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**MULLINGAR**

Sustainable

Energy

Community



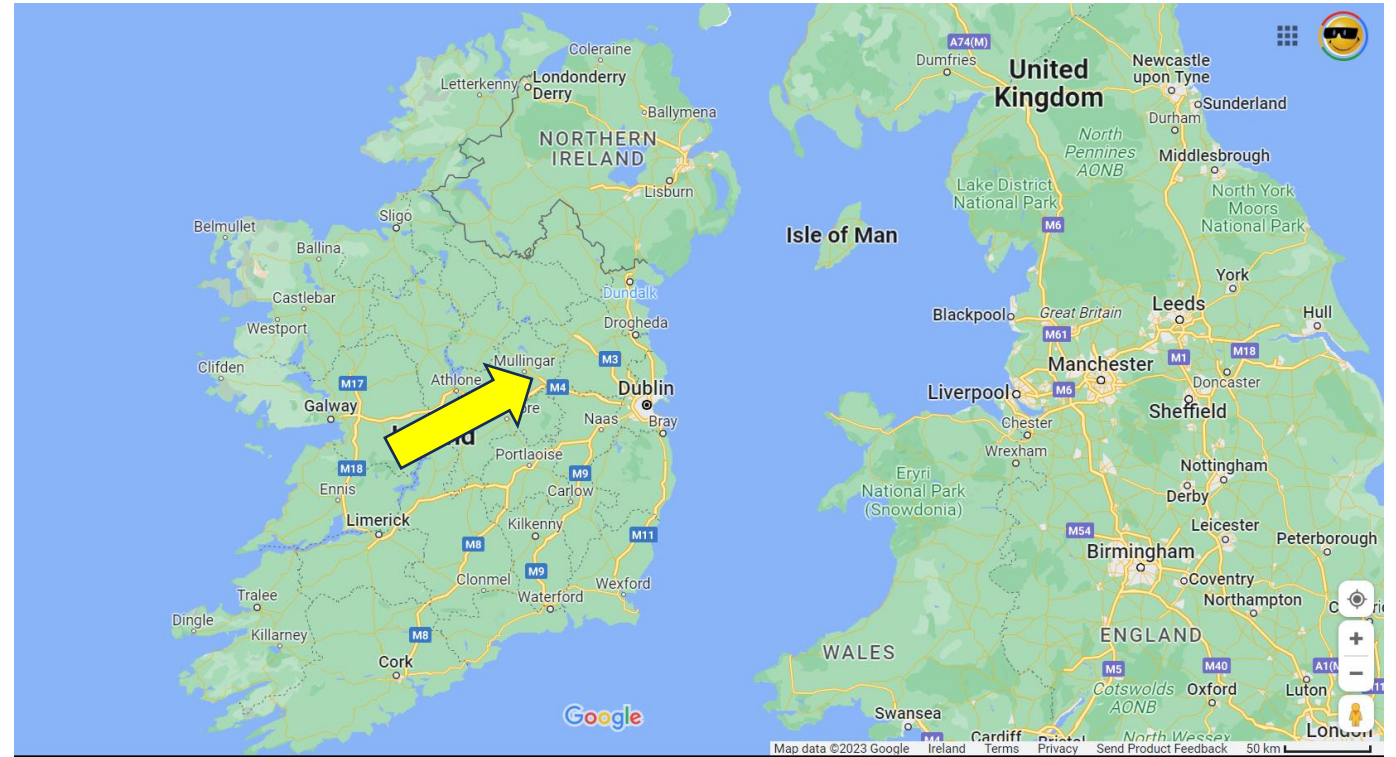
# Mullingar Sustainable Energy Community Ireland

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Mullingar, County Westmeath, Ireland



Mullingar is a town with a population of just over 20,000





# *Mullingar Sustainable Energy Community*

Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) is defined by our Government as

