



Gaway County Council

CLIMATE ACTION

GNÍOMHÚ AR SON NA HAERÁIDE

Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

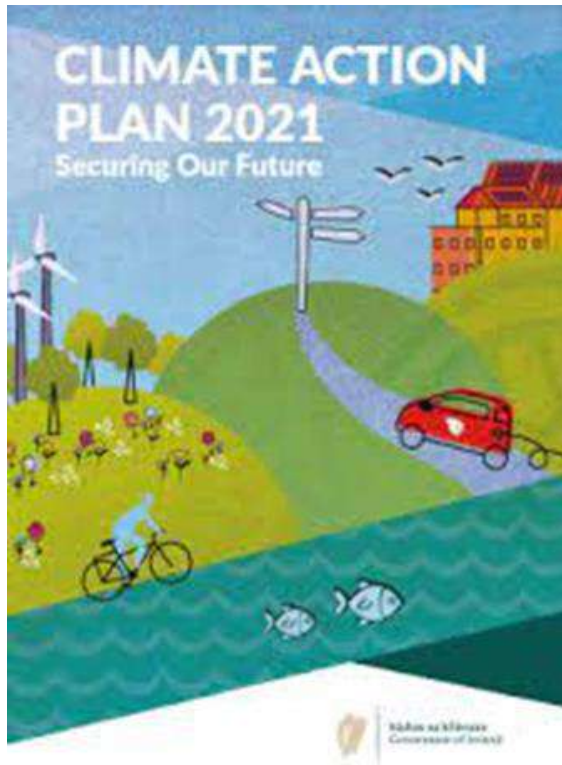
Community Climate Action Programme

Supporting Galway to build
low carbon communities

Denise Feeney

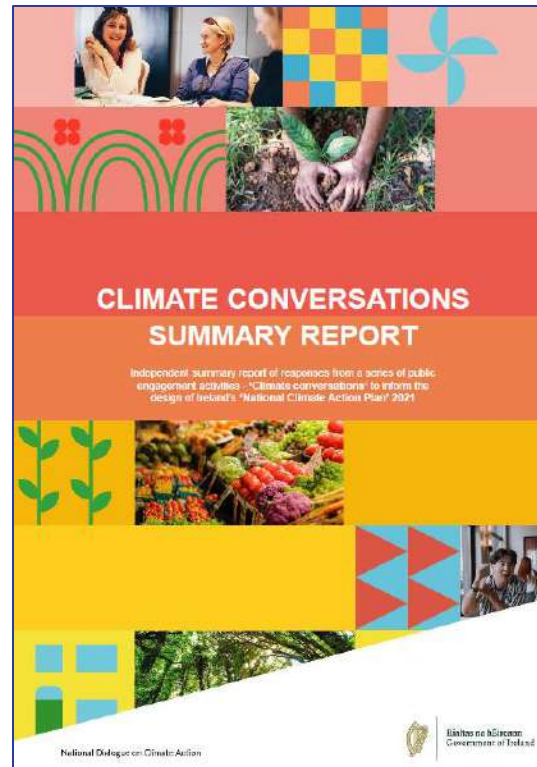
Community Climate Action Officer
Galway County Council

Background to Community Climate Action Programme



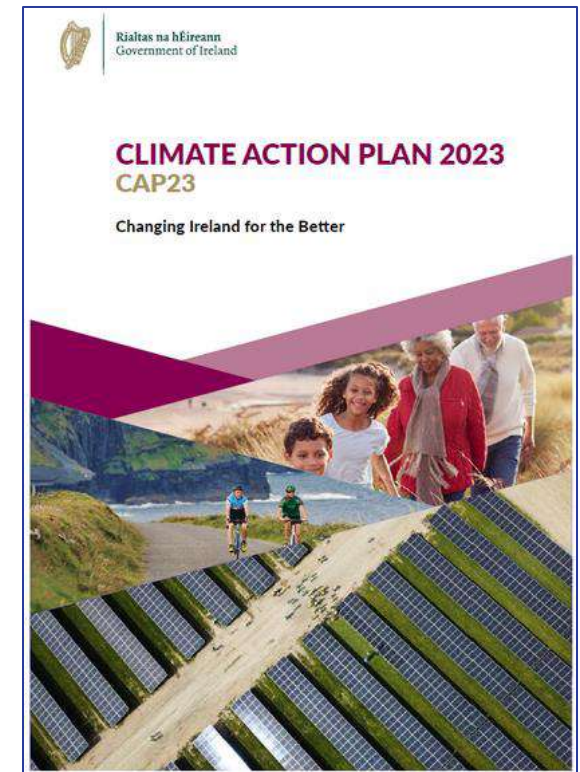
Climate Action & Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021

