

Welcome to the Decarbonising Dublin Summit 2025

*Shaping a fairer, greener Dublin through
community, collaboration and change*
#DecarbonisingDublin



Session1

Summit welcome and introduction



Session 1

Welcome and introduction

Meet the speakers



**Donna
Gartland**

CEO,
Codema - Dublin's Energy
Agency

(Session Moderator)



**Ministerial
message**

Minister for Climate, Energy
and the Environment and
Minister for Transport,
Darragh O'Brien TD



**Hannah
Byrne**

Communications and
Engagement Coordinator,
Codema - Dublin's Energy
Agency



Quick audience warm-up

- Are you sitting beside someone you know already? If so, move seats and sit beside someone you don't know so you can make a new connection!
- This is the first task on your Connect 4 Cards – keep completing the challenges on the card and when you have it completed, hand it to a Codema staff member before the end of lunch and be in with a chance of winning a prize at the end of the day!



Codema updates from last year's inaugural summit



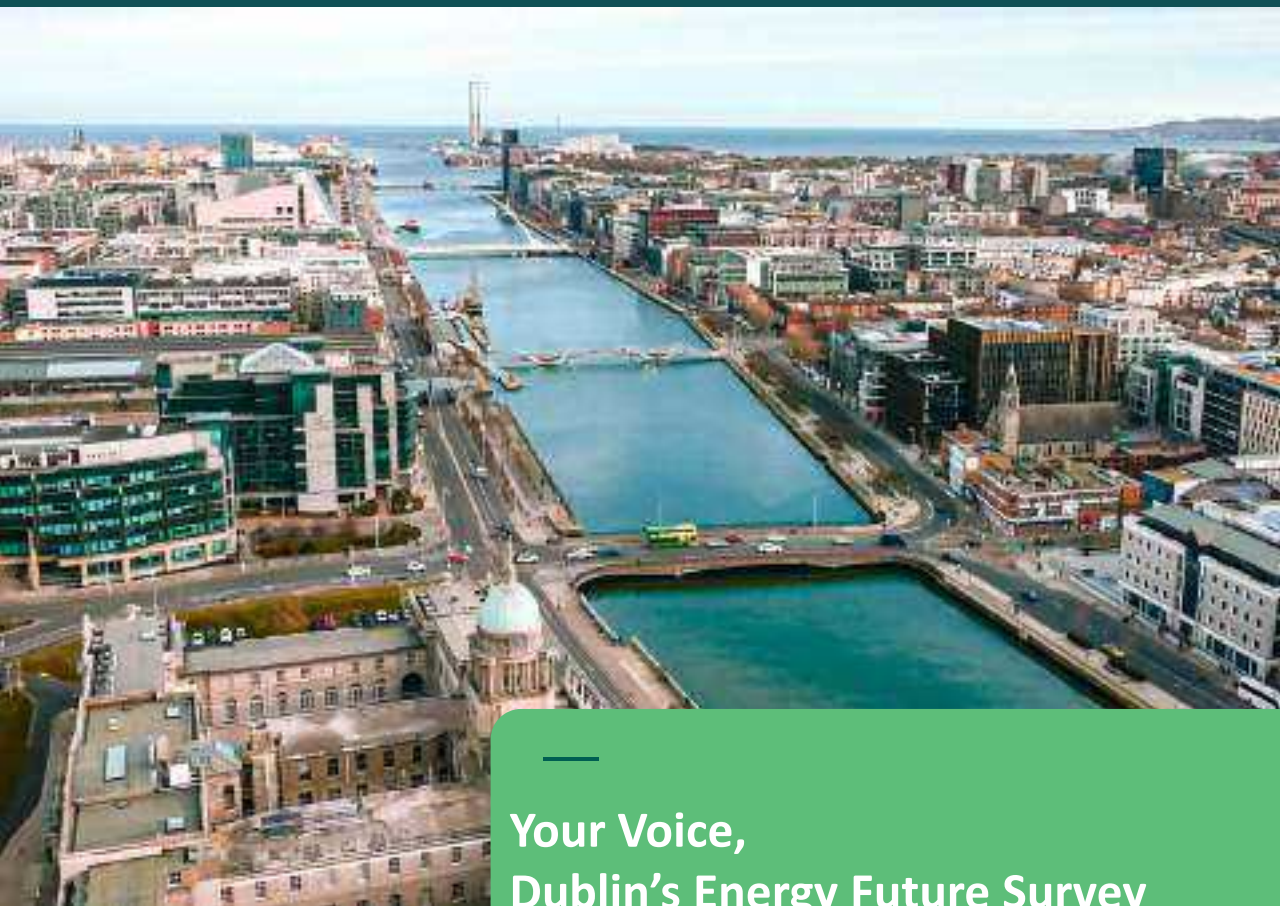
Your Voice, Dublin's Energy Future

Survey results

Hannah Byrne
Communications and Engagement
Coordinator

October 2025





**Your Voice,
Dublin's Energy Future Survey**



Ran from May -
September 2025



687

responses in total

We wanted to understand...



How people in Dublin **feel** about their energy use



What **actions** people in Dublin plan to take or would like to take but feel unable to



Who is considered **most responsible** for climate action and the level of confidence in those actors



The level of **support** for community-based climate action

3 key areas

1

**Progress and
possibility**

2

**Community
level action**

3

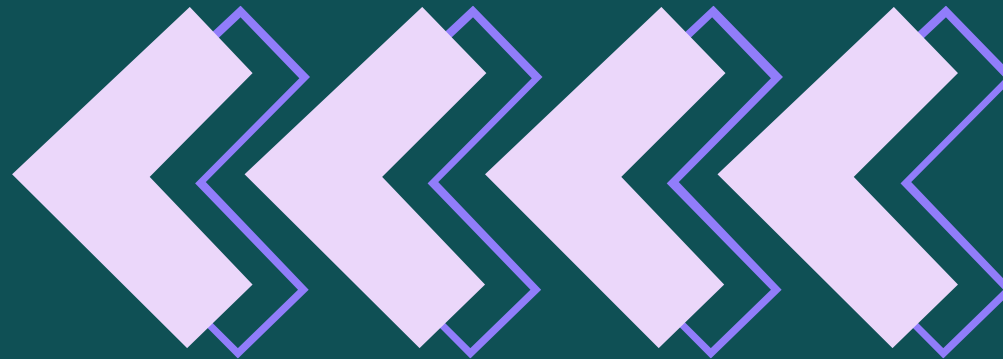
**Fair and
innovative
solutions**

Section 01

Progress and possibility



REWIND



In 2021...

In 2025...

Think about energy use all of the time

48%



62%

Main factor when thinking about energy use



Climate and the
environment

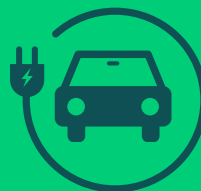


Cost and bills

Actions people *plan to take* in the next five years



Switch to an energy
supplier that uses
renewable energy



Switch from petrol or
diesel to an electric
vehicle



Install renewable
energy technologies

Plan to do

29%

28%

26%

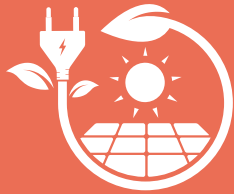
Already done

42%

23%

25%

What do people feel they are *unable* to do?



**Install renewable
energy technologies**

36%



**Switch from petrol or
diesel to an electric
vehicle**

30%



**Improve their home's
insulation**

26%



Almost

1 in 5

**(17%) of respondents are renting
from a private landlord**

Want to but unable to...



Install renewable
energy technologies

Homeowner

25%

Renter

67%



Improve their home's
insulation

Homeowner

15%

Renter

66%



Improve the efficiency of
windows and doors

Homeowner

12%

Renter

66%

Question:

**How do we meaningfully
address these barriers to
allow for progress and to
meet our 2030 goals?**

Section 02

Community-level action



“

**There is no power for change greater than a
community discovering what it cares about**

- Margaret J. Wheatley

”

Do you feel you have a say in climate initiatives in your community?

Do you feel your input makes a difference?

“Because of how I use my vote, support community initiatives”

“I run a local environment group”

“I am actively involved in [a] local environmental group. I see the impact of this with change in actions by local committee”

“Ideas I've had and shared have been implemented in our community.”

Community involvement makes a difference

“Working with community groups to install solar, energy audit, more LEDs and planting trees in the community ”

“Community activism has influenced council decisions”

“I’m quite vocal on these issues! I engage on them, go to meetings, organise people etc, and sometimes get the results I’m hoping for. ”

“We are an active residents' association that initiated a greening programme for our area”

“No voice for citizens”

“I have never been asked to share my views”

“Opportunities to share my views haven't arisen”

“Lack of opportunity to do so typically”

“There is very little information on how to share them, where to share them or even any action on when they are shared. ”

68%

rarely or never have a say

“Because never received an invitation to participate meaningful consultation.”

“It takes so long for the individual's voice to be heard, if at all! ”

“I don't know where the forum is to engage”

“There isn't a lot of open public consultation that I'm aware of”

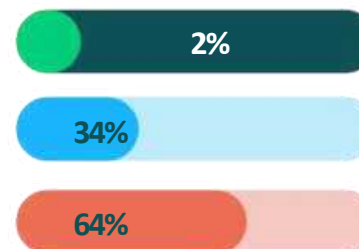
Who is most responsible for moving Dublin away from fossil fuels?



How much confidence do you have in this group to deliver on climate action?

1.

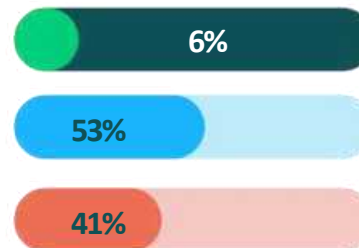
The current government (78%)



Very confident
Somewhat confident
Not at all confident

2.

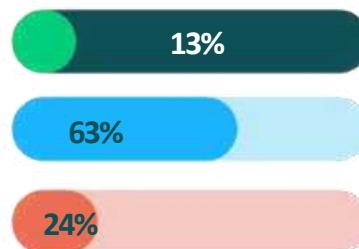
Your local council and its departments (55%)



Very confident
Somewhat confident
Not at all confident

3.

Individuals - i.e. you, me and everyone else (47%)



Very confident
Somewhat confident
Not at all confident

Question:

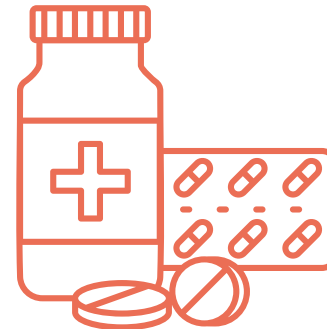
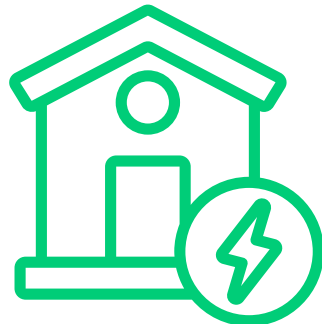
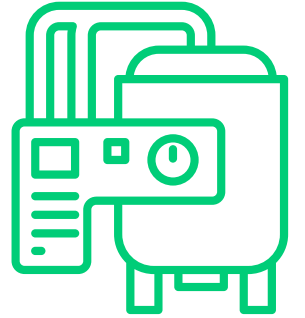
**How can we create more
accessible opportunities for
people to engage?**

Section 03

Fair and innovative solutions



Being in energy poverty means decisions like...



All respondents



81%

avoided turning on the heating or using
appliances to save on energy bills

46%

do this **regularly** (at least once a week)

Renting from a private landlord



89%

avoided turning on the heating or using
appliances to save on energy bills

46%

do this **regularly** (at least once a week)

All respondents

Over 65



Think about energy use a lot of the time

62%



72%



Main factor when thinking about energy use



Cost and bills



Comfort and warmth



Drive sometimes or frequently

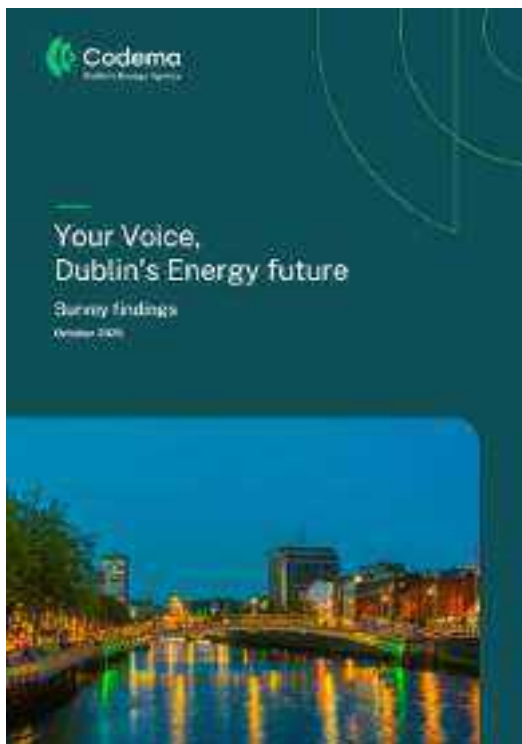
78%



99%

Question:

**When we talk about
innovation, who are we
innovating for?**



Download the survey report:

codema.ie/YourVoice

Download the report:



Thank you

Contact

Hannah Byrne

hannah.byrne@codema.ie





Audience exercise

- Turn to the person sitting next to you
- Find 3 things in common with each other!



