

Roscommon's Community Climate Action Programme Phase 2

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Overview - Community Climate Action Programme

Programme Objective

Strand 1 “Action: Building Low Carbon Communities”

This exciting programme is designed to empower communities to take meaningful climate action at local level in partnership with their Local Authority, to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in a structured way.

A total allocation of **€402,000** has been allocated by the Department of Climate Energy, and the Environment to support a wide range of community-led climate actions, regardless of a community’s **size or stage in their climate journey**.



Overview of Phase 1 - Community Climate Action Programme

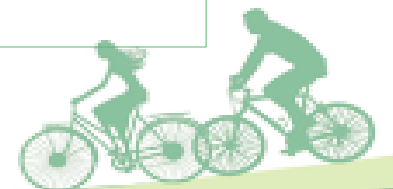
A total of **17 projects** were approved under Phase 1 of the Community Climate Action Programme with a total allocation of €402,000.

Breakdown

- 6 small scale projects (<€20,000)
- 6 medium scale projects (<€50,000)
- 3 large scale projects (<€100,000)
- 2 Strand 1A Shared Island

Examples of projects include:

- Retrofitting of community centres
- Solar Panels
- Biodiversity gardens
- Waste recycling initiatives
- Equipment for Repair Café
- Sustainable community shed



Level of Funding Available

- Small scale projects: up to €20,000 (10% of the overall fund)
- Medium scale projects: €20,001 – €50,000 (40% of the overall fund)
- Large scale projects: €50,001 – €100,000 (50% of the overall fund)

Eligible Costs:

- Must be **capital** in nature.
- **Costs submitted** (invoice(s), receipt(s) of payment) must be for the sole purpose of implementing the project.
- **Duplicate public** funding is not permitted
- **Up to 100% funding** may be provided from the Programme. Other funding may be leveraged for projects (e.g. LEADER, Tidy Towns, Clár etc.)
- Projects must be completed **in 18 months**.
- Funding must comply with **State Aid requirements**.



Ineligible Costs

- Projects that solely benefit an individual
- Teaching/staffing
- Travel and transport costs except in exceptional circumstances
- Equipment, unless directly associated with the project
- Income generating projects
- Overheads, ongoing running costs
- Insurance
- Accommodation and subsistence
- Redundancy costs
- Penalties/Interest/Bank Interest/Charges
- Loan repayments
- Retrospective costs i.e. expenditure which has taken place prior to approval date of the project
- Notional costs e.g. the room hire within the applicant's own premises
- Costs where more appropriate funding opportunities already exist.
- Legal Fees
- **This list is not exhaustive**



Eligibility

To apply a group must be:

- Be a not-for-profit organisation
- Be located in the operational area of County Roscommon.
- Be registered with the PPN **and or** connected with other collectives such as the Wheel, Tidy Towns **and/or** a community group with Articles of Association or a Constitution, which holds an AGM, and for which approved minutes are available.
- Have a bank account in the name of the group making the application

Groups not eligible to apply:

- Private individuals
- Commercial undertakings (including sole traders)
- Schools/Pre-Schools
- National Bodies



Programme Themes



Projects must:

- meet the overall objective **“to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in a coherent way to contribute to national climate and energy targets.”**
- **comply with all statutory requirements** in relation to planning, building regulations, Health and Safety, and Fire Codes etc., if applicable.
- Prospective partners are required to self-certify that they do not have the funding available to undertake the work without support, or alternatively that the support will enable them to undertake more, work which they otherwise would not be able to afford.
- Prospective partners must be able to demonstrate their ability to carry out the proposed works.



Community Energy

- Many Irish buildings have very low energy ratings and high running costs, mainly due to heat loss which accounts for 10% of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions. We are interested in projects to make community buildings more climate friendly by using less energy, using renewable energy, and improving insulation.

Project examples include but are not limited to:

- Small community renewable energy projects (solar, hydro, wind)
- Retrofitting community buildings e.g. insulation
- Energy efficiency upgrades
- LED community lighting
- Community EV charging points
- Low carbon technology/equipment



Travel

- Transport accounts for approximately 20% of Ireland's green house gas emissions. We know that changing our means of travel is not simple but there are real alternatives emerging. We are interested in projects which contribute to emissions reductions related to travel.

Project examples include but are not limited to:

- Purchase of an electric cargo bike
- Installation of bike racks
- Upgrade of existing paths to develop an active travel cycleway
- Community bike library
- Active travel routes to schools



Food and Waste

- 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. Projects to reduce food waste and promote local food production.

Project examples include but are not limited to:

- Community gardens
- Allotments
- Food pledges from local businesses
- Community food markets
- Community composting facilities



Shopping and Recycling

- Ireland is moving towards creating a circular economy, making products that last longer, can be repurposed, reused and eventually recycled more easily. Projects that increase the variety and number of repair and recycling facilities, asset sharing and swap shops, or reducing single-use plastics.

