

**KITCHEN
TABLE
TALKS**

MOVIE NIGHTS



**THE
BUZZ**



**THE CALLAN
ENERGY
STORE**

**COFFEE
MORNINGS**

**DOCUMENTARY
LOUNGE**



**THE
SCIENCE
BITS**



**RUSTY O'TOOL'S
ELECTROLYSIS
CORNER**

WHAT'S GOING ON LADS?

An evaluation of The Callan Energy Store

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01 | Executive Summary

The Callan Energy Store aimed to engage the community of Callan in the urgent enquiry of Climate Action. Asylum Production Theatre Company initiated the project in collaboration with Loosismokes Circus Company and Colm Byrne from Callan Community Energy - a fledgling not-for-profit energy company. It was devised as a pop-up 'store' for exchanging big ideas in the heart of Callan in County Kilkenny. Callan Energy Store was a community engagement project to reimagine the town's energy supply and facilitate the beginning of a new conversation with the town of Callan. The 3-week programme ran from the end of the first week in April 2022.

The project was funded by a Creative Climate Action award and managed by Creative Ireland in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The project aimed to build awareness and empower citizens to make practical behavioural changes around energy consumption and reconsider approaches to energy production. It was one of 15 creative and cultural projects that were funded to meaningfully connect people with the profound changes happening in our environment, society and economy arising from climate change with the object of transforming that connection into behaviour change or climate action.

This evaluation reflects on the qualitative and quantitative components of the project, the events and sparks of the creative process, conversations and the artistic and research process where they were generated.

02 | Background

Historically Callan had its own locally owned electricity-generating station as early as 1909, set up by a group of local businesses. By 1930, when the national ESB network acquired ownership, it supplied 94 homes and local businesses in Callan. Nearly 100 years on, with over 2,475 people living in Callan (National statistics CSO, 2016 Census), the town is again experiencing an exciting wave of imaginative thinking around energy - this time around renewable, environmentally friendly, locally owned energy sources.

Only 5km outside Callan, the Sustainable Energy Award-winning facility Bio-Energy and Organic Fertiliser Services (BEOFS) has been operating an Anaerobic Digester since 1998 and processes up to 5000 tons of waste material a year to generate electricity. This biogas plant was initiated as part of the Ballytobin Camphill Community to fuel the newly built Castalia Hall with clean, renewable green energy in the inclusive community. BEOFS is now an independent, thriving entity.

More recently, Callan is home to Ireland's first Community-Owned EV Charging Point set up by Callan Community Energy (CCE). CCE's goal is to provide all of the town's electrical energy needs by 2030. They were awarded a grant for the Kilkenny LEADER Partnership's 'Energy Town' initiative to support sustainable and renewable energy companies. This award was supported by internationally renowned and locally based energy experts 3CEA, a non-profit, independent energy agency working primarily in Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford. CCE is Ireland's first community enterprise to set up a solar-powered charging station. The initiative is implementing new eco-awareness with the Solar EV Station in the centre of the town. The company will launch further initiatives soon, with plans to build an extensive 5MW solar farm with 51% community ownership. It is within this rich context of innovation and inclusion that The Callan Energy Store is situated.

03 | Introduction

Asylum Production and Loosysmokes, in partnership with CCE, initiated The Energy Store project. They set up an almost month-long 'social hub' - a temporary interactive discussion and exhibition space inviting participation and responses from locals and inviting a writer in residence and a filmmaker to document a response to this new interdisciplinary cooperation and experiment.

The community engagement programme was designed to provide the town of Callan with opportunities to develop social connectedness and to begin conversations around the subject of energy in this temporary space, which was historically the site of power production in the town.

The building was a catalyst for these discussion and collaborative public engagement and social project design. Ironically the former Callan Powerhouse no longer has a mains power grid connection. As part of the project, the building and public programme were run on solar power, provided by a mobile solar generator unit (with eight panels, a 2.5kw power, a 5w inverter, and a 5-kilowatt battery) parked outside the entrance to the building for the duration of the project. In addition, a low-carbon pellet-burning stove was installed to heat the building. These interventions were designed to spark dialogue, initiate a conversation on the potential of sustainable energy and autonomy, and provide participants with a practical demonstration of the technology.