- 51% overall reduction by 2030
- Climate neutral by 2050



Climate Conversations

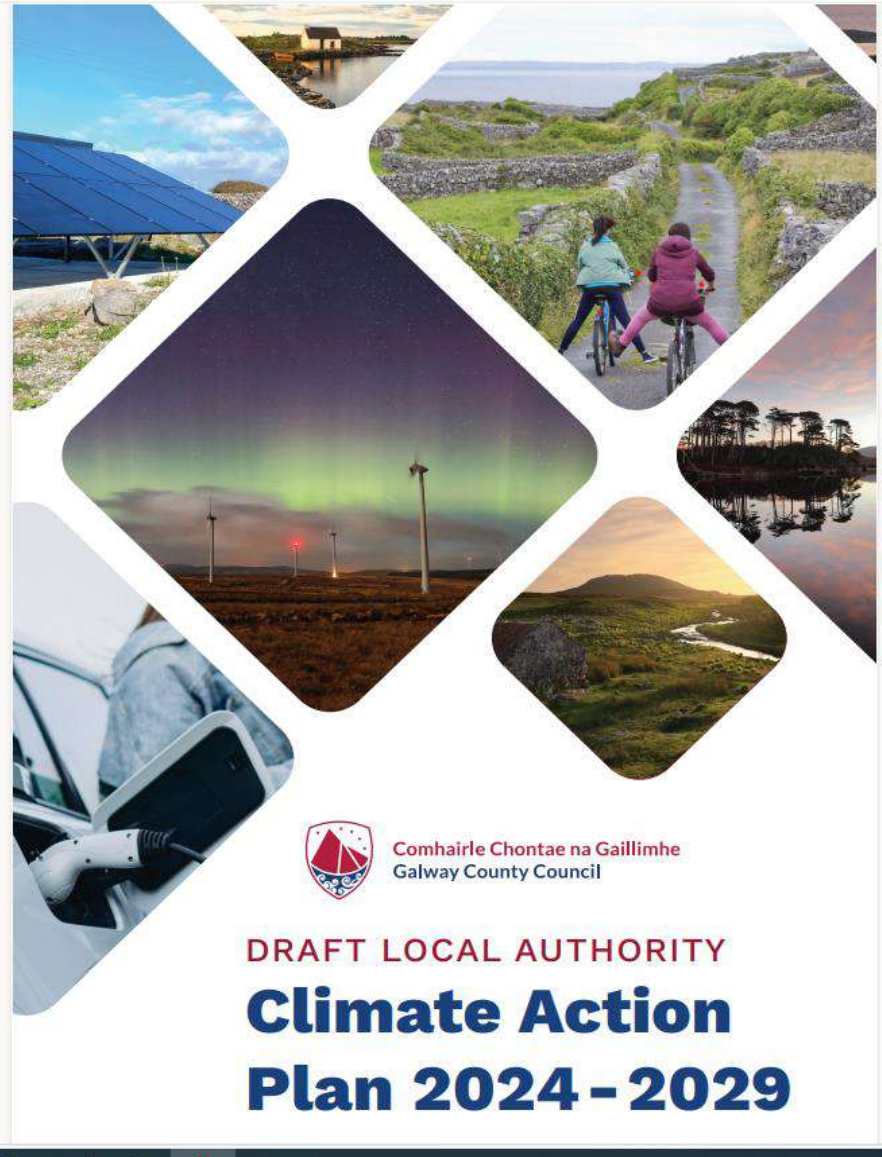
- Government engagement with citizens
1. Citizens want to take climate action
 2. Citizens need support to take action



Climate Action Plan 2023

- roadmap for action
- climate solutions at the centre of development

Galway Co Co DRAFT Climate Action Plan 2024-2029



Agenda



Gaway County Council

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Chomhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe

