

Rethinking the Country:
The Transition from Dependency to Resilience
Part of Convergence 14: Making the Transition to Resilience

Monday 27th April, 2009 | 10.30 - 17.00 | Tipperary Institute, Thurles, North Tipperary |
€Free but booking essential by Friday 17th of April (Lunch not included) |
Bookings **01 674 5773**

Organised by Cultivate, Tipperary Institute, The Village, Irish Rural Link and Carnegie Trust
Supported by COMHAR, the National Sustainable Development Council, Dublin City
Council, Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government, Sustainable Energy
Ireland and the Carnegie Trust

Over the last couple of decades policy makers have tended to regard Irish rural communities as dependent on urban centers rather than as drivers for change. This conference brings together stakeholders from a wide variety of sectors to explore solutions for today's energy, climate and economic crises.

What are the actions and positive changes we will need to make to enhance the quality of life of our communities? How will we provide livelihoods and strong rural economies? How will communities of the future provide for their food needs? What are the opportunities for sustainable transport and how will we heat and power our communities?

What do we do to engage people to address the ever more complex problems facing us today? All of this will require for us to work purposefully together to build resilience in these challenging times.

The Convergence Festival will be opened by Minister Eamon Ryan on Earth Day, Wednesday the 22nd of April, with the launch of the 'The Powerdown Show', Cultivate's new series of short films about community sustainability. This year's festival has a packed schedule of lectures, conferences and films around the theme of 'Making the Transition to Resilience' in Dublin, Thurles and Cloughjordan.

The main conference '*Rethinking the City*', Friday 24th April, now in its sixth year, has become one of Ireland's leading forums on urban design and planning. In Thurles on Monday the 27th a '*Rethinking the Country*' conference will take place exploring the actions and positive changes we will need to enhance the quality of life of our rural communities. These conferences offer solutions for some of the most pressing issues of our time, including new visions for enterprise, transport, food, energy and building.

On the weekend of the 25th and 26th the Irish Transition Towns network will host its national gathering. '*Transition Towns*' is a new global movement that leads communities towards resilience in energy, food and economy. Started in Kinsale, there are now over a thousand initiatives throughout the world. With a selection of International speakers, films and workshops this two-day symposium will bring together all of the Irish communities who have adopted the transition process and those who are considering it.

The final event of the week's activities will be held at the Cloughjordan Ecovillage in North Tipperary on the 28th of April. Tours of the ecovillage will take place during the day and in the evening there will be a special ecumenical gathering. This event will invite different faith communities to explore why valuing community is so important in these uncertain times.
For more details and to see a full Convergence schedule, go to www.cultivate.ie

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