



Sustainable Energy Communities NI: Updates & Insights

January 2025

Engaging Communities: Ballymacash Regeneration Forum Update



John and Eleazar attended the Ballymacash Regeneration Forum, where they met Michelle, the centre manager, along with six other staff and users.

Despite the small turnout, there was significant enthusiasm for the Sustainable Energy Communities NI project.

The discussion covered the project's goals and practical energy-saving strategies. Participants showed strong interest, promising to share the initiative's message further. Project leaflets were left at the centre to raise awareness and encourage more community involvement. This engagement is a promising step in building momentum for sustainable energy practices in Ballymacash.

Dolmens Launch Event Sparks Enthusiasm for Sustainable Energy

John, Jason, and Eleazar presented at the Dolmens Launch alongside Professor David Rooney from QUB. With 30 attendees, the event featured engaging group discussions, thoughtful feedback, and lively questions about the Sustainable Energy Communities NI project. The strong participation and enthusiasm marked a promising start for future energy initiatives.



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Community Connections



Jason and Eleazar attended Ballymacash Sports academy on Monday 9th Dec. They attended the training session at BRYFC, talked about the project to the parents of the kids training on the sidelines.

The Oak Healthy Living Centre Health Fair



Jason and Eleazar recently attended the 'Jobs & Benefits, Information & Health Fair Event'. Around 10 different agencies attended

including First Housing, Jobs & Benefits, Make the Call, Christians Against Poverty, NOW group and Disability Action. The event was well attended by the local community with up to 40 people in attendance.

Bright Ideas for a Sustainable Community



The team hosted their first townhall meeting at Lisnaskea. At the event they looked what our local community needs in relation to energy and explored sustainable energy solutions.

SONI Regen Event

John represented the project at the SONI Regen event in the Europa Hotel on November 14th. The event featured a presentation on community engagement and a dynamic panel discussion with notable speakers, including:

- Joe Kennedy III – U.S. Special Envoy to NI for Economic Affairs
- Gerard Carlin – SONI Director of Networks & Innovation
- Ronan McKeown – NIE Future Networks Director
- Louise Cullen – BBC Agriculture & Environment Correspondent



Knitter Natters ladies at Mount Vernon



Eleazar and Jason met with the Knitter Natters ladies at Mount Vernon to inform them about our ongoing project. The response was positive, and we exchanged valuable tips on energy conservation. On Monday, December 9th, Jason, John, Eleazar, and Billy attended a meeting at the Ashton Centre in North Belfast with four staff members.

The potential for energy production in the North Foreshore area was discussed. It was also proposed that this project could be incorporated into their poverty action plan being developed for the new year. Regarding policy, it was noted that monthly bills through cards are 40% more expensive. They must be more affordable for those in need, not pricier!

Engaging Youth in Climate Action: Mount Vernon's Climate Fresk Success



Jason and Eleazar ran a session on Thursday 12th December with the Mount Vernon Youth Group for ten 12-14 year olds. They did the Climate Fresk card game which they saw in a Dolmens session.

The kids were really engaged and enjoyed it. They all took the project booklets home to show their parents. Thanks to Sam and Christine the youth leaders for facilitating and for the pizza!



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.