- Overview of the Climate Action Fund
- Who can apply
- Types of Funding available
- Eligible & Ineligible projects
- Explain the Application, evaluation and selection process
- Timeline

Overview of Community Climate Action Programme

Strand 1

Building Low Carbon Communities -
€24m nationally

Galway County €726,000

**“...to support and
empower communities,
in partnership with their
LA, to build low carbon,
sustainable
communities...”**

Strand 2 – closed

Climate Education, Capacity
Building and Learning by
Doing - €5m (An Pobal)

Creative Climate Action - €1m
(Creative Ireland Programme)

Strand 1a

○ Shared Island
Community Climate Action - €3m



What is the Community Climate Action Fund?

- 100% project funding (vouched expenditure, 25% upfront funding)
- Funding for Direct Climate Action projects – Capital projects
- Application is an Online application accessed through GCC's website
- Projects must be completed within 18 months from letter of offer
- Projects are in line with Galway County Council's Climate Action Plan
- **Opening date** December 6th 2023
- **Closing date** February 29th 2024



Eligible projects are those which are achieving direct climate actions through;

- Reducing greenhouse gases,
- Increasing production or use of renewable energy,
- Improving energy efficiency or climate resilience,
- Nature based projects enhancing biodiversity,
- Supporting the low carbon economy,
- Providing innovative solutions to climate change.

Project Sizes

Small Scale Projects	Medium Scale Projects	Large Scale Projects
<p>Projects Valued at less than €20,000</p> <p>10% of projects funded will in this bracket</p>	<p>Projects Valued in the range of €20,000 to €50,000</p> <p>40% of projects funded will in this bracket</p>	<p>Projects Valued in the range of €51,000 to €100,000</p> <p>50% of projects funded will in this bracket</p>

- Quarterly reimbursements upon meeting agreed milestones
- Project selection numbers is only an estimate and the final selection may vary

Who can apply?

Community Organisation Eligibility:

- Must be a **not-for-profit** organisation
- Must be located in the operational area of the Galway County Council Local Authority
- **Must be registered** with a PPN or connected with other collectives such as the Wheel, Tidy Towns and /or a community group with Articles of Association or a Constitution, which hold an AGM, and for which approved minutes are available.
- Only one application per organisation may be submitted
- Costs submitted are for the sole purpose of implementing the project itself

Who cannot apply?

- Private individuals
- Commercial undertakings (including sole traders)
- Schools
- National community and environmental organisations

Ineligible Costs include;

- Audits and feasibility studies costs
- Staffing and Training costs
- Operational Costs such as Travel, banking, legal costs

