

## Community Climate Action Programme



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

- Theme 1: 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.

*Hit more than one theme to elevate your application.*

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.

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## Theme 1: Home/ 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.

<p>SOS Kilkenny – Building and lighting upgrades</p> <p><b>Background:</b> 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><b>Project:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Impact:</b> 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><b>Learn more:</b> <a href="#">SOS Kilkenny - Heating and Lighting Upgrade SOS Kilkenny - South East Energy Agency</a></p>	<p>Cappoquin Community Centre – Building Upgrades</p> <p><b>Background:</b> Cappoquin Community Centre is a multi-purpose community centre located in Co. Waterford managed and operated by Cappoquin Community Development CLG</p> <p><b>Project:</b> 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><b>Impact:</b> There was an annual energy saving of 32,782kWh and annual savings of €4,821. The Community were happy that they were able to manage rising energy costs while also making improvements to their community building</p> <p><b>Learn more:</b> <a href="https://southeastenergy.ie/sectors/community-groups/cappoquin-community-centre/">https://southeastenergy.ie/sectors/community-groups/cappoquin-community-centre/</a></p>
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## 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.

**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/cyclinghubs/>

## Mid Sussex Electrical

**Background:** Inspired by a weekend in Amsterdam and with funding from DfT's ecargo bike grant fund, Mid Sussex Electrical purchased their own cargo bike. The bike has an interchangeable riding position making the bike accessible to the whole team. Has a maximum load of 160kg and a range of up to 100km.

**Impact:** In just 18 months the ecargo bike covered over 5000 miles.

Advantages include:

- Reduced fuel cost
- No parking fees
- Zero emission travel

This would suit a community's tidy towns group / community garden or similiar as it can carry all the tools acting as a mobile tool box and can easily replace a van.

**Learn More:**

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/case-studies-ecargo-bike-accelerator-project/case-study-mid-sussex-electrical>

## 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-firstcommunity-owned-ev-charging-point-callancommunity-energy-company/>



## Bike Repair Stations – team this with Cycle Parking Spots

**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:

- 1no. stainless steel bike pump
- 1no. adjustable wrench
- Set of hexagon wrenches/ allen keys
- 1no. crosstip screwdriver 2 x100
- 1no. flat screwdriver 5x100
- 1no. open end wrench 13/14
- 1no. open end wrench 15/17
- 2no. metal tire lever

The tools are attached to the unit via a stainless steel cord. This helps to resist vandalism and theft of the tools while being used in public.

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

\*Also harvested rain water could be used in a bike washing facility.

## Theme 3: Food and Waste

Projects of interest under this theme would reduce food waste.

### 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.

**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/>

## Cork Urban Soil Project – Community Composting

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Learn more:** [Cork Urban Soil Project](#) or [My Goodness | Cork | Facebook](#)

## 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/>

## 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**



## 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>



## 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/>

### 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](https://twitter.com/ripple_ballina?lang=en)

### 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/>