Project examples include but are not limited to:

- School uniform/toy reuse initiatives
- Water refilling stations
- Collective recycling
- Swap shops
- Repair hubs



Local Climate and Environmental Action

- Ireland has an abundance of natural resources, from our bogs and forests to our rivers and oceans. They will help us by absorbing carbon, reducing the risk of flooding and increase flowers and wildlife. Projects that take a holistic approach to managing the local environment.

Project examples include but are not limited to:

- Pollinator projects
- Native tree planting
- Bee/bat/bird boxes
- Nature reconnection spaces
- Mini Forests
- Community gardens



Evaluation Criteria

Selection criterion for <u>strand 1</u>	Weighting
Relevance and impact	30%
Innovation and scalability	20%
Value for money	20%
Achievability	10%
Partnership approach	10%
Governance arrangements	10%
	100%

- Applications will be assessed on the following criteria to ensure fairness and transparency.
- The maximum overall score is 100.
- Groups that score 50% or above meet the minimum score required under selected criteria as set out, will be considered for a project partnership with the LA.



Relevance & Impact

30%

- The project meets the objective of strand 1 to shape and build a low carbon community, and can clearly demonstrate the impact of the project in contributing to Ireland's climate and energy targets

Know which themes apply to your project

Programme themes

- Community Energy
- Travel
- Food and Waste
- Shopping and recycling
- Local climate and environmental action



Innovation & Scalability

20%

- The project contains practical innovation/(s) and or approaches. It has the potential to be scaled up or replicated in other communities post funding. The project has a lasting impact.

Innovative

- Clever ways that your project solves problems or ways that you make your project effective for your location.

Community Impact

- Will people in the wider community see the benefit?

Replicable/Scalable

- Many communities can learn from each other and projects carried out by one group could be scaled up and replicated in another community.
- Consider who you can learn from and who can learn from what you will do.



Value for Money

20%

- The project shows good value for money and involves an efficient use of resources. The project outputs and outcomes, as identified, are in line with the level of investment.

Three quotes for each element of your project

- If you can't get three quotes you must provide sufficient evidence of your genuine attempts to get the quotes.
- If you are not going with the lowest quote, you must provide satisfactory rationale as to why and demonstrate that you are still getting good value for taxpayer's money.
- When getting quotes, groups should try to ensure that the quotes will still be valid for when works will begin. (If possible)
- You may need to factor in contingency costs especially if it is a substantial project.
- VAT can be included for groups who cannot reclaim VAT.



Achievability

10%

- The group's capacity to deliver the project. The proposal is clear and coherent and is deliverable within the timeframe.

Clearly outline the management plan for the project

This may include:

- Timelines
- Milestones
- Project Monitoring
- Roles and responsibilities
- Any engagement with relevant expertise to deliver the proposed project.



Partnership Approach

10%

- Demonstrate how any key stakeholders or partners will be involved in the planning and implementation of the project.

Direct Partnership Approach

- What other groups or organisations will be directly involved in the project and what will their roles be? (e.g. getting the local Tidy Towns involved in a tree planting project).

Other Partnerships

- Are there any other partnerships with groups or organisations, which are relevant to your project, but may not be directly involved with carrying the project out? (e.g. other groups use your community hall, so will benefit from retrofitting the building, but won't necessarily be involved with the project implementation.)



Governance Arrangements

10%

- Governance and financial management systems are in place. Details of track record in managing other state funding

Groups should ensure the following

- Evidence of **Tax compliance**
- Ensure all necessary **permissions** are in place if applicable e.g. planning, leases etc.
- Any **necessary registration** with relevant bodies.
- Evidence of permission for use of the project location for a **minimum of 5 years after the project is completed.**
- Know if you are registered for **VAT** or not.
- Include any details of track record in managing **other state funding.**
- Ensure **procurement guidelines** are adhered to.



Top Tips For Your Application

- **Programme guidelines and online application** is available on RCC's website. Click [here](#)
- You must complete your online application via **"My Online Services"** 
- Projects must be **capital** in essence and **address at least one of the five themes**.
- Projects **must deliver a direct positive impact on climate change**.
- **Quality** of your application is key. **It is a competitive process**.
- Include **all documentation** in your online application form.
- **Only one application to be submitted per group/organisation**. Ensure to **SUBMIT** your application when completed.
- Ensure to adhere to appropriate **procurement practices**.
- **Ensure all permissions are in place** i.e. planning, leases, insurances etc. A minimum of five years lease or agreement must be in place **from date of project completion**, making it available to the **community**.
- Please provide **email contact details** that are actively monitored. All notifications will be issued by email.
- For all queries, please email the Community Climate Action Officer, climatefund@roscommoncoco.ie.



What's next - Timelines

Upcoming Clinics	11th November - Monksland Community Centre 6.30 - 8pm 13th November – Boyle Library 6.30 – 8pm 15th November – Roscommon Library 2.30pm – 4pm
Jacinta Barrins	'Climate Conversation' Webinar 10 th & 17 th of November @7pm. PPN will issue details of this event.
Application deadline	5pm Tuesday, 16th December 2025
Evaluation and selection by RCC	February 2026
Approval by DCEE	March 2026
Results announced/Commencement of projects	March/April 2026
All projects to be completed (18 months)	27 th October 2027.



Thank you

