

# Tidy Towns and Sustainable Development Goals

## Workshop

## Enhancing Your Projects using UN's SDG's



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council



## Welcome!

### Mutual Agreement:

A few ways to help things run smoothly!



- 2.5 hour session. Feel free to join if you are late
- Ask Q's whenever you like
- 15 min coffee break
- Please contribute when you can!
- Value everyone's contribution
- Don't be offended if we have to cut a discussion short to move on!



Lizet Mulder  
Vericonect

## Meet your Facilitator

### My background:

Landscape Architect and  
Environmental Educator

### I LOVE...

- ★ getting my hands and feet into the garden
- ★ discovering Irish wild places and edible plants
- ★ my new coastal community in Youghal.

## Today's Session

**2.5 hours**

**In person workshop:**

- ★ **Introductory Presentation**
- ★ **Group Discussions**
- ★ **Group Activity**

- Why approach projects with a Sustainability lens.
- The Global significance of the 17 SDGs
- How Tidy Towns goals align with SDGs.
- Most relevant SDG's for Tidy Towns Groups.
- **Connecting the dots between Tidy Towns projects corresponding SDGs.**
  - ◆ Let's **integrate** SDGs into your project.
  - ◆ Let's **make** your actions **BETTER** using the SDGs.

***Over to you...***



***Let's make a map together!***

- ***Your Name***
- ***Where do you live?***
- ***Your favorite Tidy Town project.***

**The Sustainability Lens**

# Why approach projects with a Sustainability Lens



- Sustainability puts our actions into long-term effect.
- The greater context we work in affects the basic three spheres of sustainability: Environment, Social and Economics
- Local community groups working in partnerships, experience the overlap between governance, society, business and nature.

## Sustainability Concepts



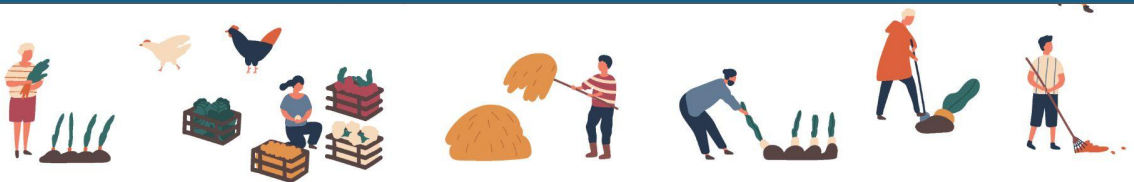


## Group Discussion

*Let's add our own 'sustainability' words to the word cloud*



**17 Sustainable Development Goals:**  
*Think Global  
Act Local*



## Art, Awareness & Action



The SDGs are a **universal call to action** to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030  
- *United Nations*

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**Tidy Towns focus on SDG's**

# Goals & Actions



## Global Significance:

- Economic Refugee crisis
- Unequal access to basic services, economic resources, exposure to shocks and disasters.

## Local Action:

- Create access to safe public spaces and services in your community
- Seek out and support the elderly & poor.
- Include the people on the margins.



Youghal Community Garden

## Global Significance:

- Poverty and hunger are linked
- Hunger is the most urgent human rights violation.
- 690 million people affected - especially rural populations, women and children ((un.org)
- Malnutrition limits physical and mental development
- Food security is threatened by climate change, degraded land, biodiversity loss and water scarcity.

## Local Action:

- Support local food producers
- Grow your own
- Care for your soil, air and water



## 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



### Global Significance:

Combat human suffering:

- undiagnosed and diagnosed diseases,
- Maternal and child mortality,
- malnutrition,
- Substance abuse,
- Road injuries,
- Environmental pollution

### Local Action:

- Support community centres as health hubs
- Care for natural public spaces such as woodlands or coastal walks.
- Take part and maintain in sport facilities

## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Nore River-Water quality

### Global Significance:

Education is essential for:

- personal development, social inclusion, cultural diversity, and democratic citizenship

Challenges:

- lack of access, low quality, high dropout rates, gender disparities, and insufficient skills for the future.

