



Keep Recycling Local

Nicola Carruthers - Spokesperson

Who We Are

Keep Recycling Local is a campaign established by businesses and other organisations



Our Aim

- To see positive changes in the way recyclables are collected
- Ensure recyclable materials collected in Northern Ireland are reprocessed in Northern Ireland

Why?

- Aids Northern Ireland's circular economy - local businesses & jobs
- Benefits the environment

How?

- Separate our recycling materials before collections
 - avoids contamination
 - maximises reprocessing within Northern Ireland



The Problem

- Co-mingled recycling collections – majority of NI councils
- This means that, each year in Northern Ireland -
 - We export over 91,000 tonnes of recyclables around the globe
 - Local companies have to import “clean” recyclables
- Massive cost to business, NI economy & the environment



Recycling locally generates over

£100m

for the NI economy



DAERA - “Rethinking our Resources”

- Launched 7th March; closes 27th June
- Links with draft DfE’s Circular Economy Strategy
- Waste hierarchy –
 - Avoid waste → Refurbish/mend → Recycle/compost
 - Waste to energy → Landfill/non energy incineration
- Strong correlation between good recycling and restricted residual capacity
- **PROPOSALS** –
 - Separate glass / paper & card / plastic & metal / food / garden
 - Plastic film by 2026/7
 - Non household waste included
 - The same system across all Northern Ireland
- Central public information and education campaign (as in Wales) -
 - Easier and possible with a single system

If We Keep Key Recyclables Separate

- Over 80% of our recyclable materials could be recycled locally vs the 10% currently being recycled locally from co-mingled collections
- Local councils could save £millions per year
- Significantly support local businesses and provide secure jobs
- Lower carbon emissions
- Stop the global export of poorly sorted recyclables

Virtually **none of the glass collected in co-mingled bins is recycled locally**



Keep Recycling Local

We want to be part of the solution, not the problem

For further details please visit: keeprecyclinglocal.com

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JUST TRANSITION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

NATALIE MERRICK

MSC INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY, QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

RESEARCH PROJECT:

PERSPECTIVES TOWARDS A JUST TRANSITION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

