



Sustainable Energy Communities NI: Updates & Insights

June 2025

Project background

The SEC NI Project emerged from a deep concern over the lack of urgent government action on rising energy costs, fuel poverty, and the climate crisis. Recognising the need for grassroots involvement, the project seeks to empower communities to examine and address their own energy issues.

This collaborative effort addresses the urgent challenges of rising energy costs, fuel poverty, and the climate emergency by engaging communities directly in creating and implementing local energy strategies.

The team have been busy over the past three months, working mostly on the development of the plans for the consultants in each area.

School visits

The SEC team has been hard at work, advancing our initiatives across multiple fronts. Drumlin Wind Energy have been busy with the school engagement program (BREESI) which is off to a strong start, with visits completed at 6 schools so far. Over 341 children have participated so far, fostering enthusiasm and awareness about renewable energy generation. The children spent the morning session in groups planning a design for a wind turbine and learning how to use the provided tools and equipment. They spent the afternoon working together to build their models



Sligo school visit

The SEC NI team and steering group conducted a successful study visit to ATU Sligo on June 2-3, 2025, bringing together key stakeholders for project updates and collaborative learning. Over 14 steering group members attended in-person, with additional online participation from NIE and NIHE representatives. ATU Sligo hosted facility tours and presentations covering multiple initiatives. These included the Community Climate Action Fund, Local Energy Agencies for Peripheral Regions (LAEP), Green Accelerator Skills Programme (GRASP), and Retrofit Ready Tool Kits.

[Read more here](#)

Next study visits organized by Co-operative Alternatives will be on Wed 17th September, covering four locations:

- Upperlands Community Development (hydro project)
- Grass Roots Renewable CIC (wind project)
- Northern Ireland Community Energy - Whitehead (solar project)
- Drumlin Wind Energy Co-op - Parkgate (wind project).



Action Renewables Event:

Action Renewables hosted a community energy stakeholder event on June 25, 2025, bringing together experts and community representatives to discuss sustainable energy initiatives in N.I. The event featured presentations from multiple organizations, with Action Renewables showcasing their diverse services.

[Read more here](#)

Inner North Belfast update

Eugene Conlon and Patrick Mulroy from the Energy Team visited Inner North Belfast SEC to explore further partnership opportunities. Discussions focused on climate change education, retrofitting, job creation, and fuel poverty alleviation, aligning with Peace Plus funding for cross-border collaboration.



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THE DOLMENS

Climate Action Network

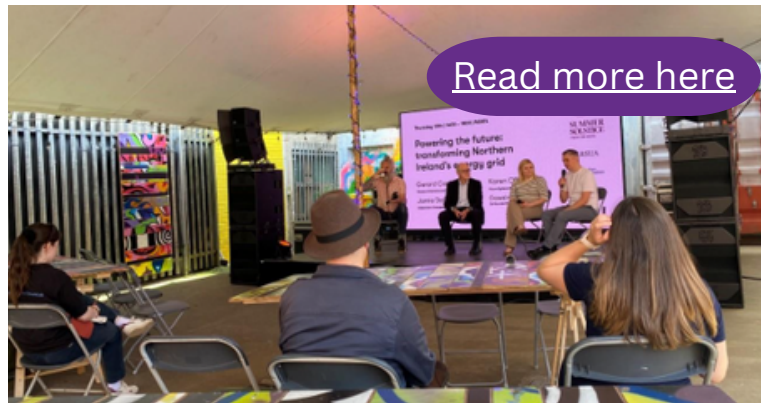
The Dolmens hosted an open event on May 1st **From Road to Resilience: Drive Electric** in the Burrendale Hotel. This event was a chance for attendees to ask any questions about driving electric vehicles and making the switch to electric. Thank you to efor hosting this energising event, packed with real world EV experiences.

Brink Belfast

Brink Belfast hosted an energy event on June 19, 2025, focusing on transforming Northern Ireland's electricity infrastructure amid the region's challenge of having Europe's highest wholesale electricity prices. The event highlighted that Northern Ireland's energy transformation requires coordinated efforts across infrastructure investment, community engagement, and policy development to achieve both environmental and economic sustainability.

Dunleer visit

The Energy Team SEC at Dunleer hosted our advisory and steering group members at the Northeast Climate Centre on the 28th May, showcasing their impactful work in community energy through initiatives like Inform & Inspire and Home Retrofits. They demonstrated support for SEC establishment and grant applications, emphasizing the role of statutory agencies. A site visit to Naomh Mairtain Gaelic football club in Monasterboice highlighted energy upgrades in sports facilities.



John represented the SEC team and Advice NI at a meeting of a coalition of parties interested in setting up Community Energy NI. The meeting was on June 30, at Clifton House, Belfast for an introduction and a brainstorming session hosted by Tiziana O'Hara. This coalition is driven by a shared desire for progress in community energy and the conversation invites a wider audience to start shaping the future of community energy together. There were around 30 people in attendance and there was agreement across multiple focus areas including representation, data collection & sharing, lobbying & education.



Lisnaskea update

Lisnaskea have Launched the tender

Following a series of community meetings hosted by Oak Healthy Living Centre, Advice NI has published a tender request to appoint an energy consultant this month. The consultant will be assessing 50 homes, 7 community buildings, creating a community energy baseline and identifying community projects that can help in their energy saving goals.

[Read more here](#)



SEAI Event

[Read more here](#)

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) held its National Gathering in Portlaoise to celebrate a decade of the Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Programme. Eleazar Chidiadi from Advice NI represented the SEC NI project.



The event brought community leaders & policymakers together to share achievements and challenges in Ireland's energy transition.

Upcoming Advice NI training

JUL 17 Benefit Overpayments: How to Request a Discretionary Waiver - Wednesday 2 July (10am)

JUL 17 Challenging PIP Decisions and Better Form Completion - Monday 7 July (10am)

Upcoming Events

JUL 17 Steering Group Meetings – August 27

JUL 17 Advisory Group Meeting – August 20

JUL 17 N.I. Study visit - September 17

JUL 17 SEC NI Showcase Event: October 29

Utility Regulator Event:

On Thursday, June 5, 2025, the Utility Regulator and the Energy Institute co-hosted an event titled "The Future of Energy in Northern Ireland 2030 and Beyond." The agenda featured sessions on shaping Northern Ireland's energy future, with contributions from NI Water, NIE Networks, Gas Networks Ireland, and Translink.

[Read more here](#)

Are you interested in being a part of the SEC NI Project?

[Click here](#) to express your interest and join our efforts in building sustainable energy communities across Northern Ireland.

