



EirGrid Celtic Interconnector

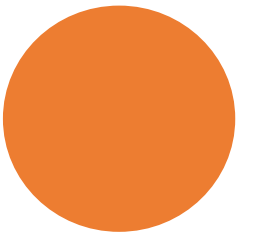
Community Forum Strategy Workshop 1

'Planning for Impact'

29.09.2022

Why do we need a strategy?

- ✓ Maximise the impact of community benefit
- ✓ Leave a positive legacy locally
- ✓ Ensure the fund priorities are relevant to the geographical area of the project
- ✓ Distribute benefit in a planned, fair and sustainable way
- ✓ Form the basis of the project evaluation criteria



What will the strategy include?

- Research and consultation findings
- Potential areas of impact and local priorities under each stream
- Proposed fund structure and mechanisms (for example 3 separate funds, participatory budgeting scheme, single grant round, and so on)
- Types of projects and initiatives for support
- Potential partnerships and collaborations
- Co-funding opportunities

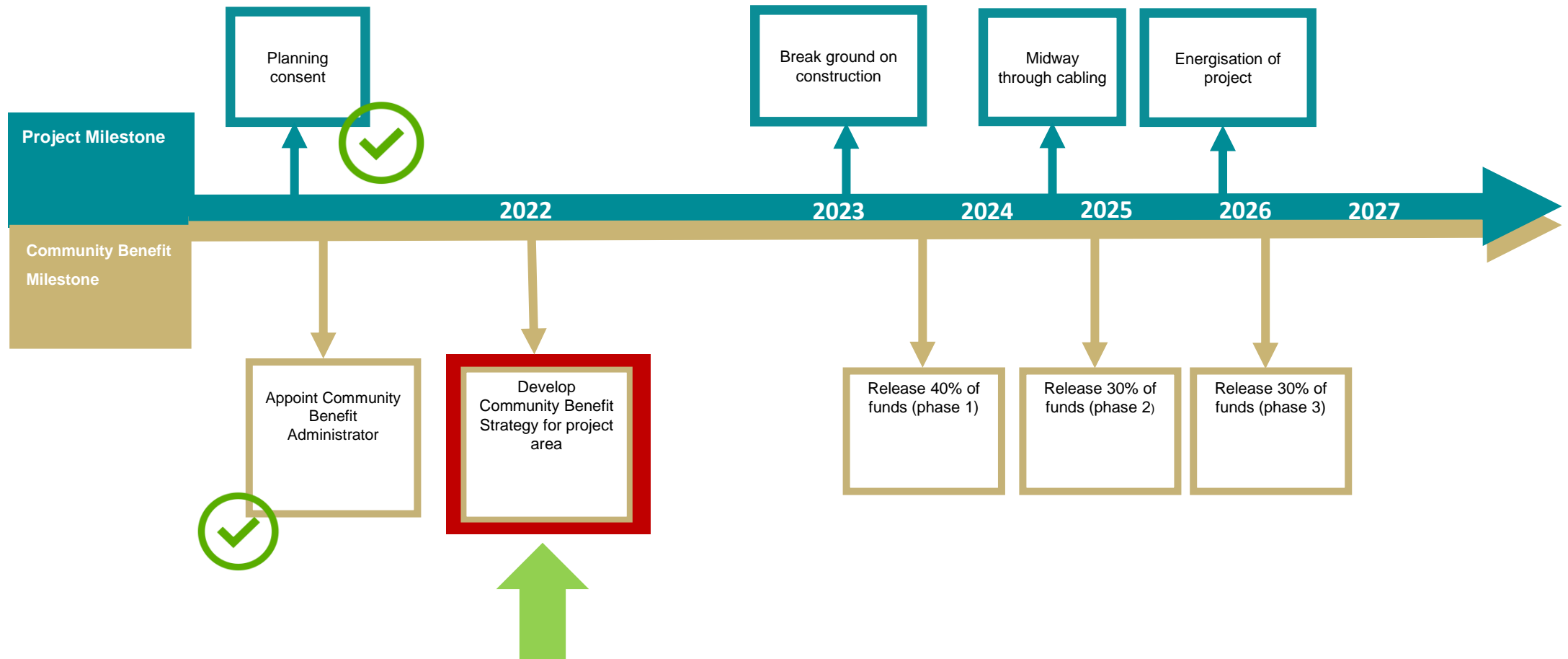
What will the Forum member's role be?



Forum members play a key role in developing the Community Benefit Strategy:

- To ensure that the scheme is designed for the local community, by the local community
- To provide relevant input and key local knowledge
- To communicate with the wider community and encourage participation
- To encourage collaboration and actively integrate different perspectives from the community
- To agree the criteria and parameters of the fund in collaboration with EirGrid and SECAD