Session 2

Progress and possibility- Dublin's 2030 priorities



Session 2

Progress and possibility – Dublin's 2030 priorities



Meet the speakers



Fergus
Sharkey
SEAI
(Session
Moderator)



Marie
Donnelly
Climate Change
Advisory
Council



Prof Brian
Caulfield
Trinity College
Dublin



Pauline O'Reilly
Irish District Energy
Association



Eric Dennis
KSN Energy



Siobhan O'Shea
EirGrid



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Decarbonising Dublin Summit

Brian Caulfield, Professor in Transportation, Dept of Civil,
Structural and Environmental Engineering, Trinity College Dublin

Progress at a Glance



48% increase in passenger boardings on the redesigned bus network vs. 8% increase on non-BusConnects routes



more kilometres per year with the redesigned bus network, a 71% increase on previous service provided



improvement in punctuality rate in the redesigned bus network vs. 2.3% increase on non-BusConnects routes



increase in access to employment locations within 30 minutes



uses of the 90-minute fare on buses in 2024



improvement in reliability of bus services on the redesigned network



increase in residents within 400m of a 10-min frequency public transport service



and additional weekend service in the redesigned network



1900 Tonnes CO₂ emissions avoided thanks to electric bus fleet

DUBLIN CITY CENTRE TRANSPORT PLAN 2023



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhailte Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council



Jacobs



Why this matters



“Sure, the bus will do it”

5 Double-Decker Buses (13.5m × 2.5m)



200 Cars (4.4m × 1.8m)



1 Metro Train (65m × 3m)



DUBLIN METROPLITAN TRANSPORT NETWORK 1925



Legend:

- Thames River
- Thames & Great Ouse
- Thames & Great Ouse
- Thames & Great Ouse
- Thames & Great Ouse



DART+	2029*
Bus Connects	2030*
Luas Finglas	2031*
Luas Lucan	2036*
Metrolink	2038*
Luas Poolbeg	2042*

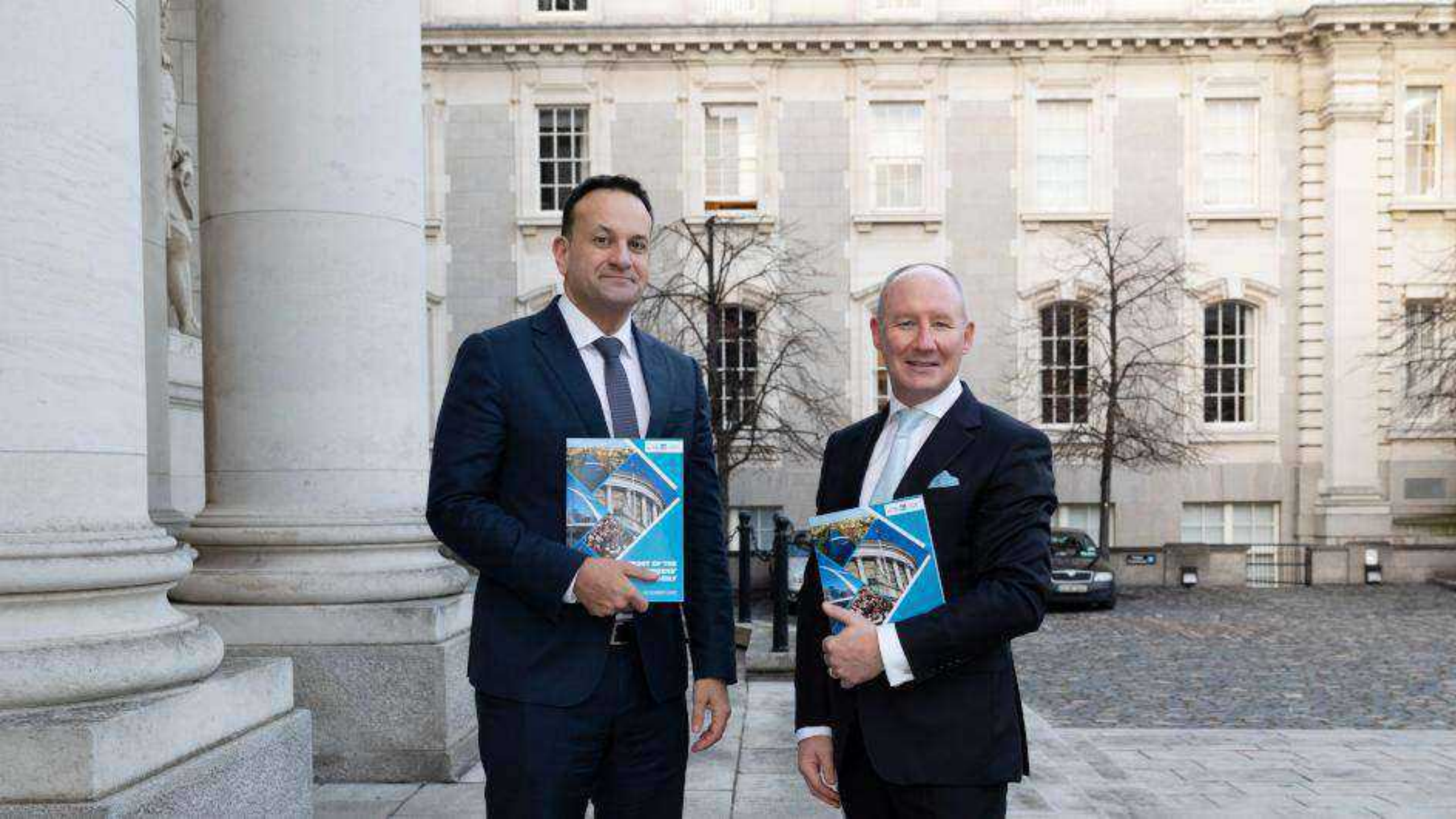
*All arrival times are estimates & subject to change



GET ADVICE NOW
FREEPHONE
1800 454 454

GET A
FRE
1800







Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Thank you

Contact: brian.Caulfield@tcd.ie

Twitter: [@brian_caulfield](https://twitter.com/brian_caulfield)

www.tcd.ie

Irish District Energy Association

Codema: Decarbonising Dublin Summit





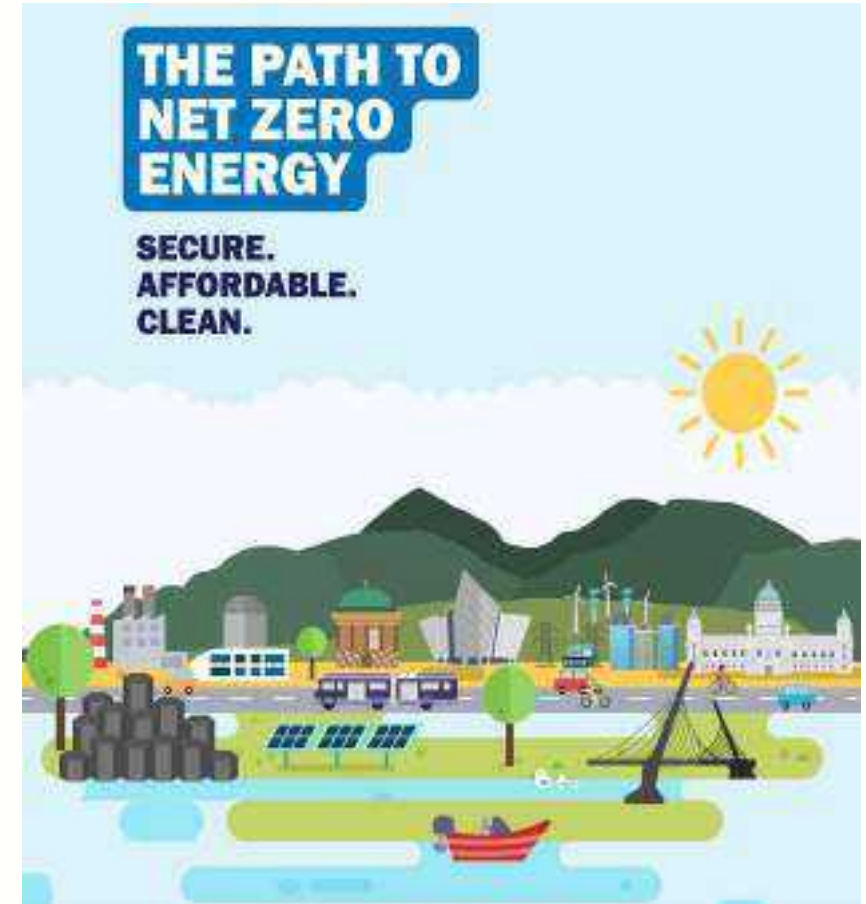
HEAT – A NEW VISION

#DECARBONISINGDUBLIN

Plotting a Course to Decarbonisation

Key technologies need incentivisation for heat decarbonisation

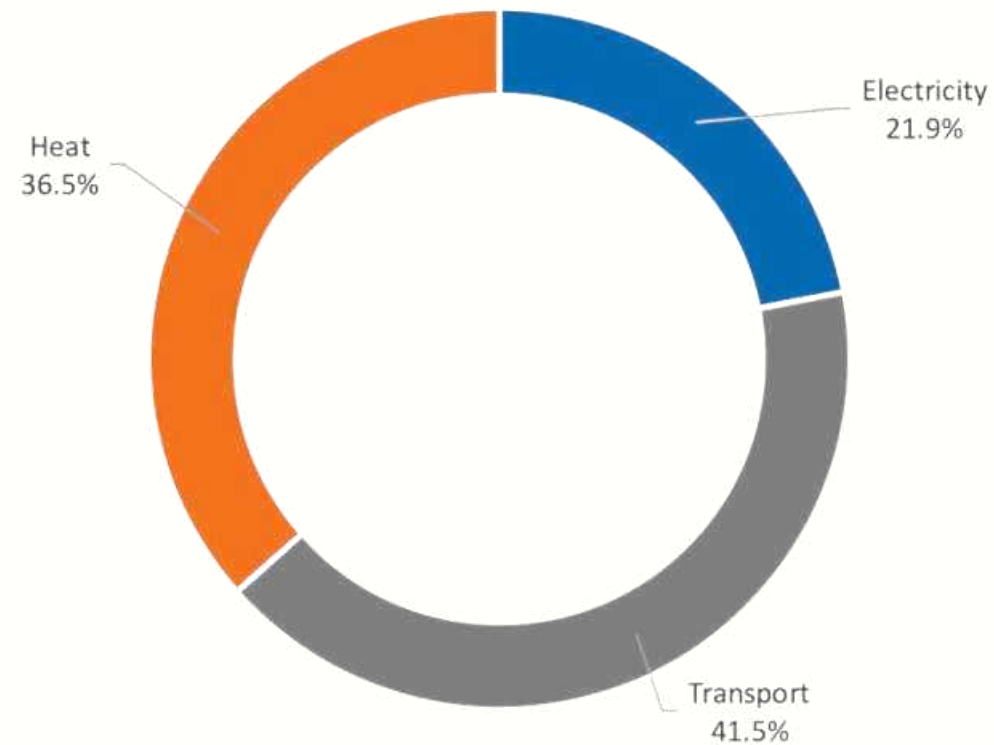
- Heat Pumps
- Renewable fuels
- Geothermal Energy
- Electrification
- Waste/Excess heat
- **District Energy**



