



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council



Rialtas  
na hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**

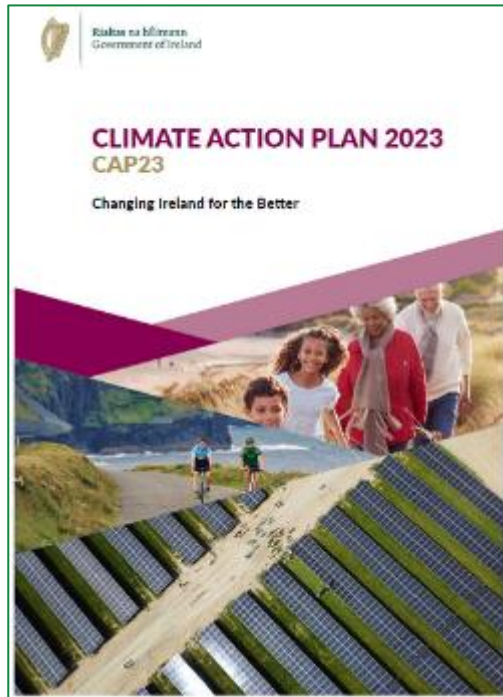
# Introduction to the **COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION FUND**

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Mayo County Council

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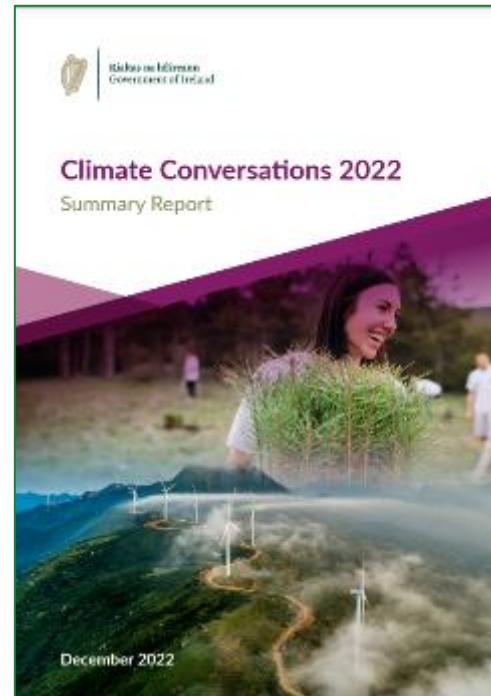


# Background - Community Climate Action Programme



## Climate Action in Ireland:

- 51% overall reduction by 2030
- Climate neutral and resilient by 2050



## Climate Conversations:

- Government engagement with citizens
- Two key findings:
  1. Citizens want to take action
  2. Need support to take action



# Overview - Community Climate Action Programme

## Programme Objective

*“Support and empower communities, in partnership with their LA, to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in a coherent way to contribute to national climate and energy targets”*

### Strand 1:

- Strand 1 “Action: Building Low Carbon Communities” - €24M
- Strand 1a “Shared Island Community Climate Action” - €3M

### Strand 2:

- “Education: Climate Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing” - €5m (Pobal)

### Additional Funding:

Creative Ireland Programme’s - Creative Climate Action Fund





# Mayo

**Strand 1** - Mayo has been allocated €609,000  
100% Funding for projects

Project Scale	Project Value	% Projects	
Small Scale Projects	Up to €20,000	10%	€60,900
Medium Scale Projects	€21,000 to €50,000	40%	€243,600
Large Scale Projects	€51,000 to €100,000	50%	€304,500







# Mayo

## Strand 1a - no pre-allocation

- The €3 million Shared Island Fund resourcing is not pre-allocated to individual LAs.
- All LAs in Ireland can assess an application received under strand 1(a) and make a recommendation to the Minister.
- LAs will be the Lead Partners for strand 1a projects.