Anticipated Community Benefit Timeline

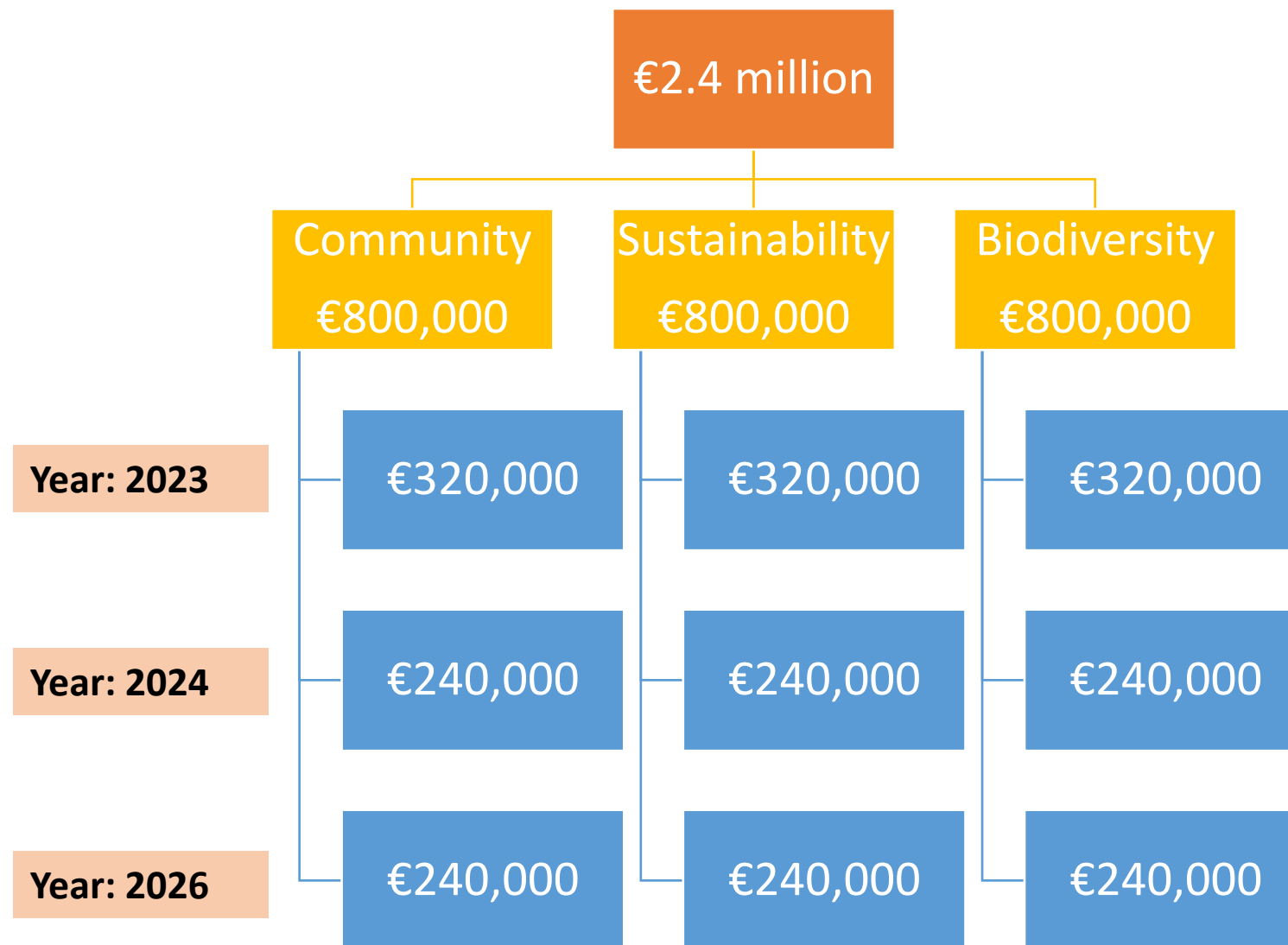


Community Benefit Streams

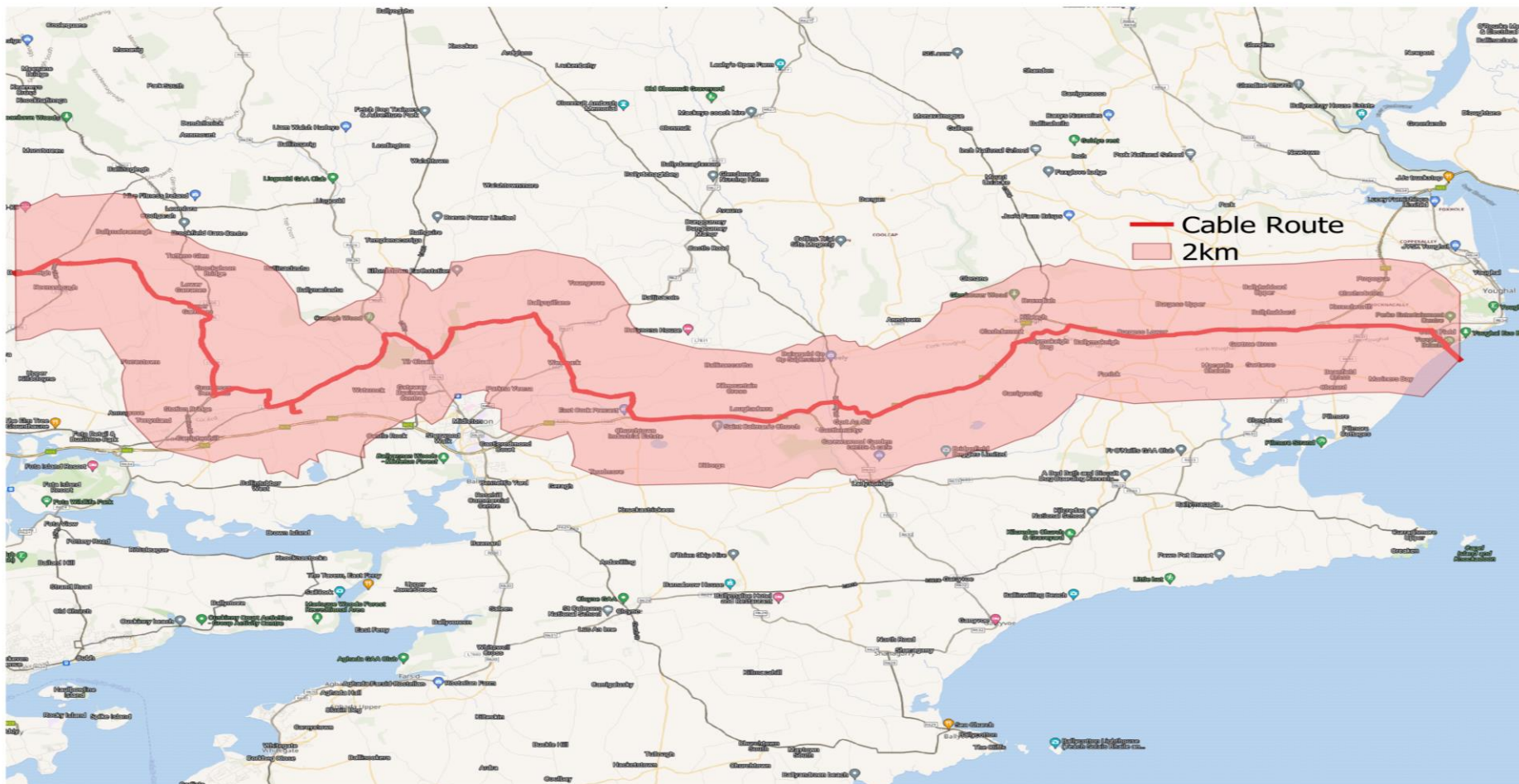


Community	Sustainability	Biodiversity
Delivered through community fund with flexibility for participatory grant making initiatives.	Transform how communities think about, generate and use electricity. Delivered through retrofitting, smart tech and partnerships.	Leave a positive legacy on communities who facilitate our projects. Delivered through grass root biodiversity initiatives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managed in collaboration with the Community Forum, Grant Administrator and EirGrid and guided by a local Community Benefit Strategy.• Fund total €2.4 million		

Proposed Fund Release Timeline



Proposed Area of Benefit



2KM Buffer Zone

1-2-1 Member Consultations



-
- Consultations completed with 17 of the 18 Forum Members
-
- Consultations structured around the 3 x Community Benefit streams
-
- Requirement for capital investment (strongest), training, festivals, feasibility, technical assistance
-
- The importance of diversity and inclusion
-
- Consider 'bubbles' at main towns and villages where 2km may be extended
-

Today's Workshop Format

Aims and objectives:

- Look at the feedback to date
- Look at the policy landscapes
- Generate discussion and conversation
- Identify the local priorities

Activities:

- Short presentation under 'Community' theme, break out groups, feedback
- Short presentation under 'Sustainability' theme, break out groups, feedback
- Short presentation under 'Biodiversity' theme, break out groups, feedback

Outcome:

- ✓ Co-generation of ideas
- ✓ Collaborative approach to ensuring the fund will have impact on a local scale



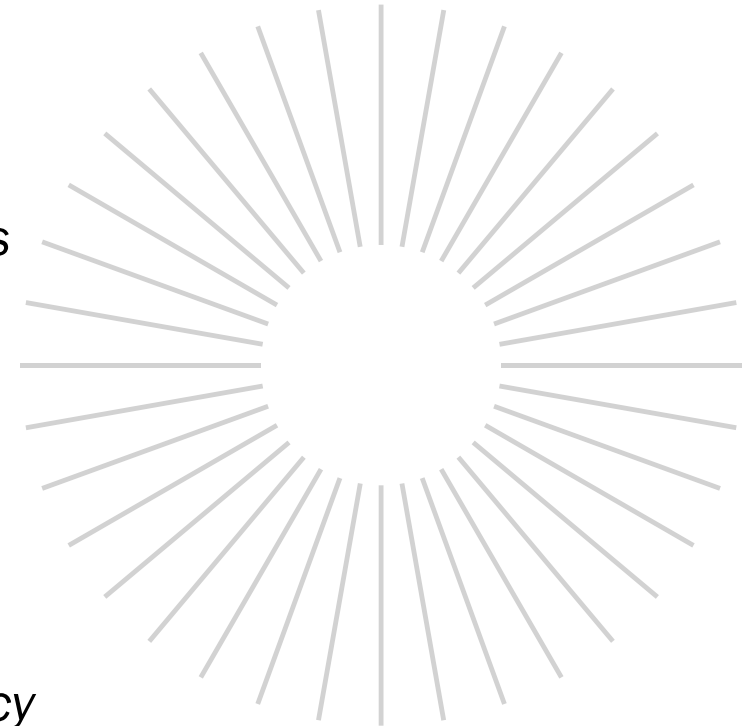
Planning for Impact

‘What are the positive impacts you would like to see in the area as a result of the fund?’

‘How can this funding help us to address the challenges and opportunities in our community?’

What is impact?

