



Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe  
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil  
Department of Communications,  
Climate Action & Environment

The Climate Action Regional Offices are an initiative of the Government of Ireland funded by the department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and managed through Local Authorities.

**May 2020**

## **Funding Opportunities for Climate Action**

***Research, Project Development and Capital Funding***



Cumann Lucht Bainistíochta Contae agus Cathrach  
County and City Management Association

**Oifig Réigiúnach um  
Gníomhú ar son na hAeráide  
Rialtas Áitiúil  
Réigiún Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath**

**Climate Action  
Regional Offices  
Local Government  
Dublin Metropolitan**



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This document has been prepared on behalf of the County and City Management Association (CCMA) by the Dublin CARO and Codema – Dublin's Energy Agency.

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## 1. Introduction

This document summarises some of the key funding sources that are available, and are relevant to the implementation of Local Authority Climate Adaptation Strategies / Climate Change Action Plans. The funding information is also of use to community groups and other stakeholders, in accessing funding sources for the implementation of a range of climate action projects. This document is not intended to be exhaustive, and is based on the experience of the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) and staff of Codema – Dublin's Energy Agency, in addition to funding sources that have been accessed in the past for the implementation of climate related plans and projects. This document is structured into different sections as follows:

- Research Project Funding;
- Project Development Funding;
- Capital Funding; and
- Community Gain, Philanthropic and Corporate Funding Sources

Where relevant, sections have been broken into National and European sources of funding. It is proposed that this document will be a living document which can be amended as new sources of funding arise and as some sources cease. The list of sources will also be maintained on the CARO website, which is currently under development.

## 2. Research Project Funding

Research is a fundamental mechanism for building knowledge on any aspect of enquiry whether social, environmental or economic. Research promotes collaboration and exchange of best practice between diverse organisations and outputs can answer policy relevant questions and information deficits on climate action. Research also builds human capital in terms of expertise at a national and international level in various disciplines. The following section outlines some of the key research funding mechanisms for climate action at a national and European level.

### 2.1 National



#### EPA Research Calls (Climate/Water/Sustainability pillars)

The EPA funded environmental research provides essential scientific support for environmental policy development, implementation and broader decision making. The EPA has funded research that has increased national understanding of the environment, the challenges it faces and responses to these. It has also developed high quality research capacity and supported innovation that is internationally respected. The EPA Research Programme is

a Government of Ireland initiative funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. The funding programme is set up under three key themes;

- Climate
- Water
- Sustainability

Further information: <http://www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/>

The EPA research database also allows us to search for publications and projects that have been funded. <http://erc.epa.ie/smartsimple/>

Please note the next EPA research call will be in 2021



### **SEAI Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) Call**

The SEAI National Energy Research Development and Demonstration (RD&D) Funding Programme invests in innovative energy RD&D projects which contribute to Ireland's transition to a clean and secure energy future. The key objectives of the RD&D Programme are as follows:

- Accelerate the development and deployment in the Irish marketplace of competitive energy-related products, processes and systems;
- Support solutions that enable technical and other barriers to market uptake to be overcome;
- Grow Ireland's national capacity to access, develop and apply international class RD&D; and
- Provide guidance and support to policy makers and public bodies through results, outcomes and learning from supported energy projects.

Further information: <https://www.seai.ie/grants/research-funding/research-development-and-demonstration-fund/>

\*Please note the next SEAI call will be in 2021



### **Science Foundation Ireland**

Science Foundation Ireland provides grants for researchers from around the world who wish to relocate to Ireland and those already based in Ireland, for outstanding investigators, for conferences and symposia, and for collaboration with industry.

Further information: <http://www.sfi.ie/funding/>

## Science Foundation Ireland Discover Programme Call 2020

This call is a key part of the SFI Education and Public Engagement activity. Its purpose is to stimulate and support projects that extend activity and ability in engaging the public in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Science Foundation Ireland is particularly interested in projects that will broaden the relevance to, and participation of, communities less represented in STEM in society. The successful projects/initiatives through this call will support inclusion of that broader group in STEM. They will contribute to supporting the public to better understand the evidence behind challenges we have collectively faced in 2020 and the choices we need to make in the future. The Call is open to a wide range of people and organisations, including mediators and practitioners of science communication; STEM festival organisers; universities and institutes of technology, science centres, museums and other cultural attractions; artists; educators; industry professionals and academics in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM); arts agencies; production companies; schools; local authorities (libraries, city/county councils etc.); youth clubs; youth work organisations, community groups; and research institutes.

Further information: <https://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/sfi-discover-programme/>

## 2.2 European



**The EU LIFE programme** (including Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE) and Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCF)).