### Local Action:

- Support teachers to raise awareness of local environment and social needs.
- Adult education opportunities
- Practical skills training



### Global Significance:

*'By denying women equal rights, **we deny half the population a chance to live life at its fullest and to contribute to the development of society**.'*

Discrimination and violence against women and girls affects their:

- education, health, work, political participation, and cultural growth.

### Local Action:

- Support female- owned businesses
- Create safe and secure public spaces
- Invite all members of communities to take part in project planning and executing.

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Lismore public amenity

### Global Significance:

- Deaths from waterborne diseases
- Hygiene and nutrition in Food systems
- Impact biodiversity in ecosystems

### Local Action:

- Avoid using fertilizers, cleaning agents, insecticides and herbicides that filters into our streams.
- Install rainwater harvesting tanks for local use.
- Create greywater filtration systems to clean water on site.
- Slow down storm water runoff with Sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS)

## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



**B&N Youghal Zero Waste Fest**

### Global Significance:

- Majority of current heat and electricity sources are fossil-based.
- This emits greenhouse gases adding to global warming and air pollution.
- Air pollution from fossil fuels affect human and ecosystem health

### Local Action:

- Install energy saving measures to community buildings, such as insulation, timers and visible energy meters
- Install solar panels, biogas or wind turbines to produce energy locally and for the grid.
- Participate in public campaigns for policies to roll-out clean energy.

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



### Global Significance:

- Decent work helps reduce poverty, hunger, inequality and environmental degradation.
- Sustainable economic growth for local entrepreneurs and innovation.
- Circular economy can create meaningful local employment.

### Local Action:

- Source products and services from local suppliers
- Take part in a community garden to produce and recycle nutrients and organic materials.
- Establish a fix shed to divert fixable items from landfill, and employ local fixing skills.

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

### Global Significance:

- crucial for sustainable development and human well-being
- Create access to economic opportunities.

March 2016



September 2017



**Coastal restoration and road flooding project: Castlegregory - Co.**  
Planting Marram grass - Natural infrastructure

## 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



### Global Significance:

- Ensure dignity of ALL people
- Means toward other SDG's
- Inequality:
  - undermines social cohesion,
  - erodes trust in institutions,
  - fuel violence and conflict,
  - economic growth and environmental protection.
- Equality can:
  - enhance social mobility,
  - foster inclusion and participation

### Local Action:

- Participate in planning for refugee and immigration into towns.
- Support local business and work opportunities.

## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



### Global Significance:

- Cities are home to more than half of the global population.
- In Ireland: for every 100 people living rural, 175 people live in the city (Central statistics office: 2021)
- Cities are the economic, social and cultural hubs
- Cities rely heavily on energy and natural infrastructure for food and transport.

### Local Action:

- Support local producers.
- Promote non-motorised transport systems, like bike lanes, busses and ride share platforms.
- Create a community hub to share surplus good and services.

## 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



### Global Significance:

- We consume far beyond what our planet can provide
- We generate too much waste and pollution.
- If we continue, we will need three planets to support this way of life by 2050.

### Local Action:

- Choose re-usable and biodegradable products.
- Encourage businesses to cut supply of single-use packaging.
- Support local producers and service providers, to limit transport and pollution.
- Source and distribute surplus goods into the community:

eg: setting up a nursery for unsold plants from chain supermarkets

# 13 CLIMATE ACTION



Inishowen River Trust- bank stabilisation

## Global Significance:

- Climate change affects global and local communities
- Environmental refugees
- Resource conflicts

## Local Action:

- Map out recent impacts from weather events: flooding, fire, alien invasive species.
- **River and soil stabilisation projects using natural solutions.**
- Reduce the use of fossil fuels:
  - Work locally or remotely
  - Use shared or non-motorised transport for goods and people
  - Use appropriate heating and lightning in public spaces.