A change or a benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life (Horizon Europe, EU Commission)



Community Stream 1-2-1 Feedback

- ✓ A lot of large-scale capital investment projects - mostly community centres, sports facilities
- ✓ Requirement for technical support (e.g. architects, engineers, professional expertise)
- ✓ Outdoor socialising spaces & walkways
- ✓ Signage and village enhancement initiatives
- ✓ Need for youth facilities and non-sporting activities, particularly for teenagers
- ✓ Playgrounds
- ✓ Festivals
- ✓ Improved accessibility
- ✓ Inclusion initiatives to integrate new families and new communities into towns and villages

Community Stream



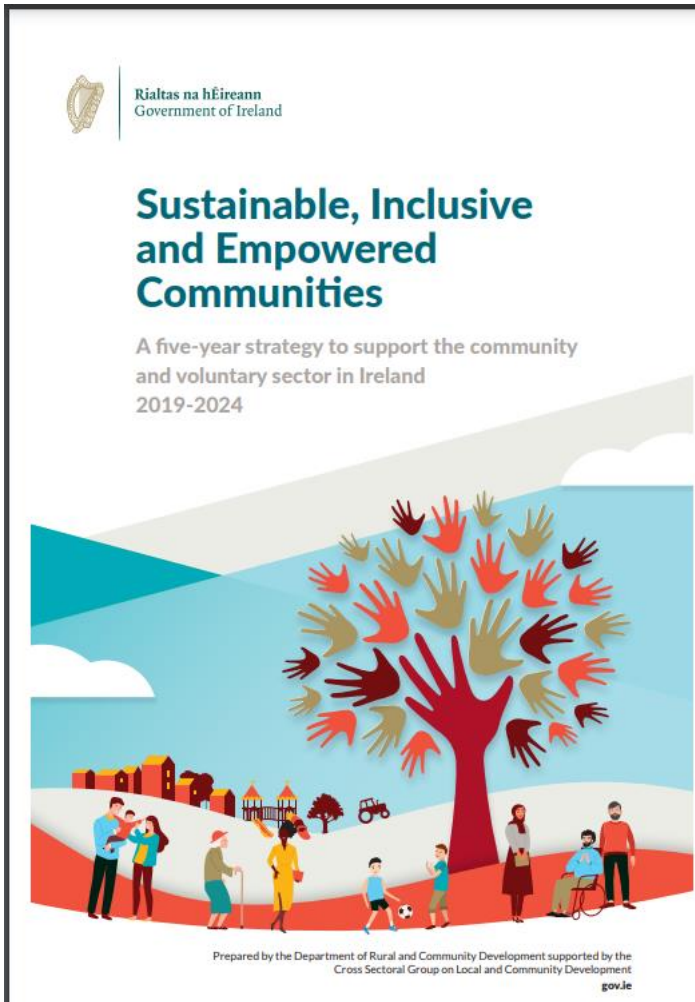
What does the '**Community Stream**' mean?

This stream aims to reinforce

1. Community cohesion
2. Wellbeing
3. Education



National Context



<https://assets.gov.ie/26890/ff380490589a4f9ab9cd9bb3f53b5493.pdf>

Our Vision for Communities

To create vibrant, sustainable, inclusive, empowered and self determining communities that support the social, cultural and economic well-being of all members.

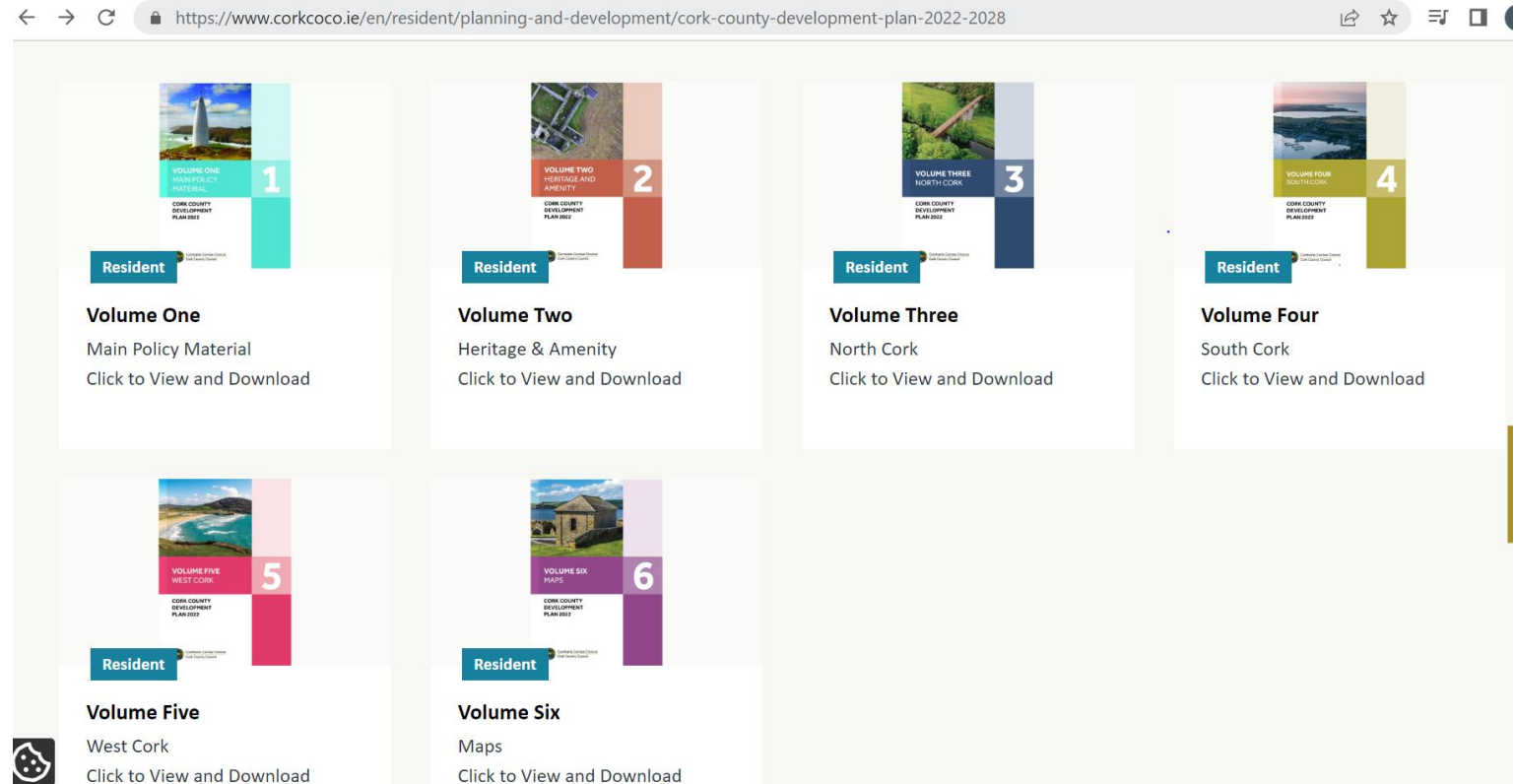
Regional Context



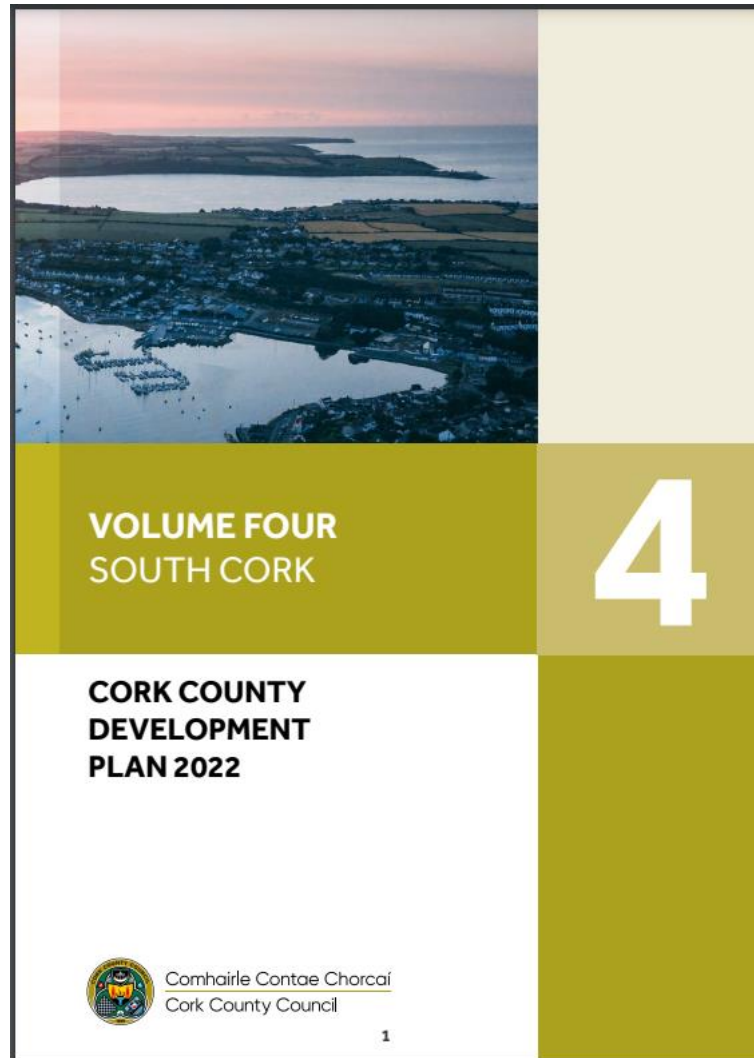
Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028

