

AgroRES stakeholder clinics at ‘Energy in Agriculture 2022’

The Atlantic Technological University (ATU Sligo) attended the Energy In Agriculture 2022 event in Gurteen College on Tuesday 19th July to meet with stakeholders and present the AgroRES project outputs to attendees.

The EU INTERREG funded AgroRES project aims to inform policy improvement for the uptake and generation of renewable energy in the agricultural and rural sectors.

The ATU Sligo team hosted 1-to-1 clinics, open to all stakeholders, to explore the potential for Solar PV on farms in the context of increasing electricity prices and the emerging export tariff schemes. The clinics focused on Solar PV, but also offered advice on other technologies including biomass and heat pump systems. The interest in Solar PV has increased greatly since the announcement of export tariffs for microgeneration. Solar PV is particularly suited to the sectors with daily electrical loads such as ventilation, lighting, pumps, motors, feeding systems and cooling. These needs are found in a number of sectors including pig, poultry, horticulture and dairy. The Solar PV market and technology is more than sufficient for increased deployment in Ireland.

Commenting on the event, **R&D Coordinator – Contract Research Unit at ATU Sligo, Mel Gavin**, noted that farmers are currently under more pressure to find ways to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions, and this may increase operating costs. He said: *“Our aim with the AgroRES project is to work directly with farmers to help them understand what renewable technologies could also help them reduce their energy costs in key sectors. Farms can play a much bigger role in the clean energy transition.”*

In the clinics the ATU Sligo team offered independent advice on:

- Suitability for Solar PV on your farm
- Solar PV system size for your roof or available ground areas
- Regulatory issues: Planning, Grid Connection
- Costs
- Typical generation yield
- Microgeneration Support Scheme – how to avail of this
- Payback and other value considerations

***For more information, please get in touch with Mel Gavin, R&D Coordinator – Contract Research Unit, gavin.mel@itsligo.ie**

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