Asylum and Loosysmokes led many public engagement activities around sustainable energy and energy generation. These activities opened conversations that the creative team facilitated through demonstrations and discussion with leading experts, local champions, fun interactive events and experimentation. The project was two-fold: a creative public engagement programme, alongside the research and development process to explore new sustainable and collaborative performance and production approaches - creative methodologies towards a new participative theatre

production in 2024. Callan Energy Store was a forerunner to this future production and an experiment to explore how participative arts performances could be produced and delivered carbon neutrally.



Community Energy with Colm Byrne, Glas Energy (Green Energy Expert and advisor) and Grainne Kennedy (3CEA), Sadhbh O'Neill, (Assistant Professor/Lecturer, Climate politics and policy, DCU), Conor Molloy (Industry advisor and facilitator, AEMS), Colin Simpson and Caitríona Corr (Researcher at WIT and Kilkenny County Council).

04 | Creative Team and Key Collaborators

Asylum Productions' work is dedicated to developing and presenting new writing and developing new forms of theatre. Since their foundation in 1998, they have been exploring the human experience in contemporary society through diverse forms of storytelling. They have presented many critically acclaimed productions, touring nationally and internationally with co-artistic directors Donal Gallagher and Medb Lambert. Since 2008 a major strand of their work has been in conversation with the town of Callan, and in 2019 they complete the third of their Callan Trilogy, which includes Six by Sundown (2008), The Bridge Street Project (2013 - 2015), and The Big Chapel X (2019).

The Callan Energy Store was the beginning of their fourth production in Callan as they explored their ethical responsibilities, and their first conversation about Climate Action.

Loosysmokes is an award-winning modern Circus company that seeks to create immersive audience spectacles. The company comprises a close-knit group of hardworking artists, craftspeople and performers, led by Elaine McCague and Jonah McCreevy. It is a unique combination of circus, spectacle, dance, theatre and visual art. On the Energy Store, Jonah worked with Craig Cox and Conor McCague as creators, inventors, technical directors, and technical support.

The innovative team worked with a consortium of local, regional and national organisations and partners to further develop the project as a community platform and creative engagement process. This included Venue Manager Aideen Wylde, writer John McCarthy and Etaoin Holahan, curator at Fennelly's of Callan, who also supported the creative team. Further contributors included 3 Counties Energy Agency (3CEA), Friends of the Earth, 'Cultivate' at Cloughjordan Ecovillage, Kilkenny County Council, members of Callan



05 | Programme

The three-week programme of workshop events in April 2022 was playful, informative, interactive and discursive. The community of Callan was invited to consider and explore their energy consumption and the possibilities of energy production. The project generated discourse and conceptual and practical research toward developing a new carbon-neutral participative theatre production in Callan for 2024 based on the subject of Energy.

Events included workshops, Kitchen Table talks, and Social events; in an informal setting, it was designed to provide non-formal informational sessions for creative research, planning and reflection. For example, Loosymokes created an interactive bicycle-powered electric generator hitched to a repurposed blender to create a human-powered smoothie maker; a Scalextric racing car game, also bike powered radios, sound installation works, and "Rusty's O'Tool's Electrolysis Corner" - a large solar-powered electrolysis bath for de-rusting old tools.

The Little Library and viewing Documentary Couch areas within the Energy Store hosted cosy drop-in browsing of publications and multiple screenings of various energy-related documentaries (including *We The Power*, which chronicles a number of community energy cooperatives in Germany, Spain and the UK). The programme also included practical talks by experts who offered advice for people on reducing the carbon impact and cash costs of their transport, heating and retrofitting their homes.

