

2025

SLIGO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK



HALF YEAR REPORT 2025

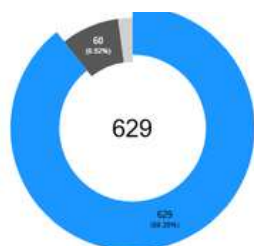
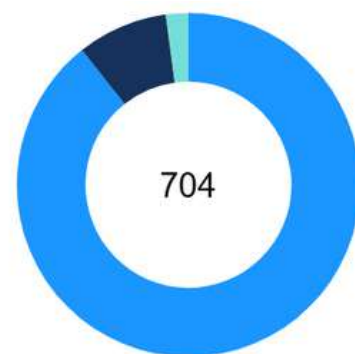
Read all about our work across the first half of 2025, our latest representatives news, projects, updates upcoming opportunities to have the voice of your community represented.



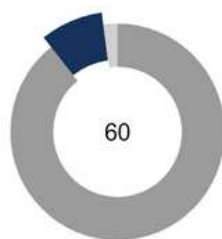
Public
Participation
Network
Sligo

The Current Make Up of Sligo Public Participation Network (PPN)

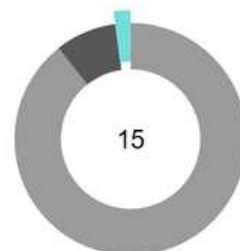
There are currently 704 member groups in Sligo PPN



Community & Voluntary



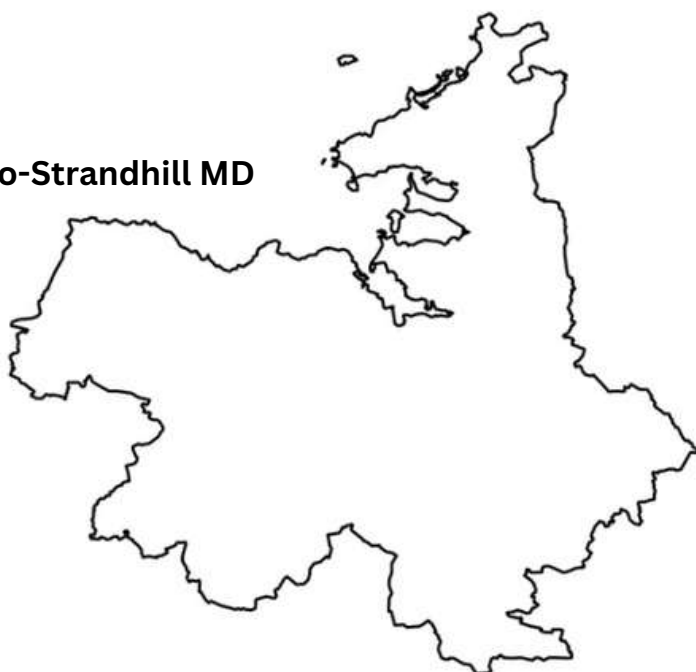
Social Inclusion



Environment

165 Member groups in Sligo-Drumcliff MD

241 Member groups in Sligo-Strandhill MD



286 Member groups in Ballymote-Tubbercurry MD

Sligo PPN is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Sligo County Council.

PPN Representatives

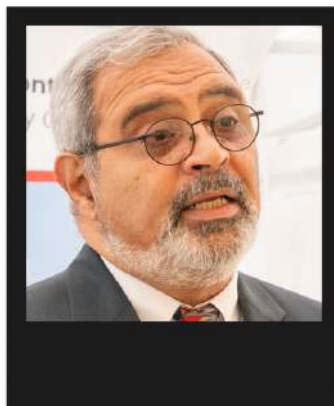
Sligo PPN Secretariat

3 new members were elected to Sligo PPN Secretariat in late June

Wendy Lyons nominated by The Teeling Centre, Collooney

Amro Hamid nominated by Medb's Dragon Warriors

Jennifer Van Aswegen nominated by Dromore West Community Council



Remaining PPN Secretariat Members

Joan Swift, Pat Benson, Aisling Smith, Pippa Black, Mark Kupczak, Michael Bell

Current Vacancies

- Sligo PPN Secretariat - 1 seat: Environment Seat,

Huge Thank You

Sligo PPN Secretariat would like to thank outgoing rep Brendan Lynch who gave so much to the network over his term and was the inspiration behind some fantastic community initiatives. His passion will be missed.

