



# JOIN THE CLIMATE CONVERSATION



Kildare PPN Climate Conversations

National Dialogue on Climate Action



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# HOPES & CONCERNS

## Hopes

*“I hope climate action brings us together as Communities”*

*“That our leaders are strong enough to make the stark system changes needed. Concern Ireland is lagging in almost every way on the climate front”*

*“Hope we come back stronger as a community after covid”*

*“I think there is need to ensure that climate policy is inclusive”*

*“That we take action beyond tokenism”*

*“Diverse ways for people to get involved”*

## Concerns

*“Concern action it won't be fast enough”*

*“Concern about the amount of litter”*

# 1) CURRENT ACTION & AMBITIONS

## Community led, climate action initiatives in Kildare working well

### Training Initiatives

Kildare Communities for Climate Action was a very successful training initiative that worked well for communities in Kildare. Out of this training, a series of Climate Action groups were established (Kildare, Kilcullen and Kilcock Communities for Climate Action), enabling, encouraging and promoting Climate Action within these communities.

### Local Food Networks

A number of successful local food networks have been set up in Kildare that allow local farmers and producers sell their produce to communities in Kildare (Farmers Markets, Open Food Network, Neighbourfood).

### Community Gardens

A number of successful community gardens have been set up in Kildare (Rathcoffey Zero Waste Garden & Kilcock Community Garden) teaching new practical skills to members of the community, while also increasing food resilience.

### Biodiversity

Tidy Towns and communities throughout Kildare are managing their greenspaces for **biodiversity**, leaving certain areas to thrive for pollinators by reducing their cuts and planting pollinator friendly plants.

### Repair Bike Scheme

The Rotary International Silliot Hill **Bike Scheme**, where old/damaged bikes that were donated, were repaired and then sent to Gambia so that schoolkids that have a journey of five km or more can get to school more easily.

### Other non-community led Initiatives working well:

- The move toward coffee shops and eateries becoming more sustainable with their practices; encouraging the use of keep cups through discounts or loyalty schemes, moving to sustainable packaging bamboo straws, compostable cups, etc.)
- Cycle Cafes (Ballymore Eustace) to encourage active travel.
- Workshops that the Kildare Library service are running educating people on sustainability and the circular economy.

## **New ideas or existing actions to further develop.**

### **Development of Circular Economy Hubs**

Establish circular economy hubs, based off the model of the Rediscovery Centre, the National Centre for the Circular Economy, where the Centre would host a number of different social enterprises and training facilities focusing on sustainability that offer practical solutions to adopting a more environmentally friendly lifestyle for example 'repair sheds' and 'upcycling hubs', where items can get repaired or upcycled for a new lease of life, diverting waste from landfill.

### **Library of Things**

Establishing a 'Library of things', based on the current library service model. The 'Library of Things' would give people the opportunity to borrow items needed only on an occasional basis instead of having to buy these products, for example specialist cooking equipment, tools, gardening items. By borrowing these items it reduces the need for material production and consumption, potentially saving massive amounts of waste from going to landfill. The mobile library could then visit smaller towns and villages

### **Climate Action Initiatives for Young People**

Further focus on Climate Action initiative with/for young people. Ensure training opportunities for young people to become more sustainable, where they are taught skills such as bike repairs, sewing to mend garments, knitting, growing your own food, upcycling etc.

Art competitions could also be used to encourage young people to embrace being waste free similar to the 'Junk Couture' initiative. This could be done in partnership with An Gaisce and be recognised as a Challenge Partner.

### **Climate Action Initiatives for all Generations**

Establish different Climate Action initiatives aimed at targeting the different generations within our communities, or a multi-generational approach where grandparents can participate with their grandchildren etc. This could involve the older generation, who lead a more sustainable zero waste lifestyle, speaking to the youth about their practices and passing on their knowledge and skills.

### **Reward System / Quality Standard Award for Sustainability**

Offer an award system or recognition for shops with zero waste sections, or to businesses and community groups that practice zero waste and sustainability throughout their work. A zero waste/sustainable quality standard award system could be set up (Bronze, Silver and Gold), where businesses/community groups get awarded a sustainable quality mark if they satisfy certain criteria. This logo could then be displayed in their premises, on their website/social media to further promote and showcase their practices.

### **Active Travel**

- Ensure there is significant parking for bicycles outside shops and cafes to encourage active travel
- Explore Car Free Days in towns and amenities

## **2) ENABLING COMMUNITY ACTION - CLIMATE ACTION FUND**

### **Recommendations for the design of the Climate Action Fund**

#### **Barriers to funding**

Barriers to funding is a huge issue for community groups. A lot of people who are applying for the funding are volunteers and the application process can be very time consuming. This process should be designed with the volunteer in mind and streamlined to make the process as quick and efficient as possible. One suggestion that was put forward was that a small administration fee would be awarded with each successful funding application.