Came into effect on 6 June 2022

Six volumes which can be downloaded



South Cork



Volume Four – South Cork

<https://www.corkcoco.ie/sites/default/files/2022-06/volume-4-south-cork.pdf>



Community Stream



Projects under the Community Stream might include:

- Arts, language, local heritage and cultural initiatives
- Community based research
- Education initiatives
- Initiatives and facilities that increase access to education
- Enhancements to community amenities
- Initiatives led by sporting organisations
- Providing leisure amenities
- Meeting particular local needs
- Providing environmental awareness measures
- Providing amenities for children and young people
- Providing amenities for older people
- Tidy Towns and Villages initiatives



Discussion - Community

‘What are the positive impacts you would like to see in the area as a result of the fund?’

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Sustainability Stream – 1-2-1 Feedback

- ✓ Community buses & transport
- ✓ Heritage, Culture & Tourism
- ✓ Capacity Building and Community Training initiatives
- ✓ Technical Support
- ✓ Electric car & E-bike charging points
- ✓ Initiatives and projects to promote cycling & walking
- ✓ Community Centre energy upgrades – insulation, renewable energy
- ✓ Solar lighting
- ✓ Waste management and recycling
- ✓ Joined up thinking – 'one big project' e.g. East Cork decarbonisation zone

Sustainability Stream



What does the '**Sustainability Stream**' mean?

This stream aims to transform how communities think about and use resources, including energy, food and waste.



What does this mean for your community?

What are the priorities for your community?

What are the opportunities in your community?

Sustainability Stream



Sustainability Stream



Projects under the Sustainability Stream might include:

- Establishing a Sustainable Energy Community
- Developing an Energy Masterplan
- Improving home energy efficiency
- Community energy initiatives
- Renewable energy projects
- Local food production initiatives
- Rethinking Waste initiatives
- Awareness raising and education initiatives
- Behavioral change initiatives



Sustainable Energy



Sustainable energy benefits 'People, Planet and Profit'

People

Communities can become more resilient and empowered
Energy projects can create and sustain local skills
employment

Planet

Reduced GHG emissions
Protection of natural resources
Healthier towns and villages

Profit

Homes and buildings become more comfortable, and more
efficient and cheaper to run.
More money stays in the local economy with lower energy
costs and with locally produced energy.



Sustainable Energy



- The EirGrid Community Benefit Fund can support communities to identify and start an energy project.
- The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) provide advice, expertise and funding for community energy projects.
- The first step in community energy projects is to set up a **Sustainable Energy Community (SEC)**, and set out the goals and ambitions of your community.
- With the support of an SEAI mentor your SEC can apply for Energy Masterplan funding
- The Energy Masterplan is carried out by an energy consultant and will involve input and consultation with your community
- The Energy Masterplan will establish an energy baseline of your community, identify opportunities for energy projects, and prioritise actions and projects.



Sustainable Energy Community Network



Case Studies of SECs

Batterstown, Co. Meath (Local Community) <https://www.seai.ie/case-studies/batterstown-community/>

Fair Play Café, Dublin <https://www.seai.ie/case-studies/the-fair-play-cafe/>

Collinstown Park Community College, Dublin <https://www.seai.ie/case-studies/sustainable-schools/>

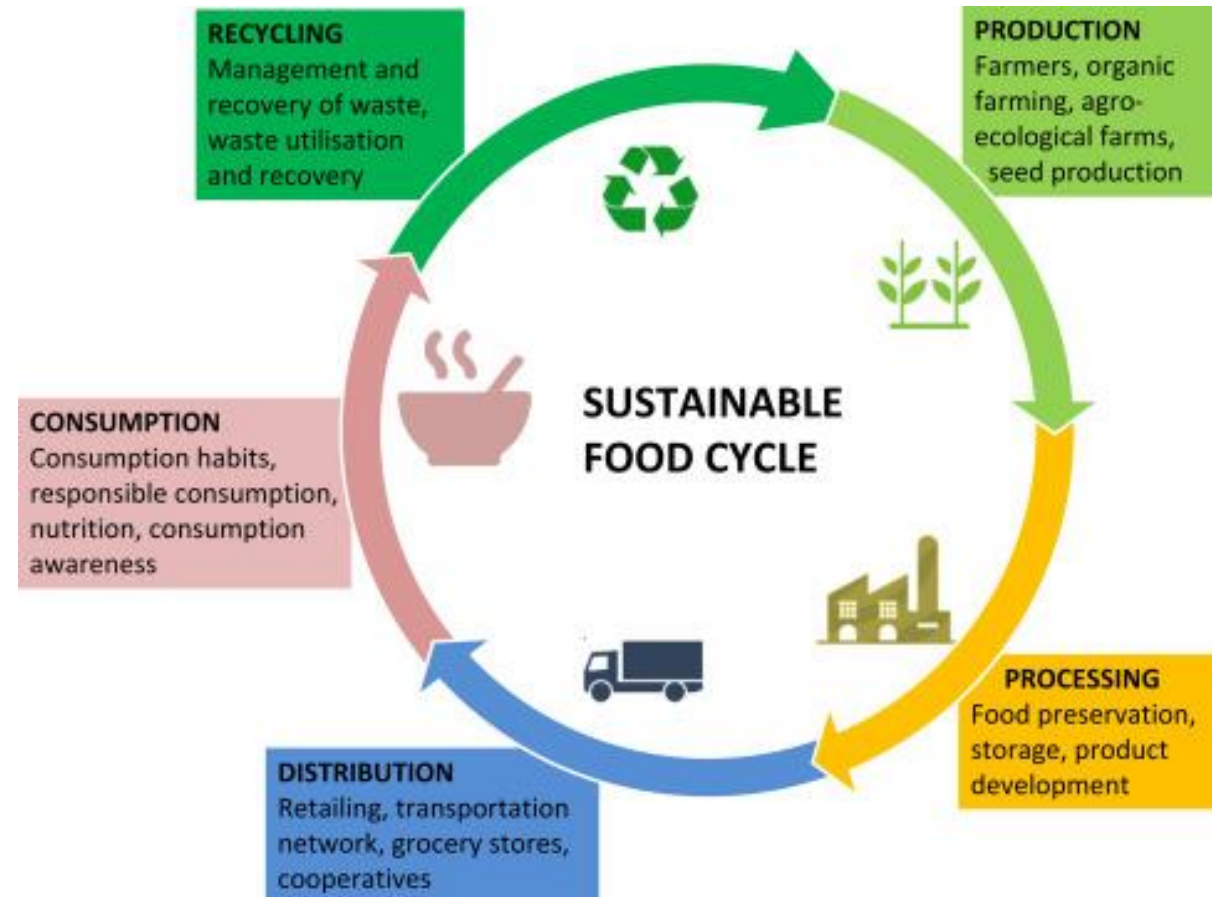
Sustainable Clonakilty, Co. Cork <https://www.seai.ie/case-studies/sustainable-clonakilty-wo/>