1. How is the concept of a just transition understood?

2. What are the challenges and opportunities of a just transition in Northern Ireland?

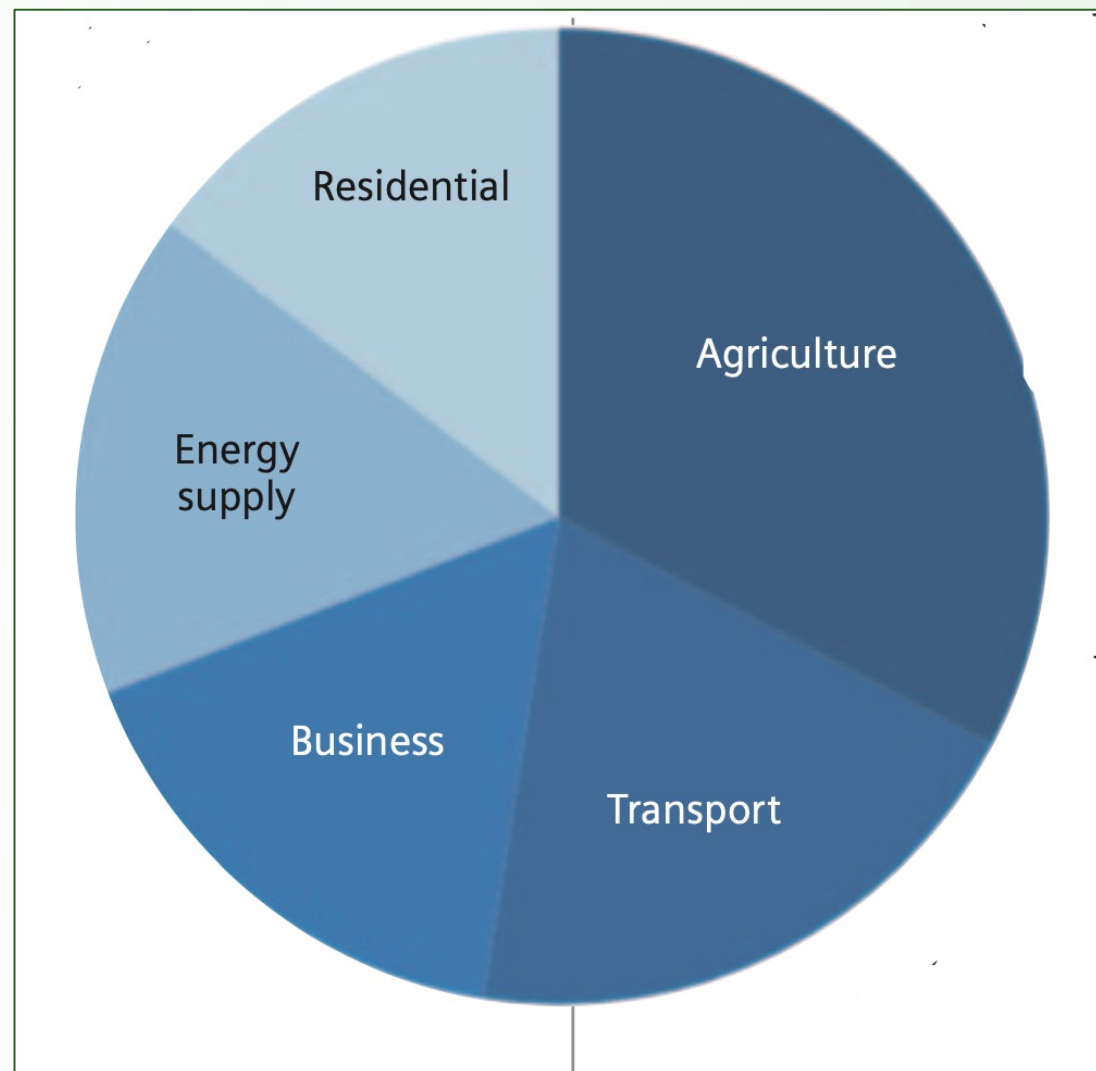
- Undertook 13 interviews across representative groups, Just Transition policy in the Scottish Government and Policy Advisor to the Irish government
- Produced a draft Terms of Reference for the setting up of the Just Transition Commission

**This research was conducted for DAERA*

The **Climate Change Act Northern Ireland (2022)** states that the Just Transition Commission is a body which is set up to oversee the just transition elements of the act and must provide (but is not limited to) **representatives from 7 named groups** to be in the Commission:

- Agricultural sector
- Fisheries sector
- Academia
- Trade Unions
- Youth groups
- Civic society
- Environmental groups

NORTHERN IRELAND CONTEXT



Northern Ireland's Net Greenhouse gas emissions 2021

Just Transition Principle implications: -

- Rural – urban differences can reproduce inequality
- Agricultural emissions account for 27.6% of Northern Ireland's emissions; inequality within food system
- Eliminating gender inequality and advancing equality of opportunity between men and women
- High levels of fuel poverty

'Also unique in Europe most people heat their homes using oil...you don't get that in Britain and the Republic of Ireland and so there is going to be a major challenge. Particularly because we have high levels of people on low income and benefits and again that's meaning why they're in fuel poverty'

PERSPECTIVES OF THE JUST TRANSITION

Process

'A just transition is the need to involve people who don't necessarily know that they need to be involved or they don't have the capacity to be involved...a proper cross-section of people. It shouldn't be all white men of a certain age'

'Capital, big business and big farming interests have all the power and the influence currently and workers, small farmers, consumers, communities have very little of the power or the influence as things stand.

