



**EcCo-Well Breakfast on
Sustainable Development Goals and Local Actions**
at the LifeTime Lab at Old Cork Waterworks, Cork City,
27th of January, 8:00-9:30am

Follow up

Introductory words by Bernadette Connolly (Cork Environmental Forum) on the development history, aims and vision of EcCo-Well.

The EcCo-well concept has been developed by Peter Kearns and PASCAL International Exchanges (PIE) and stands for Ec = Ecology & Economy, Co = Community & Culture and Well = Well-being & Lifelong Learning.

EcCo-Wells provides a platform for integrating strategies such as Healthy City, Green City, Learning City and the Economic Development with the aim to create a better quality of life for the citizens in the Cork region and to foster a sustainable way of living: <http://eccowellcork.com/>.

This very first EcCo-Well breakfast focussed on the burning issue “Sustainable Development Goals and Local Actions” and brought together a great variety of people who introduced their local, sustainable (business) projects.

Speakers and projects of the day:

1. Dr. Gerard Mullally, lecturer in the Department of Sociology at University College Cork.

As an expert in the Sociology of the Environment, Community, Sustainable Development and Climate Change, Dr. Mullally gave an historical overview about the setting up of the Agenda 21. This agenda was developed during the United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, with the aim to promote and foster sustainable development worldwide.

Based on these aims, the Cork Environmental Forum (CEF) was founded in partnership with Cork County Council as an instrument for applying the principles of Local Agenda 21 in 1995.

Cork features a remarkably strong civil society which makes a huge difference especially when it comes to questions of local sustainable community development, where solidarity and mindfulness are essential.

Eight international Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) were established during the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in the year 2000. The aim of this agreement ranged from halving poverty, halting the spread of HIV/Aids, promoting issues of equality and achieving universal primary education by 2015. The limited number and the concreteness of these goals, made them easier to understand and to communicate them to world's population.

The MDG's subsequently led to the emergence of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) in Paris, in 2015. These Goals encompass a new sustainable development agenda, with the intention to widely spoken, protect the planet, end poverty and ensure prosperity for all human

beings by 2030.

As for the private sector in Cork, Dr. Mullally mentioned the Musgrave Ireland Group which exemplarily implemented the values and actions of the SDG's in their everyday work. In consideration of the SDG's, the University College Cork set up a sustainability strategy, to influence educational policies and to encourage new ways of thinking and living. (<https://www.ucc.ie/en/greencampus/policy/>)

As the SDG's can only be achieved if we, as humans, support each other and cooperate, Dr. Mullally recited the following African proverb:

“If you want to go alone go fast, if you want to go far, go together“

Dr. Mullally's presentation -

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/fix0g5kyiq5bzou/SDGs%20EcCoWell%20Jan%2027%202017%20Mullally.pdf?dl=0>

Please also see below the documents recommended by Dr. Mullally on the day:

- Document to download “Transforming our world”:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld/publication>
- Document to download SDG Index & Dashboard:
<http://www.sdqindex.org/download/>
- Document to download SDG's and rich countries: <https://www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de/en/publications/publication/did/sustainable-development-goals-are-the-rich-countries-ready/>
- Document to download: “What local Government Need to Know”:
https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/the_sdgs_what_localgov_need_to_know_0.pdf

2. Erin O'Brien, Executive Planner at Cork City Council and part of Cork Food Policy Council (CFPC).

Presented Project: Edible Greening Group “Greening the Historic Spine“

The intention behind this project was and still is to make Cork a little greener, to give citizens the chance to see vegetables, plants and herbs openly growing and to taste them. Urban gardening can be considered as a very simply and effective way to involve and activate citizens to participate in community activities.

Within the project Greening the Historic Spine, planters were made from used pallets during voluntary gatherings and workshops (in the Elizabeth fort) which were supported by the Cork City Council and CFPC. In the following the painted planters were placed in locations running (like a spine) from Barrack Street to Shandon Street in Cork City.

The success of this project was and still is due to the (close to the planters living) locals, pedestrians, a taxi firm and CFPC Greening groups members. They all want to promote a greener Cork, where gardening is possible even in the smallest spaces.

Next up for the CFPC is the creation of a “sustainable food lab“ at an old basketball court on Stephens Street, Cork City. It is planned to have a first composting workshop there in mid March

2017. Other activities and workshops with the focus on the issues of sustainability, food growing, greening and learning will be organized.