The EU LIFE Programme provides funding opportunities for the support of Environment, Nature Conservation and Climate Action projects throughout the EU. Applications are encouraged from public and private organisations seeking co-funding for projects. Large and small companies, government and non-government organisations (NGOs, Higher Education Institutes and community groups) can participate. LIFE has a budget of €3.4 billion for 2014-2020. Every year a call for LIFE project proposals is launched around April. Following competitive selection, awards are made that are typically in the range of €1 million to €5 million for projects with durations of 3 to 5 years. The maximum EU co-financing rates for projects are 55, 60 or 75%, depending on the project topic.

The 2020 call for proposals for the EU's LIFE programme for the Environment and Climate Action was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020.

The programme is open to public bodies or private organisation and NGOs registered in the European Union, with funding amounts up to 55 % of co-funding for most LIFE projects and up to 75 % for nature and biodiversity projects.

The programme is broken down into 2 sub-programmes:

Environment (Nature and Biodiversity, Environment and Resource Efficiency, Environmental Governance and Information) and,

Climate (Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Governance and Information).

*Further information* : <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/section/life/calls-proposals>  
<https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/environment/topics/life-programme/Pages/default.aspx>

*Example of LIFE project*: Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE

<https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/environment/dublin-urban-rivers-life/about-dublin-urban-rivers-life/>



**Horizon 2020 Funding** is the financial instrument implementing the [Innovation Union](#), a [Europe 2020](#) flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. Seen as a means to drive economic growth and create jobs, Horizon 2020 has the political backing of Europe's leaders and the Members of the European Parliament. They agreed that research is an investment in our future and so put it at the heart of the EU's blueprint for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and jobs. The goal is to ensure Europe produces world-class science, removes barriers to innovation and makes it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering innovation.

*Further information*: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en>



**Interreg Europe** is one of the key instruments of the European Union (EU) supporting cooperation across borders through project funding. Its aim is to jointly tackle common challenges and find shared solutions

in fields such as health, environment, research, education, transport, sustainable energy and more. Interreg has three types of programmes: cross border cooperation, transnational cooperation and inter-regional cooperation.

*Further information*: <https://interreg.eu/about-interreg/>

*Example of Interreg project*: Coastal Communities Adapting Together (CCAT)  
<https://irelandwales.eu/projects/coastal-communities-adapting-together-ccat>



Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport. With a budget of €14.7 billion for 2014-2020 it provides opportunities for over 4 million participants to study, train, gain experience, and volunteer abroad. It also offers €1.68 billion for activities with partner countries. In addition to offering grants, Erasmus+ also supports teaching, research, networking and policy debate on EU topics, including climate action. There are also opportunities for organisations, which want to explore development and networking opportunities with universities, education and training providers, think-tanks, research organisations, and private businesses.

Further information: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/education/set-projects-education-and-training/erasmus-funding-programme\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/education/set-projects-education-and-training/erasmus-funding-programme_en)



**European City Facility (EUCF)** Set up under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation of the European Union, the EUCF aims to unlock local potential and support local authorities and their groupings with tailor-made, fast and simplified financial support (in the form of EUR 60,000 lump sums) and related services to enable municipalities in Europe to develop relevant investment concepts. Successful applicants to the EUCF will use the lump sum to develop their investment concepts, which represents an initial step towards a fully-fledged business and financial plan. The objective is to facilitate the subsequent mobilisation of (local) investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Further information: <https://www.eucityfacility.eu/home.html>



### The European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities (EIP-SCC)

The EIP-SCC is an initiative supported by the European Commission bringing together cities, industry, SMEs, banks, research and other smart city actors. It intends to:

- Improve citizens' quality of life
- Increase competitiveness of Europe's industry and innovative SMEs;
- Make cities more competitive and better places to live in;
- Share knowledge to prevent mistakes being repeated;
- Reach energy and climate targets; and
- Support in finding the right partners and solutions It's about achieving social, environmental and economic sustainability for our cities.

The EIP-SCC Market Place has been designed for those who are active in the challenging area of Smart Cities and willing to know more about ongoing and foreseen activities throughout Europe.

Further Information: <https://eu-smartcities.eu/page/about>



**The European Innovation Partnership on Agriculture, Sustainability & Productivity (EIP-AGRI)** works to foster competitive and sustainable farming and forestry that 'achieves more and better from less'. It contributes to ensuring a steady supply of food, feed and biomaterials, developing its work in harmony with the essential natural resources on which farming depends. Different types of available funding sources can help get an agricultural innovation project started, such as the European Rural Development policy or the EU's research and innovation programme Horizon 2020. The EIP-AGRI contributes to integrating different funding streams so that they contribute together to a same goal and duplicate results. Rural Development will in particular support Operational Groups and Innovation Support Services within a country or region. Horizon 2020 will fund multi-actor projects and thematic networks involving partners from at least three EU countries.