Sligo PPN would welcome any civic minded people who want to make positive change in their local community to get in touch and find out more about becoming a PPN representative. Contact ppn@sligococo.ie or 071 91 11352

Our current reps bring such passion to the network and are fierce advocates for community need.

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

The new Sligo PPN SPC representatives were ratified at the Sligo PPN Plenary event held on 9th February.

Sligo PPN have 8 SPC community representative seats across the 4 SPCS

SPC 1 : HOUSING AND GOVERNANCE

GENE O'CARROLL

**COMMUNITY &
VOLUNTARY SEAT**

**NOMINATED BY
BENBULBEN CLAY
TARGET CLUB**



CHERYL MCGINELY

**SOCIAL INCLUSION
SEAT**

**NOMINATED BY SLIGO
TRAVELLER SUPPORT
GROUP**



SPC 2: ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

KATHRYN BRANLEY

**COMMUNITY &
VOLUNTARY SEAT**

**NOMINATED BY
DRUMCLIFF
RATHCORMAC
TIDY TOWNS**



ALAN SPENCER

**ENVIRONMENT
SEAT**

**NOMINATED BY
SLIGO BAY
CATCHMENT RIVERS
TRUST**



SPC 3 : LIVE, INVEST, VISIT

STEVEN BARKER

**COMMUNITY &
VOLUNTARY SEAT**

**NOMINATED BY
CLIFFONEY
COMMUNITY
FORUM**



RUTH FLOOD

**SOCIAL INCLUSION
SEAT**

**NOMINATED BY SLIGO
DISABLED PERSONS
ORGANISATION**

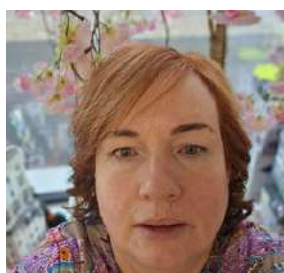


SPC 4 : PLACEMAKING

SHEILA SCANLON

**COMMUNITY &
VOLUNTARY SEAT**

**NOMINATED BY
CADRA**



JOAN SWIFT

**ENVIRONMENT
SEAT**

**NOMINATED BY
SLIGO CYCLING
CAMPAIGN**



PPN Representatives

Name	Committee	Nominating Group	College/MD
Amro Hamid	Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	Medbs Dragon Warriors	Environment
Pat Benson	LCDC	CADRA	Community
Bernadette Maughan	LCDC	Sligo Traveller Support Group	Social Inclusion
Billy Gallagher	LCDC	Cartron Bay View Residents Association	Community
Noelle O’Gara	LCDC	Sproai Glas	Social Inclusion
Geraldine Delorey	Sligo Sport & Recreation Partnership (SSRP)	Sligo Lend a Hand	N/A
Paul O’Sullivan	SSRP	Enniscrone Mens Shed	N/A
Gregory O’Brien	Independent Evaluation Committee (IEC)	Enniscrone Mens Shed	N/A
Dr John Williams	IEC	Sligo Sub Aqua Club	N/A
Wendy Lyons	Heritage Forum	Sligo Field Club	Heritage Linkage Gp
Angela Wallace	Heritage Forum	Enniscrone & District Community Development	Heritage Linkage Gp
TBC	Heritage Forum		Heritage Linkage Gp
Mark Kupczak	Disability Consultative Committee	Coolaney Foroige	Community
Padraig Meehan	Sligo Place Names	Sligo Neolithic Landscapes	Heritage Linkage Gp
Michael Bell	Biodiversity Working Group	Birdwatch Sligo	Environment
Trish Fallon	Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership Board	Havin A Laugh	Sligo Strandill MD
Liam Boland	Sligo PEACEPLUS Partnership Board	Ballymote GAA	Ballymote Tubber MD
Maria Hall	Sligo Age Friendly Alliance	Sligo-Down Syndrome Ireland	N/A
Ann Donnegan	Sligo Age Friendly Alliance	Cartron View Point Residents	N/A
Auriel Robinson	Sligo Leader Partnership Env	Sligo Environmental Network	Environment

PROJECT UPDATES



Sligo PPN works on behalf of, and in partnership with, our members. It is critical that the work of Sligo PPN reflects the needs of the Sligo community and offers solutions for positive change.