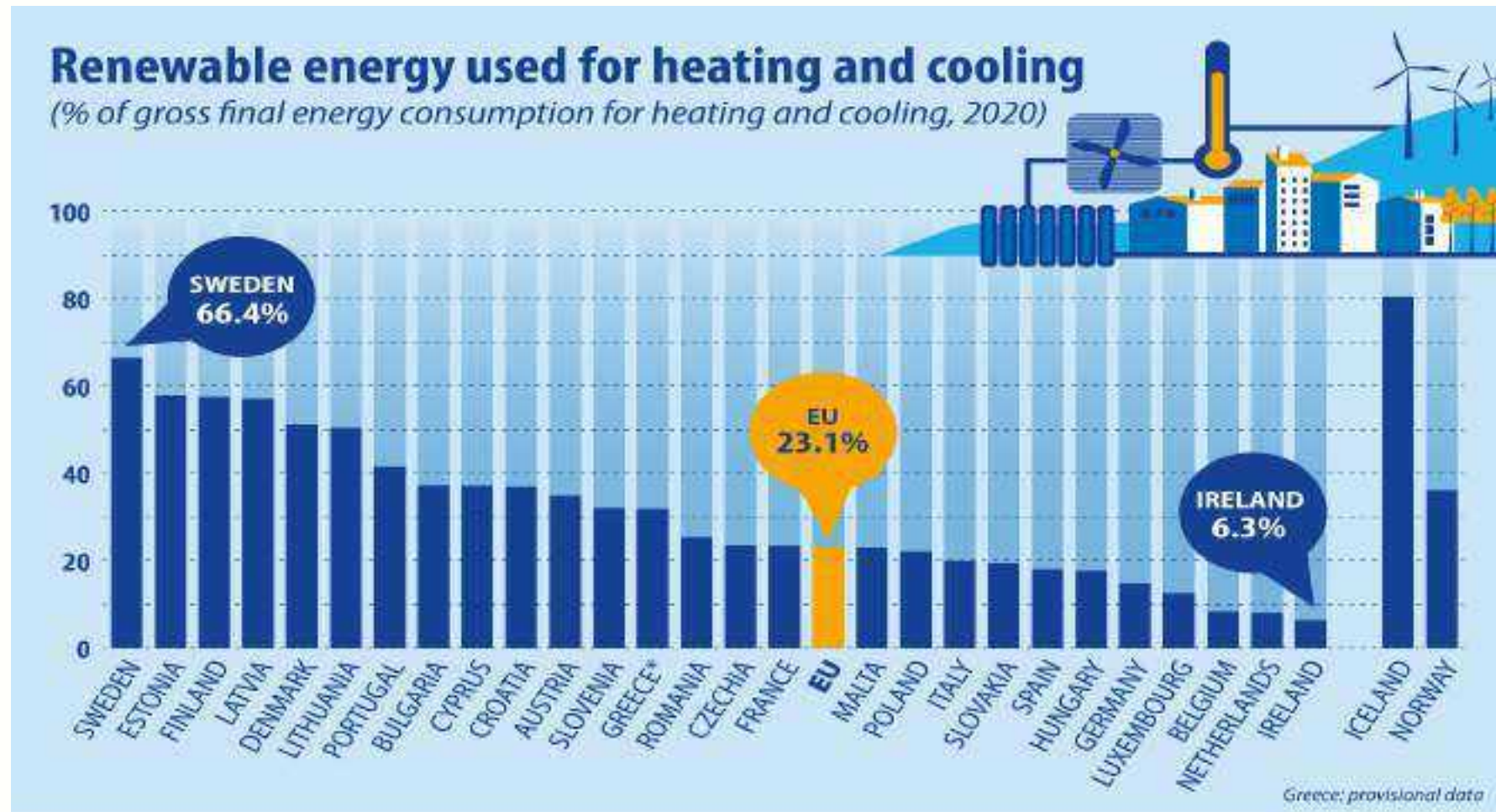
EMISSIONS FROM HEAT

#DECARBONISINGDUBLIN

Energy use in Ireland



HOW MUCH RENEWABLE HEAT DO WE USE?



WHAT IS DISTRICT HEATING?

1. Heat Source



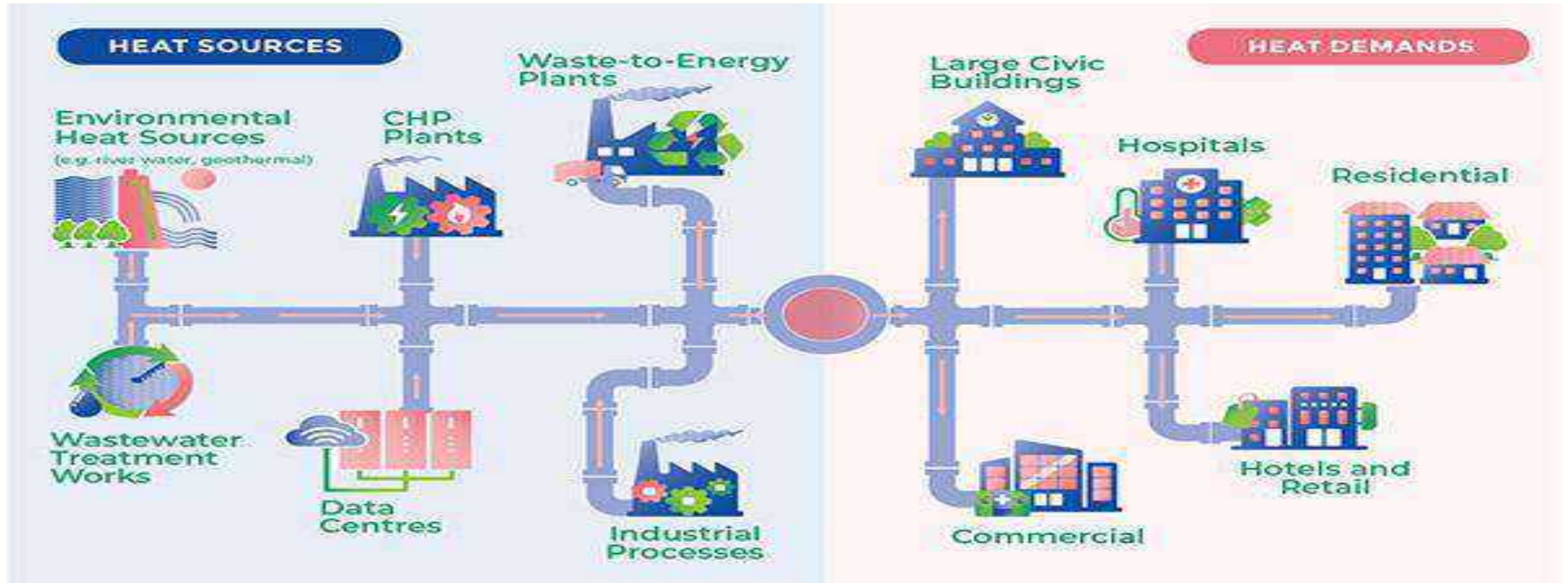
2. Network



3. Demand Residential, Commercial, Industry



WHAT IS DISTRICT HEATING?



AN EXAMPLE FROM IRELAND - TALLAGHT



IrDEA



“To promote and support the use of District Heating and Cooling from sustainable, low carbon and renewable energy sources, and help to overcome the current barriers facing the sector in Ireland”



IRELAND: What next?



Irish
District
Energy
Association

- Education
- Funding
- Legal Framework
- LET'S GET BUILDING!!

Pauline O'Reilly
CEO @ IrDEA
pauline.oreilly@districtenergy.ie



Decarbonising Dublin Summit

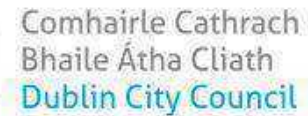
Eric Dennis
KSN Energy

Introduction

Eric Dennis
KSN Energy



Lots of Support



What is Working –



What Now?