But these types of social dialogue treat these interests as if they're on an equal footing and that their perspectives on these issues are just as legitimate'

- **Justice within the process of transition:**

- Meaningful engagement
- Democracy
- Inclusivity
- Participatory decision making

'A just transition can mean whatever you want it to mean, and that's our biggest fear...I don't think it's very possible at all and I come back to this phrase, an unjust transition because that's what it is. There is no money. There's fear, enormous fear in the sector that what we're doing isn't going to be accepted in the future and that food security isn't as high up the agenda as it should be'

Fair distribution

'It's about sharing the burden of adjusting in a way that doesn't increase inequality and given that society is unequal to start with, that it doesn't make it worse'

'There are big implications for livestock farming and so I think it's really key on how the management of that sector is done. Just transition fund for agriculture within the Climate Act...that could be something that's really useful if there's proper investment put into it and it's not just something that people buy kit with'

*'You know it's who owns the biggest landmass here clearly has a bigger stake in this...'*Farmers in Northern Ireland own 70% of the land here and so climate change is going to affect our businesses more so than anybody else's...if you take, for instance transport or renewable energy they're passionate topics but they're not a way of life, whereas farming is a way of life and it's something that have passed down from generations so farmers are going to have to be listened to if you like the most'

- **How groups benefit or are disadvantaged:**

- Rights
- Resources
- Impact of policies
- Employment transitions
- Distribution of environmental hazards

CHALLENGES

Political
commitment
and
institutions

- Challenge of power-sharing
- Greater sense of political urgency required- cycles of legislation or conferences

Lack of
engagement

- There is currently not a clear vision to define the transition
- There needs to be engagement with the agriculture sector to address fear and sensitivity in the sector

'There's a communication challenge isn't there generally about climate change and a just transition. People might not necessarily be interested in net zero, but they would be interested in fuel-efficient, cheaper, more comfortable homes. They can be linked but they're not obviously linked in the minds of people who have maybe got most to gain by a positive change'

OPPORTUNITIES

Education and accountability

- Could be public facing and accessible in terms of public understanding
- Importance from an accountability perspective for this to be a trustworthy process

Engagement

- Engagement on climate change across the island of Ireland as 'one biogeographical unit' (Climate Change Act Northern Ireland, 2022) and the rest of the UK

'Agri-food land sector is the biggest in Northern Ireland but it's even bigger in the Republic of Ireland. So, what's the lessons we can learn?...if there's a solution how we are going to communicate that north of the border...transportation can be decarbonised on an all-island basis. Our electricity system is already integrated'

Community-led development for climate justice

Kieran Harrahill

Senior researcher in climate justice

TASC Think-tank for Action on Social Change

The People's
Transition

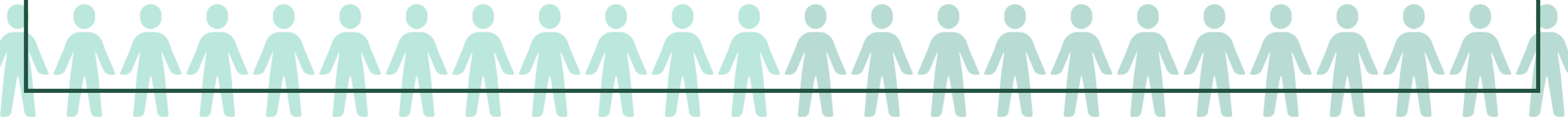
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Supported by



For climate action to be **fast**, it must be **fair**.
For it to be **enduring**, it must be **inclusive**.

The People's Transition is working with
**communities across Ireland to support
community development for climate justice.**



THE PEOPLE'S TRANSITION PHASES

1. MAPPING: demographics analysis, landscape and stakeholder mapping

- Identifying underrepresented groups
- A map of community actors, anchor institutions and resources

2. LISTENING: community activation

- Collaborating with a local anchor institution or development organisation:
 1. Identification of needs and priorities
 2. Action research
 - Focus groups
 - Key interviews with hard to reach groups
 - Assembly style gatherings
 3. Community survey

3. SOLUTIONS

- Distillation of needs, priorities and strengths
- Inputs distilled to identify potential climate solutions that meet a development priority or need
- Work with experts to develop, design and cost identified solutions
- Community deliberates on the identified solutions and decides which solution to take forward
- Alongside LDCs and steering committees, TASC continues to support the community