Our members and representatives get to create and set the budget for the PPN annual workplan. The updates detailed in this 2025 report reflect the actions developed in direct response to ideals, issues and priorities raised by the community sector.



Sligo PPN Plenary, 9th February Model Niiland

On Sunday 9th February, Sligo PPN hosted their 2025 plenary in partnership with Sligo Global Kitchen.

The event was a culmination of a celebration of the 10 year anniversary of both the PPN and SGK.

The event started with the plenary formalities for the PPN, with Chairperson Joan Swift delivering a presentation that gave an overview of the work of the PPN, introduced new PPN community representatives and invited members to put forward ideas and suggestions to inform the work of the PPN across 2025.

Following the formal meeting, PPN members joined Sligo Global Kitchen who were celebrating bringing different communities together through cooking and sharing food from different countries and cultural backgrounds.

Members were treated to Egyptian, Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian Cuisine.

Joined by over 500+ members of the community, to join in the celebration.

Sligo PPN Network Coordinator, Sarah Wetherald “Sligo Global Kitchen have been part of the PPN network in Sligo since its creation in 2014. We are delighted to see SGK grow from strength to strength and wish the project continuous success into the future. We look forward to working closely with the network to engage new members to Sligo with the PPN and to make sure our work and advocacy represents the increasingly diverse Sligo community”



NORTH WEST SPC TRAINING

On 7th February, Sligo PPN hosted SPC representatives from all across the North West Region for a training workshop facilitated by Brian Harvey.

The session gave an overview of SPCs and how they work, the roles and responsibilities of members and the power of the community to shape local policy development. Nearly 70 reps from across the region were in attendance on the day.

PRESENTATION TO SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

On 10th February Joan Swift, Chair of Sligo PPN Secretariat presented to the full Sligo County Council to raise awareness of the work of the PPN and to encourage SCC to explore further opportunities for collaboration with the PPN

AUTISM FRIENDLY SLIGO

The Autism Friendly AGM took place in February. The initiative has been the recipient of the Community Engagement Award, which celebrates intersectionality, at the annual AsIAM Awards.

The committee are working through the implementation of a 3 year strategy working with local communities and the business sector.





CLIMATE EDUCATION CLUBS CELEBRATION

27TH FEBRUARY

On February 27th, the Clayton Hotel hosted the 'Power to Change: Celebrating Climate Education Clubs,' event which highlighted the important work of these clubs in fostering connections between schools and communities, and co-designing projects focused on climate action and sustainability.

Sustainable Development Goals Workbooks

A key feature of the day was the formal launch of the Power to Change SDG Workbooks. These amazing nature-based guides were co-created on the Sustainable Development Goals with school children and school teachers in Co. Sligo.

The SDG workbook became a key resource in fostering environmental awareness and encouraging meaningful conversations around sustainability, empowering students and teachers alike to actively contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Schools engaged in the project included: St. John's National School, Temple Street, Sligo, Scoil Naomh Eanna, Carraroe, St. Aiden's NS, Monasteraden, and St. Joseph's NS, Templeboy.

Schoolchildren and schoolteachers provided invaluable feedback, content and recommendations. The hope is that these workbooks will now be adopted in primary schools across Ireland. You can find a copy at:

<https://www.sligoppn.com/power-to-change/climate-education-clubs/>



Sligo DPO held their AGM on 31st March in Abbeyquarter, Cranmore. The organisation welcomes all disabled people living in Sligo to get in touch and find out more.
sligodpo@gmail.com

DISABILITY & EQUALITY WORKSHOPS



Autism Friendly Sligo
is delighted to invite you to attend

Disability Equality Training

Saturday, May 31st from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm
at the **Abbeyquarter Community Centre**

RSVP to AutismFriendlySligo@gmail.com by Wednesday, May 28th

Training is delivered by the Sligo Disabled Persons' Organisation (DPO) and facilitated by the Sligo Public Participation Network (PPN)




Public Participation Network Sligo

Autism Friendly Sligo
May 20 at 5:55 PM · 🌐

It is with thanks to the [Sligo Disabled Person's Organisation - DPO](#) and the [Sligo PPN](#) that we are in a position to offer our champions and supporters free Disability Eq... See more

Sligo PPN has supported the DPO in developing a unique training programme which supports groups and organisations to embed true equality in their practises. The training workshops will be available to PPN member groups.