Erin's Presentation:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/krk8x97iu95rj2j/erin%20edible%20greening.pdf?dl=0>

3. Xavier Dubuisson, managing director of XD Consulting.

Presented Project: Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Communities

XD Consulting is an integrated sustainability consultancy providing multi-disciplinary advice and support in the area of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Our mission is to “empower people, organisations and communities in making the transition to a low-carbon, resilient future” (<https://xdconsulting.eu/>).

Mr. Dubuisson explains that it is all about the individual and the collective and that the transition to renewable energy has to be a bottom up approach. He furthermore underlines, that cooperation is possible and needed when it comes to issues of energy efficiency and sustainability matters. Within the last few months a cooperation amongst 12 Sustainable Energy Communities has developed within Ireland.

For further reading:

- SEAI:
<http://www.seai.ie/>
- Denmark and Co-op Energy Groups:

<https://xdconsulting.eu/2016/10/12/xd-consulting-on-district-heating-study-tour-in-denmark/>

4. Mervyn Horgan, LifeTime Lab Representative and Manager.

Presented Project: LifeTime Lab

The LifeTime Lab is a unique interactive facility where children learn about history, the environment, their surroundings and so much more in a way that is novel and fun. It is a place where “science in the city happens“. The philosophy behind the LifeTime Lab is in the first place – education. It is a hands-on learning ground, especially made for children and promotes the concept of sustainable living in a playful way.

LifeTime Lab attracts thousands of young and old visitors every year and has now been shortlisted in the "Best Educational Building" category of the prestigious 2017 Community and Council awards. The various partnerships with i.e. the Science Foundation Ireland assures an ongoing exchange and mutual support: <http://www.lifetimelab.ie/>

Mervyn's Presentation: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/n4c2babz0wqiwsh/Lifetime%20Lab%20-%20EcoWell%2027th%20Jan%202017.pdf?dl=0>

5. John Egan, director of ecocell.

Presented Project: ecocell - insulation product

Ecocel is an eco-friendly home insulation product made from recycled newspapers, which compares favourably with all imported alternatives. The used cellulose is suitable for the insulation of Timber Framed Homes, Attics and Lofts. Application is suitable not just for new homes, but also for retrofitting old homes, apartments and commercial buildings: <http://www.ecocel.ie/>.

Ecocel is Cork based, in Marina Commercial Park. As Ecocel only uses recycled newspapers from

the local area for its products it nearly leaves a carbon neutral footprint (due to short mileage) when it comes to the issue of transportation.

In ways related to Ecocel, (with a similar philosophy) is the Boomerang Mattress Recycling project: <http://boomerangenterprises.ie/>.

Voices from the audience:

- Eoin MacCuirc, Central Statistics Office, shortly presents the Bia Food Initiative (charity group who collect, store, and redistribute food from retailers which otherwise would have been dumped) which is linked to the Food Cloud project (created and now managed by two former Trinity College Dublin students):
<http://food.cloud/>
- Breda, head of the Hincks Centre, Ireland's first Centre of Entrepreneurship Excellence at Cork Institute of Technology presented the Green Mentor project:
<http://greenmentor-project.eu/partners?lang=hu>
- Claire from Black Rock Castle talked about Evening CPD ("Continuing Professional Development") Sessions for Primary Teachers for Engineers Week, which takes place on the 16th of February 2017:
http://www.bco.ie/2016/12/ew_primarycpd/
- The Challenge to Change project - a Development Education Project in Presentation Schools, was discussed:
<http://www.developmenteducation.ie/resources/development-education/challenge-to-change-a-development-education-project-in-presentation-schools.html>
- The CensusAtSchool 16 (2016/2017) questionnaire relating to the Sustainable Development Goals:
<http://www.censusatschool.ie/en/take-part/questionnaires/phase16-17>

The EcCo-Well group hopes, that this breakfast meeting not only provided you with new information on local, sustainable projects and initiatives, but that you as well had the opportunity for personal interaction and exchange!

Date for your Diary

The next EcCo-Well Breakfast will take place on **Monday 3rd April 2017** on the theme of **Cork as a Creative City** (more details coming soon!) and will focus on the crucial aspect of creativity within sustainable development.

Report compiled by Selina Buchka