# 14



Seaweed ID & beach clean-up

## Global Significance:

- Oceans cover more than 70% of the earth
- Vital ecosystems that provide temperature regulation, food security, tourism, recreation and biodiversity
- Source of innovation for potential solutions to renewable energy, biotech and medicine.

## Local Action:

- Raise awareness in our coastal communities by organising beach clean-ups to see what pollutants are recurring
- Encourage local supermarkets and hospitality to use sustainably sourced sea products.

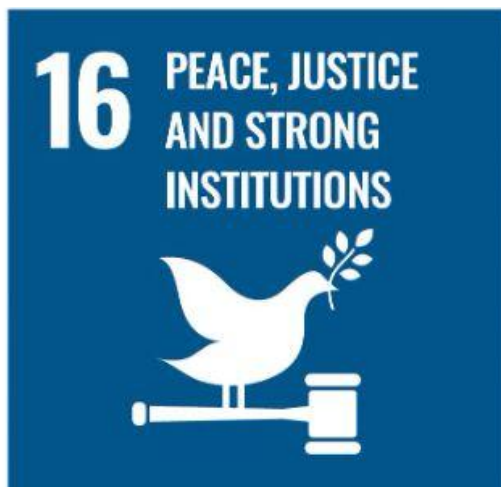


### **Global Significance:**

- Our Land ecosystems are the foundation for life on this planet
- Forests and other ecosystems regulates and provide resources for living.
- Habitat loss and degradation weakening the entire global system.

### **Local Action:**

- Manage existing forests and forestry
- Protect boglands and river edges.
- Connect natural corridors with wild planting
- Stop relying on herbicides and pesticides
- Support farmers who grow regeneratively.



### **Global Significance:**

- Core value of the UN charter since 1945 (post WWII)
- address the global drivers of conflict, violence and injustice
- Aim to create a world for dignity and accountable governance.

### **Local Action:**

- Cultivate a transparent structure in community groups
- Hold local government and law enforcement accountable.
- Build a supportive network of individuals and community groups.

# 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



## Global Significance:

- The 2030 Agenda is ambitious and require collective action by by local and global communities.
- We need to build mutual respect, trust and accountability.

## Local Action:

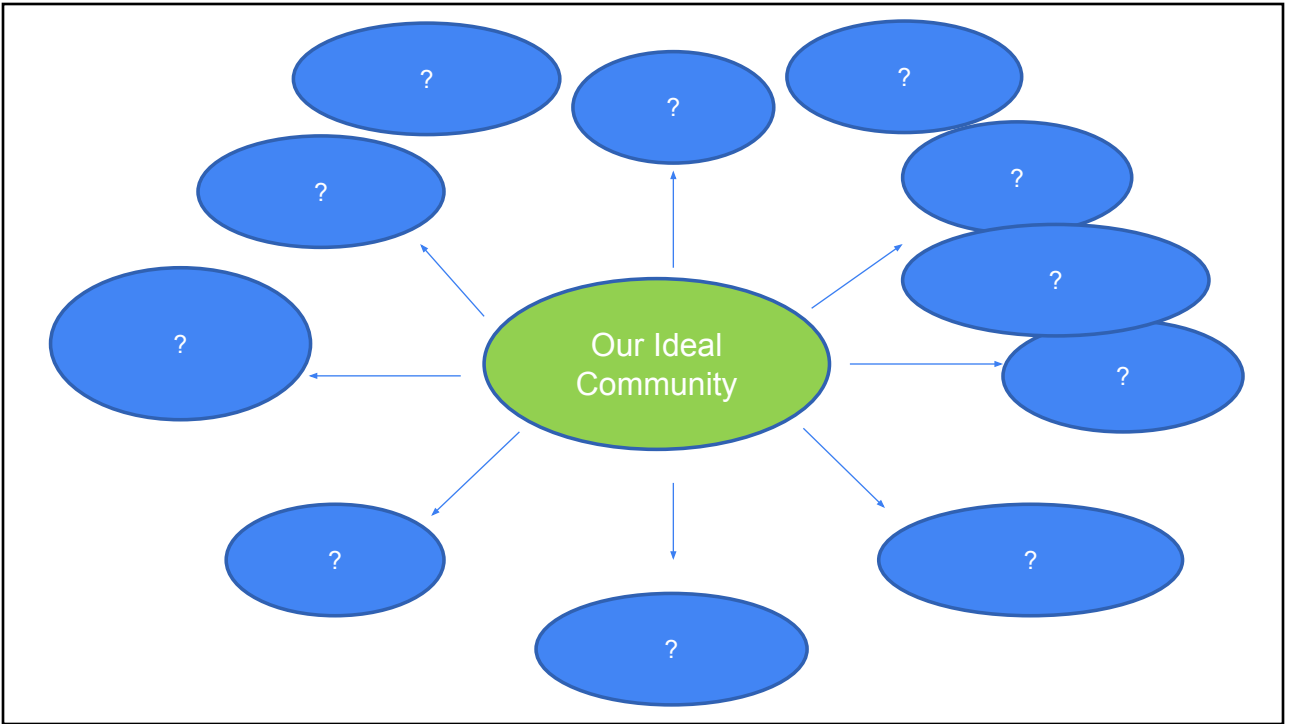
- Work together with diverse stakeholders to share knowledge and channel resources.
- Create events to share learnings and celebrate successful Tidy Towns projects.