Sustainable Food

Sustainable Consumption and Production Food

Projects may include

- Local Food Networks
- Education Initiatives
- Workshops



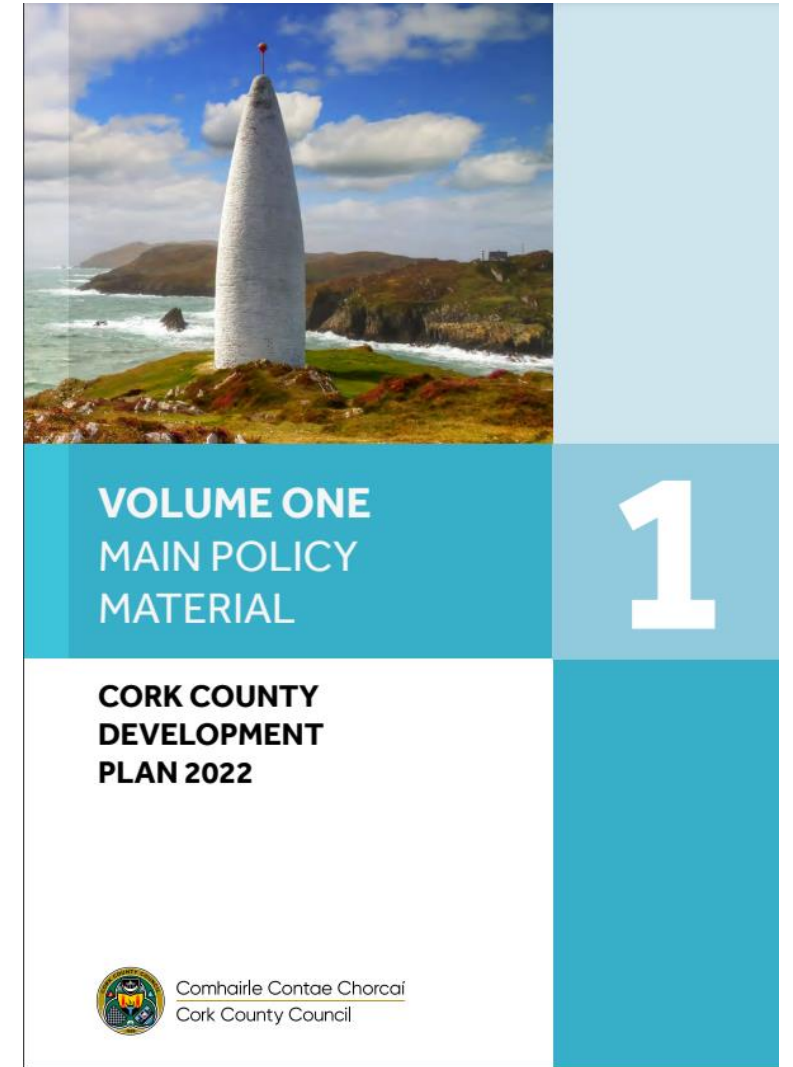
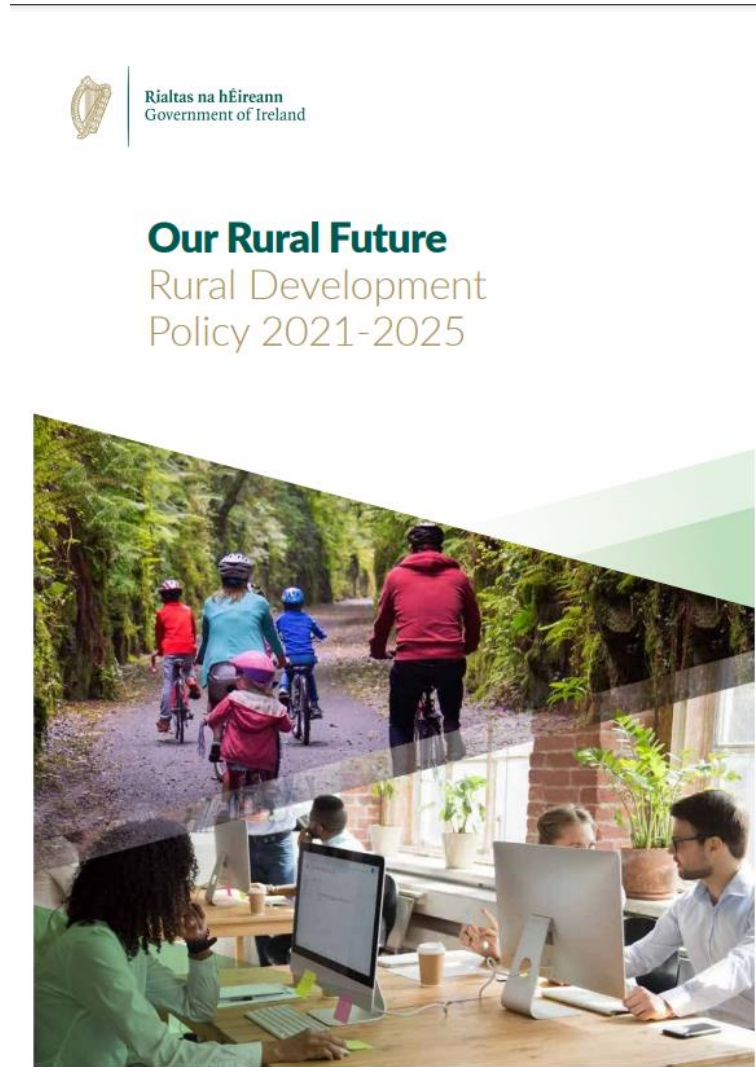
Rethinking Waste

Projects might include

- Reducing single use plastics
- Composting workshops
- Upcycling, repairing and creative workshops
- Awareness and education initiatives



Sustainability Policy Context



Sustainable Development Goals <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Climate Action Plan 2021 <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/6223e-climate-action-plan-2021/>

Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021 – 2025 <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/4c236-our-rural-future-vision-and-policy-context/#transitioning-to-a-climate-neutral-society>

Cork County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 <https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/resident/planning-and-development/cork-county-development-plan-2022-2028>

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Stop Food Waste Ireland <https://stopfoodwaste.ie/>

Neighbour Food <https://www.neighbourfood.ie/>

Discussion - Sustainability

‘What are the positive impacts you would like to see in the area as a result of the fund?’

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Biodiversity Stream – 1-2-1 Feedback

- ✓ Mostly small-scale initiatives, with a few larger scale projects
- ✓ Will require Tidy Towns input
- ✓ Biodiversity trails and signage
- ✓ Pollinators
- ✓ Parks & Gardens
- ✓ Lakes & Waterways
- ✓ Woodlands
- ✓ Links with Greenways and Cycle routes
- ✓ Rewilding projects
- ✓ Improving infrastructure at biodiversity sites (e.g. car parks, signage, accessibility)
- ✓ Digitalisation – apps, QR codes, VR, videography
- ✓ Conservation of habitats & management of invasive species
- ✓ Training and education

Biodiversity Stream



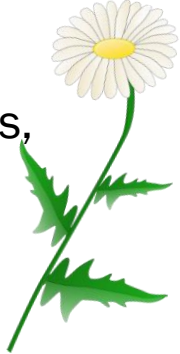

Biodiversity Stream



The biodiversity stream aims to

- leave the biodiversity of an area in a better condition than it was before we built a project
- develop projects that will benefit the locality and leave a lasting positive biodiversity legacy

Examples of biodiversity projects:

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biodiversity Nature Trails• 'Grow Your Own' Community Allotments,• Buildings for Nature• Invasive Plant Removal Projects |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Wetlands• Wildlife-friendly Gardening Initiatives• Pollinator-friendly (bee-friendly) Initiatives,• Wildlife Education Programmes: 'Talks and Walks' |  |
|---|--|---|--|

