



Rialtas na  
hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**

## Climate Action Fund - Community Climate Action Programme

### Strand 1a – Shared Island Community Climate Action

### Expression of Interest Form Medium or Large scale projects

Community and voluntary groups and organisations in County Laois can use this form to express their interest in engaging in a partnership project with Laois County Council to seek funding under:

1. Strand 1 of the Climate Action Fund - Community Climate Action Programme - Building Low Carbon Communities.
2. Strand 1a: Shared Island Community Climate Action.

Please ensure that you are fully familiar with the requirements and the terms and conditions set out below before you begin filling in this form.

We can only assess forms that have been fully completed. Incomplete forms will not be considered for funding.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact us on 0578664000 or email [kmoore@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:kmoore@laoiscoco.ie)

## Terms and Conditions

- Laois County Council will only provide funds for eligible costs to groups/organisations that are directly involved in approved projects at a community level, on a not-for-profit basis, aimed at shaping and building low carbon communities.
- You must demonstrate that you do not have the funding available to undertake the work without grant aid, or alternatively that the grant will enable you to undertake more work which your group/organisation would otherwise not be able to afford.
- The information supplied by the applicant group/organisation must be accurate and complete.
- Misinformation may lead to disqualification and/or the repayment of any grant made.
- All information provided in respect of the application for a grant will be held electronically. Laois County Council and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) reserve the right to publish a list of all grants awarded on its website.
- The Freedom of Information Act applies to all records held by DECC and Laois County Council.
- The application must be signed by the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer or responsible person of the group/organisation making the submission.
- It is the responsibility of each group/organisation to ensure that it has proper procedures and policies in place including appropriate insurance where relevant.
- Expressions of Interest will only be accepted on this form.
- Evidence of expenditure, receipts /invoices must be retained and provided to Laois County Council or their representative to support payment of funds.
- Photographic evidence of the project may also be required to facilitate draw down of grants.
- DECC or the local authority may carry out unannounced site visits to verify compliance with Programme terms and conditions.
- Projects under strand 1a must have a clear North/South basis and demonstrate the impact of the project in contributing to climate and energy targets on the island of Ireland and the sustainability objectives in the Shared Island chapter of the revised National Development Plan 2021-30.
- Applications to strand 1 and strand 1a must be separate. The Climate Action Fund, or Shared Island Fund, contributions must be publicly acknowledged in all materials associated with the purpose of the grant.
- No third party or intermediary applications will be considered.
- Breaches of the terms and conditions of this programme may result in sanctions including return of funds already granted and disbarment from future grant applications.
- In order to process your application it may be necessary for Laois County Council to collect personal data from you. Such information will be processed in line with Laois County Council's privacy statement which is available to view on [Laois County Council privacy statement](#)
- A grant agreement will be put in place between successful applicants and Laois County Council.

## Strand 1a– Shared Island Community Climate Action

This application is being processed by Laois County Council.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, 0578664000 or email [kmoore@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:kmoore@laoiscoco.ie)



Funding from the Government’s Shared Island Fund is available for cross-border or all-island projects, which have a clear North/South basis and demonstrate the impact of the project in contributing to climate and energy targets on the island of Ireland and the sustainability objectives in the Shared Island chapter of the revised National Development Plan 2021-30.

Proposals must include at least one partner in Northern Ireland, and at least 50% of awarded funding will be for project delivery in Northern Ireland.

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Strand 1a applications must comprise a cross-border project, working with counterparts in Northern Ireland and in partnership with the lead organisation’s local authority.

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There are three main sections to this form and **each section must be fully completed.**

**Section 1:** Tell us about your group or organisation

**Section 2:** Include details about your project

**Section 3:** State Aid Questionnaire

**Section 4:** Authorisation and Statutory Consents

**Section 5:** Declaration by applicants

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**Section 1 – Tell us about the lead organisation.**

<b>Name of Group / Organisation</b>	
<b>Name of lead organisation</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Eircode</b>	
<b>Year Established</b>	
<b>Purpose of Group/Organisation</b>	
<b>Contact number</b>	
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Website (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Description of the geographic area that you cover</b>	
<b>Set out the governance arrangements for your organisation and attach supporting documentation such as terms of reference, constitution, AGM minutes etc, where appropriate</b>	

<b>Name of partner(s) in Northern Ireland</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>Year Established</b>	
<b>Purpose of Group/Organisation</b>	
<b>Contact number</b>	
<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Website (if applicable)</b>	

<b>Description of the geographic area that you cover</b>	
<b>Set out the governance arrangements for your organisation and attach supporting documentation such as terms of reference, constitution, AGM minutes etc, where appropriate</b>	

Funding for successful applications under this programme will only be paid to the lead applicant group/organisation's Bank Account. Please ensure you have your Bank Account details to hand if your application is successful.

<b>Charitable Status Number (if applicable)</b>	
<b>PPN Registration Number (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Tax Reference Number (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Tax Clearance Access Number (if applicable)</b>	

#### **Lead Organisation Contact Details**

**Please provide details of the person who will deal with queries relating to this application on behalf of the lead organisation**

Please tell us immediately if these contact details change throughout the duration of your application.

