



Climate Action & Community Supports

Public Information Session
12th September 2023

NEW LEADER PROGRAMME

2023-2027

ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS

June Murphy – Programmes Manager



CURRENT SITUATION WITH LEADER FUNDS

- Contracts for new programme due to be signed in coming weeks
- While we don't have full set of rules, they don't tend to change too dramatically
- New programme budget
- Environment remains a focus
- Increase focus on climate action & mitigation



€6.1m

LEADER THEMES

Enterprise Development & Job Creation

- The Green Economy
- Agricultural Diversification
- Rural Tourism & Recreation
- Enterprise Development
- Rural Food Production
- Social, Community & Cooperative Enterprises

Rural Infrastructure & Social Inclusion

- Rural Infrastructure
- Accessible Services
- Optimising Digital Connectivity
- Rural Youth

Sustainable Development of Rural Environment & Climate Change

- Sustainable Development of Rural Environment
 - Biodiversity
 - Renewable Energy
 - Sustainable access to water resources
- Climate Change Capacity Building
- Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Significant potential for community sustainability initiatives, renewables, circular economy and biodiversity protection

EXAMPLES OF RENEWABLE ENERGY POTENTIAL

- Support for awareness building initiatives
- Support for alternative or renewable energy actions addressing suitability of new technologies.
- Support for community based feasibility studies relating to green technologies
- Support for community projects to install sustainable energy alternatives, biomass heating, solar power, community wind farms, community hydro and community based heating systems etc.
- Support for community projects aimed at waste reduction
- Programme of supports to enhance the environmental performance of community facilities, to include energy audits, retro fitting of renewable technologies
- Additional supports such as relevant capital, training, networking events, analysis and development, animation and marketing



EXAMPLES OF BIODIVERSITY & WATERWAY POTENTIAL

- Support for awareness raising and training projects relating to protecting and improving local biodiversity, including events, workshops etc. to build communities capacity to develop biodiversity and waterways projects
- Support for communities in biodiversity planning and action planning and support for local signage and information points on unique local biodiversity
- Support for rainwater harvesting
- Support for community waste initiatives
- Support for community groups in habitat mapping and recording of protected species
- Support for community invasive species management
- Support for volunteer training and events in practical biodiversity protection projects such as riverside or coastal clean ups, planting, clearing, etc.
- Support for practical initiatives that support biodiversity and environmental improvements e.g. upgrading of parks and river walks, coastal environment protections, establishment of nature corridors and wildlife 'networks', habitat creation, establishment of bird /bat boxes, planting of native species, etc.
- Capital supports will be made available for organisations proactive in the conservation of local biodiversity



EXAMPLES OF CLIMATE ACTION CAPACITY BUILDING POTENTIAL

- To work in conjunction with ATU, Sligo PPN and Sligo County Council to design and promote community engagement initiatives around climate action
- Support for awareness raising projects highlighting climate change, climate action, protecting and improving local biodiversity, etc. including events, workshops etc.
- Design and delivery of relevant training programmes to build communities capacity to develop climate action projects
- Support for communities in climate action strategic planning
- Supporting projects which encourage coastline biodiversity and sustainability through education and awareness projects
- Support for demonstration projects, skills & knowledge sharing and networking



EXAMPLES OF CLIMATE ACTION MITIGATION & ADAPTATION POTENTIAL

- Support community circular economy projects
- Support innovative biodiversity projects and sustainable development of waterways, lakes and coastlines
- Support for community waste management projects
- Support for food sustainability projects and community gardens
- Support for exploration of clean energy conversion projects
- Support for community 'healthy habits projects' such as cycling, walking etc.



ENVIRONMENT/GREEN POTENTIAL UNDER OTHER THEMES



THE GREEN ECONOMY

Significant potential for employment opportunities for rural areas are presented by the green economy. There is a strong need to maximise the opportunities presented by the circular and bio economy with Ireland being in a particularly favourable position to develop its bio and circular economies because of its abundance of natural advantages.

circular economy, bio economy, woodchip boilers, biomass supply chain upgrades, recycling

SOCIAL, COMMUNITY & COOPERATIVE ENTERPRISES



Social Enterprises are enterprises whose objective is to achieve a social, societal or environmental impact rather than maximising profits for their owners.

Social enterprises are an important part of local economies in rural areas often filling gaps in markets that are not attractive to commercially focused companies due to low population densities or economies of scale.

Upcycling, bicycle repair, Recycling community gardens, education programmes etc.

Commercial opportunities with a social and environmental return

Employment opportunities for marginalised groups

Opportunities for innovative environmental solution to local needs

RURAL YOUTH

Gaps exist in the diversity of activities available in rural areas for young people, outside of sports.

There is a need to encourage rural youth participation in issues that affect their daily lives, to build their leadership capabilities and to provide on-going input to the development of future rural youth initiatives.

Youth leadership, environmental champion programme, community youth-oriented projects (art and photography competitions, nature blogs, nature treasure hunts, etc.) that highlight and celebrate local biodiversity



EXPECTED RATES OF AID

(TO BE CONFIRMED WHEN NEW PROGRAMMES RULES ARE PUBLISHED)

Capital Works

Community Groups – 75% to max of €200,000

Private Promoter – 75% to max of €200,000

Plans/Feasibility Studies etc..

Community Groups – 90% to max of €30,000

Private Promoter – 75% to max of €30,000

Training

100% funded

Important to note:

All payment have to be paid upfront, then % approved is reimbursed

Need appropriate permission to do work on site i.e. proof of ownership/lease/planning permission etc..



THANK YOU

Keep an eye on our website and social media for news of new programme

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