

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

Project Title: Exploration of Futures Thinking for Energy Communities

Short Project Description

Energy communities (EC) are a European priority (as highlighted in the revised EU Renewable Energy Directive). They are seen as one potential solution to combatting resistance to renewable energy (RE) projects, helping in the adoption of RE technologies and supporting community, local and regional development. Energy communities have the potential to generate, and trade, their own energy within local communities. Their formation and indeed potential for success, in Ireland, is precarious and faces multiple barriers. Grid connection at a reasonable cost, planning permission and access to finance are real barriers, along with community capacity, knowledge and alignment of resources. To date, only one renewable energy community in Ireland exists, Community Power, who operate the Templederry wind farm in Tipperary, as a community run social enterprise. Community Power, as the enterprise partner in this research, wish to advance the energy community sector in Ireland.

This research proposes to explore the application of innovation futures thinking methodologies and tools to support energy communities in the Just Transition region of Offaly and Tipperary to formulate long term preferred future visions, which will then inform an action plan. Research informed by intensive stakeholder engagement through surveys, interviews and workshops would be designed following an extensive review of literature and best practice internationally. Working collaboratively within Community Power, the impact will be maximized through identification of short-term actions for implementation, coupled with valuable opportunities for dissemination of research outcomes, which have been identified.

Duration of Project: 24 months

Funding Agency: TUS RISE Scholarship comprises of a monthly stipend, materials budget and postgraduate fee for the duration of the award only.

Type of Degree Offered: MSc

Minimum Qualifications/Experience Necessary/Any Other Requirements:

Candidates with primary degrees in engineering, environmental science or equivalent are invited to apply. Minimum classification of 2.1 honours or equivalent is required.

Knowledge or strong interest in the energy community sector is desirable

Knowledge and strong interest in the application of innovative methodologies such as futures thinking is desirable

IELTS [International English Testing System] Applicants must have a minimum of 6.0 with no component score less than 6.0.



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TUS

Technological University of the Shannon:

Midlands Midwest

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne:

Lár Tíre Iarthar Láir

Research Supervisors: Mr Seamus Hoyne

For further information, please contact: seamus.hoyne@tus.ie

Closing date for receipt of completed application form is 5pm on Tuesday, 4th June. Interviews will take place within subsequent weeks.

Download TUS RISE application form here:

<https://tus.ie/rdi/research/office/funded-research/>



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