The building itself was a tool for engagement. In the former home of Callan Bacon, the graphic on the building's exterior was designed as a lure to provoke curiosity and bring people to the events while also encouraging people to question the carbon footprint attached to meat consumption. The Solar generator provided enough electricity to power the building. The obvious presence of the large array of solar panels on wheels also provoked curiosity and led people into the building as it also held historical significance for the town.



About Callan Energy Store

“ This all started while we were still working on a previous production, *The Big Chapel* in 2019. We just wanted to see what would happen, to look at the potential of creating a piece of work that would be solar-powered or man-powered. So we've had the chance to experiment with gravity-powered power and how to run a solar-powered creative arts programme. That's already impacted our work.

Medb Lambert, Callan Energy Store 2022

06 | Measuring Outputs

This evaluation has been undertaken on behalf of Asylum Productions to reflect on the impact of the Callan Energy Store public engagement programme and research process alongside a qualitative study to evaluate the outcomes and the broader project impacts for Asylum Productions and the project team and their creative research processes.

A summary of the project impacts attitudes toward climate action and associated behavioural changes. An end-of-project (summative) evaluation used both qualitative (interviews, focus groups, personal reflection, testimonials) and quantitative assessments (survey monkey questionnaires, attendance figures, website, social media engagement). The qualitative engagement also explored what people learned, participant perceptions and impacts on their behaviours and a reflection on the creative research process for the project team.

Primary research included;

11 one-to-one semi-structured interviews

16 event participant questionnaires

6 project team questionnaires

3-focus groups

In addition, the report covers the impact and a summary of key outcomes, outputs and recommendations for the continuation of the development of this community conversation with Asylum Productions and the town of Callan well into the future.

The qualitative study focused on an evaluation of the programme and research with outcomes, both short and medium term, based on five critical components of the programme:

- Public Programme Attendance
- Participants Experiences
- Programme Impact on Participants
- Participant Feedback
- Creative Team Reflections

Public Programme Attendance

Project Activities 14 Events

3-week-long interactive exhibition of events reimagining community energy use

1 video documentation of the project

12 Communal Meals were held in Fennelly's for discussion and collaboration with the creative team.

160 people attend the Energy Store, increasing awareness of energy wastage

60 people attending social events in Fennelly's of Callan

12 de-rustfied tools and items

2420 unique visitors to the website

2960 additional online engagement

Event List of Attendances

60 people	Energy Store Launch
30 people	Fennelly's of Callan: The Gramophone Social
15 people	Saving Energy - for peace, for the planet and our pockets with Sadhbh O'Neill
12 people	Reducing Your Cars Cash & Carbon Costs: Conor Molloy (Authentic Energy Management Services)
13 people	The Power of Making One Change with Sarah O'Suilleabhain
45 people	Coffee Morning: EV or not EV? Electric Vehicle Nerdfest
10 people	The Science Bit: Home heating options with Colin Simpson
45 people	The Science Bit: Retrofitting your Home with Colin Simpson
12 people	The Bacon Factory: The History of Community Power in Callan
15 people	Kitchen Table Talks: Creating an active travel-friendly town
25 people	Green Bingo with Ronan Leonard
12 people	Coffee Morning: No, Seriously, What's Going on, Lads?
15 people	Kitchen Table Talks: What's in it for Callan?
30 people	Movie Night at Fennelly's of Callan: Mad Max: Beyond the Thunderdome
50 people	Interactive installation and drop in
329 people	Total in-person Energy Store Engagement: 329 people

Social Media and Print Engagement

Unique website visits 2,420

Social media engagement 5,915 (including Instagram 455, Twitter, Facebook 2.5K, 2960 inclusive of Facebook Ads.)

Total Online: 8,335

Print Media Engagement

2 Local Newspapers Feature Articles (Kilkenny People: Readership approx. 42,000 per week).

Total Print Media: 84,000

Total Overall Project Engagement (online and in-person): 92,664.