# Eligibility

## Strand 1 Eligible Communities:

- be a not-for-profit organisation
- be located in the operational area of MCC
- be registered with a PPN **or** connected with other collectives such as the Wheel, Tidy Towns **and /or** a community group with Articles of Association or a Constitution, which hold an AGM, and for which approved minutes are available

## Strand 1A Eligible Communities:

- Same as Strand 1
- have at least one partner organisation in Northern Ireland, Partner organisations must be either a:
  - not-for-profit organisation
  - Local Authority
  - local/ national community and environmental organisation registered in Northern Ireland





# Eligibility

## Not Eligible:

- Private individuals
- Commercial undertakings (including sole traders)
- Schools, third levels institutions etc.
- National community and environmental organisations
- Financial institutions



# 5 Project Themes



**Community Energy**



**Travel**



**Food & Waste**



**Shopping & Recycling**



**Local Climate &  
Environmental Action**

Projects must:

- meet the overall objective “to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in a coherent way to contribute to national climate and energy targets.”
- address one or more of the five Programme themes and national climate action targets, as set out below.
- comply with all statutory requirements in relation to planning, building regulations, Health and Safety, and Fire Codes etc., if applicable.







# 1. Community Energy

Projects to make community buildings more climate friendly by using less energy, using renewable energy, and improving insulation.

Project examples include but are not limited to:

- Small community renewable energy projects (solar, hydro, wind)
- Retrofitting community buildings
- LED community lighting
- Community EV charging points



# Community Energy – Case Studies

## Fair Play Café – LED lighting and Solar PV

- Lighting was replaced with energy efficient LEDs
- 3 kW Solar PV was installed;
- Advanced heating controls & new insulated door was installed
- LED lighting saved 21% of total electricity consumption
- solar panels contribute to 16% of their total energy consumption
- saved €1,300 per year on energy costs



KL Kilkenny People

## SOS Kilkenny are finalists in SEAI Sustainable Energy Awards

They coordinated the projects, guided us through the whole BEC (Better Energy Communities) process and project managed the upgrades. The works...



## SOS Kilkenny – Building and lighting upgrades

- Upgrade six building complex
- Old storage heaters changed to district heating – 4 buildings
- Oil to gas heating – 2 buildings
- Roof and cavity wall insulation
- LED lighting
- Total project cost €56,488 and overall savings of €9,000 per year





**1. Community & Energy:**  
Improving energy efficiency and increasing renewable energy.

## Hints & Tips

**Start with your building fabric first** - When looking at your energy, it is recommended to always first check the fabric of your building – your walls, floor, roof, doors and windows. A well-insulated building will have lower running costs, be more comfortable and have better energy efficiency. You want to reduce the amount of energy you need by cutting down on energy you are losing.

**Lighting can be a big energy user for many organisations -**

LED bulbs and light controls (e.g. daylight and occupancy sensors) are great tools to lower energy usage and emissions. For any outdoor lighting consider the impact to local wildlife and reduce unnecessary light pollution where possible.

**Energy Audits** – Not compulsory for this programme but a great way to assess your building and energy possibilities. Anyone with an energy spend over €10K can apply for the [SEAI energy audit voucher](#) (cover the cost of the audit). If you are below this there may be other options – so get in touch asap!

**Solar PV** – good option for a building when there is a steady daytime electricity demand and a suitable roof top, i.e. south-facing, in good condition and with minimal shading. No planning permission is required for most rooftop installations.

**Heat Pumps** – good option for new builds or buildings that have excellent insulation and airtightness **and** frequently in use – they are less efficient if only needed for short periods of time.



## 2. Travel

Projects to make regular travel greener. Projects may promote cycling and walking, making it easier and more attractive or involve emissions reduction of existing transport systems.

Project examples include but are not limited to:

- Community e-bike
- EV Charging Points
- Cycle parking





# Travel – Case Studies

## Callan Community Energy – Community owned solar powered EV charging point

- installed a solar-powered 22 kW EV charging station
- first community-owned EV charge point in Ireland
- electricity sales will be paid directly to Callan Community Energy



## San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and Madrone Art Bar – Cycling parking and street mural

- Collaboration between San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and a business, Madrone Art Bar
- One car parking spot changed to a 12-spot bike corral
- Local artist designed the mural



## 3. Food & Waste

Projects to reduce food waste and promote local food production.

Project examples include but are not limited to:

- Developing Community Gardens
- Community composting facilities



# Food & Waste – Case Studies



## City of Nitra – Urban Community Composting

- Interreg Europe funded project
- Community composting for 50 households
- Run by volunteers and minimum facilities required - 3-chamber composter used in rotation
- Each household is given instructions, a bucket and a key to the chambers.



## Top of the City – Community Garden

- Transformation of derelict space at St Carthage's Avenue, Waterford City
- The abandoned space was cleared and garden facilities set-up – 14 raised beds, ornamental sections with biodiversity and pollinator friendly plants, composting system, rainwater collection systems and a community seed bank etc.



