








Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) Strand 1 and Strand 1a, Programme Themes

Programme Theme	Description	Applicable Projects
<p>Community Energy</p>  <p>Home/Energy</p>	<p>Many Irish buildings have very low energy ratings and high running costs, mainly due to heat loss. How we heat our buildings and the heat lost account for 10% of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>How we build, heat and run our buildings can play a big part in reducing Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions. We can make our buildings more energy efficient by retrofitting them (e.g., insulation), switching off and using low energy lights/ appliances, and using smart controls.</p>	<p>Projects which reduce the climate impact of buildings in communities by using less energy, utilising renewable energy and avoiding heat loss.</p> <p>This can include small community renewable energy projects (solar, hydro, wind), retrofitting community buildings, LED community lighting or community EV charging point(s).</p>
<p>Travel</p>  <p>Travel</p>	<p>How we travel is one of the main areas where behaviour change can have a rapid and real impact on achieving our climate goals. Transport accounts for approximately 20% of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>We know that changing our means of travel is not simple, and often dictated by previous planning and housing choices, particularly in rural communities, which has led to a high car dependency. However, there are real alternatives emerging. Working from home due to COVID 19 showed the potential to drastically reduce travel related emissions in 2020.</p>	<p>Projects which contribute to emissions reductions related to travel.</p> <p>This can include reductions in carbon footprint in services, improving access to cycle ways, cycle parking, safe or active travel routes to schools.</p>
<p>Food and Waste</p>  <p>Food and Waste</p>	<p>It takes a lot of resources to put food on our tables. Growing, processing and transporting food all use large amounts of energy and materials. It is estimated that 1/3 of the food we grow is wasted and food waste accounts for 10% of global emissions. The 2021 Climate Action Plan has set a goal for the agricultural sector to reduce their climate impact in producing food and there is a national commitment to reducing food waste by 50% by 2030.</p> <p>Some changes which people are already making to reduce their climate impact include reducing the amount of food they are wasting, as well as including more plant based and lower carbon proteins in their meals. While being mindful that different circumstances such as the culture, religion, health, abilities and tastes can affect the decisions individual people can make; at a systems, community and lifestyle level there are opportunities to connect and engage people in action on food, waste and climate change.</p>	<p>Projects that reduce food waste.</p> <p>This can include developing community gardens to promote local food production, allotments, food pledges from local businesses, food markets, repair hubs or community composting facilities.</p>



<p>Shopping and Recycling</p>  <p>Shopping and Recycling</p>	<p>What we buy has a major contribution to emissions in terms of how they are made, transported, used, reused and recycled. Ireland is moving towards creating a circular economy, making products that last longer, can be repurposed, reused and eventually recycled more easily. One of our climate goals is to increase the amount of waste that is recycled and to make all packaging reusable or recyclable by 2030.</p> <p>As shoppers we have the power to influence how our products are made, and to look for sustainable options. People are changing their shopping habits by buying products that last longer or repurposing clothing or furniture. People are also planning what they will do with things when they are finished using them, recycling as much as possible, actively segregating their waste for collection and using recycling centres and services near to them.</p>	<p>Projects that increase the variety and number of recycling facilities in the local community.</p> <p>Initiatives aimed at reducing, reusing and recycling, community repair hubs, swap shops, water filling stations or single use plastics elimination in businesses in communities.</p>
<p>Local Climate and Environmental Action</p>  <p>Local Climate and Environmental Action</p>	<p>Ireland also has an abundance of natural resources, from our bogs and forests to our rivers and oceans. These natural resources need to be protected from climate change, and in return, they will help us by absorbing carbon, reducing the risk of flooding, increasing flowers and wildlife, and acting as places for us all to reconnect with nature.</p> <p>How local communities come together to take action is an important part of the Climate Action Plan, and some of the best ideas for environmental action begin in the heart of communities. Community action can take many forms from simple clean-ups to community energy schemes, to making plans to adapt to the changes already happening.</p>	<p>Projects that take a holistic approach to managing the local environment, including in relation to climate action.</p> <p>This can include for example, mini forests, forest schools, dispersed orchards, community gardens, roof gardens, pollinator projects or climate resilience projects.</p>