Participants Experiences

Over 329 people attended 14 events in person at the Callan Energy Store. The questionnaire was conducted online via Survey Monkey from people who participated at the Callan Energy Store and registered for the project mailing list. 16 participants replied to a representative sample from the 56 people on the mailing list.

62.5% of people surveyed lived in Callan. 43.75% of people surveyed said they had not engaged with Asylum Productions before, with several people citing they had seen the solar panels and painted graphics on the exterior of the building as the reason they attended. Of the respondents surveyed, the average attendance was over 3 events per person, with the highest number of events attended being 6 by one respondent.

The statistics and comments are from interviews and questionnaires conducted between (2/5/2022 and 10/5/2022). They express people's experiences and views following their attendance or delivery of the Callan Energy Store and are highlighted on the following pages. In addition, quotes are taken from participants and creative team online surveys and interviews.

93.75% of people surveyed said they planned on taking action or changing their behaviour or lifestyle after participating in the Callan Energy Store.

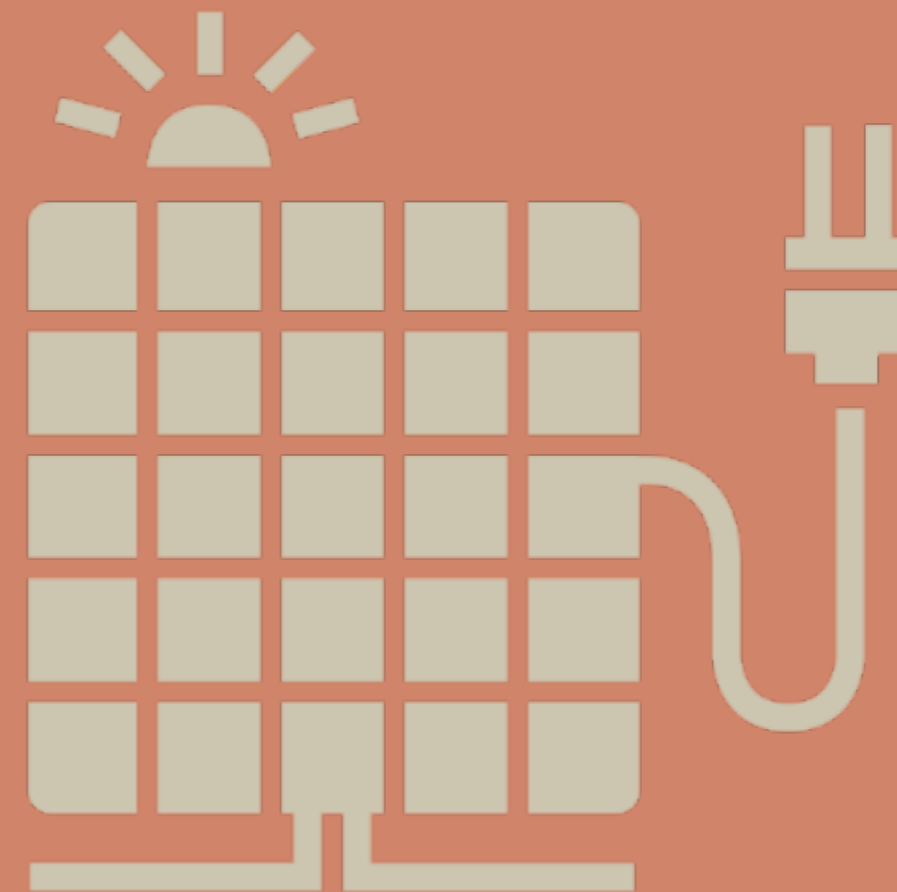
62.5% of participants said their top priority for making changes to their behaviour or lifestyle after participating was to make more environmentally conscious decisions around travel and transport, with over 60% choosing it as their number one priority area for change.



About Callan Energy Store

“ There are a lot of people who feel overwhelmed about the climate crisis and how they can fit in with being part of the solution; this felt like a good first step towards a map for us all to see how we can contribute and see real results and walk taller.