## 4. Shopping & Recycling

Projects that increase the variety and number of repair and recycling facilities, asset sharing and swap shops, or reducing single-use plastics.

Project examples include but are not limited to:

- Community repair hubs
- Swap shops
- Water filling stations





# Shopping & Recycling – Case Studies



Available € 0.00 for 21 days

Kurve Wooden Balance  
Bike



On loan € 0.00 for 21 days

Light n' Sound Minnie

## Carrickmacross Toy Library - Community resource sharing

- A toy lending service
- Users can borrow up to 4 toys, puzzles or games for up to 3 weeks at a time
- Parents pay a small membership fee that goes towards repairing or replacing broken toys



## Relove Paint – Repurposed and remixed paints

- Cyclesense collect used water based paints from the Clonakilty Recycling Centre and Derryconnell Civic Amenity site
- Paint is filtered, remixed and a range of colours are available
- Paint is suitable for interior walls and ceilings



## 5. Local Climate & Environmental Action

Projects for better management of the local environment.

Project examples include but are not limited to:

- Mini Forests
- Community Gardens & Roof Gardens
- Pollinator Projects
- Marram Grass planting
- Wetland Conservation



# Local Climate & Environmental Action – Case Studies



## Mary Immaculate College – Choill Beag/ Tiny Forest

- An Taisce's educational programme, LEAF.
- Forest-based workshops
- Planted 100 native trees on the college campus



## Monaghan Tidy Towns - Dispersed Urban Orchard (DUO)

- Major biodiversity efforts since 2010
- 2014-15 DUO project = create routes for bees between their key habitat spaces and Greenway
- Provided fruit trees for the local residences along these routes



# Project Examples: Community group with a building and grounds





# Evaluation

Selection criterion for <u>strand 1</u>	Weighting
Relevance and impact	30%
Innovation and scalability	20%
Value for money	20%
Achievability	10%
Partnership approach	10%
Governance arrangements	10%
	<b>100%</b>



## Relevance and Impact **30%**

When you are planning your project remember the objective...

...to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities...



## Know which ones apply to your project

### Programme themes:

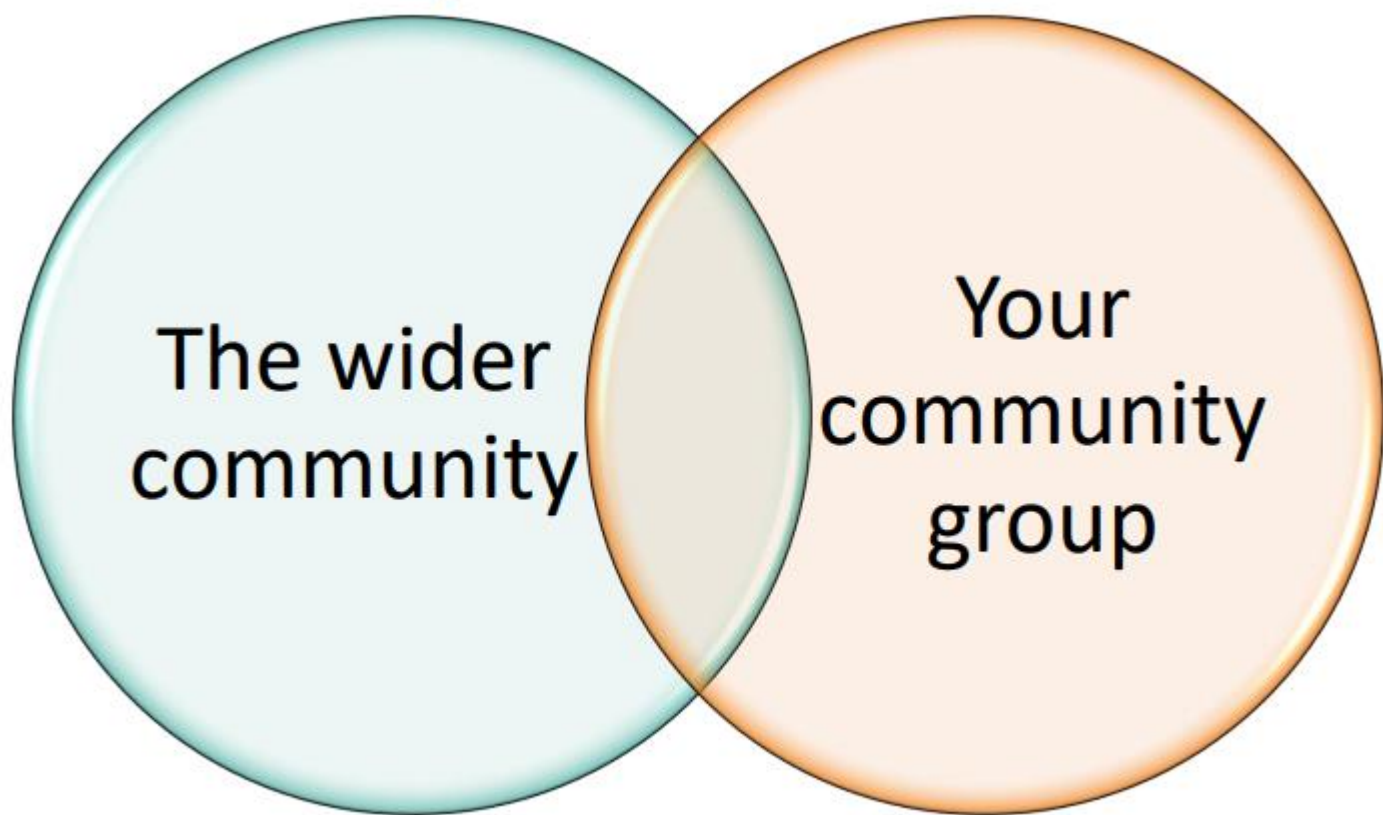
1. Community & Energy
2. Travel
3. Food & Waste
4. Shopping & Recycling
5. Local Climate & Environmental Action