Project Themes



Ideally projects would involve more than one theme but this is not a requirement

Theme 1: Community/energy

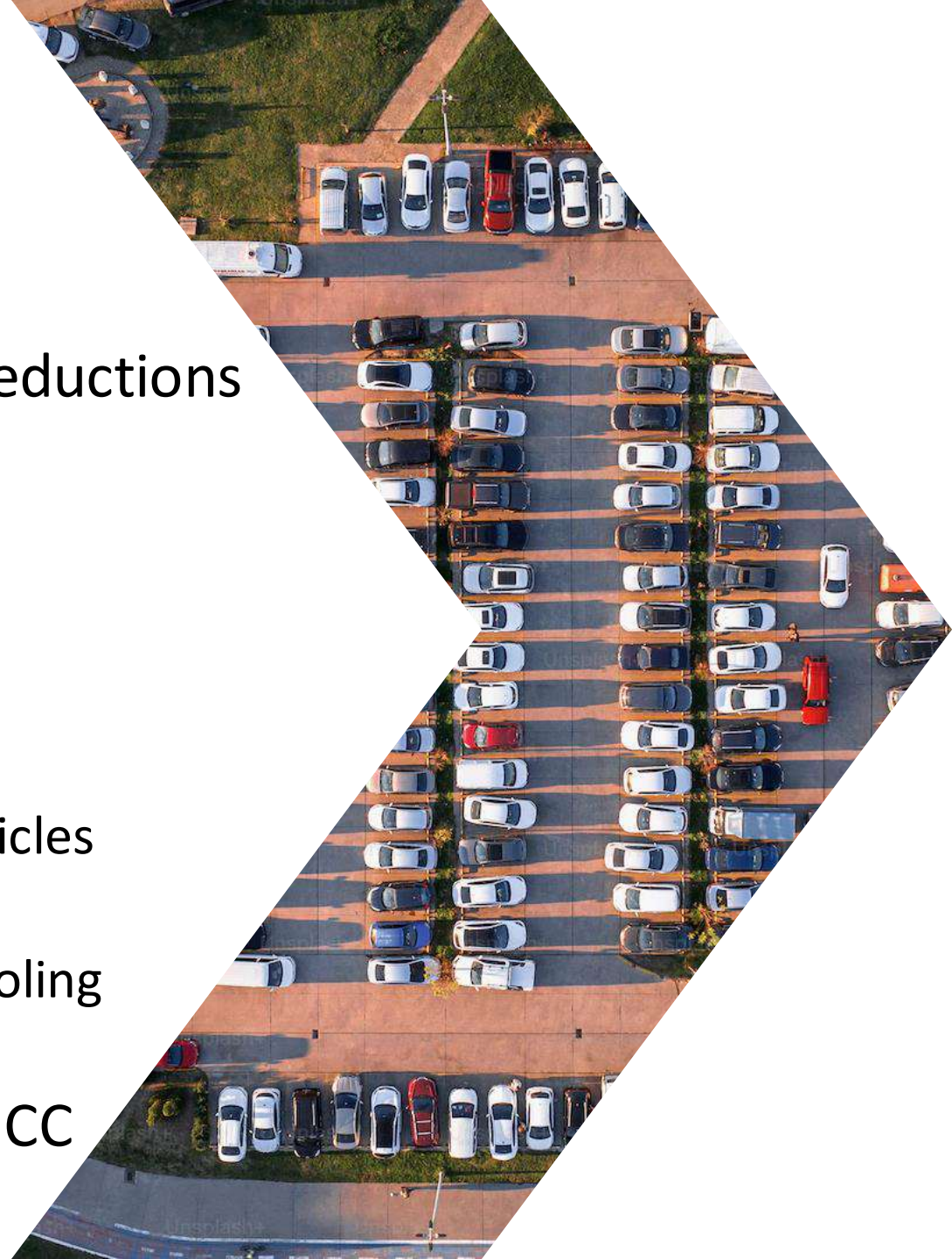
These projects aim to reduce the climate impact of buildings in communities by using less energy, utilising renewable energy and avoiding heat loss.

- This can include
 - Small community renewable energy projects (solar, hydro, wind)
 - Retrofitting community buildings – energy Audit to identify order of priority for works
 - LED community lighting
 - Rainwater harvesting



Theme 2: Travel

- Projects which contribute to emissions reductions related to travel
- This can include
 - Reductions in carbon footprint in services
 - Improving access to cycle ways
 - Cycle parking
 - facilitate the use of Community Electric vehicles
 - Safe and active travel routes to schools
 - Specific carparking at GAA Clubs for cars pooling
 - Sustainable car parking spaces
- Link in with The Active Travel Teams in GCC



Theme 3: Food and Waste

- Projects that reduce food waste

Including;

- Developing community gardens to promote local food production
- Allotments
- Food markets
- Community composting facilities
- Community supported farming
 - local business food pledges
- Community fridges
 - reduce GHG and redistribute food



Theme 4: Shopping and Recycling

Projects that increase the variety and number of recycling facilities in the local community and initiatives aimed at reducing, reusing and recycling & upcycling

Projects include;

- Increase the variety and number of recycling facilities in the local community
- Initiatives aimed at reducing
- Reusing and recycling
- Community repair hubs
- Swap shops e.g Toy/Equipment reuse
- Sports Reusable Kits, books/musical instruments Library
- Single use plastics elimination in Communities
- Water filling stations



