

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019 in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone on Monday 27th May 2019

Climate Change - An Opportunity for Rural Ireland

With Mr. Phil Hogan EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development

We will look at how rural communities can contribute to the mitigation of Climate Change in the areas of Agriculture, Energy, Conservation, Transport and the Rural Economy.

Workshops will present case studies and start the conversation.

#### AGENDA

- 9.00am Registration – Tea & Coffee
- 9.30am Welcome Seamus Boland/Tom Lavin
- 9.40am Conference Opened by  
**Mr. Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner for Agriculture & Rural Development**
- 10.00am Conference Overview by **Dr. Paul Deane, UCC**
- 10.15am Panel Discussion
- Energy Efficiencies – John Randles, SEAI – ***An overview of Better Energy Communities Grants, opportunities available to community groups and examples of community projects, benefits to communities, energy savings.***
- Rural Economy – Clodagh Barry, Western Development Commission – ***An overview of the rural economy, level of growth in rural areas, opportunities for green jobs.***
- Agriculture – Dr Maura Farrell, National Rural Network/ NUIG - ***A background to innovation in Agriculture i.e. EIPs***
- Natural Environment – Dr. Shane Regan, National Parks & Wildlife Service – ***Overview of Peatlands and wetlands communities and how they contribute to mitigation of climate change and the importance of conservation and restoration.***
- Transport- Margaret Malone of the National Transport Authority Ireland – ***Overview of measures of how public transport is adapting to climate change, especially in rural areas and how public transport can assist in mitigating Climate Change***
- 11.45am **Tea & Coffee**
- 12.00pm **Workshops**
- Participants in the workshop will hear case studies on the related topics and how these projects are assisting in tackling climate change; providing a social benefit to rural communities.
- Workshop 1-** McCauley Wood Fuels - Kenny McCauley
- Workshop 2-** Grow Remote - Bernard Joyce

**Workshop 3-** European Innovation Partnership BRIDE Project –Donal Sheehan

**Workshop 4-** Abbeyleix Bog Project – Chris Uys

**Workshop 5-** Rural Transport Programme- Flexibus – Miriam McKenna

1.30pm

**Plenary**

2.30pm

Conference end with Lunch