Further Information: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/about>



**Sniffer** is a Scottish sustainability charity, based in Edinburgh. They play a key role through international, national, regional and local action on climate change adaptation, delivering positive outcomes for people and places. They provide a range of services including stakeholder engagement, training and capacity building and sustainable place-making. Sniffer also runs Adaptation Scotland which supports a wide range of adaptation initiatives from city-wide adaptation planning in Edinburgh and Aberdeen, to producing teaching resources for schools to help children learn about the impacts of climate change on the places they live.

Further information: <https://www.sniffer.org.uk/our-collaborative-process>



**URBACT** - For about 15 years, the URBACT programme has been the European Territorial Cooperation programme aiming to foster sustainable integrated urban development in cities across Europe. It is an instrument of the Cohesion Policy, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the 27 Member States, Norway & Switzerland. URBACT's mission is to enable cities to work together and develop integrated solutions to common urban challenges, by networking, learning from one another's experiences, drawing lessons and identifying good practices to improve urban policies.

Further information: <https://urbact.eu/>

### 3. Project Development Funding

Local authorities, community groups, private sector organisations and other stakeholders can access a range of project development funding, to advance a variety of climate projects. Funding opportunities available at national and European level can support a range of policy supporting projects, feasibility studies, pilot projects and other climate technologies and initiatives. A variety of these project development funding streams also provide for cross-border collaboration, which brings the added value of sharing experiences of existing and emerging best practice, both across Ireland and at European level. The following section outlines some of the key project development funding mechanisms for climate action at a national and European level.

#### 3.1 National



**IDA Go Green** - IDA Ireland's "Go Green" Business Offers is designed to encourage IDA clients to adopt green business principles in their organisation to increase competitiveness and achieve international environmental best practices. A "Go Green" approach aims to help companies by increasing the level of environmental awareness and drive environmental efficiencies and achieve improved

sustainability. Better environmental performance leads to improved resource efficiency and direct cost savings and can also increase access to customers who are increasingly demanding more environmentally friendly products and services.

Further information: <https://www.idaireland.com/IDAireland/media/HowWeHelp/2018-07-19-Go-Green-Brochure-FINAL.pdf>



**SEAI Project Assistance** – This scheme is aimed at organisations spending over €250,000 per year on energy bills. The grants can assist in developing projects to reduce energy consumption and costs. The recognised benefits to businesses and public sector bodies include: significantly reducing energy costs, enhance reputation and image, improve

competitiveness, improve employee knowledge around reducing energy use, improve Display Energy Certificate of the organisation, and ability to divert savings to other activities. Applications are welcomed from both private and public sectors. This includes buildings, industry, commercial operations, transport, and utility services. All types of projects are supported for initial business cases. The following grant amounts are available:

<u>Project Type:</u>	Feasibility study and Project Energy Audit
<u>Funding level available:</u>	Up to 50% funding to a maximum of €15,000
<u>Project Type:</u>	Final business case and project delivery support grant

Funding level available: Up to 75% funding to a maximum of €15,000 where basic energy performance arrangements are considered and up to €37,500 where energy performance contracting (EPC) is considered

*Further information:* <https://www.seai.ie/business-and-public-sector/business-grants-and-supports/project-assistance-grants/>

**Energy Efficiency (EE) obligation fund** - SEAI is the administrator of the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS). The scheme started in 2014 and will run until at least 2020. It places obligations on energy suppliers and distributors to deliver energy savings. This is true for all energy types, including electricity, gas, and solid fuel. Companies who sell large amounts of energy are known as obligated parties and they have targets under the scheme. Obligated parties offer supports to make homes or businesses more energy efficient. For every unit of energy saved through these projects, they achieve energy credits towards their targets. This will help Ireland to reach national and European energy saving targets.

*Further information:* <https://www.seai.ie/business-and-public-sector/business-grants-and-supports/energy-efficiency-obligation-scheme/>



pobal

government supporting communities

**Pobal** works on behalf of Government, and in conjunction with communities and local agencies, to support social inclusion and local and community development. We do this by managing funding and providing support for circa 25 programmes in the areas of Social Inclusion and Equality, Inclusive Employment and Enterprise, and Early Learning and Care. Allocating almost €745m to local and national community organisations in 2019.