1754 PEOPLE ENGAGED

INDIRECT PROJECTS

Border Transition 157

Ballyhoura 603

ENGAGEMENT PHASE

Larchville-Lisduggan 75

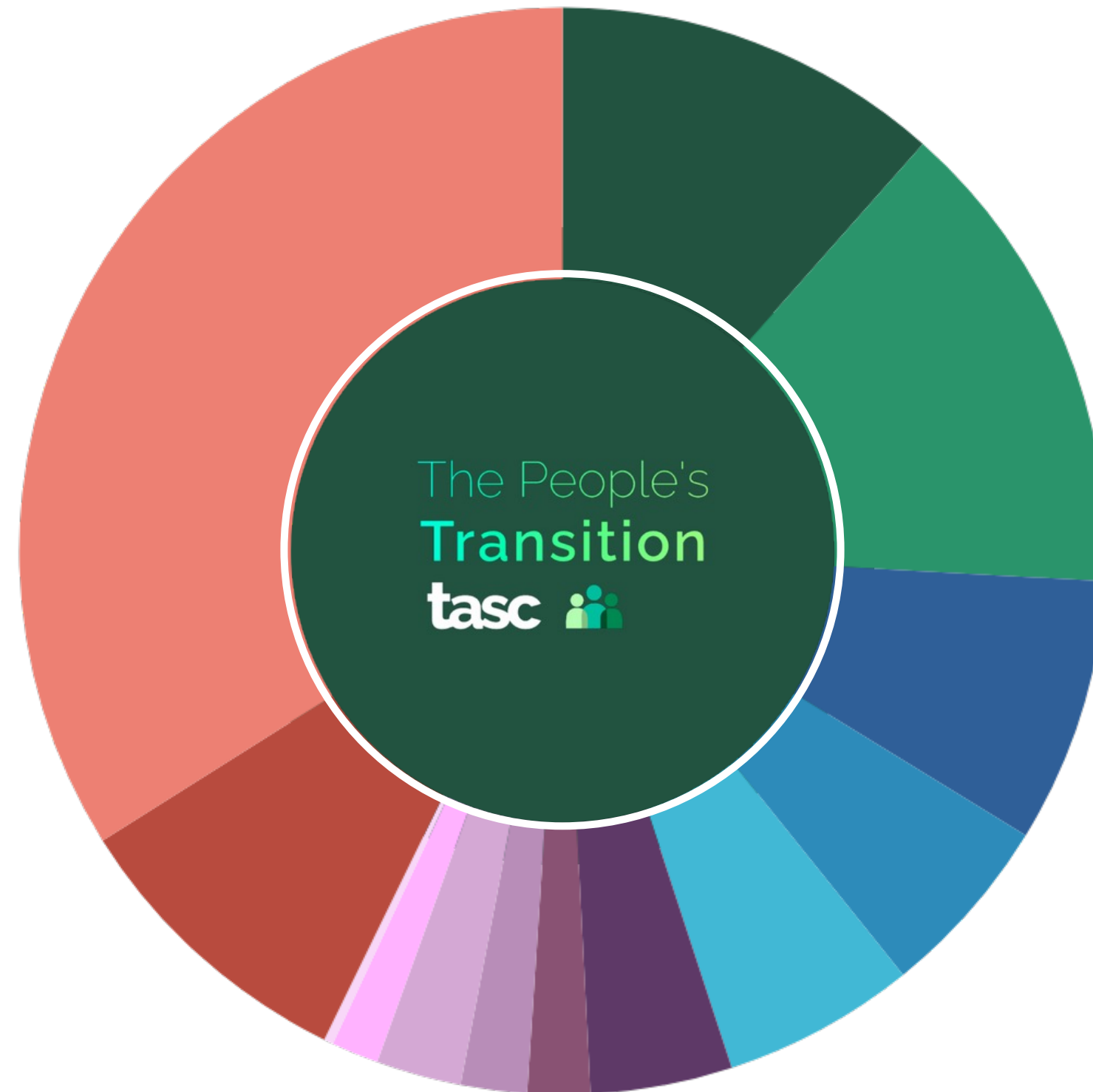
Crumlin 33

Ballymacarrett 35

Ballylongford-Asdee-Beal 45

Trim 25

Kilcormac 5



PILOT

Ardara 205

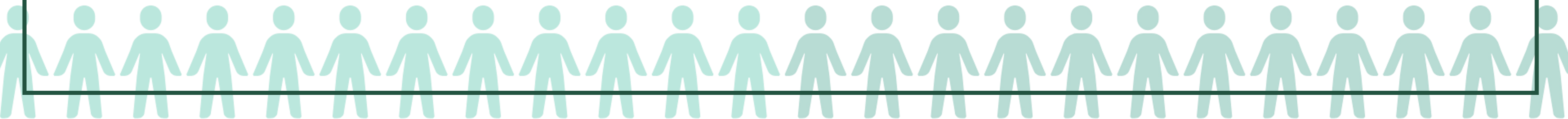
Phibsborough 255

COMPLETED

Enniscorthy 140

Mountbellew 97

Roscommon 102



IMPACTS OF THE PEOPLE'S TRANSITION



Phibsborough



- Issue:** Community engagement in the People's Transition for Phibsborough identified challenges relating to a lack of employment opportunities for sections of the community alongside challenges relating to car dependence and energy efficiency.
- TASC's role:** The People's Transition for Phibsborough led to the creation of a head of climate justice and sustainability role within Bohemian FC, an anchor institution in the community.
- Impact: Creation of the Spark – led by Bohemian Climate Co-operative:** Funding secured for the creation of a self-sustaining climate cooperative to reduce local emissions and build local adaptive capacity in the community.
- Funders:** Community Climate Action Fund (DECC).
- Partners:** Bohemian Foundation, Connecting Cabra, Cosybatter, FAI, Grangegorman Development Agency, Mountjoy Prison, Neighbourhood Network, Phibsborough Village Climate Club, Rothar, Stoneybatter Pride of Place and Technological University of Dublin

IMPACTS OF THE PEOPLE'S TRANSITION



Enniscorthy



•**Issue:** Community engagement in the People's Transition identified the lack of public transport options in Enniscorthy and impacts this has on community members' access to services and businesses. Older members of the community and people with disabilities were identified as particularly impacted.

•**TASC's role:** TASC engaged with leading researchers in sustainable mobility and urban geography to work on a research proposal where Enniscorthy would be a pilot location for identifying community-led sustainable transport solutions.