If your organisation wants to ensure real access and inclusion then this is the training for you and you can contact the DPO directly at sligodpo@gmail.com

09:18 38%

Home Instagram Profile Bell DPO

Posts About Photos More ▾



Sligo Disabled Person's Organisation - DPO
31 Jan · 🌐

Today Sligo [Sligo Disabled Person's Organisation - DPO](#) held its first Disability Equality Workshop in [Cranmore Abbeyquarter Community Centre](#). We had some of our own members in attendance as well as HSE staff and some nursing students from St Angela's College Sligo. Thank you to everyone who attended and to our members and DPO Development officer Peter Kearns from [Independent Living Movement Ireland](#) who facilitated the workshop together. Here's to the first of many more workshops 😊

If you are a disabled person living in Co Sligo and would like to find out more about us or become a member of Sligo DPO please email sligodpo@gmail.com. Alternatively you can message us on our Facebook page.

If you would like to enquire about Disability Equality Training workshops that we run please contact sligodpo@gmail.com or send us a message on our Facebook page.

Image description: Group of eleven people sitting in a semi circle during the workshop.

III ○ <



UISCE ÁLAINN : CELEBRATING OUR WATERS

3rd May

A Celebration of our Waters was inspired by Medb's Dragon Warriors and aimed to highlight the beauty and significance of our waterways.

The themes of the event included (i) Blue Health for Mental Health: Exploring the benefits of waterways for mental well-being (ii) Good Water Habits: Promoting responsible practices around water usage and (iii) The Code of Conduct on Our Waterways: Guidelines for respectful and sustainable use of waterways.

Information displays and leaflets were kindly provided by Clean Coasts, Birdwatch, Water Safety Ireland, the Marine Institute, Maritime Safety, Sligo Bay Catchment Rivers Trust, LAWPRO.

The event very importantly featured a beautiful flower festival to commemorate all those who have been impacted by cancer.



Celebrate your love of water sports, the water environment, and water people!!!

3rd May 2025
Opening Ceremony at 12pm
View from the Gate Lodge, Doory Park

Information displays and stands
Topics include biosecurity, Clean Coasts, water safety and much more

Free workshops from 10.30 am
Topics include dragonflies, damselflies, and aquatic biodiversity

Free walks and talks from 1.30 pm
Topics include birdlife of the river, blue health, trees and water, citizen science

Visit www.sligo.gov.uk/uisce-ainn or scan QR code

Supported by



Sligo Community Space Inventory

The PPN community spaces booklet went to print in May and was distributed across local community centres, libraries and public buildings.

the document was developed following the identification from the community of a lack of available public space for community group activity.



The contents of the document were also uploaded to the PPN website where we created a searchable database so that members of the public can search for available community spaces dependent on their need such as catering facilities, accessible toilets, attendance capacity.

If you would like your space to be included in the website search please email
ppn@sligococo.ie

<https://www.sligoppn.com/community-spaces/>



Following on from this initiative, Power to Change is now providing Community Space/Facility Managers with bespoke training and mentoring opportunities to improve spaces/facilities and to expand and broaden engagement with the space.

The programme themes include:

Energy

Biodiversity

Water management and waste management

The programme will involve one-to-one mentoring with four community facility/space managers.

The mentoring will include (but is not limited to):

- In-depth review of Community Space/Facility with respect to themes energy, biodiversity, and water and waste management.
- Preparation of a roadmap to enhance energy activities with respect to themes energy, biodiversity, and water and waste management.
- Identification of suitable grants available to the Community Space/Facility.

The programme will run from July 2025 to 30th December 2025.

Contact yvonne.lang@atu.ie for more details



Street Feast 2025

24th and 25th May 2025

Sligo PPN is the main supporter of Street Feast in Sligo.

Street Feast is a national celebration that brings together local communities around food..

