

# CORCA DHUIBHNE / DINGLE PENINSULA 2030

## LEARNINGS

FEEDBACK CARD 3 OF 4 IN SERIES

'Innovative'

'Cross-Sectoral'

'Community Engagement'



### An Innovative Cross-Sector Approach

- Dingle Peninsula 2030 has done a superb job in their communication and involving influential partners. Having state actors involved like ESB Networks and the MaREI Centre adds credibility.
- It's the ability of the project to bring different sectors together and show how they work, and their combined impact, that makes the initiative very innovative.
- Being in a contained geographic location where you can have more interactions, and maybe more impact, makes it a very interesting project.
- Dingle highlighted to us that working on a regional and sectoral basis makes much more sense, as large scale and many types of transitions are required. Also, you have to get the messages right and bring people with you.
- The project has been very open and inclusive and open to collaboration – all agencies can learn from that.

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It felt like a genuine community-led activity

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### A Strong Local Community Effort

- Dingle Peninsula 2030 is a deeper level of engagement, going out to where people are at, facilitating their views, their busy lives and putting structures in place to do that. Engagement has to be iterative, meaningful and ongoing. It's engaging by doing. It's a continuous two-way dialogue.
- The idea of community involvement in thinking about the problem is a clear strength.
- I was most impressed by the idea of sharing information between the Ambassadors and the rest of the community.
- A stand-out is the engagement of the farming community.
- It's so important to hear the voices of the people who have been engaging and how we're all going to work together to solve this big challenge.
- The Community Energy Mentor course was very powerful, knowing that local people were that interested in getting involved.
- Nothing works as well as a demo project. The strategic preparation and selection process of the Ambassador Programme was key to its success. The project got buy-in, reflection and real engagement.

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I had concerns at the beginning because there was an awful lot of 'suits', professional people swarming around and not community. So, at the beginning I was worried about community engagement and community outcomes. What really helped was the role of the Hub and community engagement officers (ESBN and MaREI) who helped bridge and develop a partnership approach.

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It was just so incredibly powerful and compelling hearing those stories from, you know, the actual people involved. I think it was the first time I've ever heard anyone really talk about [the] benefit of an EV in a rural setting

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Dingle Peninsula 2030 strikes me as being very clued-in to what ordinary people want – so it is clearly very good research and engagement in transition projects. That's the way policy should evolve

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## Learnings

- Evolving climate policy needs to be far more connected to the communities on the ground and Dingle Peninsula 2030 can teach us all how to do that.
- Social engagement can accelerate technology adoption and decarbonization and move things forward at a faster pace. Many people are open to getting involved and sharing experiences, but forums have to be created for them to engage.
- From the outset, community engagement has to be core.
- The end user needs to be deeply engaged and not just consulted.
- Policy can be drafted at national level, but communities need to fine-tune it.
- If you don't connect with people on the ground, whom the changes are going to affect, you will ultimately lose out.
- How communities can engage, contribute and inform is critical. But you have to spell out the challenges as well as the benefits.
- Stakeholder engagement is an ongoing part of the process with constant communication and it's a process that changes the research journey.
- While our organisation knew about community engagement, Dingle Peninsula 2030 reinforced the importance of it.
- Community engagement needs to be built into one of the core pillars of intent. I shared those learnings internally. It was new for us - technical people engaging in community and actually having to understand community.

[Link to Card 1 on Introduction](#)

Interviews conducted by Dr Maria Power of Community Consultants

**Interviewees:** Aoife MacEvilly, Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU); Eimear Cotter, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Enda Gallagher, (formerly) Dept Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC); Ian O'Flynn, Gas Networks Ireland (GNI); Laura Devaney, Dept. of the Taoiseach (DoT); Mark McGranaghan, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI); Míchéal Ó hÉanaigh, Udarás na Gaeltachta; Rebekah Keaveny, Green Offaly; Ruth Buggie, Sustainable Energy Authority Of Ireland (SEAI); Ruth Freeman, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI); William Parnell, (formerly) Dept Rural and Community Development (DRCD).