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**SECURE Focus Group Findings**

**(held as part of EU Energy Week June 16th 2016, Mohill, Leitrim, Ireland)**

SECURE is a 3 year (2016 – 2019) transnational project to help build the capacity of partners organisations to deploy successful energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and solutions in housing and public infrastructure. It is co-funded by the EU’s Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) Programme. The learning across peripheral and arctic regions on energy efficiency and use of renewable technologies will be shared between partners and to communities they serve.

The project partnership includes eight partners across the Northern and Arctic Region: Ernact, Leitrim and Donegal County Councils (ROI), Derry City & Strabane District Council (NI), Association of Local Authorities in Vasternorrland (ALAV) in Sweden, Karella University of Applied Sciences in Finland, Umhvørvisstovan in Faroe Islands and the Ecology Action Centre (Canada).

As part of EU, Energy week, Leitrim County Council worked with Leitrim Local Enterprise Office to carry out a focus group in Mohill, County Leitrim. Mohill is currently in the early stages of forming a smarter energy community along with the SEAI. Participants in the Focus Group were asked to complete a short questionnaire to ascertain their interest, knowledge and sources of information on energy efficiency and renewable technology.

Eleven people completed the short questionnaire and the answers were as follows:

* The reason for their interest in renewable energy was predominantly to reduce costs and save money in their home or in their community as many were involved in community projects.
* 55% currently access information on energy efficiency and renewable technology on-line, particularly through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) website. Other sources included information on appliances they buy, media and training courses.
* Participants were asked to identify buildings in County Leitrim, which they considered used very energy efficiency technologies to reduce their costs. 55% identified either the HIVE Innovation Centre in Carrick on Shannon or one of the Local Authority offices. The remaining 45% could not identify any building.
* Participants were also asked if they could identify a business in Leitrim which they thought used very good energy efficiency technologies to reduce their costs. Again 55% identified a business – 4 businesses were identified – 1 in leisure sector, 1 in manufacturing, 1 in hospitality and 1 in waste collection.
* Finally, participants were asked if they were interested in hearing more about new ways of energy saving from other areas involved in the SECURE project, what would be the most likely ways they would they access such information – 64% selected through the Leitrim County Council website and the next most likely method was through seeing the technologies in place in a building.