# Over to you...











***Imagine***  
*What do you want your  
community to be like in 20  
years?*







## Tidy Towns Competition: Going Forward

| Tidy Towns Competition Categories          | 17  | 11  | 14  | 13  | 12  | 6   | 9   | 7   | 3   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | <br>PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS<br>Partnerships for the goals | <br>SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES<br>Sustainable cities & communities | <br>LIFE BELOW WATER<br>Life Below Water | <br>CLIMATE ACTION<br>Climate Action | <br>RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION<br>Responsible Consumption & Production | <br>CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION<br>Clean Water & Sanitation | <br>INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE<br>Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure | <br>AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY<br>Affordable & Clean Energy | <br>GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING<br>Good Health & Well-being |
| Community Planning & Participation         | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Streetscape and public place               | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  |   |   |   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Green space and landscaping                | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  |   |   |   |   |
| Nature and Biodiversity in locality        | <input type="checkbox"/>  |   | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  |   | <input type="checkbox"/>  |   |   |   |
| Sustainability - Doing more with Less      | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  |   |
| Tidiness                                   | <input type="checkbox"/>  |   |   |   | <input type="checkbox"/>  |   |   |   |   |
| Residential streets & Housing developments | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Approach roads, streets & lanes            | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/>  |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |

**Connecting the Dots...**  
**Tidy Towns projects can make**  
**SDG's real!**

# Tidy Towns Goals

Communities **care and improve** their local environment.

## Successful start:

- Work toward a **yearly goal**.
- Nature of the competition is to bring a **friendly rivalry** between towns- **Raise the bar**
- **Participation** above competition.

# Tidy Towns ethos:

## Foster love of place

- Build community through **voluntary action**.
- Work ethic: plan systematic actions, **do things properly together**.
- **Proper maintenance** of shared amenities both natural and built environment



## Let's get our ideas on Paper...

### What can YOU do?



- Don't get overwhelmed!
- If everyone (and every group) in the world took one action today to improve our planet, the world would be a much better place to live in tomorrow
- Once the momentum is going by doing your best, significant changes will happen
- Let's look at some simple ways to help the planet

# Doing Your Part



- As custodians of the land, it is our duty to leave it better for the forthcoming generations.
- Support groups and organisations that fight for clean air, water and soil.
- Taking part in or organising your own clean-ups is incredibly rewarding
- After all, fulfilment comes from helping others.





# Questions?

We appreciate  
your Feedback

<https://evaluation.veri.ie/submit/1477>