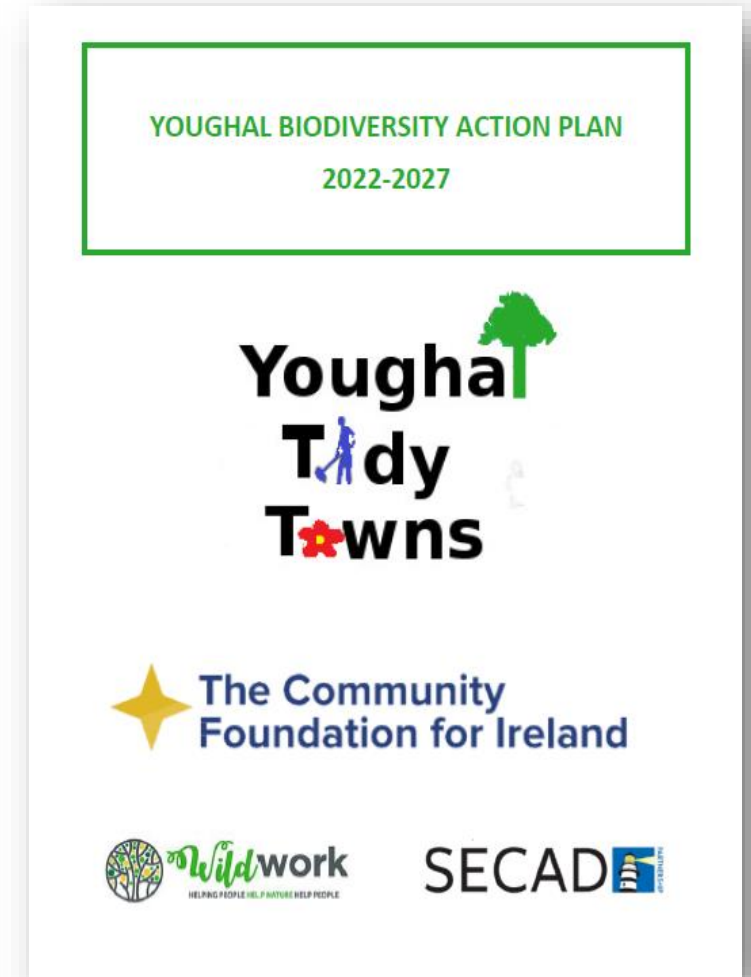
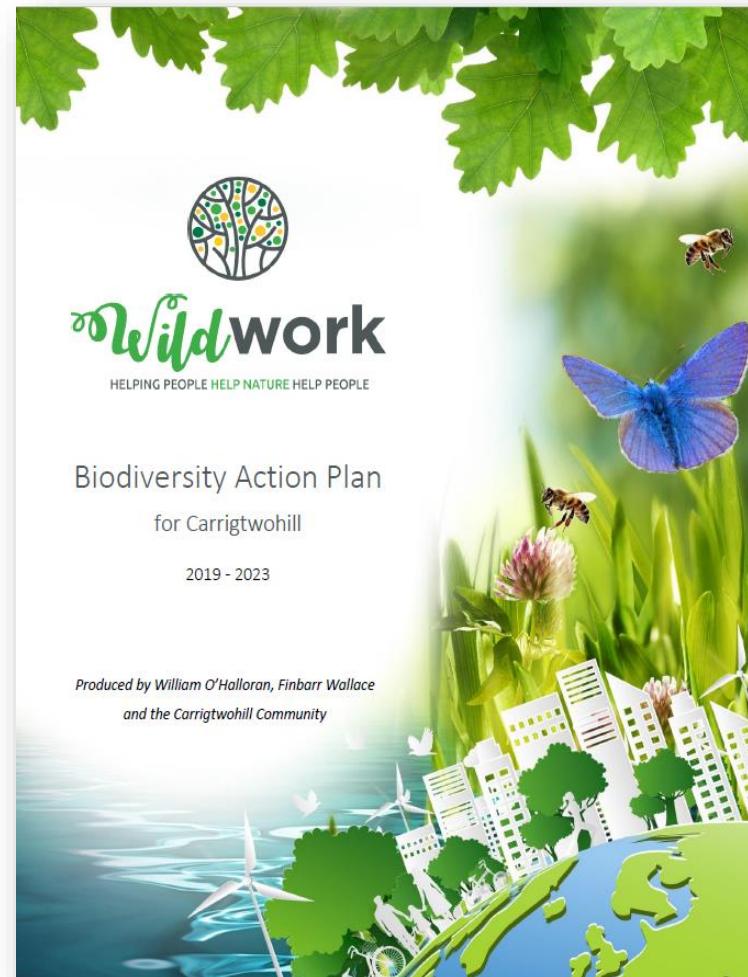
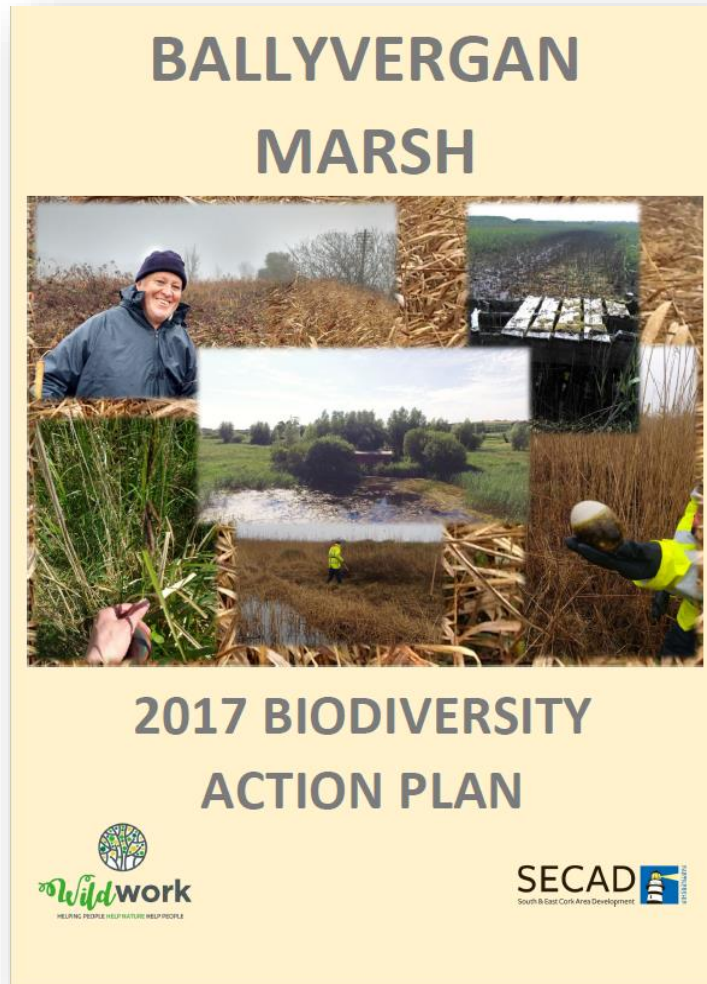
Biodiversity Action Plans



