



## Donegal County Council host the SECURE Launch Conference

- ❖ **Prominent energy management experts attended the event**
- ❖ **Donegal County Council announced the achievement of ISO 50001 accreditation during the conference**

*Letterkenny, 10<sup>th</sup> November of 2016*

The SECURE project partners met in County Donegal (Ireland) on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 for the second meeting of the project. The purpose of this meeting was to review project progress, agree activities for the next six months and review the project work plan, roles and partner responsibilities.

On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Donegal County Council hosted the official Launch Conference of this 3-year project, at the spectacular Glenveagh National Park. Several prominent energy experts shared their vision and knowledge with the 80 conference delegates. Speakers included **Michael O'Brien** and **Denis Kelly** from the Northern & Western Regional Assembly; **Ruth Buggie** from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland; **Emma Norton** from the Ecology Action Centre (Canada); **Donal Doyle**, from the RPS Group; **Mary Daly** from Letterkenny Institute of Technology and **Duncan Stewart**, an Irish architect, environmentalist and media personality. Duncan Stewart reminded the audience of the critical importance for genuine community engagement and participation to create smarter and more sustainable communities.

### **ISO 50001:2011 accreditation**

**Cathaoirleach Cllr. Terence Slowey** announced at SECURE's Launch Conference that Donegal County Council has achieved ISO 50001 accreditation for its Energy Management System. This is a major achievement and Donegal County Council is only the second local authority in Ireland to receive this accreditation.

Donegal County Council has introduced a new Energy Management System throughout all its organisational operations. This has enabled them to improve several internal processes leading to the International Energy Management Standard (EMS) for energy use and consumption. This provides a systematic approach for the organisation to achieve continuous improvement in terms of energy performance.

Additionally, Donegal County Council launched an energy awareness campaign in July to provide information to staff regarding energy efficiency and conservation methods for their homes and workplaces.

### About the SECURE project

The main objective of the SECURE project is to study, transfer and pilot new solutions for improving energy efficiency and renewable sources in public housing, lighting and public buildings.

The project will last three years and has a budget of €1.8 million. The ERNACT network will lead the project through the following partner organisations: Ecology Action Centre (Canada), Leitrim County Council (Ireland), Donegal County Council (Ireland), Derry City & Strabane District Council (Northern Ireland, UK), Umhvørvisstovan Environment Agency of Faroe Islands, Association of Local Authorities in Västernorrland (Sweden), Karelia University of Applied Sciences (Finland), the Northern & Western Regional assembly (Ireland) and Mid-Sweden University (Sweden).

The project has ambitious targets to meet, such as, transfer 15 energy solutions to retrofit 24 houses in project regions, increase efficiency by 5% in 3 public buildings and install alternative or renewable energy sources in public infrastructure.

The project will be carried out with financial support from the European Union's **Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014-2020**. This programme provides funding and support to organisations in the Northern part of Europe - including Ireland and Northern Ireland - wishing to transfer successful public service innovations between countries and regions.

For more information, please visit: <http://secure.interreg-npa.eu/>