*Further information:* <https://www.pobal.ie/>



**LEADER** - The main aim of LEADER is to strengthen the rural economy and to improve the quality of life in rural areas. Through focusing on the key principles of innovation, sustainability, social inclusion and economic viability and links with other organisations, LEADER can make a significant contribution to sustaining the rural economy communities and the environment. Economic growth and job creation are essential to the growth of rural areas. Sustainable use of local and natural resources will improve the economic viability of rural areas in the long term.

*Further information:* <https://www.pobal.ie/programmes/leader-programme-2014-2020/>

### Community Environment Action Fund – (Local Agenda 21)

The Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund (Local Agenda 21) which has operated since 1997, promotes sustainable development by assisting small-scale environmental projects at local level. The Scheme has been renamed the Community Environment Action Fund from 2019 onwards.

The projects involve partnership arrangements between local authorities and various local groups including community groups, schools and environmental NGOs. The Fund encourages involvement of local communities in local action and decision-making and assists them in working towards the goal of sustainable development. The value of the scheme is enhanced by the voluntary effort that it facilitates.

The Community Environment Action Fund assists sustainable development from the ground-up and facilitates, at local level, the achievement of the objectives of the Agenda 21 action plan on sustainable development which was agreed at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, in 1992 (the "Earth Summit"). Renewed political commitment for sustainable development was secured at the Rio +20 Conference in Brazil in June 2012, on the 20th anniversary of the "Earth Summit".

The Fund is administered by local authorities, while the Department maintains a co-ordinating role. Eligible projects are those which support and complement, at a local level, national environmental policies such as those on Waste, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Air, Water and Sustainable Development. Local authorities are required to provide an equivalent amount of funding to successful projects as the funding provided by the Department. Funding can also be supplemented by other sources, e.g. the private sector, in order to maximise the potential for partnership arrangements.

Further information: <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/environment/topics/environmental-protection-and-awareness/local-agenda-21-partnership-fund/Pages/default.aspx>



### Community Water Development Fund

The Community Water Development Fund 2020 was launched at the inaugural 'Rivers Trusts and Catchment Partnerships Conference' in the Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The fund is open to all community and voluntary groups who want to get

involved in the protection and restoration of clean and healthy waters in their local area. Improvements in water quality in turn benefits our health and well-being, wildlife and the local economy. The fund is also open to Rivers/Lake Trusts and Catchment Partnerships, these groups tend to adopt a wider catchment-based approach. Types of projects considered for funding will include:

- Capital projects such as restoration/habitat conservation/natural flood mitigation

measures.

- Projects that promote public awareness/education and events such as biodiversity days, surveys, training workshops, surveys and plans, etc.
- General amenity such as beach clean, improving amenity areas, bird watching facilities, etc.

Grants awarded will range from up to €5,000; up to €10,000 and up to €25,000. The total fund is capped at €225,000 for 2020.

Further information: <http://watersandcommunities.ie/community-water-development-fund-2020/>

## 3.2 European



### ELENA – European Local Energy Assistance

ELENA is a joint initiative by the EIB and the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme. ELENA

provides grants for technical assistance focused on the implementation of energy efficiency, distributed renewable energy and urban transport programmes. The grant can be used to finance costs related to feasibility and market studies, programme structuring, business plans, energy audits and financial structuring, as well as to the preparation of tendering procedures, contractual arrangements and project implementation units. Typically, ELENA supports programmes above EUR 30 million with a 3-year implementation period for energy efficiency and 4-year for urban transport and mobility. It can cover up to 90% of technical assistance/project development costs. Smaller projects can be supported when they are integrated into larger investment programmes.

Further information: <https://www.eib.org/en/products/advising/elena/index.htm>

**EU Innovation Fund** will focus on highly innovative technologies and big flagship projects with European value added that can bring on significant emission reductions. The Fund will also support cross-cutting projects on innovative low-carbon solutions that lead to emission reductions in multiple sectors, for example through industrial symbiosis or business model innovation. The Fund is also open to small-scale projects with total capital costs under €7.5 million which can benefit from simplified application and selection procedures. The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment are the Irish contact point.

Further information: [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/innovation-fund\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/innovation-fund_en)

**Horizon 2020 Project Development Assistance** The European Commission has set up a series of facilities funding Project Development Assistance (PDA) to support ambitious public authorities - regions, cities, municipalities or groupings of those - and public bodies in developing bankable sustainable energy projects. The PDA facilities aim to bridge the gap between sustainable energy plans and real investment through supporting all activities

necessary to prepare and mobilise investment into sustainable energy projects. These activities can include feasibility studies, stakeholder and community mobilisation, financial engineering, business plans, technical specifications and procurement procedures. The PDA facilities were funded through the Intelligent Energy - Europe programme (IEE) and now through Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency.