Participant Callan Energy Store 2022





The Kitchen Table Talks opened people to new possibilities and imagination to consider alternatives, giving them the space to question and evaluate their own positions and reflect on carbon consumption. These discussions engaged people, offering a welcoming space for casual and informal talks. There was also a reading area, a couch area for watching documentary films, and the opportunities to encounter experts, amateurs and neighbours around the kitchen table.

This discursive element of the programme helped people consider their home regarding carbon reduction, future energy production, and the energy production in Callan. In addition, the team introduced the future cooperative potential of community energy production through the programme.



About Kitchen Table Talks

“ It is an informal space, where people come and go, but I was surprised by how conversations about what everyone is doing, what everyone could be doing, what everyone would like to be doing, but I'm surprised at how easy discussion sprung up around the Kitchen Table.

“ The talks were interesting and engaging. The table talks challenged people rather than being lectured by an expert. Conversations work people to really make people consider their own choices.

Participant Callan Energy Store 2022

About Kitchen Table Talks

“*Talk on travel and transport energy was super informative, lots of facts, but not confusing. I enjoyed that it was interactive.*”

“*I fly a lot for work, although I am not 100% sure what my solution is or what I can do differently because there's something essential for my business survival. But equally, I didn't go on a trip away recently because it wasn't essential. I could have gone on a journey, so I suppose there's that, Conor's talk has given me a different perspective.*”

“*The project allowed me to think and develop plans to address power consumption in my life and work.*”

Participant Callan Energy Store 2022



About Coffee Mornings

“*I was already quite conscious of burning energy for heating but had not begun to think about its health implication. I've now been thinking about washing clothes less and driving slower to save fuel.*”

“*The events were very informative. I joined in after the main discussions and called in a lot for informal chats.*”

Participants Callan Energy Store 2022

About Gramophone Social



I liked the gramophone social evening as it showed the technology without electricity and how quality doesn't have to be sacrificed for sustainability.

Participant Callan Energy Store 2022



About Documentary Lounge



I think connecting to the local history of energy production and independence is key to realising the current goals on green energy production and reduced consumption.

Participant Callan Energy Store 2022

Programme Impact on Participants

The programme aimed to shape the discourse and consider community asset building. It was necessary to conduct a conversation that invited and included the community of Callan as a whole. The public discussions on Climate Action and the town's future energy supply and consumption and create an Active, Travel-Friendly Town were inclusive, accessible and informal. Practical talks also took place on how and why to retrofit your home heating, reduce your carbon footprint and energy bills, and retrofit your home insulation. These discussions focused on how you do it, what it means, and the benefits.

A key outcome was awareness raising, with 329 people participating in the 3-week programme and participating in public engagement events and talks.

93.75% of the respondents said they planned to take action or change their behaviour or lifestyle since participating in the project.

The areas of change (in the order of preference) most selected by those surveyed were;

1. Avoiding wasting heat and energy in my home
2. Plan, buy and prepare food to reduce climate impact and avoid waste.
3. Making more environmentally conscious decisions around my travel and transport
4. Planting for biodiversity or working towards better green spaces
5. Shop climate-consciously, buying less or products that can be recycled or re-used.
6. Taking action to address water waste or flood prevention
7. Be involved with groups focused on climate action and supporting the environment.

Overall many participants' feedback comments highlighted that they were already conscious of improving their carbon consumption but were aware they hadn't made significant changes but now intended to. The programme allowed people to focus, reflect on their behaviour, and discuss the changes to their lifestyles they wanted to make. As a result, the programme was a catalyst for change for the many people who participated.

From the interviews several people commented on our existing dependencies on established infrastructures like energy supply and that making significant changes for alternative renewable options can be challenging. There was also reflection from participants on the potential of changing one's habits and doing things in a new ways and that this approach needed to be encouraged. There was consensus that shared conversations were a beneficial way to facilitate change. Overwhelmingly people agreed that supporting people to have conversations to question assumptions and prevailing dogma is something that art is good at.

