

Community Climate Action Projects

Introduction

There are five programme themes for the Community Climate Action Programme which projects should be based on. The themes are:

- Theme 1: Community and energy
- Theme 2: Travel
- Theme 3: Food and waste
- Theme 4: Shopping and recycling
- Theme 5: Local climate and environmental action

There are many opportunities to create projects which include multiple themes and communities should try to incorporate as many themes as possible. This document contains a selection of case studies for each theme. These are only examples, which are by no means prescriptive or exhaustive, and communities are encouraged to be as innovative as possible with their projects, harnessing their local interests and assets.

Theme 1: Community and Energy

Projects of interest under this theme would reduce the climate impact of buildings in communities by using less energy, utilising renewable energy and avoiding heat loss.

SOS Kilkenny – Building and lighting upgrades

Background: SOS Kilkenny, a not-for-profit organisation who provide services to adults with intellectual disabilities made energy upgrades to their six-building complex in Kilkenny.

Project: In 2016, the organisation replaced their old storage heating system in four of their buildings with a district heating system. In 2018, the internal and external lighting was replaced with LED lighting and the remaining two care buildings were switched from oil heating to gas heating. Roof and wall insulation works carried out also.



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Impact: The upgrades reduced heating and lighting costs by an average of €9,000 per year. Besides the reduction in energy use and costs, the upgrades improved working and living conditions for all.

Learn more:

<https://southeastenergy.ie/sectors/community-groups/sos-kilkenny-heating-and-lighting-upgrade-sos-kilkenny/>

The Link – Lighting upgrades

Background: The Links is a Multi-Unit Development (MUD) in Portmarnock, Dublin consisting of 287 apartments, divided over 30 blocks and serviced by 46 common-area meter points (MPRNs).

Project: An energy audit revealed the majority of the energy being used was for fluorescent lighting and SON lamps in the buildings, street spaces and car-park. 568 lights were upgraded to LEDs. Lighting upgrades were undertaken over a six-month period.

Impact: There was an energy saving of 60% and annual savings of €22,600. Residents were happy with the enhanced brightness and a greater sense of safety at night-time.

Learn more:

<https://www.seai.ie/case-studies/the-links-portmarnock/>

Fair Play Café – LED lighting and Solar PV

Background: The Fair Play Café is a community centre in Ringsend, Dublin. After competing an Energy Master Plan through SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities scheme, they decided on a roadmap for their energy efficiency projects.



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Project: A range of projects were carried out to improve the energy efficiency of the café and to show to their wider community how energy projects could be successfully implemented. Lighting was replaced with energy efficient LEDs; 3 kW Solar PV was installed; and advanced heating controls and a new insulated door were installed.

Impact: The LED lighting saved 21% of total electricity consumption in the café. The solar panels contribute to 16% of their total energy consumption. The controls and door significantly contributed to the reduction of heat loss and created a more comfortable space. The café saved €1,300 per year on energy costs.

Learn more:

<https://www.seai.ie/case-studies/the-fair-play-cafe/>

Theme 2: Travel

Projects of interest under this theme would contribute to a reduction in travel related emissions.

Collinstown – Bike Hub

Background: South Dublin County Sports Partnership (SDCSP) with support from other groups established the Bike Hub on the grounds of Collinstown Park Community College, Clondalkin.

Project: The Bike Hub is a co-shared amenity with bikes, other equipment and repair facilities. Other initiatives include Learn To Cycle programmes for young people 5-13 years of age, teenager BMX/Trail programmes, primary school cycle safety training, adults community bike rides and more.

Impact: This initiative supports active travel, the circular economy and social inclusion.

Learn more:

<https://www.cyclingireland.ie/clubs/cycling-hubs/>



Comhairle Contae Chiarra
Kerry County Council

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

Background: San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency in the USA collaborated with a local business, Madrone Art Bar to install a creative bike corral in front of their premises.

Project: In 2016, the SFMTA repurposed a single vehicle parking space into a functional art piece with parking spots for 12 bicycles. A local artist was commissioned to design the mural underneath the bike corral.

Impact: Encourages active travel and also supports local business and art.

