change.

**Date:** Saturday 11th November 2017

**Venue:** Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry

**Time:** 9.30am – 4pm

*Fáilte roimh –*

Welcome to today's event, which is to mark ten years of working on transition in Kerry. There are so many examples of people and groups doing really important work around the county, we have invited some of them to speak about their work.

### Local champions and stories of transition in Kerry

#### **Kerry Sustainable Energy Co-operative**

**(KSEC):** is a community based co-operative business. We actively promote more local ownership of Renewable Energy. KSEC aims to substitute imported fossil fuels with locally sourced Renewable Energy, creating benefits to the local community. We seek to fulfil the vision of a 100% Renewable Energy Kerry by 2030. [www.ksec.ie](http://www.ksec.ie)



a wide-ranging approach to reducing its carbon footprint, waste and water management and improving biodiversity in the grounds around the building. The building has been upgraded recently in all areas of energy efficiency and worked with KSEC, SE Systems and KCC on this Better Energy Community scheme. [www.siamsatire.com](http://www.siamsatire.com)

**Niamh Ní Dhúill (Transition Kerry):** The community resilience education programme has been run in 6 communities in Kerry since 2014. One of the actions that came from this programme is the community fruit and nut orchard project. Transition Kerry also works with the Tralee Allotments project and has helped highlight the community apple press, which has proved to be a very successful initiative. [www.transitionkerry.org](http://www.transitionkerry.org)



**Plastic Free Dingle:** This is Transition Corca Duibhne's Zero Waste Initiative. The main aim is for Dingle Food Festival to be waste free by 2020. This year TCD ran a successful volunteer initiative to reduce waste at the Dingle food festival by introducing a festival pack of reusable tableware and encouraging festival-goers to bring their own tableware from home. Rinse stations to clean dishes between tastings and manned waste segregation bins were located around town. Food outlets were encouraged to use compostable disposables in the transition to re-usables. [ttcorcadhuibhne@gmail.com](mailto:ttcorcadhuibhne@gmail.com)



**Ian McGrigor Gortbrack Organic Farm and Kerry Earth Education Project:** Ian has been working in the area of organic food production and education for over 30 years. He has a strong emphasis on the importance of biodiversity and food production and that we cannot have one without the other. Gortbrack Organic Farm is a place of food production, education, diversification and inspiration. [www.gortbrackorganicfarm.com](http://www.gortbrackorganicfarm.com)



**Lisa Fingleton:** Local artist and activist, Lisa will be with us today, helping to capture and record the day through her art. Lisa Fingleton is an award winning multimedia artist whose practice incorporates drawings, collaborative projects, film, documentary, found objects and immersive installations. The artist lives and works on a small farm in North Kerry and has spent many years cultivating deep-rooted connections between art and farming. [www.lisafingleton.com](http://www.lisafingleton.com)



**Siamsa Tíre:** Caitríona Fallon and her team launched their 'Greening Siamsa Tíre' initiative in October 2017. This organisation has recognised the role it can play in reducing the impact of its activities on the environment. It is currently developing policies which will create a long-term environmental strategy for the organisation. This will encompass



#### **Maharees Conservation Association.**

A coastal community group working collaboratively with KCC, NWPS, Clean Coasts and NUIG to protect the natural heritage and dune systems of the Maharees. [mahareesconservation@gmail.com](mailto:mahareesconservation@gmail.com)



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers and people who have helped us out so much in the past ten years – we could not be here without all of your time, inspiration and creativity!

## Some facts about Food that you may not be aware of

- If the trucks stopped coming into our ports from the UK and the wider world, the shelves would be empty within how many days?  
**4**
- How much do we spend on importing food (including fruit and vegetables)?  
**€1 billion**
- How much do we spend on imported apples?  
**€100-150 million**
- How many commercial apple growers do we have left in the country?  
**Only 40!!**

## What can we do to change this around?

Grow some of your own food, fruit, vegetables and herbs in your own garden, school or community spaces

Get involved on a local community garden or allotment project

Support your local farmers by buying from them or shops that supply locally grown food

Start a CSA – community supported agriculture scheme – where the farmer is guaranteed an all year round income and you get fresh food most of the year

Check out the National Pollinator Plan ([www.biodiversity-ireland.ie](http://www.biodiversity-ireland.ie)) - contact the local biodiversity officer in Kerry County Council and see how your community or school can get involved.

## Other dates for the diary!

**23rd November 2017:** Kerry Sustainable Energy Co-operative Public Information evening in Dingle – 6.30 – 8pm (An Leabharlann, Daingean – the Library, Dingle)

**6th December 2017:** Transition Kerry seasonal celebration. 7.30pm in Tralee– details to be confirmed.

**Spring 2018:** Community Resilience Courses in Kerry (Tralee, Listowel, South Kerry and West Kerry) – details to be confirmed. This programme is funded by the Community Support Fund under Kerry County Council.

## Get involved

If you want to get involved in the Transition Kerry steering group or any of the active working groups or to re-activate one of the working groups, please contact us as we are looking for new people to get involved!

Currently the most active groups are: Food & Biodiversity, Energy (through KSEC), Community/Education.

There is the potential to have other working groups based on transport, water, personal transition, etc.

[www.transitionkerry.org](http://www.transitionkerry.org)

Sign up to our newsletter to receive emails with updates and events – [www.transitionkerry.org](http://www.transitionkerry.org)

Please contact us directly if you need further information, want to get involved or want to volunteer - Niamh Ní Dhúill @ 086 7247066 – [info@transitionkerry.org](mailto:info@transitionkerry.org)