The event takes place every year and is a fantastic way to get to know your neighbours and make new friends.



Political Advocacy and Communications Training



In May Sligo PPN hosted a session for the north west region PPNs on the legislative process and effective communications for policy change. The session was delivered by Roachtain in partnership with St Stephen's Green Trust

Refugee Week

On Friday 20th June Diversity Sligo held a celebration event for Refugee Week in the Riverside Hotel.

Refugees and Asylum seekers spoke about their experiences ,and local organisations such as Sligo County Council integration unit, Sligo Leader Partnership spoke about the services they offer.

Joan Swift, Sligo PPN Secretariat spoke about the role of the PPN in representing a wide variety of community, environmental and social inclusion groups in Sligo. Several groups representing Sligo's new communities are already members of the PPN and Joan urged other groups to consider becoming members. Throughout the morning various speakers had talked about the importance and value of integrating into one's new community and PPN membership is one way of connecting with the wider community.

Operations & Ongoing Activities

Support for PPN Representatives

Sligo PPN have engaged Amicitia to offer ongoing support to PPN representatives to support them in fulfilling their duties to represent the local community at the decision making table. This initiative will help to develop the PPN representatives network, help reps prepare for meetings and ensure that they are effectively communicating important local developments with the broader PPN membership.

The first network meeting took place on the 19th June and a co-designed support programme will follow.

Community Training & Capacity Building

Sligo PPN continues its partnership with the Carmichael Centre to offer training and capacity building supports for member groups. Carmichael has created a unique link for Sligo PPN members that allows them to access courses that are of specific interest to their organisation.

Secretariat Meetings

The Sligo PPN Secretariat continue to meet every 2 months with PPN staff. At these meetings budgets and workplans are reviewed, discussions held on emerging issues and ideas for future projects put forward.

Submissions & Consultations

Sligo PPN continues to alert our members on opportunities to engage in local and national consultations and make submissions on issues that impact community health and wellbeing. The PPN also utilises data and information that we have gathered through engagement with our members to make submissions on behalf of the network.

National Activities

The Sligo PPN Coordinator sits on the National Advisory Group for PPNs - this is the national coordinating body for the network and is chaired by the Principal Officer from the Department of Rural and Community Development & the Gaeltacht. They also have a seat on the Cross Sectoral Group for Community Development and the newly formed 'All Together for Population Health' steering group.

Joan Swift is the Sligo PPN representative on the National Secretariat Network.

WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Sligo PPN have been working to upgrade and update the website. We hope you like the new look and would encourage everyone to take a look to find out more about your community network <https://www.sligoppn.com/>

Two elements we are currently working on are;

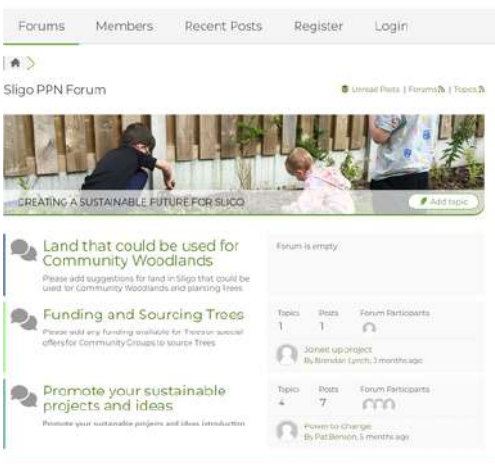
1) Community Events Calendar which will pull together in one place our PPN member activities, PPN initiatives and funding opportunities. This will allow groups to directly promote their events and activities on our site and will enable the PPN to better promote the work of our members.

We aim to launch the calendar in September and will be hosting an information session in September to show groups how to interact with it and the benefits it will have. The calendar will also feature all available funding streams that we are aware of including opening and closing dates.