Learn more:

<https://www.sfmta.com/press-releases/san-francisco-unveils-one-kind-mural-asphalt>



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Callan Community Energy – Community owned solar powered EV charging point

Background: Callan Community Energy is a sustainable energy community in Kilkenny.

Project: In 2021, the energy community installed a solar-powered 22 kW EV charging station in the Callan Supervalu carpark to support its residents' transition to electric vehicles.

Impact: It is the first community-owned EV charge point in Ireland and supports the national charging infrastructure. The electricity sales will be paid directly to Callan Community Energy.

Learn more:

<https://southeastenergy.ie/irelands-first-community-owned-ev-charging-point-callan-community-energy-company/>



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Theme 3: Food and Waste

Projects of interest under this theme would reduce food waste.

City of Nitra – Urban Community Composting

Background: The Slovakian city of Nitra developed a project for community composting for 50 households. This started as a Bioregio Interreg Europe project to tackle biowaste.

Project: Run by volunteers the project required minimum facilities. The facilities situated in the community consist of a three chamber composter used in rotation: bio-waste is deposited in one chamber for a year, then it is closed while the waste matures into compost. Then the next chamber is opened and bio-waste is deposited in that one. Each household is given instructions, a bucket and a key to the chambers.

Impact: Produces compost for the community free of charge, decreases the cost of bio-waste collection, raises awareness in the local community about the importance and usefulness of bio-waste. More households signed on and additional composters were started following the initial project.

Learn more:

<https://www.komunitakompostuje.sk/>



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Top of the City – Community Garden

Background: Transformation of derelict space at St Carthage’s Avenue, Waterford City into a community allotment and garden.

Project: In 2020 the community garden was rapidly developed due the collaborative effort of volunteers, Waterford City and County Council and local businesses. Works included, establishing fourteen raised beds for growing vegetables; ornamental sections with biodiversity and pollinator friendly plants; a massive ivy wall which feeds and protects local wildlife; well operating composting system; rainwater collection systems; a community seed bank; a wooden greenhouse; and a beautiful sheltered stage designed for workshops and summer events.

Impact: Increase in people’s knowledge and access to fresh produce, green spaces reduce air pollution, access to composting facilities, encouragement of healthier lifestyles and building stronger communities. An abandoned site was recovered for use and there was also a reduction in anti-social behaviour in that area.

Learn more:

<https://www.facebook.com/top.of.the.city.garden>

Creggan Country Park - Community Fridge

Background: Creggan Country Park in Derry is a not-for-profit organisation providing a variety of outdoor pursuits, education facilities and green and blue spaces.

Project: Creggan Country Park setup a Community Fridge in 2022 to redistribute surplus food to local people. There are storage, fridge and freezer facilities. No registration is required, and food is collected and redistributed on the same day. Visitors can go for a walk in the local surroundings, bring along a reusable bag and just take what they want from the fridge and shelves during its opening hours. summer events.



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Impact: This Community Fridge has distributed over 1-tonne of surplus food to local families and in doing so has resulted in a 4-tonne reduction in carbon dioxide emissions. Community fridges help tackle climate change at a local level as food waste can produce large amounts of greenhouse gases. The facility also encourages knowledge sharing, community building and social inclusion.

Learn more:

<https://www.facebook.com/creggan.countrypark.18/>

Theme 4: Shopping and Recycling

Projects of interest under this theme would promote the reduction, reuse and repair of materials, and increase the number of recycling facilities.

Sew Last Season – Social Sewing Space

Background: Sew Last Season was set up by Helen Garvey, a Fashion and Textile Designer. The Galway city initiative is used for upcycling and embellishment of preloved clothes.

Project: Sew Last Season is a public sewing room located in Ozanam House, St Augustine Street, which was set up to teach people how to sew, mend and upcycle. They are supported by St Vincent de Paul who provides the workspace and materials.

Impact: Reduces fast fashion, textile waste and promotes the circular economy, giving people the skills to prolong the life of their clothes.

Learn more:

<http://www.sewlastseason.com/>



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Carrickmacross Toy Library - Community resource sharing

Background: The not-for-profit initiative in Monaghan aims to address the environmental challenge around children's toys through a sustainable toy lending service.