**Contact Name**

**Contact Address**

  
  
  


**Email Address**

**Phone Number**

**Section 2 – Project Details**

**Describe your Shared Island project. Outline how the project meets the objective to shape and build a low carbon community and to the sustainability objectives in the Shared Island chapter of the revised National Development Plan 2021-30. Outline which of the five programme themes your project will address and how you and your project partners will address them – you are encouraged to address as many as possible.**


**Please indicate the location of your project using an eircode/postcode or an exact location (X-Y co-ordinates) as appropriate:**

**Eircode:**

**Postcode:**

**X ITM:**

**Y ITM:**

**Cross Border Partnership approach: Outline the roles and responsibilities of each organization involved in the implementation of the project. For each partner, please confirm agreement of that partner, contact details, proposed roles and responsibilities, and any proposed contributions (financial and in-kind).**



**Achievability: What outputs will your project achieve? How will the project be managed to achieve and measure these outputs? What are the milestones in the project?**


**Necessity for Grant Funding: Please provide relevant details outlining how your project could not go ahead without grant aid, or alternatively provide details outlining how the grant will enable you to undertake more work which your groups/organisations would otherwise not be able to afford.**


**Project Costs: Please provide the financial details requested below.**

Total project cost	(inclusive of VAT)	<input type="text"/>
Amount of funding requested	(inclusive of VAT)	<input type="text"/>

**Please show the main project costs arising in Ireland:**

Item (Please specify the expenditure item - type of materials, equipment, goods, or operational costs)	Cost in €

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**Please show the main project costs arising in Northern Ireland:**

<b>Item</b> (Please specify the expenditure item - type of materials, equipment, goods, or operational costs)	<b>Cost in €</b>

**Impacts: What are the climate and environmental benefits of your project? How will it contribute to climate and energy targets on a cross-border basis on the island of Ireland?**


**Innovation/Scalability: Does your project deal with matters common to other communities and involving solutions that can be applied elsewhere. Can your project be scaled up in your own or other communities?**




**Value for Money: How does your project represent good value for money and efficient use of resources? Outline how the project costs adequately reflect the work being undertaken.**


**Governance: What project management arrangements will be in place? Please provide details on how you will manage the project budget and other governance requirements.**


**Section 3 – State Aid Questionnaire to be completed by lead organisation**

**The Community Climate Action Programme is funded by State resources and as such the following three questions must be answered to determine whether or not funding your organisation’s proposal could constitute state aid. These questions should also be answered on behalf of the Northern Ireland partner.**

**Does the funding confer an advantage on one or more undertaking over others?**

- Yes  No

Note:

An “advantage” can take many forms: not just a grant, loan or tax break, but also use of a state asset for free or at less than market price. Essentially, it is something an undertaking could not get in the normal course of business.

An “undertaking” is any organisation engaged in economic activity. - This is about activity rather than legal form, so non-profit organisations, charities and public bodies can all be undertakings, depending on the activities they are involved in. - An undertaking can also include operators and ‘middlemen’ if they benefit from the funding

“Economic activity” means putting goods or services on a market. It is not necessary to make a profit to be engaged in economic activity: if others in the market offer the same good or service, it is an economic activity.

Support to an organisation engaged in a non-economic activity isn’t State aid, e.g. support to individuals through the social security system is not state aid.

**Does this funding distort or have the potential to distort competition?**

Yes  No

Note:

If the assistance strengthens the recipient relative to its competitors then the answer is likely to be “yes”.

The “potential to distort competition” does not have to be substantial or significant: may include relatively small amounts of financial support to firms with modest market share.

**Does the awarding of this funding have the potential to affect Trade between EU member states?**

Yes  No

Note:

The interpretation of this is broad: it is enough that a product or service is tradable between Member States, even if the recipient does not itself export to other EU Markets.

**If the answer to all three of the above questions is “yes” then granting of funding through the Community Climate Action Programme would constitute state aid. In that case, please complete the De Minimus Self Declaration to accompany your application.**

**If the answer to any of the above questions is “no” this project does not constitute state aid. Please move on section 4.**

#### Section 4 - Authorisation and Statutory Consents

Where a project will be delivered from a site/building(s)/floor space that are not in the ownership of the Local Authority, it must be in the ownership of the applicant or either party must have a minimum five years lease from date of project completion. Where this is not possible there must be a written agreement with the site owner to enable access to the site for the benefit of the community for a period of five years.

Do you have all required planning and regulatory permissions and consents and have you secured the necessary authorisations and/or rights of access to all required land, buildings and property for all associated work required for your project?

Yes  No

#### Section 5 – Declaration from lead organisation

- I declare that the information given in this form is correct.
- I confirm I have read and fully understand the Terms and Conditions of the Programme on page 1 of this form
- I confirm that I have read and fully understand any guidelines prior to completing this form.
- I confirm that this grant application is submitted in acceptance of and compliance with the Terms and Conditions.

I confirm that the applicant group/organisation does not have the funding to undertake the work/project without this grant aid or alternatively that the grant will facilitate more work which the group would otherwise be unable to afford.

- I confirm that the applicant group/organisation is tax compliant (if tax registered).
- I confirm that paid invoices / receipts will be retained for inspection by Laois County Council.
- I acknowledge that any false or misleading statement or the withholding of essential information from Laois County Council (as determined by Laois County Council) will result in cancellation of any grant approved under this scheme and could later give rise to the grant being recovered.

<b>Name in block capitals (on behalf of lead group / organisation):</b>	
<b>Signature:</b>	
<b>Position held in group / organisation (block capitals):</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	