Theme 5: Local Climate & Environmental Action

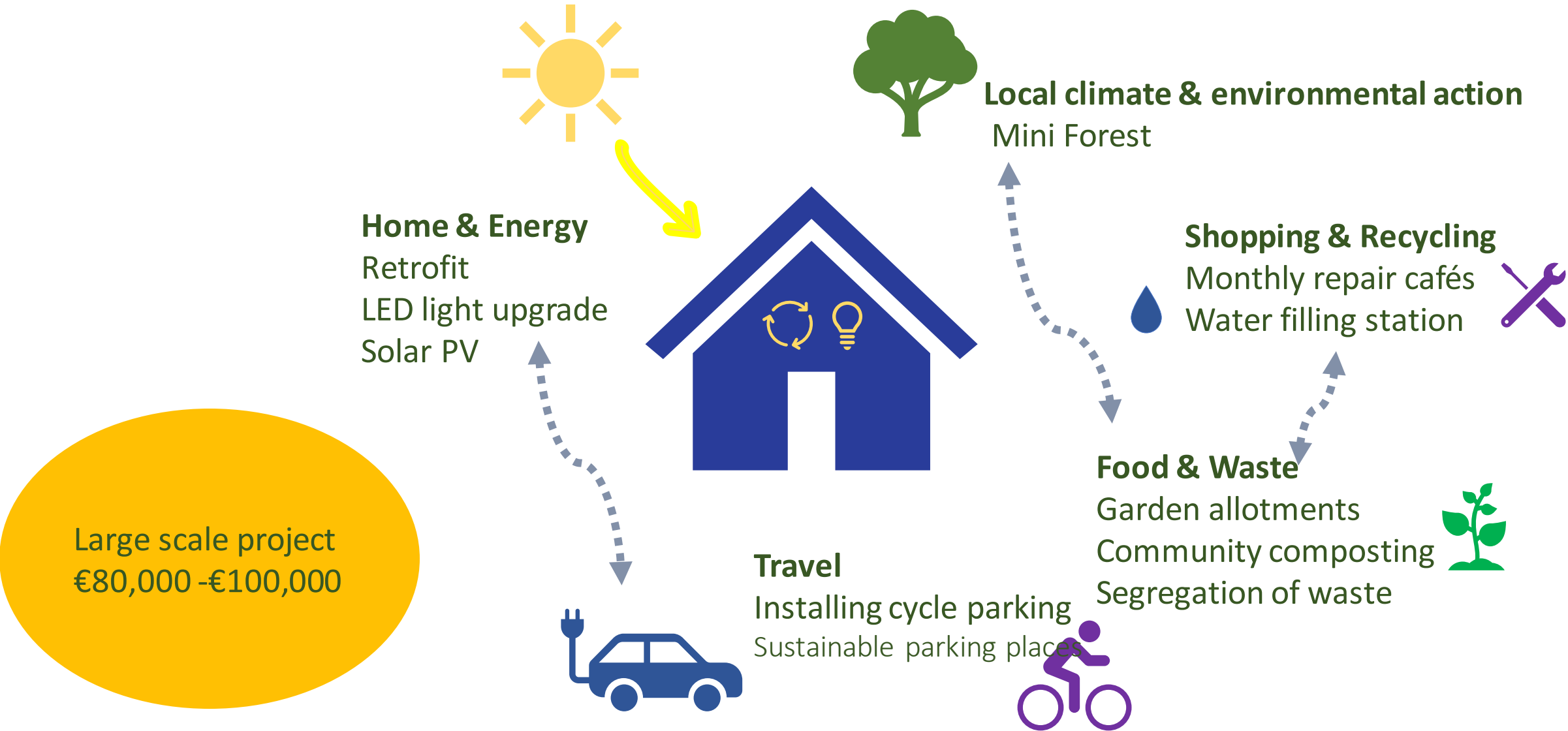
- We are interested in projects that take a holistic approach to managing the local environment, including in relation to climate action

This can include for example

- Mini forests
- Forest schools
- Dispersed orchards
- Community/Roof/Rain gardens
- Pollinator projects
- Energy gardens
- Climate resilience projects



Example: Community group building and grounds



Preparing your Application

Preparation:

What do you want to do?

Why is your project needed?

What are the funding programme's objectives & selection criteria – representation of more than 1 theme in a project will elevate your application

Clarify if the project requires planning permission

Check ownership of premises, initiate organising a lease? (Min 5 years)

Get 3 quotes for the work (under €3k 2 quotes are acceptable)

Consider if the group might require bridging finance

Ask questions to experts in the area of your project eg Biodiversity Officer, Energy Officer, Active Travel Team, Climate Action Team, Area Engineer

Costs:

Understand what is eligible

Prepare a realistic and accurate budget (5%-10% contingency monies)

Follow quote guidelines

Completing your form:

- Register on the GCC's Submit online Portal
- Save your application as you go, and submit when completed
- Be clear, descriptive, Provide supporting information

Amount	Quotes Required	How
<€3,000	2	Via Online application
€3,000 - €50,000 (Goods/Services)	3	Via online application
€50,000 to €100,000 (Works/ Works Related Services)	3 on application If approved, e-tenders will be required	Via online application.