County Cork Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-2014

Contae Chorcaí Plean Ghníomhartha Bhithéagsulacht 2009-2014

Biodiversity Action Plans



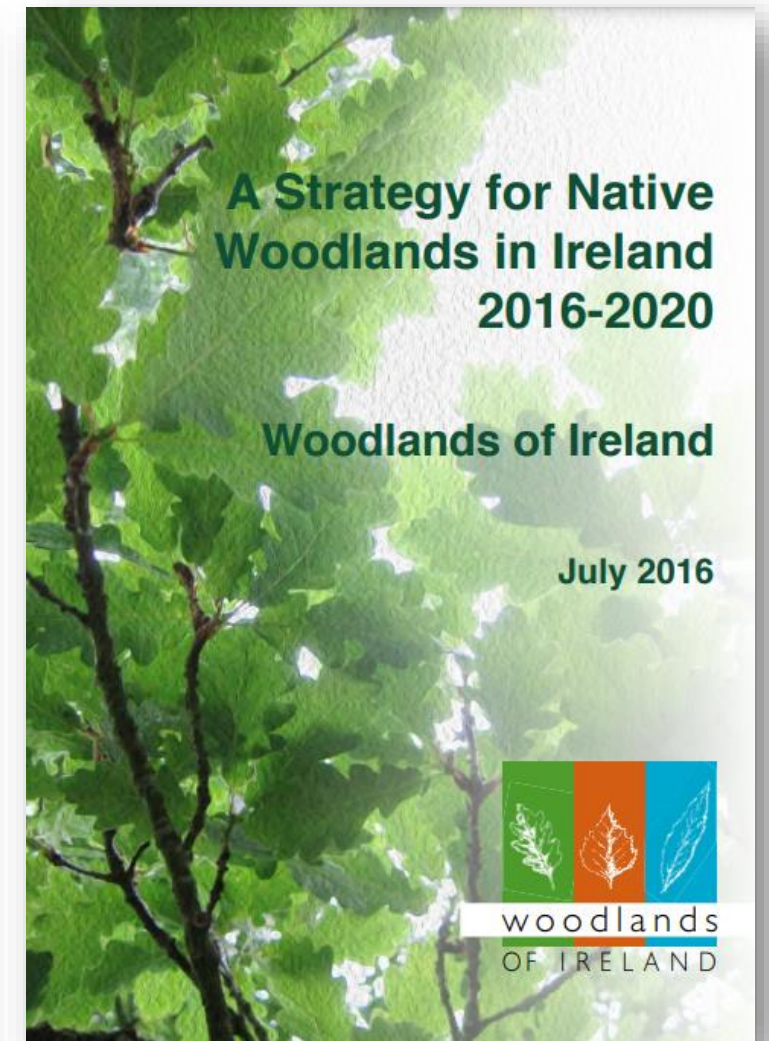
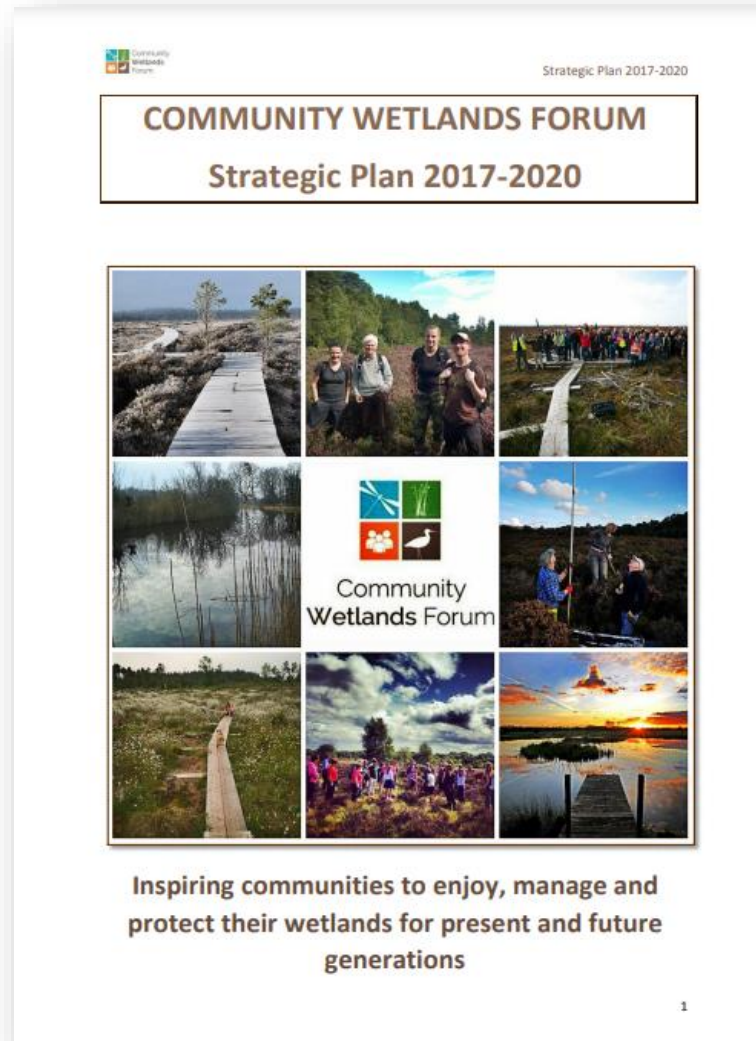
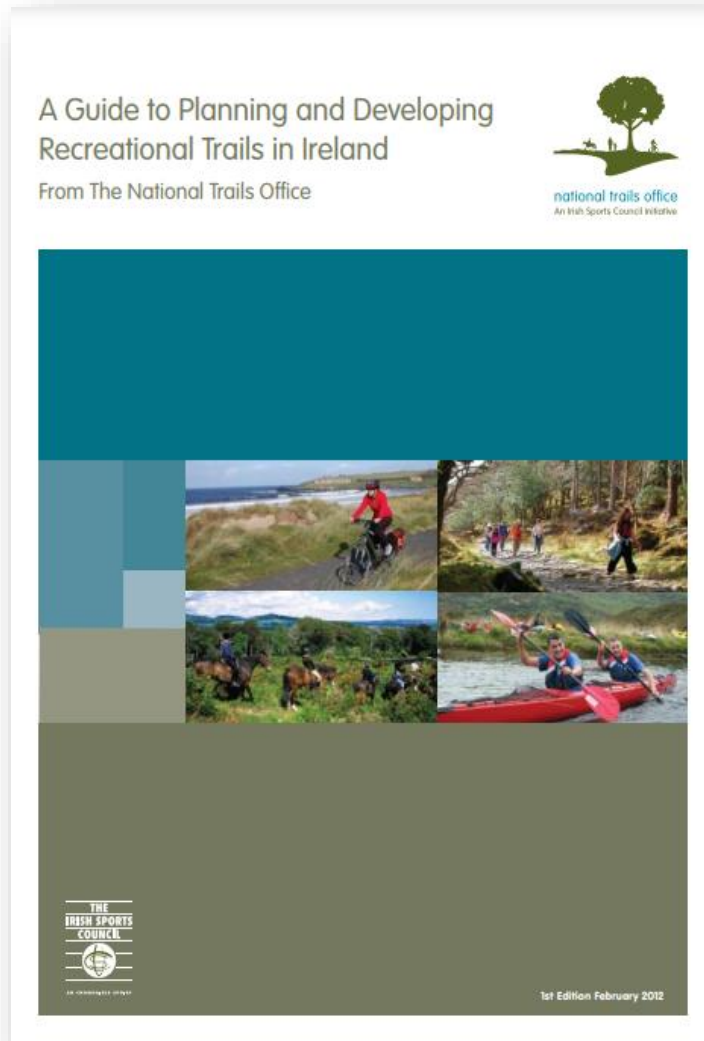
Actions for Biodiversity



Youghal Tidy Towns BAP

Action	The Slob Bank and Youghal Mudlands	Year
SB-1	Explore the possibility of erecting interpretive signage highlighting the importance of habitats and species surrounding the Slob Bank on the Slob Bank.	2
SB-3	Work with the council and other stakeholders to develop a regime to manage grasslands bordering the Breton Road using pollinator friendly techniques.	1-2
SB-4	With relevant stakeholders (e.g. owners, NPWS), identify a small area of grassland on slopes at the south end of the Slob Bank Walk, outside of the SAC, to manage using a once a year cut-and-lift approach and monitor to see if this increases plant diversity. This would have to take account of life cycles of resident and visiting bird species.	1

Biodiversity Resources – Trails, Wetlands, Woods



Biodiversity Resources - Water



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LOCAL AUTHORITY WATERS PROGRAMME

The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) is working to identify the issues affecting water quality in every county in Ireland. Where issues are identified, we collaborate with the relevant local authority, public body, and water stakeholder to find a solution. Community engagement is the cornerstone of this approach to combine local and expert knowledge for a better understanding of

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Events Calendar](#)

WATER HERITAGE DAY

[Water Heritage Day 2022](#)