#### **Dedicated Liaison Person**

A dedicated liaison person should be put in place to guide community groups through the application process step by step and offer their support where needed. This could also be done by offering step by step online information nights or offering online clinics where groups could log on and avail of advice/support.

### **Examples of Successful Funding Applications**

It would be useful to provide details of successful funding applications so groups would be able to learn from them and even be able to duplicate certain successful projects in their local area.

## **Recommendations for Funding Categories**

### **Food Resilience and Sustainability**

- Establishment of community allotments/ rooftop vegetable/herb gardens /school yard food gardens
- Funding toward food forests
- Carry out a review what food could be produced locally. Encourage and incentivise the production and manufacturing of local industry where possible instead of relying solely on export, for example with the case of the Irish sugar industry, encourage and incentivise the revival of the Irish sugar production through tax breaks etc.

### **Climate Action Education**

- Funding for Climate Action training/education
- Map the gap in education to plan for future needs
- Funding for free permaculture courses

### **Enterprise and Innovation**

- Funding and investment to encourage new solutions for Climate Adaptation, Mitigation and action.
- Support and fund Bioeconomy research an innovation

## 3) INFORMING NATIONAL POLICY - CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Reflecting on local concerns and ambitions, what broader suggestions do we have for the Climate Action Plan?

### **Explore Climate Action Networks Across each Local Authority**

Working off the Local Sports Partnership / Local Enterprise Model's, currently in local authorities, a similar network of Climate Action networks throughout Ireland could be set up. These local Climate Action Networks could offer advice on Climate Action, coordinate Climate Action initiatives and organise training within the County. Members of the community could work towards sustainability badges through participating in different training, projects and initiatives.

### **Restoration of Peatlands**

As the restoration of peatlands is crucial to our efforts in combatting Climate Change, enhancing biodiversity, and achieving our climate targets. Peatland rehabilitation and remediation projects should be central in the Climate Action Plan. Peatlands of Ireland should be evaluated in terms of their value and future potential climate resilience encompassing biodiversity, carbon storage and the alleviation of flooding.

### **Common Agriculture Policy**

Ensure the Common Agriculture Policy supports Palludiculture

### **Energy**

Implement the installation of Solar panels on public buildings and local authority buildings where possible to help power those individual buildings.

With the rise of electric vehicles and the current target to have 936,000 EVs on Irish roads by 2030, this needs to be supported with adequate infrastructure, ensuring that more public charging points are installed with strategies to provide sustainable electricity sources to power those vehicles. The possibility of integrating solar power with EV charging in public car parks throughout the County should be explored and implemented.

### **Biodiversity**

- Ensure the enforcement of the Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976 as amended by the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Heritage Act 2018

- Ensure that there is policy in place to support biodiversity within green spaces in housing developments and that this is encouraged with management companies.

### **Food/Agriculture**

- Offer incentives for farmers to work with nature, less intensive farming, more sustainable
- Support the planting of food forests offering grants and incentives through Teagus

### **Remove Barriers to Community Energy**

Ensure that the barriers are removed when buying in to community energy and that the process is streamlined to be made more efficient.

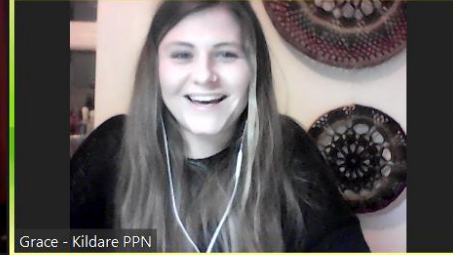




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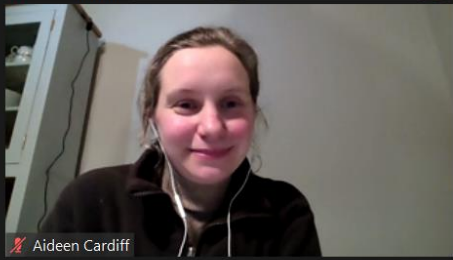
Patricia Devlin



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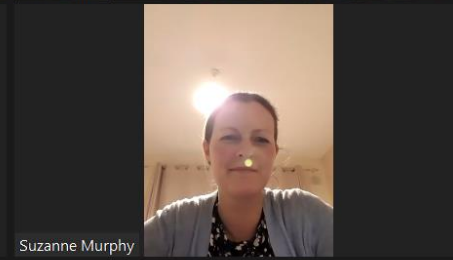
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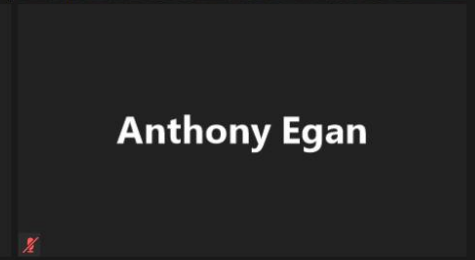
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