•**Impact:** **€250,000 secured for the CONUNDRUM Project:** Over 18 months, researchers will work with community members to co-create shared and sustainable mobility solutions for Enniscorthy. There is also the potential for a further 2 years in funding to put solutions into practice.

•**Funders:** Science Foundation Ireland's Sustainable Communities Challenge.

•**Partners:** University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



PEOPLE'S TRANSITION IN NORTHERN IRELAND



Following on from the two AIB-funded People's Transition pilots, the **Irish Central Border Area Network** approached TASC in 2021 to conduct a People's Transition project in the border region of Ireland.

Following the completion of the project, ICBAN and TASC have applied for **PEACEPLUS funding** to support the development of the community-led district heating climate solution. We await the results of that grant.

Project funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

PEOPLE'S TRANSITION IN NORTHERN IRELAND



East Belfast

MAPPING

- Centres on the Titanic DEA and consists of 6 superdata zones.
- Amenities include The Oval, SSE Arena and Harland and Wolff.
- Mixed demographics in terms of religion/nationality.
- 33% of people had no qualifications.
- 46% of occupants are social renting.

ENGAGEMENT

What people like

- 'Community, history, heritage' – strong connection to the industrial heritage of the area'.

Challenges

- Cost of living
- Educational underachievement
- Understanding identity
- Amenities, supports and services
- Impacts of climate change

POSSIBLE SOLUTION

'Energy efficiency across the divide' – potential for climate action to help peace and relationship building by bringing communities together to address shared challenge – short-term of energy prices and long term of adapting to climate change

Northern Ireland Electricity as a possible partner alongside NGOs focusing on cost-of-living.



