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Community Climate Action Fund – case studies

This document will bring you some examples of the type of community-led projects the Community Climate Action Fund is supporting. Thanks to Kilkenny and Waterford County Council Climate Teams for gathering together many of the case studies presented here.

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

- Energy
- Sustainable Travel
- Food and waste
- Shopping and recycling
- Local climate and environmental action



Energy



Sustainable
Travel



Shopping & Recycling



Food & Waste



Climate Action

To address the many complex impacts of climate change, communities are encouraged to incorporate as many themes in their project as they can.

Hit more than one theme to elevate your application

The case studies in this document are only examples and are by no means prescriptive or exhaustive. Communities are encouraged to be as innovative as possible with their projects, harnessing their local interests and assets.

For queries, please contact your Community Climate Action Officer Karen Moore at kmoore@laoiscoco.ie

Theme: Energy

Projects of interest under this theme will reduce the climate impact of buildings in communities by, for example, using less energy, using renewable energy, avoiding heat loss.

<p>SOS Kilkenny – Building and lighting upgrades</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Project: 2016, replaced their old storage heating system in four of their buildings with a district heating system. 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Learn more: SOS Kilkenny - Heating and Lighting Upgrade SOS Kilkenny - South East Energy Agency</p>	<p>Cappoquin Community Centre – Building upgrades</p> <p>Background: Cappoquin Community Centre is a multi-purpose community centre located in Waterford managed and operated by Cappoquin Community Development.</p> <p>Project: Wanting to reduce their carbon footprint and energy costs they carried out an energy audit of the building and applied for a grant for works to upgrade lighting, wall and floor cavity insulation and install solar PV panels.</p> <p>Impact: There were annual savings of 32,782kWh and €4,821. The Community were happy that they were able to manage rising energy costs while also making improvements to the environment of their community building, making it a healthier and more pleasant place to be.</p> <p>Learn more: https://southeastenergy.ie/sectors/community-groups/cappoquin-community-centre/</p>
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Theme: Energy ...continued

Fair Play Café – LED lighting retrofit and Solar PV installation

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

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; 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: Sustainable travel

Projects of interest under this theme will contribute to a reduction in travel related emissions and/or improve access to active travel (walking, cycling, scooting and sustainable travel (public transport, park and stride, carpooling)).

Bike Hubs – various locations

Background: South Dublin County Sports Partnership, with support from other groups, established the Bike Hub on the grounds of Collinstown Park Community College, Clondalkin. Their first Bike Hub is in Dun Laoighaire, Co. Dublin.

Project: The Bike Hub Clondalkin 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 sustainable travel, the circular economy and social inclusion.

Learn more:

<https://www.thebikehub.ie/> showcasing Bike Hubs in Dun Laoghaire and Clondalkin

<https://www.cyclingireland.ie/clubs/cyclinghubs/>

Theme: Sustainable travel ...continued

eCargo bikes – various locations

An eCargo bike would suit a tidy towns group or similar as it can carry lots and heavy equipment, get into tight spaces, right up to work site and doesn't take up a parking space.

Background: Many eCargo bikes carry 60kg of cargo and battery lasts for up to 160km (fully charged 6 hours).

Impact:

- Reduced fuel cost
- No parking fees
- Zero emission travel
- Health benefits for pilots

Learn More:

[Life Pharmacy Cargo Bike](#)

In a year they “travelled 5,000km, Dublin to Rome & back plus some! Equivalent of 4 x 40' containers moved, 750 litres of diesel saved or 2,025 kg of CO2.”



Ranelagh Meals on Wheels using eCargobike since 2022 (above)

Community Electric Vehicle, Skerries

Background: “You look at a place like Skerries and say, ah sure they're all right, they have buses going to Dublin every day. But the problem is the distance between the house and the bus stop. And then when you get off the bus, where do you go from there? They're the pinch points on a transport system.”

Project: Fingal Co Co put a community charging point on Strand, Skerries. The Community EV (owned by Go Car) is kept there with no charge for parking (if you're a volunteer driver taking EV out) or charging in the parking space. Recruitment and training of volunteers and scheduling of trips is by Local Link.

Impact: It is the first community-owned EV in Ireland. From end 2019 – end 2022, 150 people (most over 55) registered with service, and about 40 volunteer drivers have been trained and garda vetted.

- Reduced fuel cost
- No parking fees
- Zero emission travel
- Community networking
- Improved quality of life for passengers

Learn more:

<https://www.fingal.ie/fingal-community-car>
[Irish Independent article 2022](#)

Theme: Sustainable travel ...continued

Bike Repair Stations and Cycle Parking

Background: Bike repair stations that are made for public use. The tough galvanised steel design makes them highly robust and suitable for public environments. Available in 3 standard powder-coated RAL colours. The base plate allows for a quick and easy installation on site. The station delivers to you fully assembled, ready for instant use.

The public bike repair stands come equipped with seven bike repair tools:
The tools are attached to the unit via a stainless steel cord. This helps to deter vandalism and theft of the tools as do the stations location in visible public areas.
Moreover, rainwater harvesting to use as a bike washing facility.