Project: The Toy Library promotes play for children aged 0-6 by enabling families to borrow, not buy quality, sustainably sourced toys. Users can borrow up to four toys, puzzles or games for up to three weeks at a time. Parents pay a small membership fee that goes towards repairing or replacing broken toys.

Impact: This project encourages resource sharing, reduces waste and promotes the circular economy. 80% of children's toys end up in landfill or in the sea after being used for an average of six months. Toys are difficult to recycle as they can contain materials that cannot be easily separated.

Learn more:

<https://carrickmacrosstoylibrary.lend-engine.com/>



Not available € 0.00 for 21 days

Betsy the Cow Animal Hopper



Available € 0.00 for 21 days

Bounce and Spin Zebra



Available € 0.00 for 21 days

Kurve Wooden Balance Bike



On loan € 0.00 for 21 days

Light n' Sound Minnie



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Relove Paint – Repurposed and remixed paints

Background: Cycle Sense, a social enterprise in Skibbereen, Cork promotes active travel and a circular economy. Their RELOVE PAINT range is made from repurposed paint.

Project: The organisation collects used water based paints from the Clonakilty Recycling Centre and Derryconnell Civic Amenity site. The paint is filtered, remixed and a range of colours are then available. The paint is suitable for interior walls and ceilings, and is available for purchase.

Impact: Diverts reusable paint from disposal and provides affordable paint for reuse by the public and community organisations.

Learn more:

<https://www.cyclesense.ie/what-we-do/relove-paint>



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Theme 5: Local climate and environmental action

Projects of interest under this theme would take a holistic approach to positively managing the local environment, including in relation to climate action.

Monaghan Tidy Towns - Dispersed Urban Orchard (DUO)

Background: Monaghan Tidy Towns has been working on the biodiversity of their area since 2010 with works including a habitat survey; maintaining a 4 KM wildlife corridor along the Ulster Canal Greenway; identification of key habitat spaces for bees; planting pollinator-attractive plants etc.

Project: Their 2014-15 DUO project created routes for bees between their key habitat spaces and Greenway. The routes were mainly made up of residential housing, so they provided fruit trees for the local residences along these routes to plant in their gardens, thereby creating routes for pollinators to travel. Uptake was hugely popular among the community.

Impact: In 2016 Monaghan Tidy Towns won the Local Authority Pollinator Award. Their overall work has increased biodiversity, made public and private land more pollinator friendly, encouraged community engagement in the local environment and reconnection with nature.

Learn more:

<https://pollinators.ie/monaghans-dispersed-urban-orchard-for-pollinators/>



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Mary Immaculate College – Choill Beag/ Tiny Forest

Background: Mary Immaculate College is a third level college based in Limerick. They took part in An Taisce's educational programme, LEAF. The final part of the project was planting a Choill Beag or Tiny Forest.

Project: As part of the Choill Bheag project, students attended forest-based workshops in Coillte's Curraghchase Forest Park, where they were shown a variety of different ways that the outdoors can be used to educate children in all curricular areas. They also planted 100 native trees on the college campus, to ultimately create a small, dense native woodland habitat.

Impact: Increases biodiversity, carbon sequestration and provides educational and recreational resources.

Learn more:

<https://leafireland.org/mary-immaculate-college-first-third-level-institution-to-receive-an-choill-bheag-from->



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Ripple Project in Ballina - Creation of green spaces and water resilience

Background: Greenhills Estate in Ballina, Mayo took part in the Ripple project. The aim of the project was to understand, map and record the local community's experience, perspectives, and knowledge about their neighbourhood's green spaces, in relation to water and climate change.

Project: Following a series of workshops, residents shared their insights, aspirations and hopes for their neighbourhood. They designed a number of projects to improve the movement of water, biodiversity, and amenity value of parts of the estate. They ultimately selected to create a garden in a neglected part of the estate in 2023. The garden includes raised vegetable beds, a mini orchard of heritage apple trees, seating, native pollinator plants, and a tree nursery. Water will be gathered and directed into a rain garden.

Impact: The garden will be a positive space for wildlife and the residents. The collection of water will slow the flow of heavy rain and allow rain tolerant planting to absorb some of the water.

Learn more:

https://twitter.com/ripple_ballina?lang=en