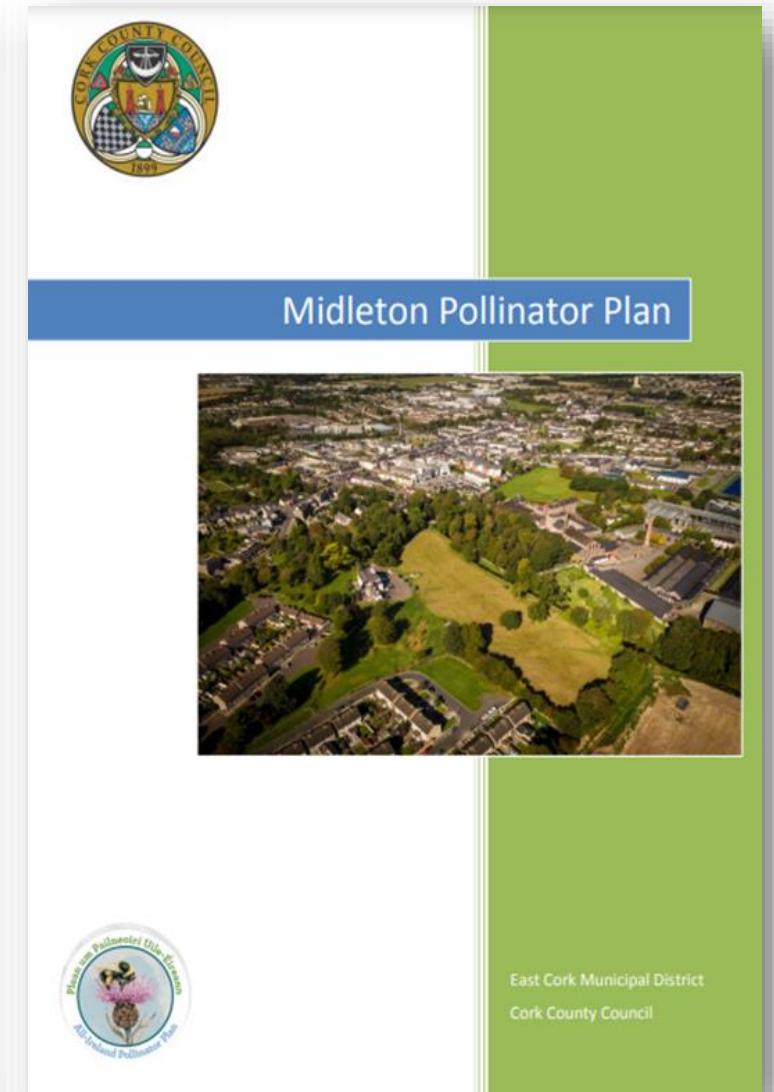
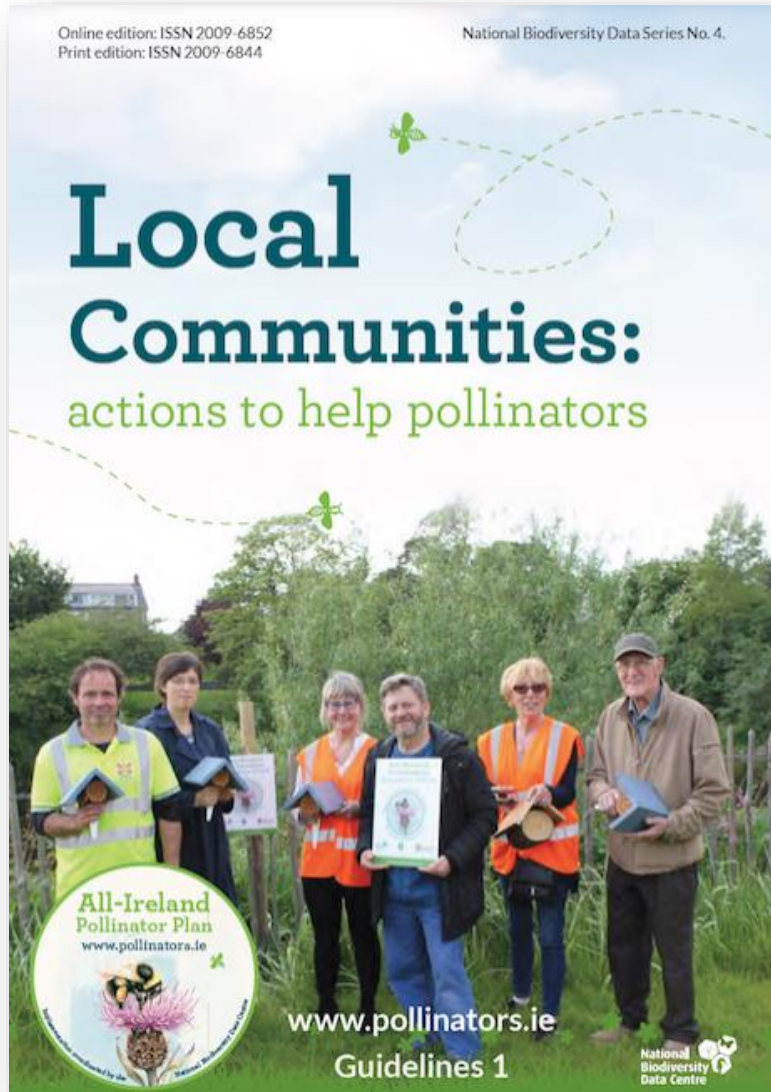
2022 GRANT DRAWDOWN

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Biodiversity Resources - Pollinators



Biodiversity Resources - Education



The logo for the National Biodiversity Data Centre, featuring a stylized white flower-like icon and the text "National Biodiversity Data Centre" and "A Heritage Council Programme".

[Join the Mailing List](#)

A circular icon with a lowercase 'i' inside, representing information.

A close-up photograph of a colorful damselfly with a red and yellow body and transparent wings, resting on a human hand. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre

⌵

The National Biodiversity Data Centre works to make biodiversity data and information more freely available in order to better understand and assist the protection of Ireland's biodiversity.

A circular icon containing a document symbol.	1886030 RECORDS
A circular icon containing a leaf symbol.	6444 SPECIES
A circular icon containing a database cylinder symbol.	64 DATASETS

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A small icon representing privacy and terms, showing a document with a checkmark.

Biodiversity Projects - Ideas



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People and Nature

The Galway County Biodiversity Project



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[publications](#)

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Community Projects

Community based biodiversity projects around County Galway



[Calasactius College Biodiversity](#)
Students make space for nature
in Oranmore



[Cleggan Tidy Towns](#)
Community Invasive Species
Project



[Cloughanover National School](#)
Plant Guardians of Keekil Pier

People and Nature

[Going wild with children](#)

[Headford Biodiversity Plan](#)

[Máirín de Valéra \(1912-1984\)](#)

[Planning for nature](#)

[Community Projects](#)

[Local Biodiversity Action
Plans](#)

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Biodiversity Projects - Ideas



Departments

Consultations

Publications

Policies

Languages ▾



Press release

Biodiversity projects to fore as local authorities share €1.35m Biodiversity grant

From [Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage](#)

Published on 21 May 2021

Last updated on 21 May 2021

Biodiversity Resources - Education



National Rural Network

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24 Locally-led Farm and Community Biodiversity EIP-AGRI Projects Awarded €3million in Funding

Jun 2, 2021 | EIP-AGRI News



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Links

- A Strategy for Native Woodlands in Ireland 2016-2020 <https://npf.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/0608-Woodlands-of-Ireland.compressed.pdf>
- Cork County Biodiversity Action Plan http://www.globalislands.net/greenislands/docs/ireland_734358998.pdf
- Wild Work Biodiversity Action Plans <https://wildwork.ie/biodiversity-action-plans/>
- Midleton Pollinator Plan <https://pollinators.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Midleton-Pollinator-Plan.pdf>
- Community Wetlands Forum Strategic Plan 2017-2020 <https://www.communitywetlandsforum.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/CWF-Strategic-Plan-Baseline-Study-2017-2020-FINAL-17052017.pdf>
- A Strategy for Native Woodlands in Ireland 2016-2020 <https://npf.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/0608-Woodlands-of-Ireland.compressed.pdf>
- Local Authority Waters Programme <https://lawaters.ie/>
- All Ireland Pollinator Plan <https://pollinators.ie/aipp-2021-2025/>
- National Biodiversity Data Centre <https://biodiversityireland.ie/>
- Community Projects Archives - People and Nature <https://biodiversity.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/people/projects>
- 24 Locally-led Farm and Community Biodiversity EIP-AGRI Projects <https://www.nationalruralnetwork.ie/eip-agri/eip-agri-news/24-locally-led-farm-and-community-biodiversity-eip-agri-projects-awarded-e3million-in-funding/>

Discussion - Biodiversity

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The Next Steps



- Communicate next phase of consultation to all in the community
- Next Workshop – beginning of November
 - Update on wider consultation
 - Review of local priorities
 - ‘Nuts and Bolts’ of fund structure

Any questions?



Thank you!

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