APPENDICES: GROUPS ENGAGED

Community groups / representative bodies

Brill Family Resource Centre

Glentoran Social Partnership

Members of East Belfast
Community
Development Association

Members of Kilcormac
Development Agency

Members of the Irish Beef and
Lamb Association

Members of the Irish Farmers
Association

Larchville and Lisduggan
Residents Association

Young People

Macra members

People completing further
education course in Enniscorthy
Community College

Transition year students in
Enniscorthy Community College

Manor St John – youth service

Transition year students in Holy
Rosary College, Mountbellew

Secondary school students from
Mount Sion CBS

Presentation Secondary School,
Waterford City

Older cohorts

Older members of the community
in the Ballymac centre, East
Belfast

Enniscorthy mens shed

Older members of the community
in the Ballymac centre, East
Belfast

Francis Court Age Action Group

Business groups

Enniscorthy chamber of
commerce

APPENDICES: GROUPS ENGAGED

Engagements with people participating in support schemes

Farmers participating in the Rural Support Scheme

People completing community employment scheme in Enniscorthy

People completing community employment scheme in Mountbellew

Minority groups

Members of Enniscorthy Roma Community

Environmentally related groups

ECO Carn

Farmers participating in the Farming Rathcrogan EIP-AGRI initiative

Members of Sustainable Enniscorthy

Members of Mountbellew SmartVillages initiative

Trim Sustainable Energy Community

3rd level institutes

South East Technological University

General groups

Community members in Ballylongford, Asdee, Beal

Larchville-Lisduggan Residents Association

Community members in Taughmaconnell

Decision-makers

Waterford County Council
Climate Action Officer

Roscommon County Council
Climate Action Officer

APPENDICES: EXTENDED MEDIA MENTIONS

<https://www.dublinlive.ie/sport/soccer/bohemians-climate-justice-officer-19666331>

<https://www.donegallive.ie/news/news/610135/ardara-to-be-part-of-a-pioneering-climate-transition-project.html>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/04/22/football/sen-mccabe-bohemians-climate-justice-officer-cmd-spt-intl/index.html>

<https://www.constructionireland.ie/construction-news/282979/cross-border-climate-initiative-under-development>

<https://www.independent.ie/regionals/wexford/enniscorthy-news/enniscorthy-selected-for-national-community-development-project/42129325.html>

<https://www.galwaydaily.com/news/mountbellew-chosen-for-peoples-transition-project/>

<https://www.agriland.ie/farming-news/roscommon-farmers-sought-to-take-part-in-climate-research/>

<https://www.shannonside.ie/news/roscommon-farmers-invited-to-partake-in-study-on-sustainable-agriculture-221391>

<https://www.radiokerry.ie/news/north-kerry-areas-chosen-for-climate-action-project-326283>

APPENDICES: EXTENDED MEDIA MENTIONS

<https://www.independent.ie/regionals/wexford/enniscorthy-news/peoples-transition-report-will-be-launched-in-enniscorthy/a233485053.html>

<https://www.goloudplayer.com/episodes/last-word-matt-cooper-aHR0cHM6Ly9jZG4ucmFkaW9jbXMubmV0L2lIZGIhLzAwNS9hcmNoaXZlZlZNDGxNiIsYXN0LXdvcnQtbWF0dCIjb29wZXIvMjlfMDZfMjAyMy5tcDM=>

<https://wexfordweekly.com/2023/06/30/electric-taxis-and-community-owned-solar-energy-proposed-in-new-report-for-enniscorthy/>

<https://techbuzzireland.com/2023/07/01/greentechhq-announces-aib-partnership/>

<https://m.independent.ie/regionals/wexford/enniscorthy-news/irelands-first-fully-passive-commercial-building-opens-in-county-wexford/a1011093777.html>

<https://www.independent.ie/regionals/wexford/enniscorthy-news/report-on-climate-action-is-launched-in-enniscorthy/a1866550263.html>

https://www.galwaydaily.com/news/community-owned-hotel-proposed-for-mountbellew/#google_vignette

<https://galwaybayfm.ie/galway-bay-fm-news-desk/report-calls-for-community-owned-hotel-to-be-established-in-mountbellew/>

<https://www.kildarenow.com/news/home/1356628/a-greenish-transition-kildare-seminar-on-dealing-with-end-of-peat-extraction-on-bogs.html>