93.75% of people said that they strongly agree (43.75%) or Agree (50%) that the creative aspects of the project made them feel more engaged with climate action.

A challenge in addressing climate change is that it does not require an add-on to existing systems and structures; instead, it means rethinking and reworking these systems so that climate action is central to planning, investments and operations. This needs to be enabled and supported by governments and institutions. Callan Energy Store aimed to do just that. It was an opportunity to stop and rethink what we have always done, think about, empower and engage communities with climate change and think of ways to do things differently.

“ “ About Callan Energy Store

We're all in this together; worthy conversations and connections are made in surprising places.

“ “ *People can accept the facts, agree with the signs, and worry about something, yet you can fail to act or feel that you need to act. You can believe that it is someone else's fault or someone else to do the hard work or the heavy lifting. Sometimes it takes a more collective response to get a bit of people power behind it.*



“ “ *To continue to do things the way we always have done purely because that's the way we have always done them is madness we need to act against the prevailing tide of globalism. We urgently needed to change behaviours.*

“ “ *I am excited by the possibility of collective community action to pool our resources and work towards becoming energy self-sufficient.*

“ “ *The bewildering range of things going wrong with our climate is less overwhelming when doing one new thing, then another, and another. I can see that now since going to the Callan Energy Store.*

Participants Callan Energy Store 2022

Participant Feedback

Unsurprisingly, the participant's reflections and recommendations focused on travel, energy, carbon footprint, and energy consumption. To measure the programme participants' direct impact and behaviour changes, they were asked to list their top three rated areas of most concern. They cited making more environmentally conscious decisions around travel and transport and avoiding food and energy waste.

100% of people surveyed felt more informed about climate change since participating in the project.

100% of people surveyed felt more empowered to take action since attending the Callan Energy Store strongly agreed (60%) or agree (40%).

“*There's certainly no longer a lack of dialogue in Callan anymore because of the work of this innovative and creative team at the Callan Energy Store.*”

Participant Callan Energy Store 2022

Results from the questionnaire (2/5/2022) following attendance at Callan Energy Store

When participants were asked who they think should be doing more to address climate change, 81.25% of people cited they believed that the National Government is most responsible. The second highest ranking thought Business and Industry. When ranking up to 3 in order of significance, the choices in descending significance were National Government 81.35% Business and industry/Communities, Local government/individuals, European Union, and Environmental groups and the Media.

Creative Team Reflections

Running the Energy Store hub off the 8-solar panels was an experiment to generate carbon-neutral energy to power the

programme. This led to changes in the company's policies, including not using single-use plastic water bottles; using thermos flasks to use less energy when boiling kettles for tea and coffee when hosting events. Knowing that it is possible to run a 3-week programme of events with lights, projectors, kettles, phones, laptops, and other devices from solar energy was a learning experience and a change in seeing what was possible. To take the experiment further, Asylum ran a solar-generated power supply, to the building site adjacent to the Energy Store where the owner was able to run a cement mixer and drills off the solar power generator. This had the added benefit of eliminating the need for the diesel generator the owner was using. This also eliminated the loud noise audible from the Energy Store. The company then gave the owner a plug-in radio, so he could easily listen to music instead.

The creative team made new connections with collaborations across disciplines. The talks and presentations in the programme were delivered by a range of multi-disciplinary experts and advisors, ensured that the conversations were rich, included different perspectives and experiences and were engaging. A significant outcome has been the experimentation toward de-carbonising arts productions.

The lighting, kettle, and all the interactive elements for projects showing films and presentations were powered using either human-powered dynamos or solar energy. The Callan Energy Store was an experiment that has positively impacted Asylum Productions and Loosysmokes in their plans to run a carbon-neutral participative theatre show. The project team could see what an off-grid site required for solar energy.