Learn more: <https://www.pittman.ie/mantis-bike-repair-station.html> OR <https://ucdestates.ie/blog/2019/09/11/additional-bike-repair-stands-installed/>

Bike repair station and parking



Theme: Food and Waste

Projects of interest under this theme will support locally produced food and reduce food waste.

Mud Island Community Garden, Dublin

Background: Transformation of derelict space in Dublin's North East Inner City into a community allotment and garden.

Project: Following a two-year campaign by local residents, the Council granted a licence to Mud Island in October 2011, and it is renewed annually. The community garden has rapidly developed due the collaborative effort of volunteers, Dublin City Council and local businesses. Works included, establishing raised beds for growing vegetables; sections with biodiversity and pollinator friendly plants which feeds and protects local wildlife; efficient composting system; rainwater collection systems; a greenhouse; and a social area and sheds designed for workshops and events; future plans include a solar powered pump for irrigation.

The site has doubled in size to 624 sq mts in area and is open all year with a calendar of community events. Membership open to anyone living in the area.

Impact: Increase in people's knowledge and access to fresh produce and green spaces, reduce air pollution, access to composting facilities, encouragement of healthier lifestyles and building stronger communities. An abandoned site was recovered for community use.

Learn more:

Mud Island's philosophy is 'If you have an idea...then you make it happen!' An example of this is a volunteer who runs *Seed to Pizza* with a local school. The students germinate and then plant out the wheat; they are involved in milling it and a local Italian restaurant come to make pizza in the Mud Island pizza oven with the schools.

[Mud Island web site](#)

[Community Gardens Ireland](#)



Mud Island before (left) and after (right)

Theme: Food and Wastecontinued

<h3>Creggan Country Park - Community Fridge</h3> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Learn more: https://www.facebook.com/creggan.countrypark.18/</p>	<h3>Cork Urban Soil Project – Community Composting</h3> <p>Background: Cork Urban Soil Project (CUSP) is about community-scale composting. They compost urban food scraps and use the resulting soil enhancer to grow more food, right in the middle of the city.</p> <p>Project: CUSP use a small composting machine (a Joraform aerobic biodigester) and team with MyGoodness, a community food company who produce large amounts of food scraps and also compostable packaging. At the end of every week, CUSP brings all of MyGoodness’s food waste and packaging to the biodigester where it is shredded and broken down producing compost in four weeks. After an additional “curing” period the compost is used in the CUSP microfarm, closing the nutrient cycle within the community from which it came.</p> <p>Impact: CUSP have diverted 10,200kg of food waste and 8,000kg of cardboard. They have also produced 6,000 litres of compost while changing the way society views waste from that of a pollutant to that of a resource. They also use the compost produced in their microfarm, closing the nutrient cycle within the community from which it came.</p> <p>Learn more: Cork Urban Soil Project or My Goodness Cork Facebook</p>
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Theme 4: Shopping and Recycling

Projects of interest under this theme will promote the reduction, reuse and repair of materials, and increase the number of recycling and reuse 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/>

My Brat Bhríde – Embroidery mobile space

Background: My Brat Bhríde is an award-winning initiative from Port Art Collective in Laois. It revives the ancient tradition of leaving a shawl outside on the eve of St Brigid's Day for Brigid's healing powers and blessings. By using preloved scarves and embroidering them with Celtic spirals in reclaimed wool and found materials it addresses modern challenges of fast fashion and supporting a circular economy.

Project: My Brat Bhríde gathers all ages and abilities together, reigniting interest in repair and reuse. They do not have a premises rather they attend events like festivals, organised library functions and other community events.

Impact: Participants are encouraged to gift the finished Brat Bhríde to a loved one, so continuing the conversation around repairing and reusing.

Learn more: [Brat Bhríde on Instagram](#)

[Leinster Express article](#)



Theme 4: Shopping and Recycling ...continued

Toy Library, Carrickmacross -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://carrickmacrostoylibrary.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

Theme 4: Shopping and Recycling ...continued

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>



Paint repurposing at Cycle Sense

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.

<p>Monaghan Tidy Towns - Dispersed Urban Orchard (DUO)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Learn more: https://pollinators.ie/monaghans-dispersed-urban-orchard-for-pollinators/</p>	<p>Ripple Project in Ballina - Creation of green spaces and water resilience</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Learn more: https://twitter.com/ripple_ballina?lang=en</p>
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Theme 5: Local Climate and Environmental Action ...continued

Tearmann Community Garden

Background: The Tearmann Community Garden was first established in August 2005 but was enhanced in 2019 with the introduction of a sensory garden and wheelchair accessibility, it is a public green space created in the community open 24/7 to all.

Project: A green space was designed for biodiversity and the organic growing of food. There is a pond and wild areas which provide a haven for butterflies, bees and insects. The space created has managed to combine environmental, educational, practical and spiritual dimensions.

Impact: The entire project is raising awareness in the community on organic gardening, sustainability and harvesting, as well as the benefits of biodiversity, whilst providing a welcome space and relief for all those in the community and also a dementia friendly sensory garden.

Learn more: [Tearmann Community Garden | Baltinglass | Facebook](#) or <https://carlow-nationalist.ie/2019/06/06/community-garden-in-baltinglass-is-officially-opened/>

Tearmann Community Garden

