

## Tackling Climate Change with Irish Research

### Unlocking Knowledge Transfer Webinar Series

February 2021

In this edition of our *Unlocking Knowledge Transfer* webinar series, we got to hear about the role that research plays in Ireland in response to climate change. The lively session discussed how green businesses can access relevant expertise from within the Irish research system and heard from the Inishowen Rivers Trust to understand how research can be used on the ground. Guiding us through the topic of tackling climate change, was:

- Prof. Brian Ó Gallachóir - Director of MaREI Centre
- Trish Murphy - Project Officer, Inishowen Rivers Trust

Prof. Brian Ó Gallachóir kicked off the session by outlining the important role of R&D in addressing climate action. MaREI is the world-leading Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine. Collaborative research carried out by MaREI Centre has societal impact by supporting industry, informing policy and empowering society.

A key outcome of MaREI research is to inform key climate policy at national, European and global level. MaREI research was fundamental in the development of the Government's Low Carbon Roadmap which led to climate legislation and helped to form EU negotiations.

From a business perspective, MaREI work closely with companies to develop their business strategies which in turn helps to reduce their carbon footprint and harness opportunities towards a low carbon future. Businesses gain access to world-class researchers to develop a business plan to underpin the company strategy which becomes embedded into the company culture and operations. By developing a strategic business plan, businesses can increase their competitive advantage, domestically and internationally, and access new markets.

Trish Murphy from the Inishowen Rivers Trust, described how the Trust utilised research following an unprecedented flood on Inishowen peninsula in 2017. The Trust collaborated with the research community in Trinity College Dublin to address flood management issues in the local community of Inishowen in Donegal. Together they undertook a bespoke research project on natural water retention measures.

By collaborating with Trinity College Dublin, the Trust gained access to an academic team of researchers not readily at their disposal. The main outcome of the collaborative scoping project was a highly quality research-based report with clear deliverables. The report was co-designed and co-produced to ensure the outcome produced nature-based solutions to inform the flood management responses for climate resilience. Trish Murphy explained how the research increased the scientific outcomes and level of the innovation of the project, as well as increased credibility for the Trust going forward.

If you missed the session, you can view the full webinar on our YouTube channel, click [here](#).

The March webinar in the Unlocking Knowledge Transfer series, will discuss how a licensing agreement from an Irish Research Performing Organisation can become a key asset for your business. Samantha Williams, Licensing Manager at Trinity College Dublin will outline the process of engaging with a



Technology Transfer Office to obtain a licence to intellectual property. Lorcan Kennedy, Chief Technology Officer at Waterford Technologies will outline his experience of licensing technology from Waterford Institute of Technology. To register, [click here](#).