

Eddie Hobbs to speak at free FADA event in Newbridge

“When the oil runs out: Preparing our community for the change”

As painful as petrol prices are, they may be only the beginning of a long-term global energy shortage, and Eddie Hobbs says the Irish need to start preparing now.

The long-time consumer advocate will tackle the issue of “peak oil” at a free talk at 8 pm Nov. 14 at the Ryston Social Club in Newbridge, County Kildare. Peak oil is the principle that oil production rises to a peak and then falls as escalating demand outpaces dwindling supply – a situation many experts say has already begun.

The event is sponsored by FADA, a network of volunteers in County Kildare who work to prepare their communities for energy and climate crisis, and to create local solutions to these global problems. In the past year, FADA members hosted RTE’s Duncan Stewart and other speakers at an Energy Fair; established a garden allotment outside Newbridge; hosted an election debate, and worked with area churches in a Lenten campaign.

Skyrocketing oil prices will make driving and flying more expensive, but will also create problems with home heating, manufacturing, and even agriculture. Most of Ireland’s food, for example, depends on fossil fuel-based fertilizer, oil-based pesticides and oil-powered tractors, and is transported hundreds of miles to the supper table. Many experts predict that the depletion of cheap oil could induce a global depression, especially as the next few decades will also see greater climate chaos.

FADA’s members believe an energy and climate crisis does not have to mean simply hardship; it can be an opportunity to turn to make our lives more sustainable efficient, revive community ties, re-establish local industry and small farms, and create a better future for our children. FADA will also host an Open Space Event the Saturday after Hobbs’ talk, Nov. 17, for area residents who want to respond and collaborate on practical projects to make a stronger community.

Hobbs worked as the Director and Finance Spokesperson for the Consumers’ Association of Ireland from 1991 to 2006, and last year was appointed to the interim board of the new statutory National Consumer Agency. While he often gives advice on financial issues, this talk is to emphasize how peak oil will affect our economy.

For more information please visit the FADA website www.kildare.ie/fada or call Padraic Dunne at 087-741-6473 or Brian Kaller at 087-299-4552.