



Communities Planning For Their Future

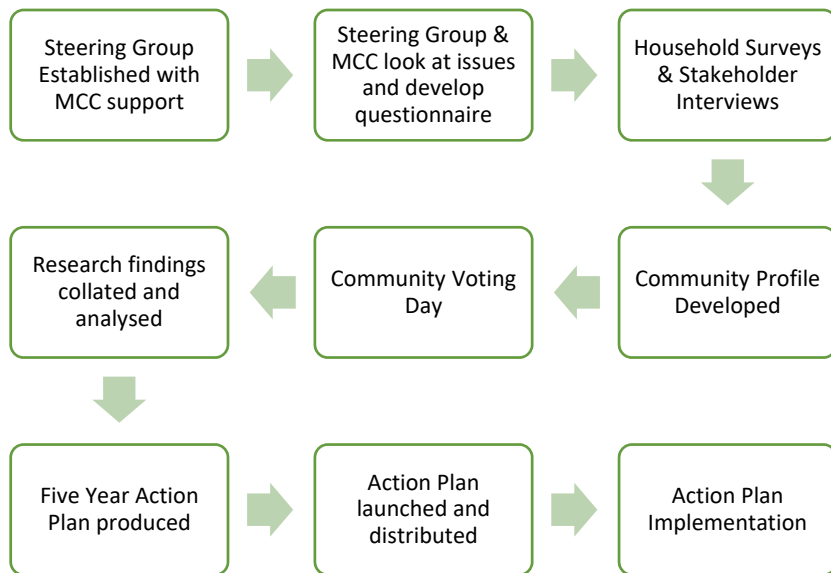


Community Futures Mayo is an approach to local community planning and sustainable community development that encourages active citizenship and builds local democracy

The programme involves a package of support measures enabling communities to identify what matters to them and turn their priorities and needs into reality

The outcomes of the Communities Future process – communities priorities and needs – are packages in Action Plans. Mayo County Council provides the support, expertise and knowledge to help communities achieve their ambitions.

CF Programme is delivered in a series of steps



SEAI; “Working with homeowners, businesses, communities and government to transform how we think about, generate and use energy”.

Supports for Households

- Information for saving energy and money around the home
- Grants: Home Energy Deep Retrofit, Insulation, Heating Control, Solar Electricity, Heat Pump

Supports for Communities

- Sustainable Energy Communities Programme (Learn-Plan-Do)
- SEC Mentors
- Better Energy Community Grants

Supports for SMEs

- Financial Supports (e.g. Light Support Scheme, Dairy Farm Grant)
- Information & Advisory Services
- Training Supports

“Mayo Community Futures is a bottom up, community led process which allows all members of the community opportunities to feed into an Action Plan for their community” [CF Website]

Community Futures needs to retain its bottom up approach while embedding climate action into the communities thinking.

“Community Futures is a forward looking process shaped by a long-term vision for and by the community. It therefore needs to factor in things like climate change” [STAR Group, Scotland]



Proposal for Green Community Futures Programme



Training: Scene setting sessions by MCC & SEAI looking at Climate Change and the long-term trends, risks and opportunities that might affect the communities thinking and vision.

Questionnaire (additional question): *“Tell us your ideas for making xxx a more sustainable community (ideas to reduce our carbon footprint e.g. renewable energy, energy efficiency, recycling and re-use, transport, local produce, etc.)”* [Scottish Case Study]

Objectives

Raise awareness of climate change risks and actions and the opportunities for communities.

Local priorities to be viewed through the prism of climate actions to create a vision of a climate adapted and carbon neutral community.

Avail of opportunities for communities by connecting local knowledge with expertise and funding streams for sustainable development and climate action.

Develop identifiable Community Champions and links to MCC and Departments that people know who to go too for advice on Climate Action.

Encourage communities to form Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) under the SEAI Programme

Proposal for Existing Programmes

Currently 33 Community Future Plans published

Option 1 – General Climate Action Training/Awareness Events

Provide information to each Community Futures Committee on Climate issues and actions for consideration in implementing their existing Themes and Priorities

Option 2 – Pilot a number of existing Community Plans

- Call for existing Community Future Plans to “Go Green”
- Select 4 -5 Communities as a Pilot
- Selected Community Futures representatives to attend LEADER/CARO/MCC Climate Action training in Oct-Dec 2019
- Series of Intensive Mentoring Sessions for Community Futures Committee with MCC (Climate, Waste, Biodiversity, Agriculture) and SEAI
- MCC to provide Home Energy Saving Kits through Library services
- Community Voting Day of ways to incorporate Climate Action into the existing Plan and visions for the community
- Analyse the findings and draft Addendum to the Plan

CASE STUDY

Community Futures Goes Green - Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park



Community Futures Goes Green is an energy saving and carbon reduction initiative involving eight communities located in and around Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park delivered with funding from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund (£135,000).

In many of the Action Plans for 2008-11 „becoming more sustainable“ and „reducing our carbon footprint“ was explicitly prioritised and these issues were highlighted again at the Community Gathering 2008.

A consortium of 8 community groups were successful in an application to the Climate Challenge Fund that covered advice and information to householders on energy saving and micro-renewables, consideration of how community buildings could be made more energy efficient and cut carbon emissions.

The project offered all householders in the eight communities:

- Face-to-Face advice and information on how to improve home and energy habits (Energy Saving Trust - Home Energy Check Survey)
- Low cost insulation offers
- Use of an energy monitor to better understand where electricity is being wasted
- Information on generating their own energy through micro-renewables
- Training sessions on hard to treat properties.

These activities were supported by a range of initiatives in each community to raise awareness of energy saving issues.

Workshops were held in each of the eight local primary schools and a banner created by the children for each of their communities to promote carbon saving.

The Community Futures Goes Green team promoted the project at local events, such as gala days, to provide information and advice on carbon saving.

The project also worked with Community Energy Scotland (CES) to identify how community buildings could be made more energy efficient and economical to run.

CASE STUDY

Home Energy Kits - CODEMA

The Home Energy Saving Kit contains 6 practical tools to help you save energy at home. The kit is available to borrow free of charge from all Dublin City Council, Fingal and dlr Libraries, from a selection of South Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny and Wexford Libraries, and all libraries in Roscommon, Leitrim and Cork City.

The kit can be borrowed for a period of 2 or 3 weeks (lending periods vary from county to county), and helps you take the first step in becoming more energy efficient by identifying problem areas in your home and helping you make sense of the energy you consume on a daily basis.

Tools within the Home Energy Saving Kit



- Temperature & Humidity Meter
- Radiator Key
- Fridge/Freezer Thermometer
- Plug-In Energy Monitor
- Thermal Leak Detector