Increase Pace



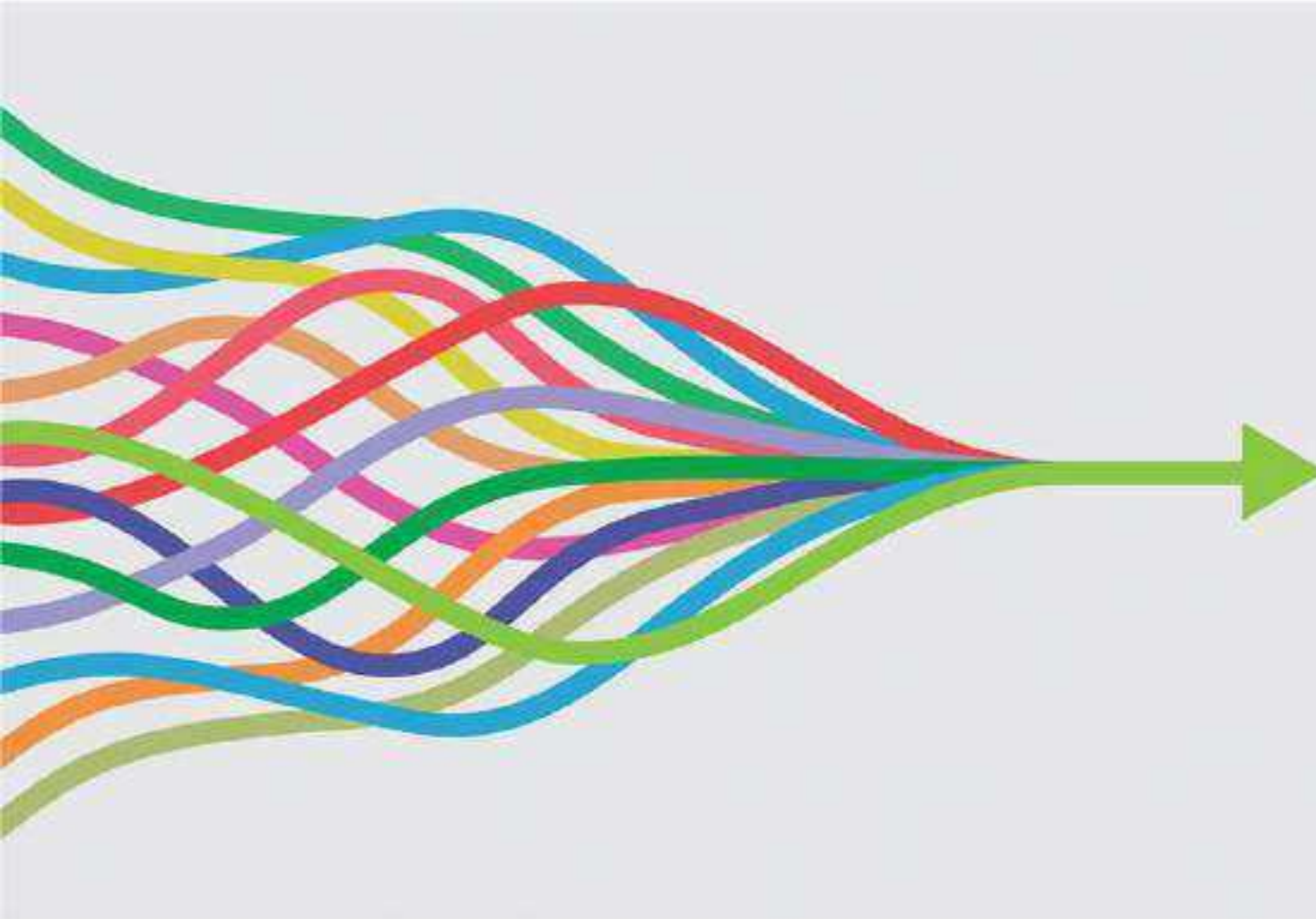
Increase Funding



Increase Awareness



Single Source of Information for Supports



Collaborate



KSN Energy

Beech House
Beech Hill Office Campus
Dublin 4
Ireland, D04 V5N2

T +353 (0)1 277 6900

E email@ksn.ie

W www.ksn.ie



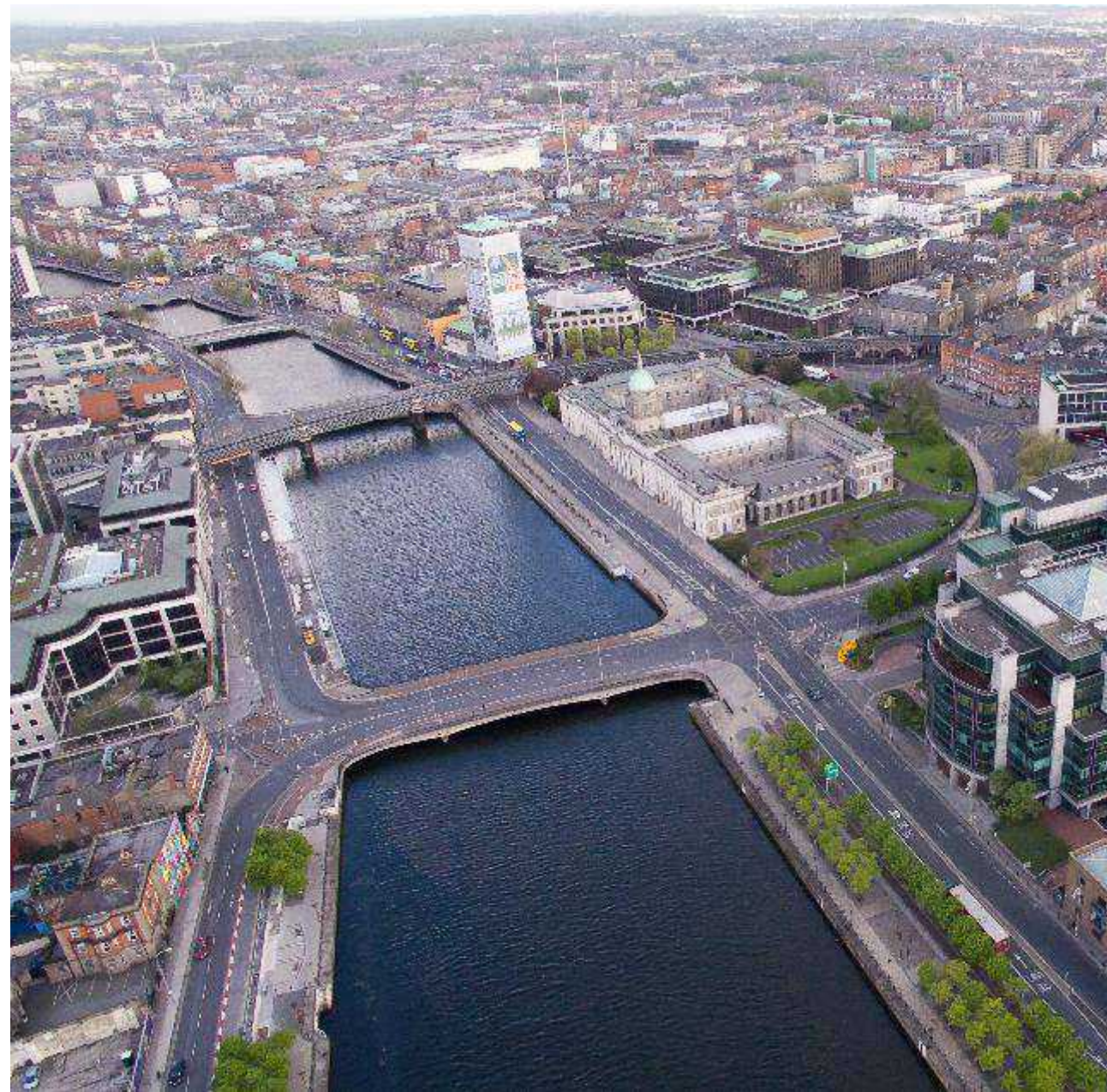
sustainability in the built environment

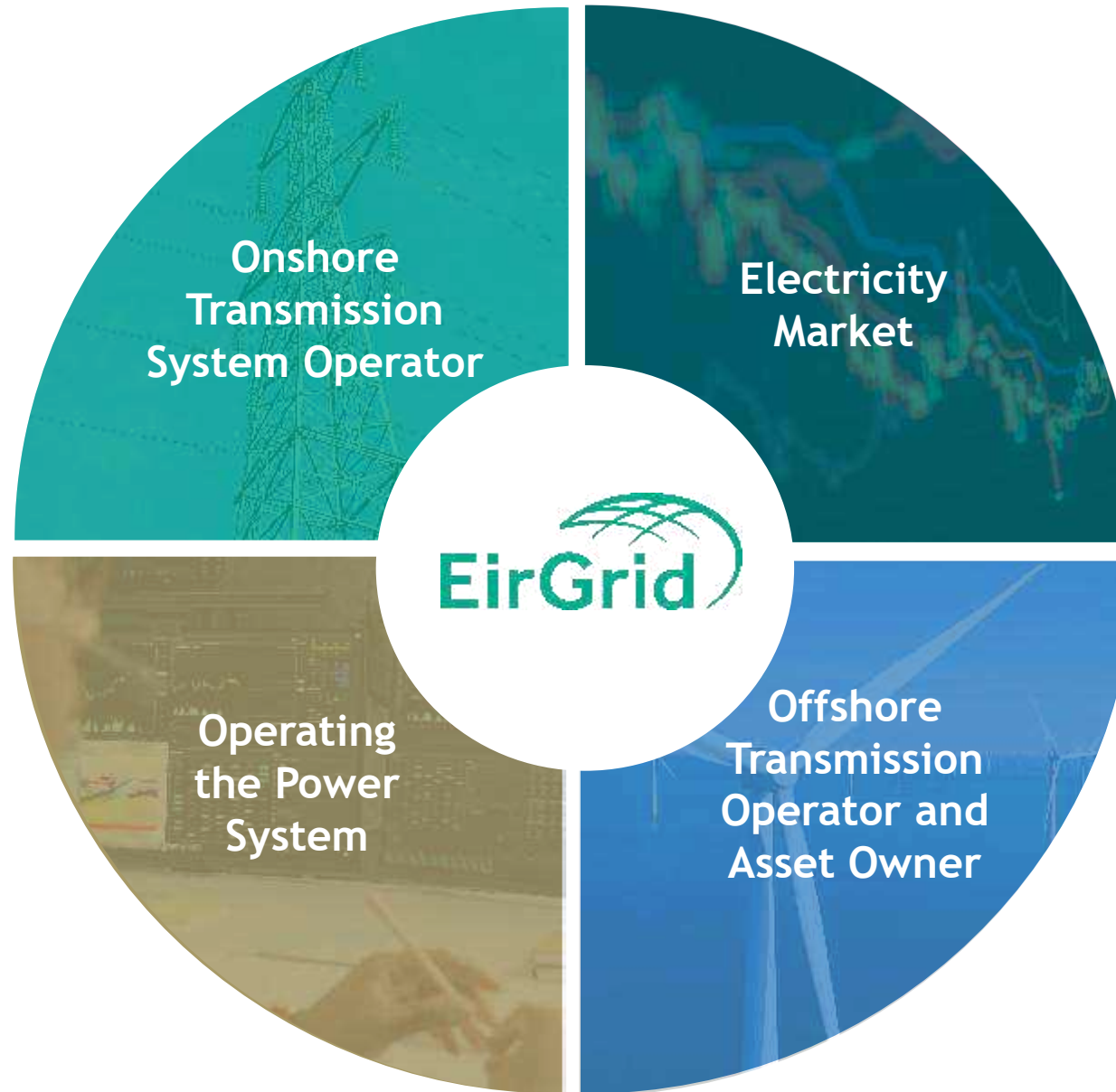
21/10/2025

Decarbonising Dublin

Siobhán O'Shea

Chief Infrastructure Onshore
Officer





What is Powering Up Dublin?

A programme of works to:

- Replace over 50km of cables across the city
- Install new and upgrade existing substations and Bulk Supply points



Powering Up Dublin

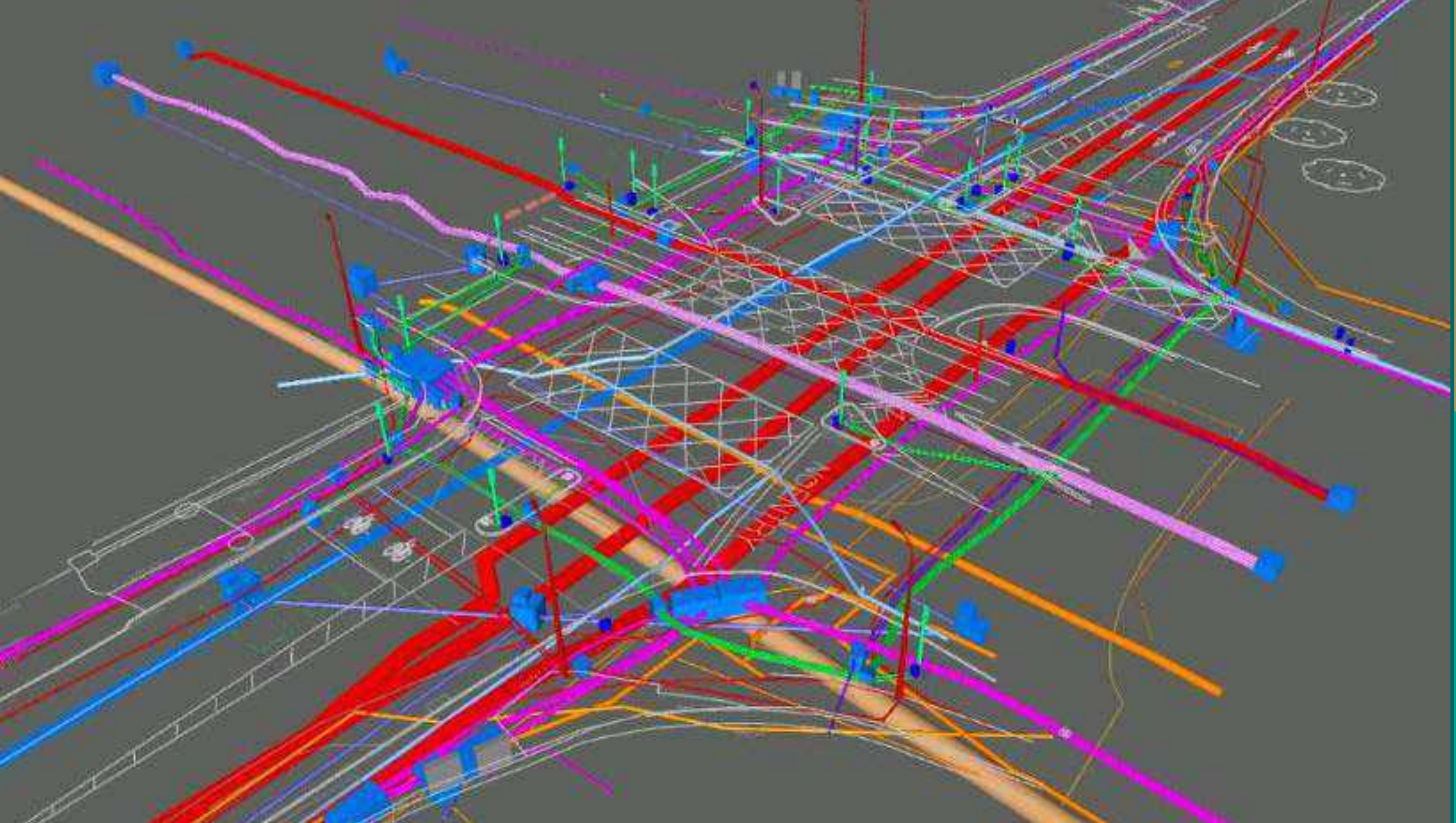
Why?