*Further information:* <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/project-development-assistance-pda>



**European  
Investment  
Bank**

**European Investment Bank (EIB) and Global Covenant of Mayors The Global Climate City Challenge** is a joint initiative of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM), representing over 9,000 cities from

six continents, to provide technical assistance that helps prepare and fast-track financing of urban climate action projects. The GCoM and the EIB collaborate on this Challenge with global and local city networks, including Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group as well as the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

*Further information:* <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/sectors/urban-development/city-call-for-proposal/index.htm>

## 4. Capital Funding

Local authorities receive a substantial part of their annual funding from a range of central government departments and agencies. This is in addition to other funding sources, such as development contributions, local property tax, and rates and levies. Local authority capital expenditure is expenditure that results in the creation of an asset beyond the year in which that asset is provided e.g. houses, swimming pool, library etc. Local authorities also have access to a range of national and European capital funding sources, some specifically tailored to implementing large scale climate action projects and disruptive technologies. The following section outlines some of the key capital funding mechanisms for climate action at a national and European level.

### 4.1 National

#### Local Authority Capital Budgets

Local authority capital expenditure is expenditure that results in the creation of an asset beyond the year in which that asset is provided e.g. houses, swimming pool, library etc. It is financed largely by State grants with the balance being funded from development levies and borrowings and own internal resources and property sales. In the case of some projects (e.g. local authority offices) they may be funded entirely by local authority own resources and borrowing. The local authority Chief Executive prepares and submits to the elected members a report indicating the programme of capital projects proposed by the local authority for the forthcoming and following two years. The capital programme includes expenditure on the acquisition of fixed assets, infrastructure projects, work-in-progress and preliminary expenses.

*Further information:* <https://www.housing.gov.ie/local-government/administration/finance/local-government-finance>

**Climate Action Fund** is one of four funds established under the National Development Plan 2018-2027 as part of Project Ireland 2040. The fund will support initiatives that contribute to the achievement of Ireland's climate and energy targets in a cost effective manner. It offers the potential for innovative interventions which, in the absence of support from the Fund, would not otherwise be developed. The Fund will also seek to facilitate projects that contribute to other Government policy priorities including:-

- Supporting innovation and capacity building towards the development of climate change solutions capable of being scaled and delivering benefits beyond a once-off impact; and
- Generating wider socio-economic benefits such as job creation, air quality improvements, reduction in fuel poverty, bio-diversity and community resilience and development.

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment has responsibility for implementing the fund, which will have an allocation of at least €500 million over the period to 2027. DCCAE will issue the formal call for applications later in 2020.

Further information: <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/climate-action/topics/climate-action-fund/Pages/default.aspx>

Examples of projects funded from 1<sup>st</sup> Round of Climate Action Fund: <https://www.dccae.gov.ie/en-ie/climate-action/topics/climate-action-fund/call-for-applications/first-call-2018/project-assessments/Pages/default.aspx>



**Urban Regeneration and Development Fund** The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government has announced the second call for proposals under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), announced as part of Project Ireland 2040, to support the compact growth and sustainable development of Ireland's five cities and other large urban centres. For Call 2, applications will be accepted until May 29<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Further Information:

[https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/ppm\\_urdf\\_012020\\_urdf\\_call\\_for\\_proposals.pdf](https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/publications/files/ppm_urdf_012020_urdf_call_for_proposals.pdf)



**Rural Regeneration and Development Fund** is a commitment of €1 billion by Government to be invested in rural Ireland over the period 2019 to 2027. The purpose of the fund is to support job creation in rural areas, address de-population of rural communities and support improvements in towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas. The fund is supporting coordinated and integrated projects between government departments, State agencies, local authorities, other public bodies, communities and, where appropriate, philanthropic funders and/or the private sector, which will have an impact on sustainable economic and social development in rural areas. The closing date for Call 2 was 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Further information: <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/c77144-rural-regeneration-and-development-fund/#how-to-apply>



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil  
Department of Housing,  
Planning and Local Government

**DHPLG Social Housing Investment Programme** Under the Department's Social Housing Investment Programme, local authorities are allocated capital funding each year in respect of a range of measures to

improve the standard and overall quality of their social housing stock. The programme includes a retrofitting measure aimed at improving the energy efficiency of older apartments and houses by reducing heat loss through the fabric of the building and the installation of high-efficiency condensing boilers. Funding of up to 15,000 euro per dwelling may be

provided, depending on the energy improvement achieved, for necessary works such as attic and wall insulation, the replacement of windows and external doors and the fitting of energy-efficient condensing boilers. In addition 3,000 euro per unit may be provided for non-energy related improvement works to the dwelling.