### Climate Action:

- Reducing emissions
- Increasing renewables/ energy efficiency
- Increasing/ protecting biodiversity
- Creating local climate resilience
- Reducing waste/ Circular Economy
- Just Transition



## Who will see the benefit of this project? Directly and indirectly





## Innovation & Scalability 20%

Ideally projects should be innovative, scaled up or replicated in other communities

**Innovations** may be:

- clever ways that you have solved problems, or
- ways that you make your project especially effective for your location (e.g. rural, urban etc.) or type of organisation

**Replication and scalable:**

Many communities can learn from each other and projects carried out by one group could be scaled up and replicated in another community. Consider who you can learn from and who can learn from what you will do.



## Value for money/ costings 20%

- Get **three quotes for your application**. If you can't get them (e.g. only one supplier in the market etc.) then check-in with the Community Climate Action Officer before the deadline.
- This is not necessarily lowest cost, but the best balance between costs and the results achieved.
- We need to know how your project will get **good value** for tax payers money
- Consider the **investment vs impact**.

How much is your project costing versus the climate impact?

- Include a **contingency** in your budget (especially for bigger projects)
- When getting quotes from suppliers, groups should try to ensure that quotes will be valid for when they are carrying out the work (where possible)
- For strand 1a projects, all quotes must be provided in Euros and the relevant community group must absorb the sterling conversion rate, if there is one.
- **VAT** can be included for groups who cannot reclaim VAT



## Achievability 10%

- The organisation/partnership has the appropriate expertise to deliver the proposed project.
- The proposal is clear and coherent and is deliverable within the timeframe.
- Key milestones are specified with an explanation of how these will be monitored



## Partnerships 10%

- Not compulsory benchmarks available for Strand 1. Compulsory for Strand 1a – Northern Irish Project.
- Potential to engage wider community
- Engage subject matter expertise
- Increase impact
- Competitive programme *Option: Groups in one area apply together*





## Governance Arrangements 10%

- Any necessary governance and financial management systems, controls and processes are in place to meet the requirements of the Programme.
- Where applicable, evidence of tax compliance and registration with relevant bodies is supplied.
- Details of track record in managing other state funding is supplied.



# Next steps, if you are interested...

1. Discuss with your community group
2. Contact the Community Climate Action Officer to discuss project.
3. Start planning your project
4. Fill out the Application Form at <https://consult.mayo.ie/en/applications>

**Applications for the fund are open from 1st December 2023 – 23rd February 2024, 4pm.**





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Mayo County Council



# Any Questions?

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