- Ensuring security of supply
- Increasing capacity
- Enabling renewables





Finglas North Wall 220kV replacement circuit



Ducting along Royal Canal Greenway

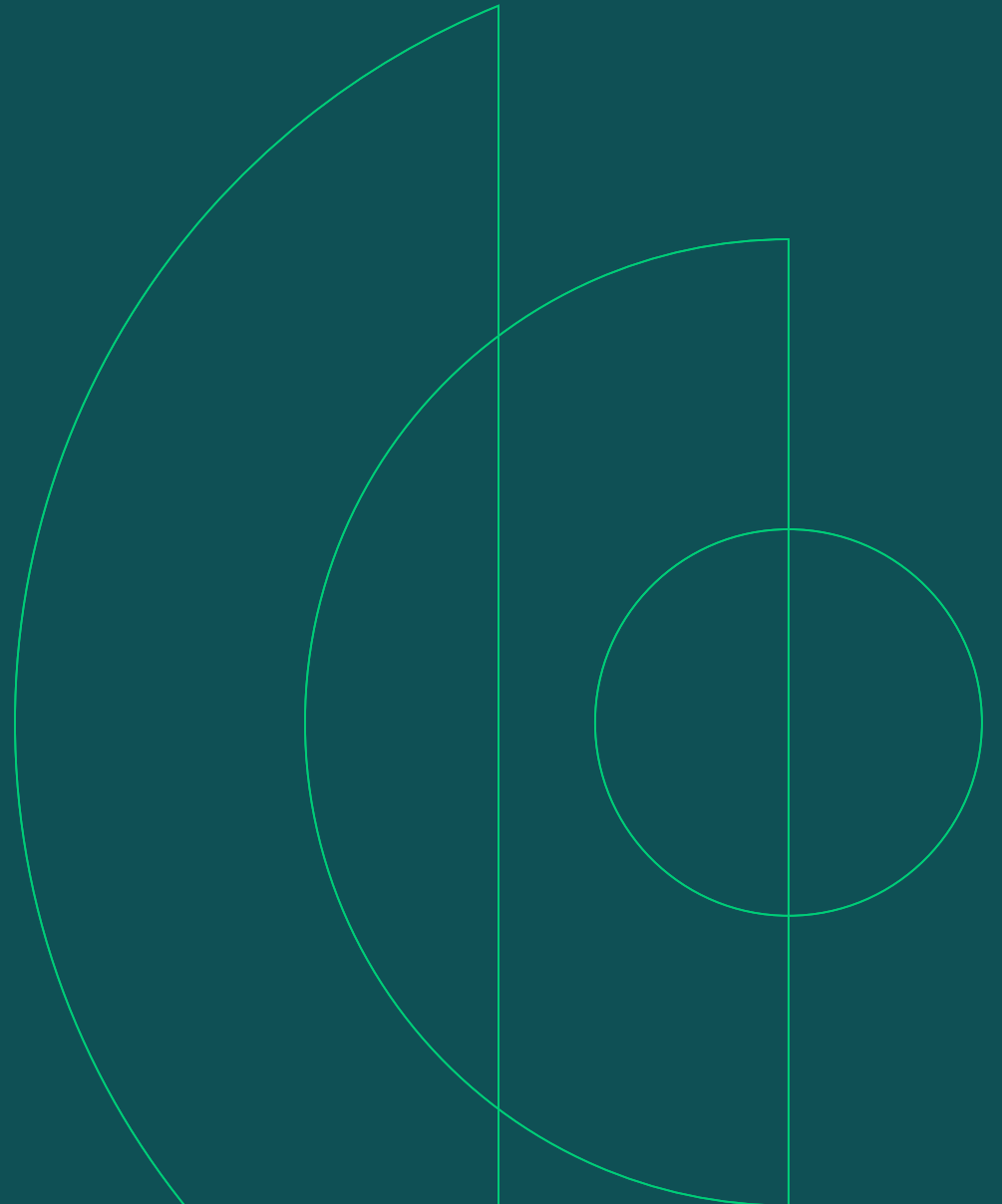


What infrastructure will be required?



Q&A session

Slido code:
#2638805



Please be back to your seats by 11:20am

Refreshment break



Session 3

New community-level action

Grassroots solutions for local impact



Session 3

New community-level action – grassroots solutions for local impact

Meet the speakers



**Meaghan
Carmody**

Business in the
Community Ireland

(Session
Moderator)



**Sarah
Zimmerman**

Balbriggan
Sustainable
Energy
Community



Céline Reilly

Phibsboro
Village Climate
Club



Gary Tyrrell

South Dublin
County Council



AlanJames Burns

Neurodivergent,
environmental and
audiovisual artist, curator
and festival maker



BALBRIGGAN

Sustainable

Energy

Community CLG





Balbriggan SEC

Sustainable Energy Community

We aim to create an energy efficient and resilient community through knowledge sharing, learning and renewable energy development

Currently a CLG:
Social Enterprise Development

Balbriggan SEC

Committed to local action

Formed as a volunteer organisation in 2021 and now a CLG, Balbriggan SEC has secured over €330,000 in funding



We know it 'takes a village' and aim partner with public authorities, academia and community groups



Journey from SEC set-up to Energy Master Plan

LOCAL FORMATION

Eamonn Donlyn

Chairperson

Sarah Zimmermann

Secretary

Jennifer Mahon

Ciaran Miller

Gerard Taylor

REGISTER WITH SEC NETWORK

**Registered the SEC
with SEAI in June 2021**

**We registered as a CLG
in September 2022**

DEVELOP VISION & CHARTER

**Create an energy
efficient community
through knowledge
sharing, renewable
energy use and
nature-based
solutions**



Journey from SEC set-up to Energy Master Plan

**CONNECT
WITH YOUR
LOCAL SEC
MENTOR**



Eric Dennis

**APPLY FOR
ENERGY
MASTER PLAN
FUNDING**

**Received:
Level 3 SEC €20,000**

**Progressive Credit
Union provided
bridging finance**

**ORS ENERGY
DEVELOPED
MASTER PLAN
(Launch 2024)**



[LINK: Balbriggan Energy
Master Plan \(EMP\)](#)

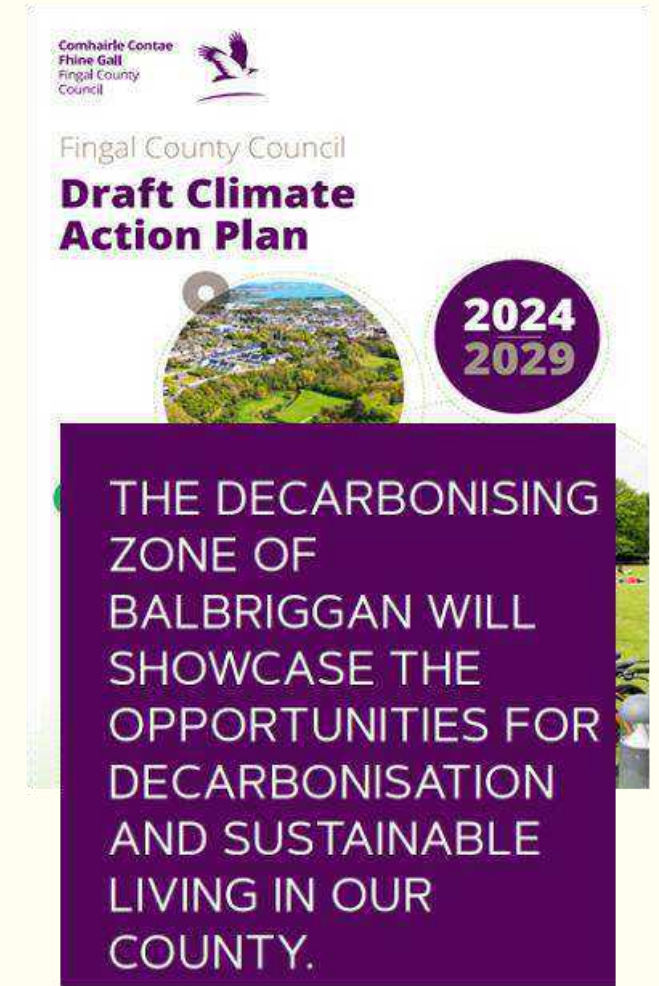


Alignment with Local Authority

- Aligns with Fingal Climate Action Plan 2024-2029
 - Balbriggan as Decarbonising Zone
 - Register of Opportunities

[Fingal County Council
Climate Action Plan 2024-2029](#)

**National CAP 2024 - 500MW of
community energy by 2030**





Local Progress: Funded Projects

- **Secured €56,365 funding from the Fingal Climate Action Fund**
 - Balbriggan Meals on Wheels (Solar, LED)
 - Balbriggan FC (doors, LED)
 - Balbriggan Tidy Towns Bike Locker, St Peter and Pauls Laudato Si, Biodiversity Garden
- **Secured EU INTERREG project with Codema & Fingal County Council**
 - Local Sustainable Energy Communities with partner cities across EU
 - Funding was granted to FCC and Codema





Local Progress: Funded Projects

Secured €259,00 EU HORIZON funding

- Social Enterprise Development for Local Energy Communities with EU cities
- Bike Libraries for local mobility
- **Full-time hire for 24 months**
- UCD lead for Ireland with support from Fingal County Council Active Travel





Memberships

- **Balbriggan SEC Memberships**
 - EU Citizen-led Renovation (CLR) Programme
 - Our Balbriggan Sustainability, Climate Action & Biodiversity Pillar Group
 - Fingal County Council Chairs the pillar
 - Fingal Public Participation Network (PPN)

www.balbriggansec.com



Future: Community Owned Generation



www.balbriggansec.com



Energy Market: First Principles

Energy as a System of Power & Capital

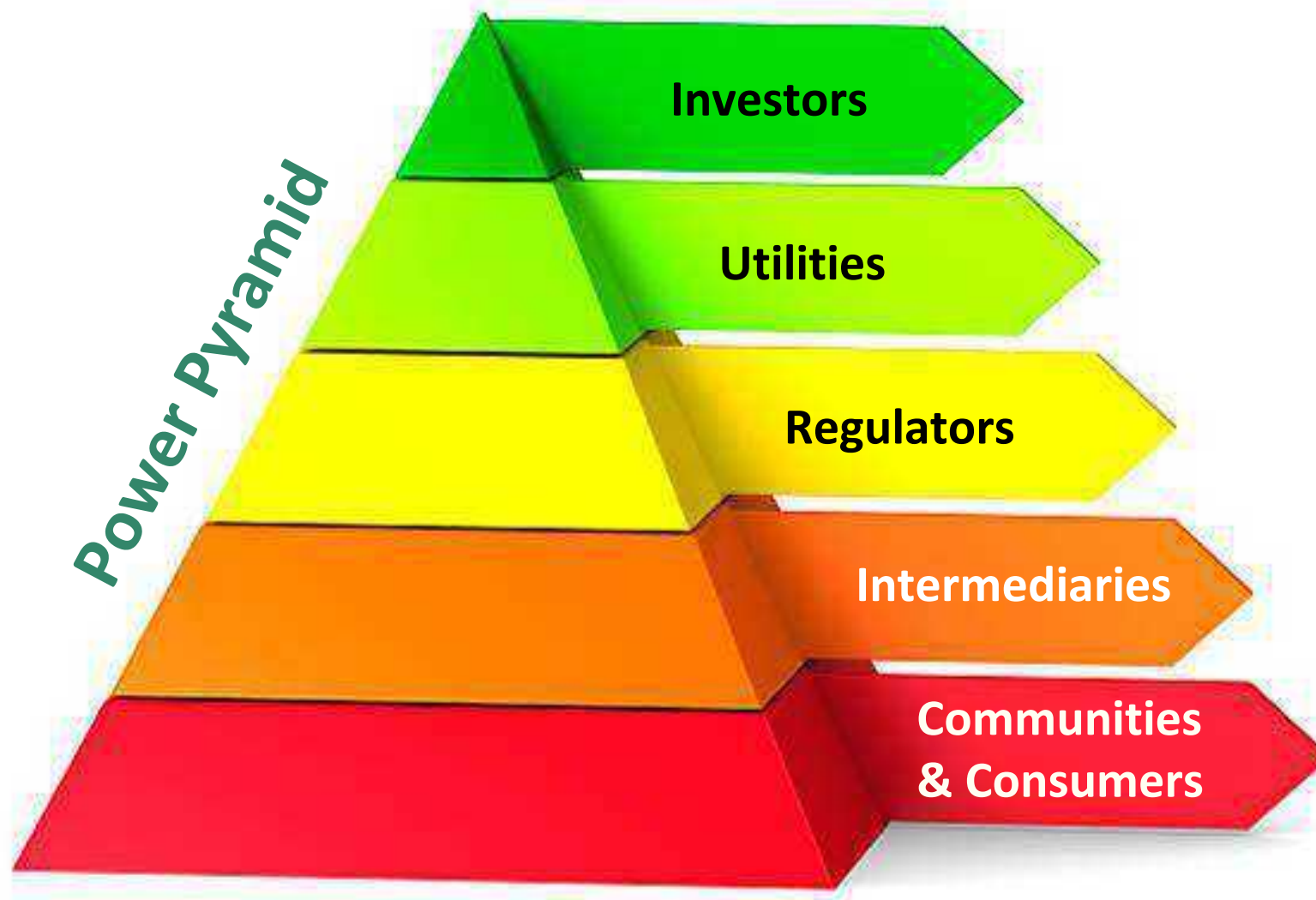
Energy is not just electricity. it is the foundation of every modern economy.
Historically, control of energy meant control of **growth, wealth, and influence**.

- **Physical Basis:** Energy = the capacity to do work; all economic activity depends on it.
- **Economic Structure: Centralised**, capital-intensive infrastructure (grids, plants, pipelines).
- **Financial Reality:** High fixed costs + long payback → natural **monopoly tendency**.
- **Result:** A market designed for **large players** state utilities or global corporations

...with little room for small entrants.