Further information: [https://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/social-housing/other/improvements-existing-dwellings#Energy Efficiency - Retrofitting Measure](https://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/social-housing/other/improvements-existing-dwellings#Energy%20Efficiency%20-%20Retrofitting%20Measure)


 Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil  
Local Enterprise Office


### Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs)

Local Enterprise Offices help start-ups and small businesses to plan, start and grow. We aim to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-ups and develop existing micro and small businesses to drive job creation and to provide accessible high quality supports for your Business ideas.

Further information: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Financial-Supports/>

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/DublinCity/Financial-Supports/>



### Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA is an independent public body under the aegis of the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment. It has a wide range of functions to protect the environment, including environmental licencing, enforcement of environmental law and environmental planning, education and guidance. The EPA supports two funding projects in the area of climate action. The Green Enterprise: Innovation for Circular Economy is an annual funding programme under the National Waste Prevention Programme specific to the policy area of the circular economy and aims to develop innovative practical applications and solutions that stimulate priority thematic areas of the circular economy.

Further information: [Green Enterprise: Innovation for a Circular Economy](#)



### Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs)

The Local Government Reform Act 2014, provides for the establishment of Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) in the 31 local authority areas. This is one of the main alignment reforms of local government. LCDCs replace

County Development Boards, and while retaining the collaborative nature of CDBs, have an enhanced role and different structure. LCDC have numerous roles

- LCDCs key function is to achieve a more strategic, joined up approach to local and community development.
- LCDCs will have oversight and responsibility for local development and community related funding in their county.
- Each LCDC will develop a six year Economic and Community Plan (LECP). This plan will agree the strategic framework for economic and community development for the county.
- It will inform community and local development resource allocation, and inform other planning processes.
- The community element of the plan will be prepared by the LCDC, with the economic element prepared by the SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise Support.
- There is a requirement that both elements are prepared concurrently and form the basis for one overall LECP.

Further information: <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/f4022e-local-community-development-committees-lcdcs/>



**Public Service Innovation Fund** is a competitive fund that aims to support innovative ideas from across public service organisations and turn them into a reality with funding available of up to €50,000. For exceptionally strong projects funding of up to €100,000 may be granted. It is important that projects have a strong focus on outcomes and impact. There should also be a focus on scalability, transferability and learning within the Public Service. Collaboration between public service organisations is encouraged.

Further information: <https://www.ops2020.gov.ie/networks/funding/>



**Social Innovation Fund** Ireland is a national organisation supporting Ireland's best social innovations through cash grants and business supports. The purpose of the fund is to make Ireland a better more inclusive place through social innovation. Every euro raise in philanthropy is matched by Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development from the Dormant Accounts Fund and more recently through the Departments of Employment and Social Protection and Children and Youth Affairs. We partner with corporates, SME's, families and individuals who want new, tangible and real-world ways to tackle some of the pressing issues facing our country today.

Further information: <http://www.socialinnovation.ie/about-us/>

Example of projects/funding call: <http://www.socialinnovation.ie/sustainable-cork-fund/>



**SEAI Schemes including Better Energy Communities, Electric Vehicle Scheme, EXCEED grant etc** SEAI grants are helping homeowners, business owners, communities and large industry reduce their energy costs and greenhouse emissions

Further information: <https://www.seai.ie/grants/>

Home Energy Grants <https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants/>

Electric Vehicle Grants <https://www.seai.ie/grants/electric-vehicle-grants/>

Community Grants <https://www.seai.ie/grants/community-grants/>

Better Energy Communities <https://www.seai.ie/grants/community-grants/project-criteria-and-funding/>

EXCEED grant scheme <https://www.seai.ie/business-and-public-sector/business-grants-and-supports/exceed-certified-grant/>



**Woodland Environment Fund (WEF)** provides an access point for individual businesses to help expand Ireland's native woodland resource, by providing additional incentives to encourage landowners to plant new native woodlands, that they may not have otherwise planted, had that additional support not been provided. This relationship benefits the State by contributing to national targets regarding native woodland afforestation. It enhances the reputation of the participating business, as that business is

associated with the creation of a tangible environmental asset that will become a permanent feature of the landscape.