The building has a history of power generation, connecting people to the heritage of energy production. The programme began the conversation with the people in Callan towards a new carbon-neutral output in 2024. 66.67% of the project team cited that since participating in the project, they had become more informed about climate change, and 100% noted that they planned on taking action or making changes to their behaviour or lifestyle since participating in the project and with 93.75% of participants saying they planned on taking action or changing their behaviour or lifestyle after participating in the Callan Energy Store the outcome of the project and engagement is clearly successful in terms of behavioural and attitudinal change.

This was new territory for Asylum to generate discourse rather than gathering or collecting existing stories, as in their past work and Asylum Productions and will continue their ongoing series of talks and creative engagement processes, working with participants towards a new carbon-neutral participative theatre production on the theme of energy in the Moate Field, Callan, in 2024.



About the Callan Energy Store

“ The unexpected outcome is that we decided to apply for and develop an aerial apparatus that will produce energy for a show.

“ The biggest learning came from discussions with the rest of the project team and people who visited the store. The discussions around specific people and how their energy usage could change were the most rewarding.

Creative Team Callan Energy Store 2022

About the Callan Energy Store

“ I curated the Fennelly's of Callan movie nights and hosted the gramophone social. I am very conscious of strengthening local, sustainable systems and keenly aware of the climate and biodiversity collapse. I endeavour to do my bit to halt the gallop on as many fronts as I can.

“ After the screening, I would like to have had a feedback session chatting through the sometimes-preposterous themes and pinning them down to our reality and how we can make changes in real terms in our community. Mad Max Beyond The Thunderdome showed the power of unimagined alternate economies and the quantifying of waste to an asset, a circular economy and valuing all we have on our doorsteps to find solutions to the precocity of global supply lines and worsening climate crises. There are lessons to be considered there.

Etaoin Holohan, Callan Energy Store 2022





About the Callan Energy Store

“ I was interested in the history of the Callan Bacon Factory and the Powerhouse and millrace as examples of enterprise, community and teamwork.

“ Places, where we gather where towns are built, are usually around sources of power and energy. But, I have also been fascinated by human energy, how we create energy and think creatively, and how those two things meet. The building was already there, so people noticed the changes outside and inside and wanted to know how it had changed over time.

“ The discussions that we were having with individuals; probably brought it in a different way to get people to interact with the discussions; what we have learned is it's only people's interactions with others and the discussions that challenge their mindset. So it's not an argument or a debate. But, still, it's just a conversation continuing week on week; individuals are genuinely concerned with climate action and energy shortages, and all the measures are being correctly discussed than previously.

Creative Team Callan Energy Store 2022

“

We've managed to begin a conversation with the town about our place on the planet and what we are doing, how we do things, the way we do them because we've always done them that way. I don't know how else to say it. It's been nice to take a moment and think, well, what if we do something different? Be in space or talk to each other differently to engage with each other differently. We chose this space because of the town's unique history of power generation.

“

The building without electricity has been a tool for people to come in, safely and see how solar power works because its part of the memory of Callan. People wanted to see what the building looked like now because they remember it, or they came because there's a talk on, the first time they've touched a solar panel, or because we've some mad graffiti outside. So all these tools added up.

Creative Team Callan Energy Store 2022

“

We recently went on a journey of de-carbonising our own home. We got rid of our boilers and our diesel car, which was challenging; we made many mistakes along the way, costing more money than we could afford, and we wished we'd had these conversations before starting that journey.

Donal Gallagher, Callan Energy Store 2022



[PATAGONIA.COM/WETHEPOWER](https://patagonia.com/wethepower)

UNE PROJECTION - DÉBAT ORGANISÉE AVEC





About Callan Energy Store

“ Planning and budgeting from early in the conception of a project can make it feasible. For example, the next show I made after this project (WHALE, Cork Opera House, Midsummer Festival 2022) was way more sustainable and environmentally friendly than before - we knew how our set would be re-used in its entirety before we even began purchasing set elements.