How will projects be evaluated, selected and approved?

1. Evaluation:

All applications will be reviewed and assessed by an independent evaluation committee against the evaluation criteria to determine that the project is suitable for funding. In order to be considered for funding, the project needs to achieve at least 50% and meet the minimum requirements

2. Selection:

Following evaluation, it will then decide the final selection of projects taking account of:

- The desirability to fund a variety of different projects and across multiple themes
- The geographical distribution of projects
- The contribution of the projects to the climate action objectives of GCC

3. Approval:

The Minister of the Environment, Climate and Communications will decide what projects are approved and any specific conditions of funding.

Selection Criterion for Strand 1	Weighting	Min. Required
Relevance and Impact	30%	15%
Innovation and Scalability	20%	10%
Value for Money	20%	10%
Achievability	10%	5%
Partnership Approach	10%	5%
Governance Agreements	10%	5%
	100%	50%

Application form

- Can leverage with other funding sources, provided its not duplicate funding. e.g. SEAI, LEADER, An Pobal, Tidy Towns, Town and Village Enhancement etc.
- Funding only available for costs incurred after project selection
- Outline how the project is relevant to the purpose of the grant and what are the outputs of your project

What are the climate and environmental benefits of your project?

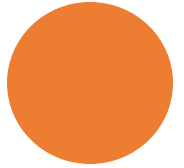
How will it contribute to Ireland's climate and energy targets?

How will it help built a low carbon community & protect your community?

- How many of the five programme themes will your project address?

Address as many themes as possible

How and with whom will your address them i.e who can your group partner with in the community to address the themes? (partnership approach)



Approximate timeline

2024

December

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

Sept

Application Window
plan, cost, complete
& submit Application
form

**Evaluation &
selection by
GCC Evaluation
committee**

Evaluation by DECC

18 months completion

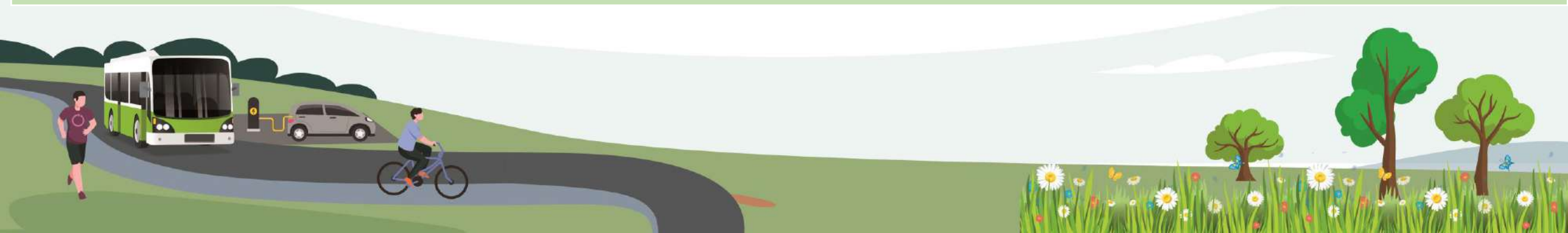
Letter of Offer if successful



Climate Action Fund for Communities Information Sessions

Free 1 day workshop, Claregalway Hotel, January 13th 2024, 10am-4pm
Link to register; www.galway.ie & on email from PPN

on the Climate Action Fund Themes with Denise Feeney, Community Climate Action Officer and Aoife Munn, Environment Consultant and Horticulturist





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Jargon buster

- Climate neutral

can buy verified carbon credits to offset emissions

- Low Carbon

based on energy sources that produce low levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

- Climate resilient

society low-carbon and

equipped to deal with the realities of a warmer world

- Net zero is Carbon neutral

replacing greenhouse gas intensive activities with others **and**

keeping a balance between any leftover greenhouse gas emissions and adsorption