Further information:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/grantandpremiumschemes/2018/DAFMWEFleaflet14Sept18250918.pdf>

**Neighbourwood Scheme** The NeighbourWood Scheme supports the development of attractive close-to-home woodland amenities (or 'neighbourwoods') for public use. The scheme is available to both public and private landowners, working in partnership with local communities. Funding is available under three separate elements:

- NeighbourWood (NBR) Establishment funds the establishment of new neighbourwood on open 'greenfield' sites;
- NBR Enhancement funds the silvicultural enhancement of existing woodland already used as neighbourwood, or proposed for development as neighbourwood; and
- NBR Facilities funds the installation and upgrade of appropriate recreational facilities within an area submitted under NBR Establishment or NBR Enhancement, or within

an existing woodland suitable for recreation but not submitted under NBR Enhancement.

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The NeighbourWood Scheme is operated by the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, and is funded by the Irish Government under the Forestry Programme 2014-2020.

*Further information:*

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/grantandpremiumschemes/2015/NeighbourWoodScheme240717.pdf>



Climate-KIC

**Climate KIC** – SEED money funding - In order to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy, Climate-KIC is playing an active role to bring together the world's leading innovative start-ups with angel investors and venture capital. This facilitates investment in positive climate impact companies and early stage start-ups.

*Further information:* <https://www.climate-kic.org/>

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## 4.2 Community Gain, Philanthropic and Corporate Funding Sources

**Community Gain Funds** is a fund that is set up due to the development of some particular type of infrastructure in an area for example a windfarm or industrial facility. The Fund can be a requirement of legislation or be required due to a licence condition for a particular facility.

A community gain fund typically provides financial assistance to community based clubs, groups, voluntary organisations, educational groups, individuals or businesses for the development of educational, environmental, community and recreational projects. The fund will typically have particular application timelines and dates and will be managed by an advisory or steering group.

There are also many sources of philanthropic and private funding available. Some sources are structured with set amounts, categories and application dates whereas other could be literally accessed by communities, groups contacting a corporate and looking for funding for a project which could be supported through the company's CSR/ESG programmes. Examples of such schemes are included below. Examples of community Gain Funds include;

*Covanta Waste to Energy Community Gain Fund*

<https://www.dublinwastetoenergy.ie/Community-Engagement/Community-Gain-Fund>

*Bord Na Mona Community Gain Fund*

<https://www.bordnamona.ie/community/working-with-community/community-gain-funds/>

*ESB Windfarm Community Gain Funds*

<https://www.esb.ie/our-businesses/generation-energy-trading-new/wind-energy/wind-farm-community-funds>

*Dublin Airport Community Fund*

<https://www.dublinairport.com/corporate/community-and-sustainability/community-fund>

\*Note; The recently published Wind Energy Development Guidelines<sup>1</sup> have a specific section included on community investment and dividend for local communities.



**The Community Foundation for Ireland**  
The Community Foundation for Ireland is one of the largest philanthropic organisations in

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/public-consultation/files/draft\\_revised\\_wind\\_energy\\_development\\_guidelines\\_december\\_2019.pdf](https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/public-consultation/files/draft_revised_wind_energy_development_guidelines_december_2019.pdf)

Ireland. We were established in 2000 with the support of Government and the business sector. The Community Foundation for Ireland helps people make a difference by inspiring a spirit of giving and by investing in people and solutions to benefit every community. From an initial investment of €1m in 2000 and through the support of families, individuals, corporates and other trusts and foundations, we have invested many millions in our communities and grown a perpetual fund that will allow us to continue supporting social causes into the future.

Further information: <https://www.communityfoundation.ie/grants>



**Energia GIY fund** The Energia Get Ireland Growing Fund is split across three categories; 'Sow', 'Grow' and 'Harvest', with awards ranging from €500 to €2,000 with one group selected to receive €5,000. Energia and GIY will support community food growing groups from all across the island of Ireland

Further information: [https://www.energia.ie/energia-in-your-community-\(1\)](https://www.energia.ie/energia-in-your-community-(1))

## Bank of Ireland



**Bank of Ireland's Begin Together Fund** will provide valuable investment for community initiatives making a difference in towns and villages across the island of Ireland. Applications are welcome from charities and not-for-profit community groups working in communities that address one or more of the strands of wellbeing as outlined in the fund criteria which can be found [here](#). Interested organisations are invited to complete the online application form before the extended deadline of 5pm on Thursday, April 9th.

