

*Exploring Innovative Models for Reducing Waste and Increasing
Sustainability
Energy and the Circular Economy conference kicks off in Cork*

Energy Cork is looking forward to welcoming over 200 attendees to their annual conference, which this year looks at Energy and The Circular Economy. The conference of three 90-minute focused online sessions will run over three days, the 24th/ 25th and 26th of March, with each day introducing a different aspect of Energy and the Circular Economy potential and opportunity for Ireland. The 2021 conference is sponsored by Cork Chamber, with the continued support of Cork City Council and Cork County Council.

To achieve our climate action targets, reduce waste and become sustainability leaders, Ireland must accelerate our circular thinking on how we use energy. The three sessions which explore 'Turning Waste to Energy, the Circular Economy in Practice – Buildings, Transport and Heat, and The Circular Economy and the Just Transition' bring together an impressive range of Irish and International speakers.

"In Ireland's transition to a low carbon to net zero carbon economy, it is critical that we move away from the linear model of supplying and using energy, and the generation of waste energy and materials. Essentially decoupling economic activity from the use of energy and materials, the circular economy is a central pillar of the EU Green Deal and central to action on climate. More and more, our society is embracing a Circular Economy mindset, this is a win-win for society, business, and environment. Energy Cork is delighted to be hosting this conference for our members and stakeholders in Cork, and those joining us from around the world." said Michelle O'Sullivan, Chair of Energy Cork.

Conor Healy, CEO Cork Chamber added, "Cork Chamber is delighted to sponsor the Energy Cork conference in 2021. The Circular Economy holds a significant opportunity for businesses, with our energy usage playing a central role in unlocking the estimated €2.3bn annual circular economy opportunity in Ireland. I'm looking forward to tuning in to the sessions and to hearing more about the activities ongoing and the innovative potential of the circular economy for Ireland."

National and international leaders in many different fields in the energy sector will take part in the conference – from climate action policy, renewable energy development, the Just Transition, battery technology, sustainable building fabric, district and waste heat, waste management, agriculture, and energy supply.

Panelists from the following organisations will address the conference over the three days: UCC, Carbery Group, Indaver Ireland, Irving Oil, Gas Networks Ireland, Simply Blue Energy Kinsale Ltd, CODEMA, Ecological Building Systems, Italy's CNR, ESB, Change By Degrees, Bord Na Móna, Green Rebel Marine, Limerick Institute of Technology. Brian Leddin TD, Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action will also address the conference.

Energy Cork is grateful to all of our panelists and moderators for their time and expertise, to Cork Chamber for sponsoring the event and to Cork City Council and Cork County Council for their ongoing support for Energy Cork's activities.

-ENDS-

For more information and registration, visit <https://energycirculareconomy.eventbrite.ie>

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About Energy Cork

Energy Cork is an industry-driven cluster, formed in 2012, pursuing coordinated actions to strengthen enterprise and employment within the energy sector in the Cork Region. The initiative is supported by Cork City Council and Cork County Council through their respective Economic Development Funds. Energy Cork was initially conceived by Cork Chamber with a view to building on the unique opportunities for the region to secure competitive advantage in the energy sector. Our Cluster has over 95 industry members from across the sector.