

Community Climate Action Programme

Strand 1a: Shared Island Community Climate Action

Community Climate Action Programme

The Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) will see €60.5 million from the Climate Action Fund invested in community climate action projects and initiatives, as well as capacity building, over a number of years. This Programme aims to support and empower communities to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in a coherent way.

The CCAP has been developed under two strands addressing both direct climate action under strand 1/a, and climate education and capacity building under strand 2.

Strand 1/a has two parts:

- 1) Strand 1 entitled “*Action: Building Low Carbon Communities*”, under which €24 million has been allocated from the Climate Action Fund (CAF) for local authorities to support and build low carbon communities across their operational areas, and strand 1a entitled “*Shared Island Community Climate Action*”.
- 2) Strand 1a entitled “*Shared Island Community Climate Action*”, under which, a total of €3 million is being provided by the Government’s Shared Island Fund to support cross-border and all-island¹ community climate action initiatives as an integrated part of the Community Climate Action Programme.

Context of Strand 1a

The Programme for Government and the National Development Plan 2021-30 (NDP) set out the Government’s objectives for strategic cooperation and investment for mutual benefit on the island of Ireland, including on climate action.

The Shared Island chapter of the NDP includes investment objectives on:

- Climate action funding to take up opportunities for effective cross-border climate action partnerships and interventions.
- Coordinated investment to conserve cross-border region peatlands to support biodiversity, provide valuable ecosystem services and act as carbon sinks.
- Supporting more all-island approaches to biodiversity protection, building on the success of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.
- Investing for more efficient operation of the circular economy on an all-island basis.

Strand 1a - Shared Island Community Climate Action

Strand 1a projects will address the same **five themes** as strand 1:

- 1. Community Energy**
- 2. Travel**
- 3. Food and Waste**
- 4. Shopping and recycling**
- 5. Local climate and Environmental action.**

¹ All-island projects are broader than cross-border projects and could involve multiple projects across both jurisdictions on the island, including through cooperation by eligible national or regional-level organisations, North and South.

Projects eligible for funding under strand 1a

The types of projects/initiatives, within communities, which are eligible for funding under strand 1a, must seek to do the following on a cross-border basis on the island of Ireland:

- reduce, or support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions
- increase the production, or use, of renewable energy
- improve energy efficiency
- increase climate resilience
- identify nature-based projects that enhance biodiversity and seek to reduce, or increase the removal of, greenhouse gas emissions or support climate resilience
- assist regions within sectors of the economy impacted by the transition to a low carbon economy
- involve potentially innovative solutions to address the above asks.

While projects seeking funding under strand 1a should generally address the same five themes as strand 1 projects, there are also specific areas that may be particularly suited to a Shared Island approach. In recognition of the integration of climate and biodiversity action policies, these could include:

Valuing Networks for Nature: Communities working together in nature recovery networks or ‘wildlife web’ and developing corridors of natural vegetation between existing conservation areas.

Sustainable farming: Programmes focusing on regenerative and nature-based farming on a cross-border and all-island basis could be developed and expanded.

Just Transition: Recognising the importance of a just transition for farmers and encouraging different agricultural practices on a cross-border and all-island basis, including to improve and protect land and water quality.

Peatland restoration: This has been identified as a key area of work, North and South, given the trans-boundary implications for carbon storage levels and inventory reporting, with potential for community and Local Authority cooperative interventions in border regions.

Renewable energy: Encouraging groups to build cooperation and share information in the areas of solar, off-shore wind, wave and tidal energy. Some Local Authorities have already engaged in these areas, and cross-border partnerships offer additional potential to develop projects and seek solutions.

Flood forecasting: Using the “bottom-up” approach adopted by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, small scale collaborations on flood forecasting and warning services could be piloted in particular border regions.

Coastal erosion: Potential for significant cooperation in research, data-sharing and mitigation between communities and Local Authorities across the island.

Strand 1a projects must have a clear North/South basis, with a cross-border partnership approach and impact. Strand 1a enables communities and Local Authorities in Ireland to propose a cross-border project in partnership with organisations in Northern Ireland. At least 50% of awarded funding must be for project delivery in Northern Ireland.

All Local Authorities in Ireland can assess an application received under strand 1a and make a recommendation to the Minister for a project. The €3 million Shared Island Fund is not pre-allocated.

Shared Island projects may be applied for under three tiers:

- Small sized projects of up to €20,000. Communities should submit expressions of interest to partner the Local Authorities in these projects, by way of the small project application form which contains a menu of options e.g. community composting, water refill stations, pollinator projects, small renewable energy projects, rewilding etc. Projects are not limited to the examples listed.
- Medium sized projects are valued in the range of €20,000 - €50,000. Communities should submit expressions of interest to partner the Local Authorities in these projects.
- Larger projects are in the range of €51,000 - €100,000. Communities should submit expressions of interest to partner Local Authorities in these projects.

Community Organisation Eligibility

Shared Island projects must involve both a community organisation and Local Authority in Ireland and a partner in Northern Ireland. The partner in Northern Ireland may be a Local Authority or a community organisation, or it may involve both. Ideally there should be community organisations based in both Ireland and Northern Ireland involved.

Organisations meeting the requirements listed below are eligible to act as the lead organisation under strand 1a provided they:

- are a not-for-profit organisation
- are in the operational area of the Local Authority to which they are applying for funding
- submit a completed application form on or before the closing date and time specified by the relevant Local Authority
- are registered with a PPN or connected with other collectives such as the Wheel, Tidy Towns and /or a community group with Articles of Association or a Constitution, which hold an AGM, and for which approved minutes are available.

Additionally, Strand 1a applications must be made by a lead community organisation in Ireland, with at least one partner organisation in Northern Ireland. Strand 1a applications will be submitted to the Local Authority in Ireland in which the lead organisation is based.

Partner organisations must be a not-for-profit organisation, a Local Authority, or a community or environmental organisation registered in Northern Ireland. The partner organisation may be a national organisation based in Northern Ireland given the potential for all-island partnerships.

The following are not eligible to act as the lead organisation or the Northern Ireland Partner:

- Private individuals
- Commercial undertakings (including sole traders).

Furthermore:

- The project applied for must be in line with the aim/purpose of the funding.
- Only one application per lead organisation may be submitted for consideration – projects proposed could cut across several of the themes and be bundled together as part of a single application.

In developing projects, Local Authorities and communities should also consider how their projects contribute to progress in relation to relevant [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

For further information please contact the Community Climate Action Officer in the relevant Local Authority in Ireland.