Energy Market: First Principles





Energy Market: First Principles

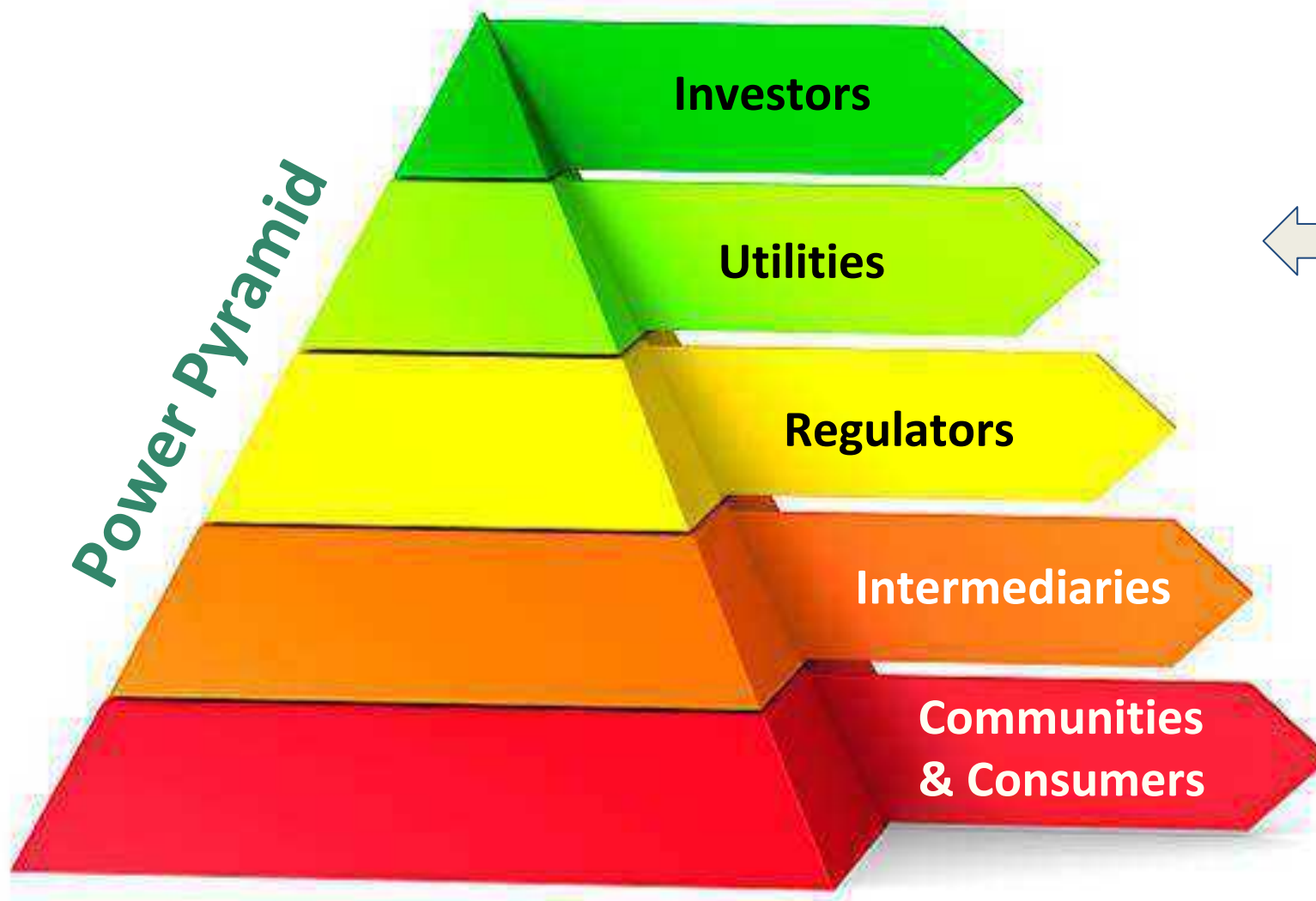
Tech Opened the Door, but Policy Hasn't Walked Through It

In the last decade, decentralised renewables, smart grids, and storage made small-scale generation viable, but institutions lag behind.

- **Tech Disruption:** Solar PV, wind co-ops, microgrids, demand response, and storage made **distributed energy** feasible.
- **Policy Mismatch:** Markets, regulation, and finance still reward **scale and ownership concentration** (infrastructure a key obvious factor)
- **Volunteer Gap:** Local Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) emerge to fill unmet needs...**social energy infrastructure** without financial supports to equal.



Energy Market: First Principles



Outcome:

The “missing middle”

No
scalable mechanism
between volunteer
initiatives and
corporate utilities.



QUESTION

Should government provide a better path for SECs to scale up through stable, dedicated funding for capacity and coordination?

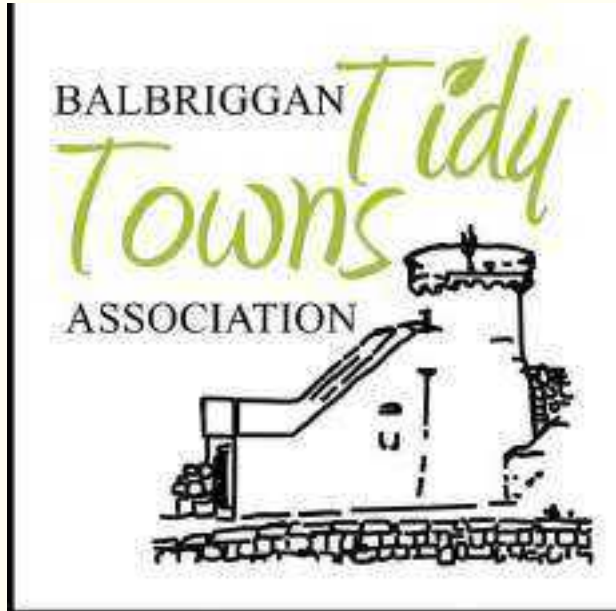


QUESTION

Should government provide a better path for SECs to scale up through stable, dedicated funding for capacity and coordination?

...or accept that community energy will remain volunteer run and symbolic rather than systemic?

PARTNERS



**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



2050
35 years of age



2100
85 years of age



Phibsboro Village Climate Club

Céline Reilly CEng,
Presentation to the Decarbonisation Summit,
Aviva Stadium, Dublin

Tuesday 21st October 2025



Phibsboro Village Climate Club:

Personal Profile

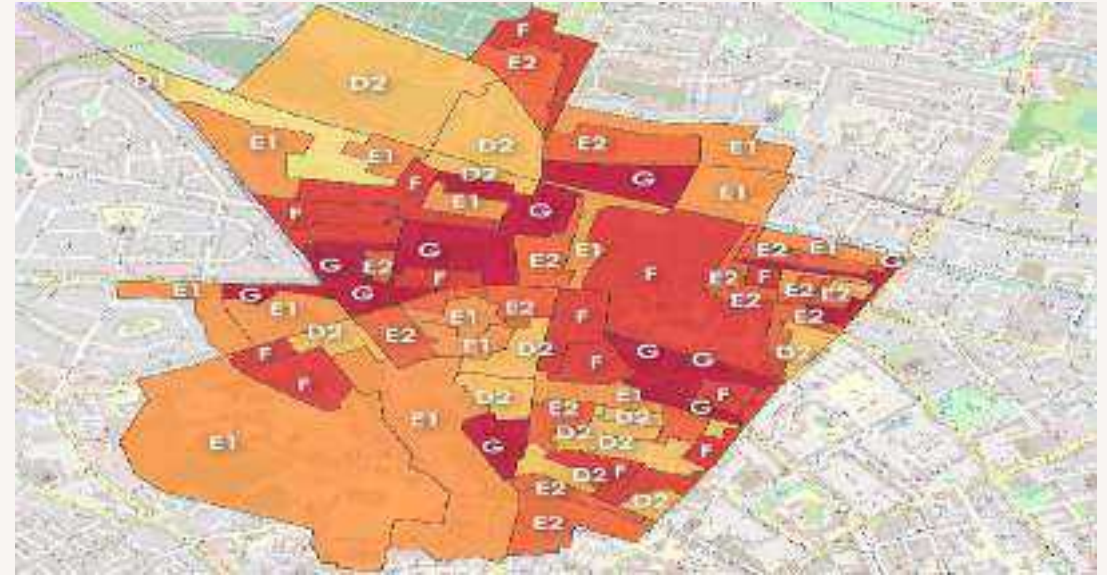
- My Professional, Community and Voluntary Work:
 - Chartered Civil Engineer (Ireland and UK)
 - Former Executive Manager (Environment/Climate/CARO) with Dublin City Council (Retired)
 - Chair Phibsboro Village Climate Club/SEC
 - Member of the Triple SEC; (includes Connecting Cabra and Cosybatter)
 - Board Member Spark/Bohemian Football Club Project
 - Former Chair of Vita Impact (NGO)
- Why get involved?
 - Professional experience
 - Personal interest
 - Practical focus
 - Local resident



Phibsboro Village Climate Club:

Decarbonising Phibsboro: Context

- Local Area Profile:
 - Almost 20,00 residents in over 8000 homes
 - Almost 50% aged between 20 and 40 years
 - Over 50% renting
 - Over 25,000 Tonnes of CO₂ emitted
 - Average BER E2
 - 3,406 cars
 - €34.2 million annual energy spend

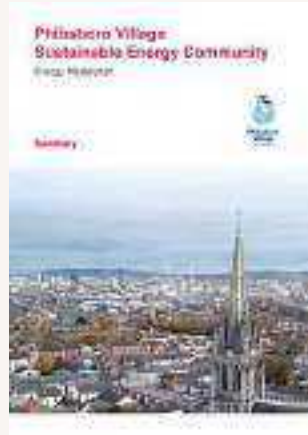




Phibsboro Village Climate Club:

Our Journey to Date: 2020 to 2025

- Climate Club/SEC launched in 2021 under the umbrella of the Tidy Towns – an important link
- At this first event we also launched
 - The Energy Masterplan
 - The North Circular Economy Plan
 - The Biodiversity Action Plan
- Grassroots approach
 - Networks and Partnerships





Sports Clubs and Climate Action

- Biodiversity and Hedgerow
- Energy and Solar Panel
- Shandon Pitch and Putt



Projects (2)

Citizen-led Renovation: Triple SEC

- Solar Webinar
- Guide to Warmer Homes
- Warmer Homes Support
- Guide for Renters





Phibsboro Village Climate Club:

Projects (3)

The Spark Project

- Sparks Skills
- Library of Things and Bike Library
- Kids Climate Co-op
- Solar Co-op





Phibsboro Village Climate Club:

Projects (4)

Buzzfest

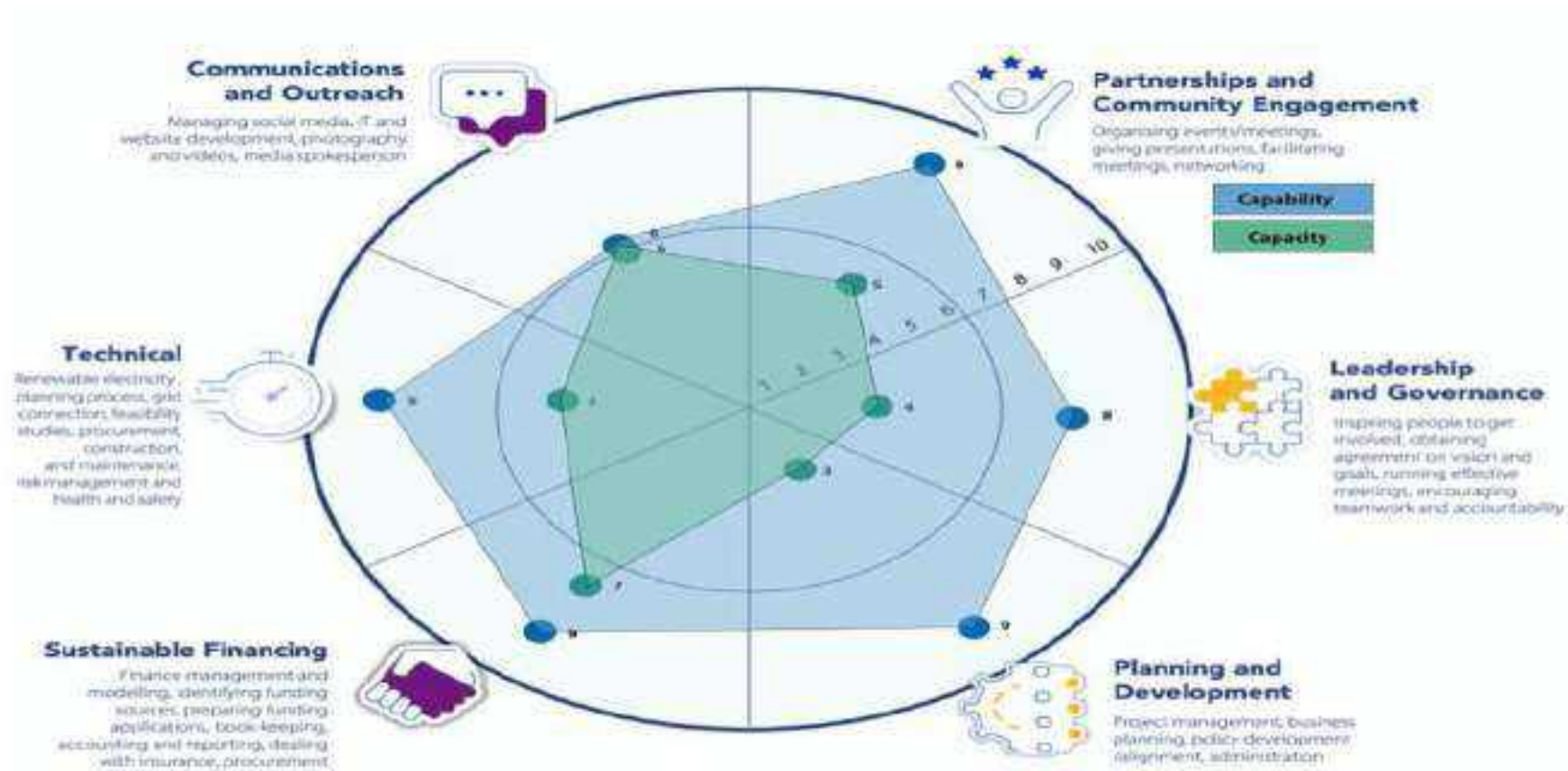
- Annual Sustainability Festival
- Brings all local climate action together,
- Well attended community event
- Great Buzz!!!





