

# Belfast Met GenComm team driving energy transition

**A**n energy model tailored to community project development led by Belfast Met is leading North West Europe's road to sustainability.

The Belfast Met GenComm project with 9 other EU partners, is currently developing hydrogen technology pilots from 3 renewable sources - solar, wind and bio. The team are working to create a new secure energy future utilising renewable energy to produce zero carbon hydrogen and using this as an energy carrier. The lack of grid capacity is the biggest limiting factor in increasing the utility and community scale renewable energy supply in North West Europe. Rural and isolated communities in NWE face unique energy issues related to efficiency, reliability and sustainability.

Every community in the NWE region (whether or not remote) consumes the big 3: power, heat and transportation fuel. This project will undertake three pilot schemes, each producing hydrogen from a renewable source and examine the "attractiveness" of hydrogen as an energy carrier in these sectors. The project certifies the commercial



Pictured with Ireland's first hydrogen car, from left, John Quinn, Photonomi, Dr Rory Monaghan, NUIG, Cormac Walsh, Energy Co-Ops Ireland and Paul McCormack, Gencomm Programme Manager, Belfast Met.

maturity of hydrogen technologies by implementing 3 pilot plants, one in NI, one in Scotland and one in Germany linking the 3 main north west European renewable sources, solar power, wind power and bioenergy, with energy storage and the main forms of energetic demand - heat, power and transportation fuels. Based on the pilot plants, integrated technical and financial simulation

models will be developed. Together, both models will form a Decision Support Tool that provides a roadmap for communities to transition to renewable, hydrogen-based energy matrixes.

The data acquired by the pilots will be fed into a set of models that will link renewable energy production to a variety of existing hydrogen usages in different markets.

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