Further Information: [https://www.communityfoundation.ie/grants/types-of-grants/bank-of-ireland-begin-together-fund-2020?fbclid=IwAR1STKrXCWucrSjNOip\\_K6VVqwUGojJBWCVauY\\_MjmNWOpxUw10APtI7-yU](https://www.communityfoundation.ie/grants/types-of-grants/bank-of-ireland-begin-together-fund-2020?fbclid=IwAR1STKrXCWucrSjNOip_K6VVqwUGojJBWCVauY_MjmNWOpxUw10APtI7-yU)

## 4.3 European



### European Union European Regional Development Fund

**European Regional Development Fund** aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions. The ERDF focuses its investments on

several key priority areas. This is known as 'thematic concentration':

- Innovation and research;
- The digital agenda;
- Support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); and
- The low-carbon economy.

The ERDF resources allocated to these priorities will depend on the category of region.

- In more developed regions, at least 80 % of funds must focus on at least two of these priorities;
- In transition regions, this focus is for 60 % of the funds; and
- This is 50 % in less developed regions.

Further information: [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/funding/erdf/](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/erdf/)



### European Investment Bank

**The European Investment Bank** is the lending arm of the European Union. It is the biggest multilateral financial institution in the world and one of the largest providers of climate finance. The EIB aims to help the economy, create jobs, promote equality and improve lives for EU

citizens and for people in developing countries. The EIB Group has two parts: the European Investment Bank and the European Investment Fund. The European Investment Bank focuses on six areas:

- Climate and environment
- Development
- Innovation and skills
- Small businesses
- Infrastructure
- Cohesion

Further information: [https://ec.europa.eu/ireland/tags/european-investment-bank\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/ireland/tags/european-investment-bank_en)



**Covenant of Mayors** - The EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy brings together thousands of local governments voluntarily committed to implementing EU climate and energy objectives. It was launched in 2008 in Europe with the ambition to gather local governments voluntarily committed to achieving and exceeding the EU climate and energy targets. The initiative now gathers 9,000+ local and regional authorities across 57 countries drawing on the strengths of a worldwide multi-stakeholder movement and the technical and methodological support offered by dedicated offices. The Global Covenant of Mayors is capitalising on the experience gained over the past eight years in Europe and beyond, and is building upon the key success factors of the initiative: its bottom-up governance, its multi-level cooperation model and its context-driven framework for action.

Further information: <https://www.eumayors.eu/support/funding.html>

#### 4.4 Other Capital funding sources

**Public/Private partnerships** – e.g. cooperative funding for pilot projects. A Public Private Partnership (PPP) is an arrangement between the public and private sector for the purpose of delivering infrastructure or services, which were traditionally provided by the public sector. It is just one of a number of forms of procurement available to the public sector. Through a partnership arrangement, the public and private sector can combine to provide quality public services and infrastructure in the most economically efficient manner. To date local authorities have been successful in developing a wide range of PPP projects in areas such as water, wastewater, housing, urban regeneration, waste infrastructure and local government services. The DHPLG PPP Unit is available to provide information and assistance to Local Authorities who are considering the PPP option.

Further information: <https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/policy/public-private-partnerships/ppp>

**Energy Performance Contracts (EPC)** is the provision of energy services with guaranteed energy savings. All energy saving measures are implemented by an Energy Service Company (ESCO) and financed from the resulting savings with no risk to the building manager as energy savings are contractually agreed.

Further information: [https://www.codema.ie/images/uploads/docs/A\\_Guide\\_to\\_Energy\\_Performance\\_Contracting\\_in\\_Public\\_Buildings.pdf](https://www.codema.ie/images/uploads/docs/A_Guide_to_Energy_Performance_Contracting_in_Public_Buildings.pdf)

**Biodiversity Funding** The National Parks and Wildlife Services provide a guide to recommended funding sources for biodiversity through national, European and international organisations.

Further Information: <https://www.npws.ie/biodiversity/biodiversity-funding>



**Waterways Ireland** works in a strategic alliance with 14 Local Authorities and other stakeholders to facilitate the funding and development of Greenways and Blue Ways and recreational amenities associated with the waterbodies in their remit. The main waterbodies are the Royal Canal, the Erne System, the Shannon Navigation the Lower Bann Navigation the Shannon-Erne Waterway the grand Canal and the Barrow Navigation. Funding is also available for individuals, public, private or voluntary sector organisations or legally constituted clubs/associations to run Waterways Ireland Events. This support can be operational, promotional and or financial and /or marketing support.

Further Information: <https://www.waterwaysireland.org/>



**Teagasc** The Agricultural and Food Development Authority is the national body providing integrated research, advisory and training services to the agriculture and food industry and rural communities. It provides advice to private and public landowners on a range of funding opportunities including Afforestation, Native Woodlands, Agro Forestry, Forestry for Fibre, reestablishment native woodlands.

Further Information: <https://www.teagasc.ie/>