- *A community that works together to become more sustainable in how they use energy for the benefit of their community.*
- *Energy communities look at projects across homes, transport, local business and community buildings such as schools, community centres, and sports facilities.*

There are over 700 such communities registered in Ireland with the Government Energy Agent



# *Why Did I Join ?*

Ireland has a target of reducing GHG emissions by 51% by 2030 and being climate neutral by 2050

Ireland has a target to generating at least 80% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030

I just wanted to do something to help our community to achieve these targets



# *Mullingar Sustainable Energy Community*

Our Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) was started in 2018

- Started as a sub-committee in our local Chamber of Commerce
- We have about 30 members
  - IT people, Farmers, Accountants, Lawyers, Business people.....
- All are Volunteers

The first project that came up was to build a solar farm

- On the outskirts of the town, there is a 10 hectare closed landfill site
- The land owned by the Westmeath County Council, our Local Authority
- An easy win, we though!



# *The Dream !*

## Build a 5 Mega Watt solar farm

- Power just over 900 houses per year
- Save over 1,000 tonnes of CO2 per year

## 100% Community Owned

- Setup a Co-operative to own and run the solar farm



# *How will we do this?*

Rent the land from the County Council

Get the Grid Connection from the National Electricity Grid Company

Get the Planning Permission

Setup a cooperative to raise the funds (Estimated cost of farm is €8-9 million)

- Issue shares
- Take out loans
- Avail of any grants available from the Irish Government and/or EU

Join the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS)

- This is a Government initiative to provide support to renewable electricity projects in Ireland.
- The Government guarantee to pay you a fixed price for the electricity generated by you for 15 years



# And How Are We Getting On ?

Rent the land from the County Council



Get the Grid Connection from the National Electricity Grid Company  **But costing us €3 million**

Get the Planning Permission

- Using LEADER funding of €30,000 to get a feasibility study done
- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), the European Union Recovery Instrument (EURI) and Exchequer funding

**Q1 2024**

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# *As we were doing that, we also did .....*

## Energy Master Plan for Mullingar

- *“Quantify the current energy status of your community as a baseline of electrical, thermal and transport energy demand”*
- *“Create a Register of Opportunities - a list of potential projects for energy efficiency and renewable energy”*

As a Sustainable Energy Community, we availed of the 100% funding grant from the Government Energy Agent (€20,000)

We received technical support from the Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub (RECAH)



# Now we know ...

Table 1 – Mullingar SEC catchment area total energy, CO<sub>2</sub> and cost analysis <sup>1</sup>

	Electricity	Fossil Fuel	Transport	Total
<b>ENERGY MWh</b>	72,164	169,348	80,967	322,479
<b>CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS tCO<sub>2</sub></b>	30,836	39,472	19,243	89,551
<b>TOTAL ENERGY COST</b>	€15,859,555	€57,310,936	€10,425,128	€83,595,619

Table 2 – Sectoral percentage energy consumption (CSO, 2016)

Mullingar SEC catchment area Primary Energy Baseline (kWh)				
Sector	Electricity	Fossil Fuel	Renewable	Total (MW)
<b>Residential</b>	40,870,056	109,747,040	931,684	151,549
<b>Non-residential</b>	31,285,271	59,600,651		90,886
<b>Transport</b>	118,571	80,839,107		80,958
<b>Total Energy</b>	72,273,898	250,186,798	931,684	323,392



# Where to go from here ?

## Solar Farm

- *Get the planning permission*
- *Figure out how to raise the **€millions***

## Using our Energy Master Plan and RECAH support

- Implement projects to deliver the opportunities identified in the masterplan
  - *Setup a One-Stop-Shop in Mullingar for driving retrofitting projects in the community*
  - *Get solar panels on community buildings*
  - *Get more EV charging points around the town*
  - *Etc.*



# *What help do we need?*

- How do we raise **€8-9 million**?
- How can we pay for a project team to deliver our Register Of Opportunities?



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***Go Raibh Maith Agat***

***Thank You***

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