Phibsboro Village Climate Club:

Competency map





Phibsboro Village Climate Club:

Decarbonising Phibsboro: Reflections (5 years' experience)

- People come and go - you gain fresh thinking, you lose experience, you regroup
- You start with big plans that run into roadblocks but then deliver on small incremental projects
- You have meetings where only 2 people turn up but then engage with 1,000s through local networks
- You get dejected at the slowness of progress but see solar panels on more roofs, more businesses adopting energy efficiencies, large organisations like the Mater hospital and the Women's prison embracing climate actions.
- Funding is not the real problem: there are many sources of funding, but there are conditions that prevent us accessing them, no follow-on funding and project management remains an issue.

Question

What supports are required to enable voluntary groups to implement community decarbonisation projects?

Thank you for listening, and over to you...



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas

South Dublin
County Council

Decarb Summit

Community Level Action for Local Impact

Gary Tyrrell,
SDCC Climate Action Officer

SDCC Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2024 - 2029

SDCC

SDCC CAP:

- 6 Action Areas
- 4 Overall Targets
- 129 Climate Actions
- 1 Decarbonising Zone

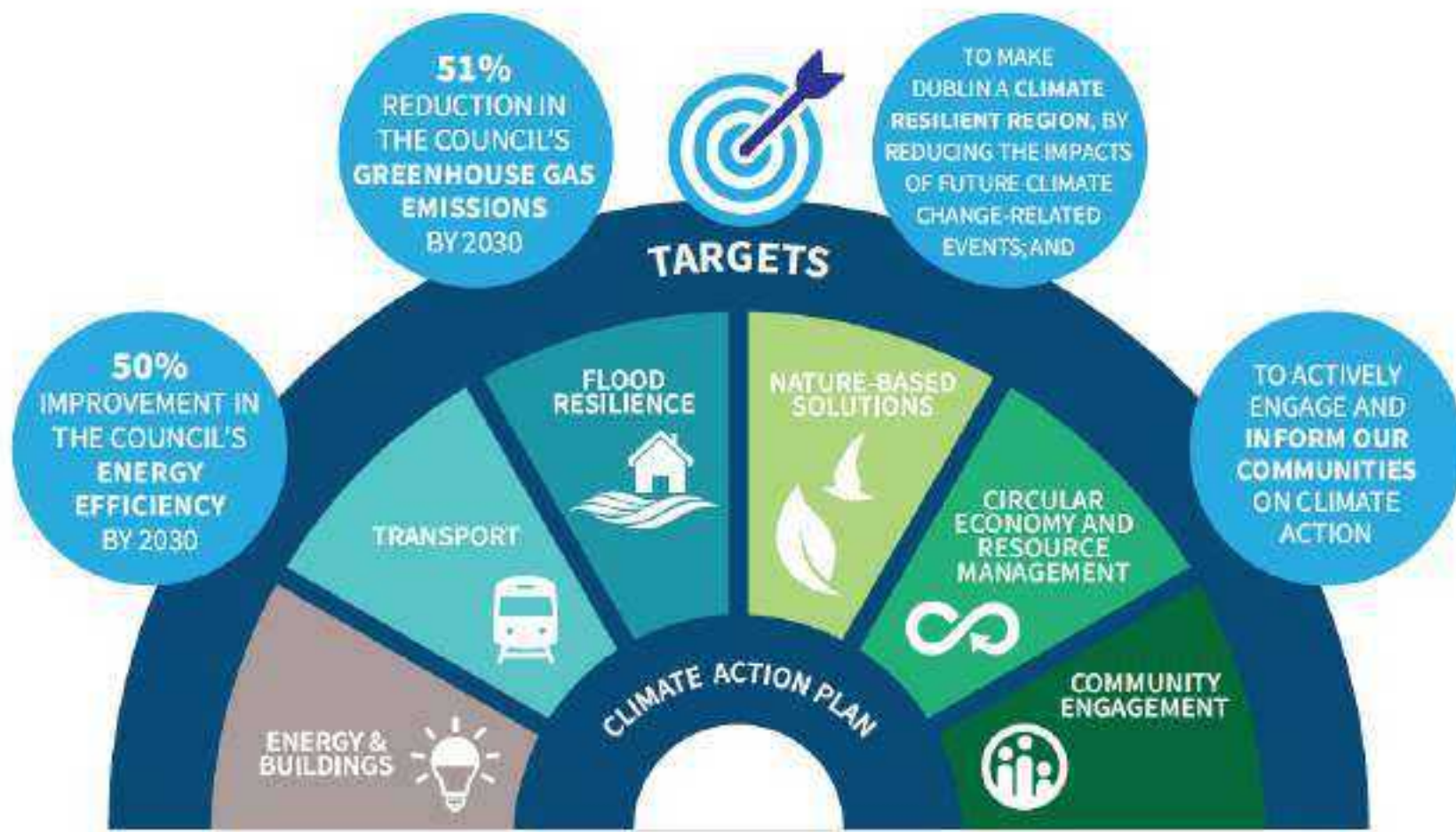
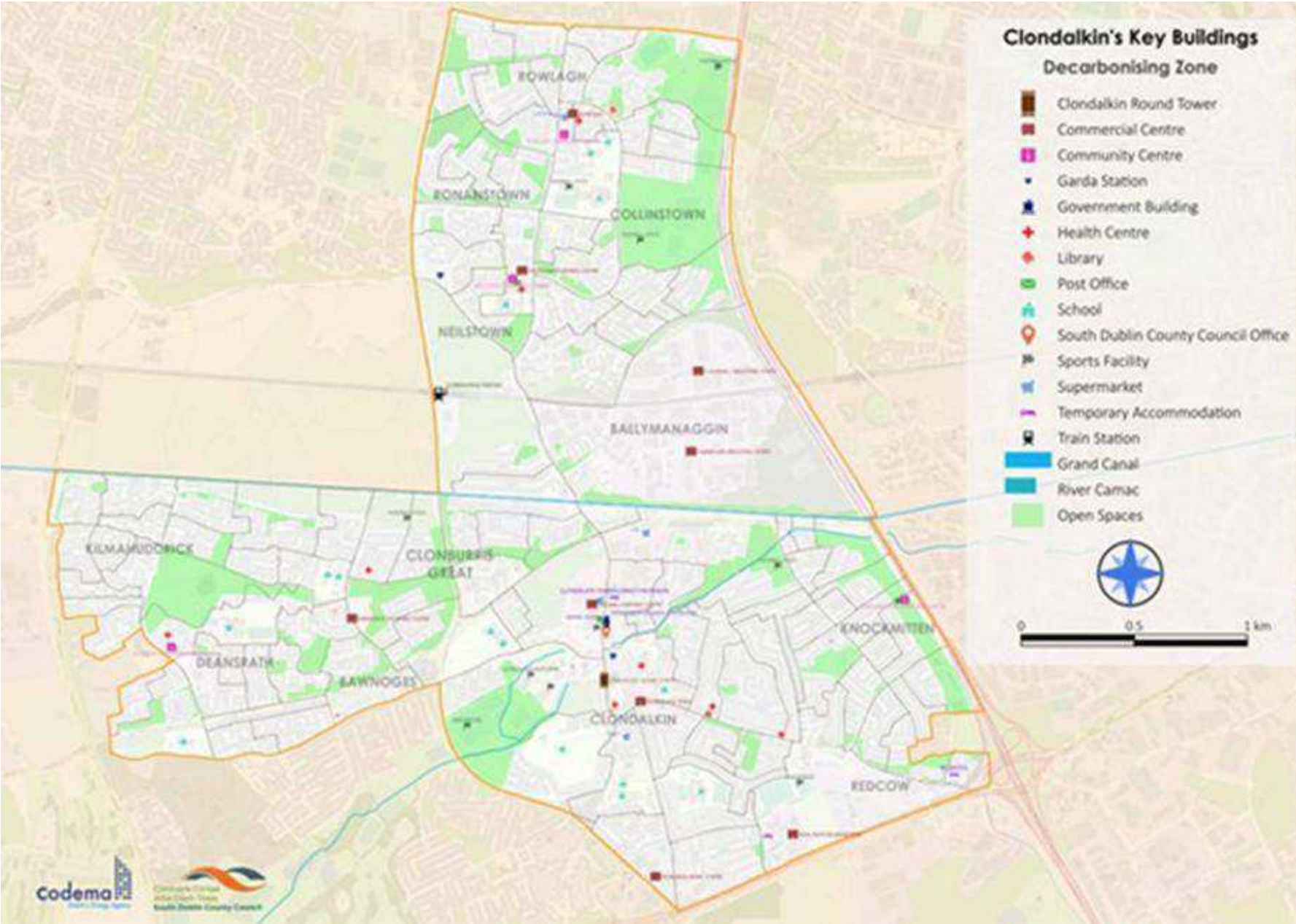


Figure 1.5: The Targets and Action Areas of this Climate Action Plan 2024-2029

Decarbonising Zone (DZ)

South Dublin County Council
Decarbonising Zone
Incorporating Clondalkin & Palmerstown



Decarbonising Zone (DZ)

SDCC

- Population: 33,000
- 8.11km²
- 10,935 households
- 413 commercial & industrial buildings



Decarbonising Zone (DZ)

SDCC

Baseline GHG
Emissions in
of all SDCC:

Biggest emitters?

What % does SDCC
emit, do you think?