John McCarthy, Callan Energy Store 2022

07

Conclusion

The significant impact of the Callan Energy Store was the facilitation of an urgent conversation with the community of Callan to collectively consider their future energy production. The project required citizen participation in a discussion about alternative energy consumption and production. It was a timely jolt for Callan into that conversation when there is a strong consensus across Irish society that this is an all-hands-on-deck moment of change.

Energy production is a fast-changing economic, legal and policy landscape with ever-increasing climate action ambition and unprecedented global challenges to energy security. As a nation, Ireland is changing how we use energy in our homes, workplaces and on our roads. Fossil fuels accounted for 87% of Ireland's total primary energy supply in 2019 (Ireland's UN SDGs 2019 - Report on Indicators for Goal 7 Affordable and Clean Energy). With this high percentage of our energy needs being met with imported fossil fuels, we must take ownership as citizens to collectively readdress that figure.

Ireland's growing population, ambitious sustainability targets and high inflation determine that a proactive and whole-of-society approach needs to be sustained by a long-term government commitment. All citizens should be involved in the conversation about climate action. In 2021 a nationally representative survey, 'Change in the Irish Mind', the EPA asked who should address climate change; 90% of people said the responsibility to act on climate was a National responsibility, and we all should do what we can to reduce our greenhouse emissions. There is a consensus throughout Irish society that this truly is an all-hands-on-deck moment. The government must continue to support community initiatives like the Callan Energy Store and progress regulatory, economic and political obstacles.

When Callan Energy Store participants were asked if Callan as a community could be doing more to address climate change, 56.25% of people said yes. Additionally, 81.25% of people said

attending the Callan Energy Store made them think differently about energy consumption and production. Callan Community Energy has plans to create a sustainable energy hub. The desire and commitment shown by the participants in the town have demonstrated the number of individuals engaged in thinking about how we can transform energy generation locally.

Participative community initiatives like Callan Energy Store would ensure inclusive community-wide engagement to help tackle climate change's environmental, economic and social impacts locally. Local groups could be the real innovators for energy change in rural Ireland. These changes will require a massive transformation across all sectors, and participation across all levels of Irish society is crucial.

Acknowledgements

Project Team

Asylum Productions: Donal Gallagher & Medb Lambert

Loosysmokes: Elaine McCague, Jonah McGreevy with Craig Cox and Conor McCague

Executive Producer: Maura O'Keeffe

Venue Manager: Aideen Wylde

Writer-in-residence: John McCarthy

Filmmaker: Kevin Hughes

Social Event Curator: Etaoin Holahan, Fennelly's of Callan

Social Media: Aoibhinn Holden, Abby Keane

Researcher: Éilís Lavelle

Image credits:

Front and back cover image design by Medb Lambert with all photographs by Asylum Productions and Loosysmokes

Page 4, Donal Gallagher, Asylum Productions, Malcolm Noonan T.D. Minister of State for Heritage & Electoral Reform, Green Party T.D. and Tania Binotti, Creative Ireland outside Callan Energy Store

Page 6, Jonah McGreevy, Co-Creative Director and Producer, Loosysmokes with Bike-powered smoothie maker and Scalextric racing game

Page 8, Callan Energy Store interior, launch event

Page 15, Donal Gallagher introduces Reducing Your Cars Cash & Carbon Costs Talk with Conor Molloy, Authentic Energy Management Services

Page 17, Communal Meals, Fennelly's of Callan for Creative Team creative discussion and collaboration

Page 29, Pulley System for sustainable experiments of alternative 'gravity' activated energy production

Page 32, Social Events Curator, Etaoin Holohan, Fennelly's of Callan with de-rustified cleaver

Page 33, Eat More Vegetables Pig Graffiti by artist Paul Bokslag on the exterior of Callan Energy Store

Page 36, We the Power, The Future of Energy is Community-Owned (2021) film still

Page 37, Callan Energy Store, Creative Team.

Callan Energy Store was funded by Creative Climate Action Fund and managed by Creative Ireland and The Arts Council of Ireland.