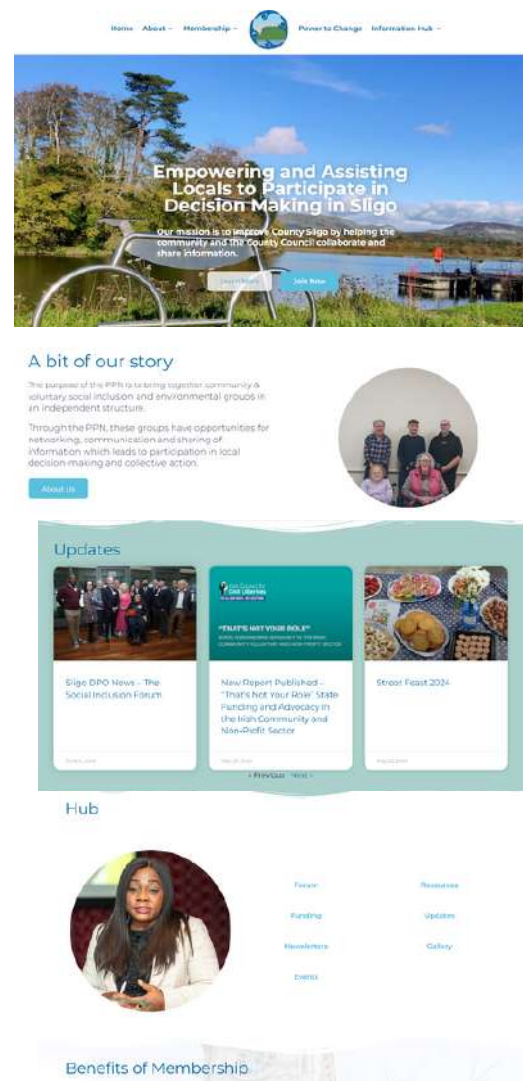


2) Community Mapping - we have launched our new interactive map on the PPN website which plots the location of all our member groups. The aim of this is to support people to connect with groups in their geographical area. People will be able to search for groups by location, main cause and PPN college and pop up details will show how to make contact. This map also features the community facilities from our Community Space Inventory so that people can use local public spaces.

<https://www.sligoppn.com/membership-groups/membership-map/>



The website also includes an **Online Community forum** to encourage members to begin their own discussions around community issues, to share ideas and to ask each other for help.



PPN Social Media

You can keep up to date with Sligo PPN activities by following us on Facebook and X @sligoppn

CONTACT

EMAIL: PPN@SLIGOCOCO.IE

PHONE: 0719111352

ADDRESS
SLIGO PPN
COUNTY HALL
RIVERSIDE
SLIGO

Whats Coming Up!

Sligo PPN Community Outreach

The PPN have engaged a facilitator to connect with our existing member groups, to visit them at their activity or arrange discussions to find out how the PPN can be more supportive to them, what they know about the PPN and how the network can be more effective at supporting the growth of the local community sector. This project will begin late August so please keep an eye out for this call out to engage.

If you are interested in someone coming to your group please let us know at ppn@sligococo.ie

Sligo PPN Podcast

At the Sligo PPN Annual meeting it was identified that one of the main issues facing both the network as a whole as well as member groups was that people were still not aware of what the community sector does or how to get involved.

PPN members proposed a podcast series featuring PPN members, showcasing what they do and chatting about why they got involved. The project will be led by sligo Food and Furniture Bank. It is hoped by sharing the stories of PPN members it will not only raise the profile of individual groups and attract new members, but will also help promote the network as a whole.

If you would like your group to feature or would like to find out some more information about what is involved please complete the below EOI or you can request a hard copy from ppn@sligococo.ie.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SligoPPNPodcastEOI>

New Communities Ambassador Programme

As the make up of the sligo community changes, it is important that the PPN membership also evolves to ensure that we are representing all local community groups. The PPN are working with community leaders from groups made up of new communities in Sligo to raise the profile of the PPN, to discuss the importance of public participation and civic engagement and to encourage new relationships among PPN member groups. Participating groups will be hosting a series of events across the rest of 2025 which will be open to the whole Sligo community.

POWER TO CHANGE



POWER TO CHANGE IS UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SLIGO PPN AND ATLANTIC TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY.

led by Atlantic Technological University in partnership with the Sligo Public Participation Network is funded under the Community Climate Action Programme.

The project will facilitate connection/reconnection with nature and build capacity within community groups to lead on change

You can receive all the up to date information on the initiative at;

<https://www.sligoppn.com/the-power-to-change/>

but the below gives a flavour of just some of the amazing work that has been happening under the initiative.

