

IRELAND

# On the way to energy resilience, in Tipperary

By Alessandro Gandolfi



Upperchurch National School (County Tipperary, Ireland), students attending one of ECTC's "Energy Saving Workshops for Primary Schools."

Wind turbines for electricity production in County Limerick (Ireland). Neighboring County Tipperary is the home of the Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative (ECTC), an organization that helps and supports individual communities in an environmentally sustainable housing transition.



## **On the way to energy resilience, in Tipperary**

One of Ireland's oldest, most traditional rural counties has now become a benchmark for energy efficiency, but how did it happen? Citizens in County Tipperary, driven by necessity and helped by government and European incentives, have independently begun to take charge of their own energy management, becoming architects of their own present and future. This is how, in a nutshell, the Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative (ECTC) was established one decade ago, bringing together the best first experiences and becoming an accelerator for retrofitting and energy efficiency interventions, for private homes and public buildings,

including churches and community centers. Among hilly roads, breathtaking landscapes, unexpected wind farms and a countryside that harmonizes with the incomparable Irish sky, there are endless examples of how innovation and a better understanding and use of energy can have a positive impact on the lives of families and villages, in a model that in these months is getting even more solid and has also attracted the attention of other areas, both neighboring and beyond.

**This work is part of a project on the eco-efficiency of housing carried out in collaboration with the European Climate Foundation.**



Loughmore (County Tipperary, Ireland), customers outside Loughmore Cottage, a tea room owned by a local co-operative. The solar panels on the roof were financed thanks to ECTC.



Terryglass (County Tipperary, Ireland), construction worker Edwin Cahill painting the stage at the Terryglass Community Hall, which was sustainably renovated by ECTC.



Cloughjordan (County Tipperary, Ireland), a view of the Ecovillage from above. Cloughjordan Ecovillage, which was established in 2005, is “the village with the lowest ecological footprint in Ireland.” Cloughjordan's ECTC volunteers are also working to transform the municipality into an increasingly low-carbon community.



Kantoher (County Limerick, Ireland), Seán Brennan checks the screens at the Kantoher Enterprise Park, a technology park with 11 companies and over 200 employees. The park's goals include improving the energy efficiency of local homes, in collaboration with ECTC.





Cloughjordan (County Tipperary, Ireland), a party outside Ryan's Corner House Pub. ECTC volunteers in Cloughjordan are working to transform the municipality into an increasingly low-carbon community.



Knockatoora (County Tipperary, Ireland), Maura Ryan jokes with her grandson, who is intrigued by the heat pump outside their home. With the help of ECTC, Maura and her husband Jim applied the external thermal coating and installed the heat pump: "until a few months ago," says Maura, "we still had a wood stove."



Thurles (County Tipperary, Ireland), a traditional Irish music session at The Monks Pub. The Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative (ECTC), an organization that helps and supports individual communities in an environmentally sustainable housing transition, operates in the county.



Wind turbines for electricity production in County Limerick (Ireland). Neighboring County Tipperary is the home of the Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative (ECTC), an organization that helps and supports individual communities in an environmentally sustainable housing transition.



Thurles (County Tipperary, Ireland), riding students at the Tipperary Equestrian Centre. The Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative (ECTC), an organization that helps and supports individual communities in an environmentally sustainable housing transition, operates in the county.



Cloughjordan (County Tipperary, Ireland), Josie (73) and Paddy Daly (83) read the newspaper in their living room. Their home and six others along Nenagh Road, all of which were built 80 years ago, have been given insulated thermal coatings with the help of ECTC.

Upperchurch (County Tipperary, Ireland), ECTC volunteer Noel Byrne in his backyard: the house has been fitted with thermal insulation coating with the help of ECTC.





Cloughjordan (County Tipperary, Ireland), Lian Callaghan talks with two ECTC volunteers in front of his house. His home and six others along Nenagh Road, all of which were built 80 years ago, have had thermal insulation coatings put in place with the help of ECTC.





Upperchurch National School (County Tipperary, Ireland), students attend one of the ECTC's "Energy Saving Workshops for Primary Schools" held by Mona Zirngibl, the organization's Energy Saving Officer.

Kantoher (County Limerick, Ireland), BHSL worker Mick McMahon poses with pieces of pellets for energy production, made from recovered wooden pallets. BHSL is also working alongside ECTC to improve the energy efficiency of local homes.





Kantoher (County Limerick, Ireland), a portrait of President John F. Kennedy with his wife Jackie on display in a pub.



Drombane (County Tipperary, Ireland), Gerard Ryan with his son Tom pose in their backyard, with solar panels on the roof that were installed with the help of ECTC.



Templemore (County Tipperary, Ireland), Derry O'Donnell, ECTC Development Coordinator, checks the insulation quality at Sola Energy Solutions. Sola works alongside ECTC on the energy efficiency of many homes in County Tipperary.



Terryglass (County Tipperary, Ireland), a housing complex designed by Bob Foyle, a member of the Terryglass Energy Team and voluntary Director of ECTC, and in line with the latter's sustainability features.



Cloughjordan (County Tipperary, Ireland), ECTC employee Deirdre O'Brolchain in the vegetable garden at the Ecovillage, where she lived until a few years ago. Cloughjordan Ecovillage, which was established in 2005, is "the village with the lowest ecological footprint in Ireland." Cloughjordan's ECTC volunteers are also working to transform the municipality into an increasingly low-carbon community.



Upperchurch (County Tipperary, Ireland), ECTC Energy Saving Officer Deirdre O'Brolchain (left) tells villager Tom Stapleton how the co-operative made the Bog Walk safer, with solar-powered streetlights.



Rear Cross (County Tipperary, Ireland), Noel McMahon working inside the Community Hall. Noel is a member of the Kilcommon Rearcross Energy Team and the ECTC, which renovated the building and made it more energy sustainable.



A view of the countryside in County Tipperary (Ireland). The Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative (ECTC), an organization that helps and supports individual communities in an environmentally sustainable housing transition, operates in the county.



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