



Energy Pathfinder project, Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme

**Launch of CECAS – Centre of excellence for Climate Action
& Sustainability at Myross Wood House.**

Date: 26 September 2021

Location: Myross Wood House, Leap, Co Cork, Ireland.

Presentation title: Climate Action & Sustainability in West Cork

Delivered by: Green Skibbereen with contribution from CCAE & NCE.



**Northern Periphery and
Arctic Programme**
2014–2020



EUROPEAN UNION

Investing in your future
European Regional Development Fund

Event Summary:

Sunday the 22nd of September 2021 saw the official public launch of Green Skibbereen’s Centre of Excellence for Climate Action & Sustainability at Myross Wood House in Leap, Co Cork. The event was attended by 200 people throughout the course of the day. This new innovative centre aims to bring together community, business, policy makers and educators under the stewardship of Green Skibbereen CLG a not for profit company who are driving the project. The CECAS project is based in the heart of West Cork in the former Myross Wood House Retreat House close to Leap and Union Hall. The historic house dates back to the 1800s and sits in a scenic and coastal location in 35 acres of gardens and woodland.



Fig. 1 Directors of Green Skibbereen **Fig. 2** CECAS sign at the front door of Myross Wood House.

The Centre has been up and running since the beginning of August and is already delivering and developing projects around woodland restoration, retrofit, renewable energy and sustainable practices, has a number of local community groups already using the many rooms for meetings, education and events and is renting out small workspaces to local micro enterprises, creatives and small businesses. This combined with provision of basic and affordable holiday accommodation for visitors is starting to generate activity and importantly generate much needed revenue.

The opening address of the launch was from the Acting Chair & Director Trish Lavelle. Trish outlined how “the building is slowly but surely coming back to life after some years of decline in its use. It’s a lovely but very old, inefficient building but in that respect, it is perfect for us to test and demonstrate the very best retrofit techniques and materials because over 20,000 people in West Cork also inhabit old and inefficient homes and if we are to address fuel poverty we need to help them make informed decisions about adapting to a low carbon future.”



Fig. 3 Trish Lavelle, Green Skibbereen Acting Chair & Director

This was followed by a presentation on the plans for the CECAS at Myross Wood House from Noel Casserly, another director of Green Skibbereen.



Fig. 4 Noel Casserly introduces plans for CECAS at Myross Wood House.

The third presentation was from Angela Brady of Brady Mallilieu Architects, who have designed the first phase of the development of an events hub in one wing of the house. She set out an exciting vision for the phased development of the building over the next five years

and welcomed the launch of CECAS as “providing a vital community space for learning, sharing good practice, demonstrating and evaluating the best solutions to help us reach not just low carbon but zero carbon for West Cork”



Fig. 5 *Angela Brady of Brady Mallilieu Architects Outlines Vision for Myross Wood House*

Myross House Retrofitting seminar, 11 am – 1.30 pm

Following the launch was a retrofitting seminar which was chaired by Caitriona Courtney from NCE Energy Hub. The first presentation was from Jose Ospina who introduced the energy pathfinder project and gave an overview of the diverse demonstrator sites that are being used across the Northern Periphery & Arctic region of Europe.



Fig. 7 *Jose Ospina, Project Manager for Energy Pathfinder Project*

This was followed by a detailed presentation from Caroline Akiboye & Simon Conolly of the energy baseline and retrofitting proposal for Myross Wood House that has been developed through the energy pathfinder project.



Fig. 8 Caroline Akiboye & Simon Conolly presenting retrofitting proposal for Myross Wood

The third presentation in this seminar was from Kevin Busby from Munster Technical University, coordinator of third year Architecture students in Cork Centre for Architectural Education in UCC. The students used Myross Wood House for one of their projects.



Fig. 9 Kevin Busby giving an overview of the work of the third-year students work.

The seminar was ended with a Q & A session followed by closing remarks by Ana Ospina, Director of Green Skibbereen.



Fig. 10. Closing remarks from Anna Ospina



Fig. 11. Plans for the redevelopment of Myross Wood House.



Contact Details:

Name: Caitriona Courtney

Email: ccourtney@energy-hub.ie

Website: www.energypathfinder.eu