SAVE THE DATE



POWER TO CHANGE

2025 Community Celebration Day

29th September 2025

10.30am - 3pm

Clarion Hotel

Sligo

Food &
Refreshments

Register

<https://forms.office.com/e/W0qzMxgJqJ>

Showcases &
Toolkits

Please join us for an event to celebrate and promote all the amazing work of the community group sector in Sligo under the Power to Change Initiative.

Community Groups Leading the way in Positive Climate Action



Riadas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Power to Change is part of the Community Climate Action Programme (Stand 2) funded by the Government of Ireland through the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

A key focus of the project is to engage with groups that have been under-represented in the Climate Conversations and will be guided by the principles of universal design for research to ensure inclusivity and accessibility. A repository of case studies, good practice guides, and a virtual learning environment will be developed to aid capacity building within community groups, and ultimately establish lasting connections and networks.

The initiative has 3 key strands




COMMUNITY GROUP MENTORING



Biodiversity on our Doorstep

12th April 2024 | 11.00-4.00 | Grange, Sligo

This event was an introductory workshop for 14-17 years old exploring biodiversity in school grounds and sports grounds.



Are you interested in raingardens, rainwater harvesting and sustainability?

Please join us for an online seminar with [Aoife Munn](#) to learn about the important role of raingardens in our response to climate change. We will also learn about the additional benefits for biodiversity and healthier spaces for mental and physical wellbeing that raingardens provide.

Raingardens by Aoife Munn
11.00-13.00, Friday 19th January 2024
Online via Zoom

This event is **free** but booking is required. Please reserve a place online [here](#).

Please contact [Lorraine Loughlin](#) for further information. This initiative is part of the Community Climate Action Programme funded by the Government of Ireland through the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.




Community Native Woodland Tree Planting Day

19th March 2024 | ATU Connemara

ATU staff and students and members of local schools and community groups enjoyed a wonderful day of understanding, appreciating, and developing the Community Native Woodland in Connemara National Park.



Community Group Training and Mentoring Initiative

The Do's and Don'ts of Good Food Waste Management

Join us for an informal session with Sligo County Council Environmental Awareness Officer Aine O'Loughlin on good practices for food waste management

Free food caddy starter kits provided at the event

National Food Waste Recycling Week
2nd-9th June 2024

When and where
9th June 2024, 6.30-7.30 pm
North Sligo Sports Centre, Grange, F91 YK25



Power to Change Community Woodland Day hosted at Cloonamahon Native Woodland, Sligo

Nov 14, 2023



EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY NETWORK

Community-based Collaborations

The Climate Education Clubs also aim to facilitate engagement between ATU staff and students and community groups to work together on community-based and community-related projects.

During 2023/2024 ATU students were given opportunities to engage with Sligo PPN community groups on a number of community-based projects.

Project 1 - Sustainable Water Management

Carragee and District Regeneration Association (CADRA) invited students to assist them in the design of a rainwater harvesting system and a group logo.

Students will submit concept designs in April 2024.

An award sponsored by CADRA and LAWPRO will be presented to the best concept design submitted.

CADRA

Local Authority Waters

Project 2 - Sustainable Tourism

The Tourism and Event Management students at ATU Sligo are conducting research on Heritage Tourism Development through Community Participation in Sligo.

The students sought assistance from Sligo PDH community groups to provide insights on this topic through completion of short survey.

Students presented a report of their findings to members of the Sligo PDH secretariat in April 2024 titled **Community Participation for Heritage Tourism Development in Sligo**.

Image: Tourism and Event Management students from ATU Sligo with lecturer Dr. Doreen Kelly attending the Fair Seas Event on 14th March 2024 to engage with and listen to concerns of community groups.

Community Group Learning Resources

Please click on the icons below to learn more about each topic and access relevant resources.

<p>Trees, Woodlands, and Forests</p>	<p>Biodiversity</p>	<p>Sustainability in Sports Clubs</p>	<p>Home Energy</p>
<p>Water Habitats</p>	<p>Raingardens and Rainwater Harvesting</p>	<p>Composting</p>	<p>Sensory Garden</p>

To read more about the Power to Change Programme and to access the community group resources go to;

<https://www.sligoppn.com/the-power-to-change/>