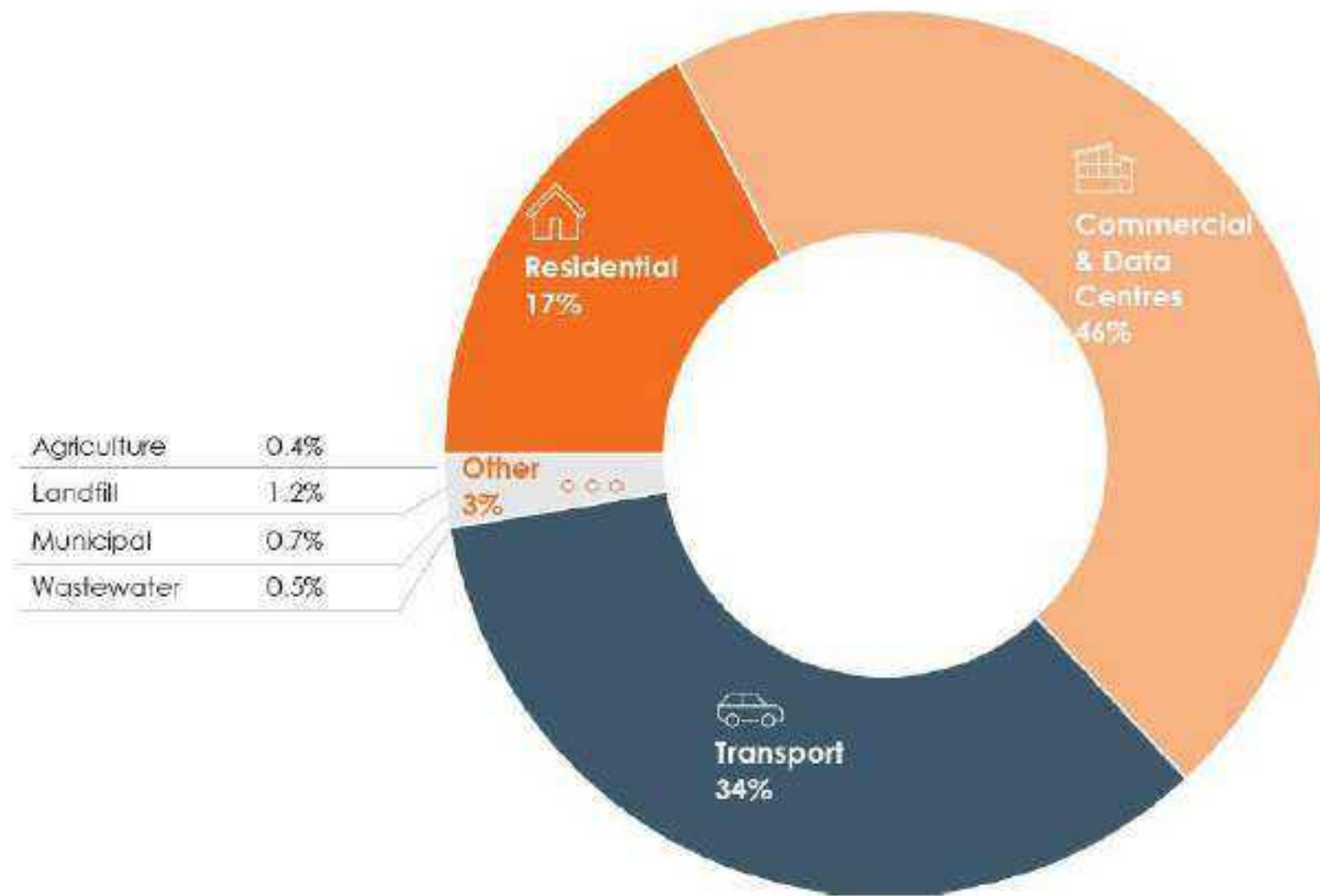


Figure 3.4: Total GHG Emissions for South Dublin per Sector 2016 (%)

Decarbonising Zone (DZ)

SDCC

Public Engagement on the DZ:

What has happened so far?



Clondalkin Community Climate Action Survey

- 244 responses
- ~ 160 people engaged during promotion of the survey



Visioning Workshops

- 6 workshops with community groups/schools
- 66 attendees in total



Dublin Climate Action Week

- Facilitated 4 youth conferences
- 125 students engaged
- Hosted a stand at Clondalkin ClimateFest
- Approx. 40 people engaged



Wider Community Events

- Approx. 10 community events attended



DZ Consultation Group Workshops

- 2 workshops with community members from visioning workshops / survey outreach / in-person engagement
- 24 attendees in total

Decarbonising Zone (DZ)

SDCC

Helping to Succeed:



Dublin Climate Action Week (DCAW) 2025, Mini-woodland preparations, Oakwood Grove, Clondalkin.

Helping to Succeed

SDCC

Public Engagement

722 public engagement sessions by SDCC in last 12 months



Screening of Ocean, DCAW '25, Tallaght cinema

Helping to Succeed

SDCC Tallaght District Heating System saved
1,100 tonnes CO2 in 2023
1,265 tonnes CO2 in 2024

System reuses waste heat from a data centre
provide low-carbon heating to public
& residential buildings.

Set up as a not for profit operation.



Ireland's First District Heating System, Tallaght

Helping to Succeed

SDCC

Camac, Poddle & Whitechurch €40M investment

Poddle scheme alone will protect 950 properties



Flood Alleviation Scheme, Tymon Park.

Helping to Succeed

SDCC

150k bottles saved in 2025 through
public drinking water fountains



Drinking water station, Rathfarnham Castle

Helping to Succeed

SDCC

2024:

13.5km newly installed cycle paths

41 projects

~ €13M spend

Similar spend figures progressing for 2025



New dual cycleway, Tallaght

Helping to Succeed

SDCC

Social Housing Retrofits Savings 2022 – 2024:

2,620 MWhrs
618 Tons CO₂



Social Housing Retrofits, St. Maelruain's

Helping to Succeed

SDCC

30,030 saplings planted since 2021
by SDCC with community groups.

Also 3k trees planted on pathways,
road verges, in parks in 2025 alone.



Mini woodland planting, SDCC

Helping to Succeed

SDCC

The Community Climate Action Fund

Phase 1: €1.169M

Phase 2 opening:
28th Oct – Dec 22nd
€1.073M



Knocklyon Scout Den with solar PV panels through the Community Climate Action Fund

Decarbonising Zone (DZ)

SDCC

Helping to Succeed:

Climate Innovation Programme

A collab with TCD & MTU



In-person session as part of Climate Innovation Training, Aras Cronan, Clondalkin, Sept. '25.

Helping to Succeed

SDCC Projects progressing –

Energy Performance Contracts:

SDCC Building upgrades – PV panels, heat pumps, retrofits, insulation.

EnergyCloud – social housing

Public Bike sharing, Public Bike Libraries, Bike Hub Stencilling.

Green Machines, more SDCC Fleet EV's, public EV charging.



SDCC County Hall, Tallaght

Decarbonising Zone (DZ)

SDCC

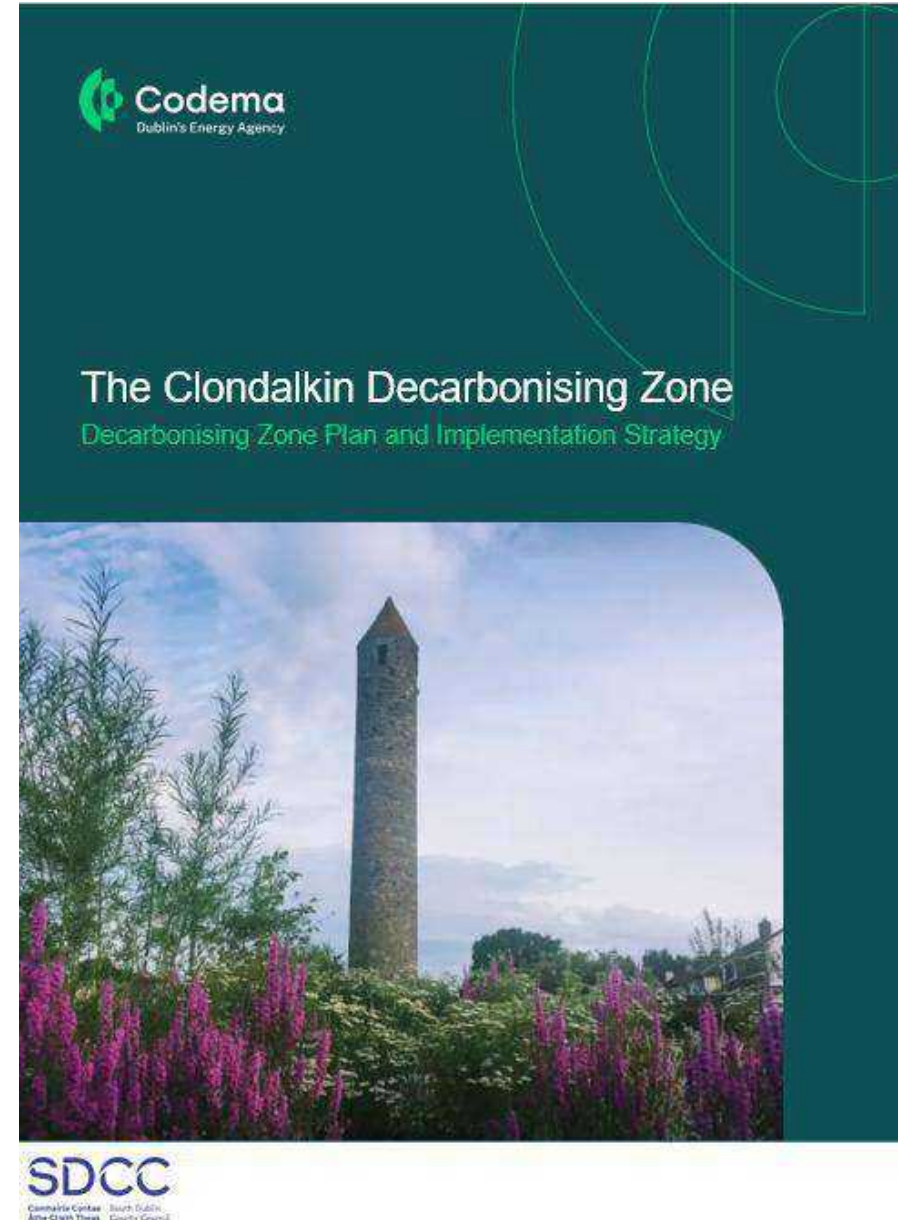
Lessons Learned / Insights:

Completing DZ Implementation Plan.

Communicating deep & wide is challenging.

Aim: Introduce community projects as early and often as possible.

Values: Patience. Compassion. Tenacity.



Question

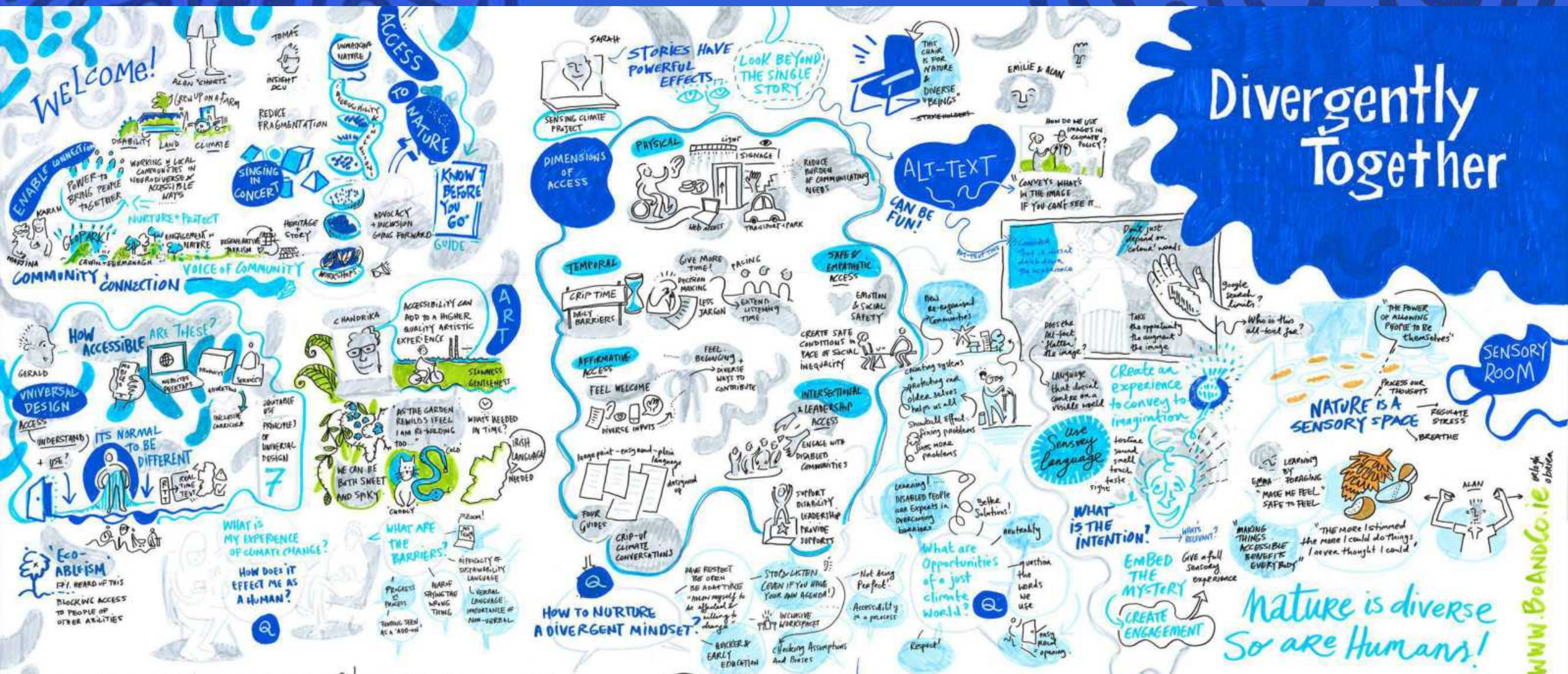
Within the realms of their capabilities –
what would you like to see
your local authority do / do
more of?



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas

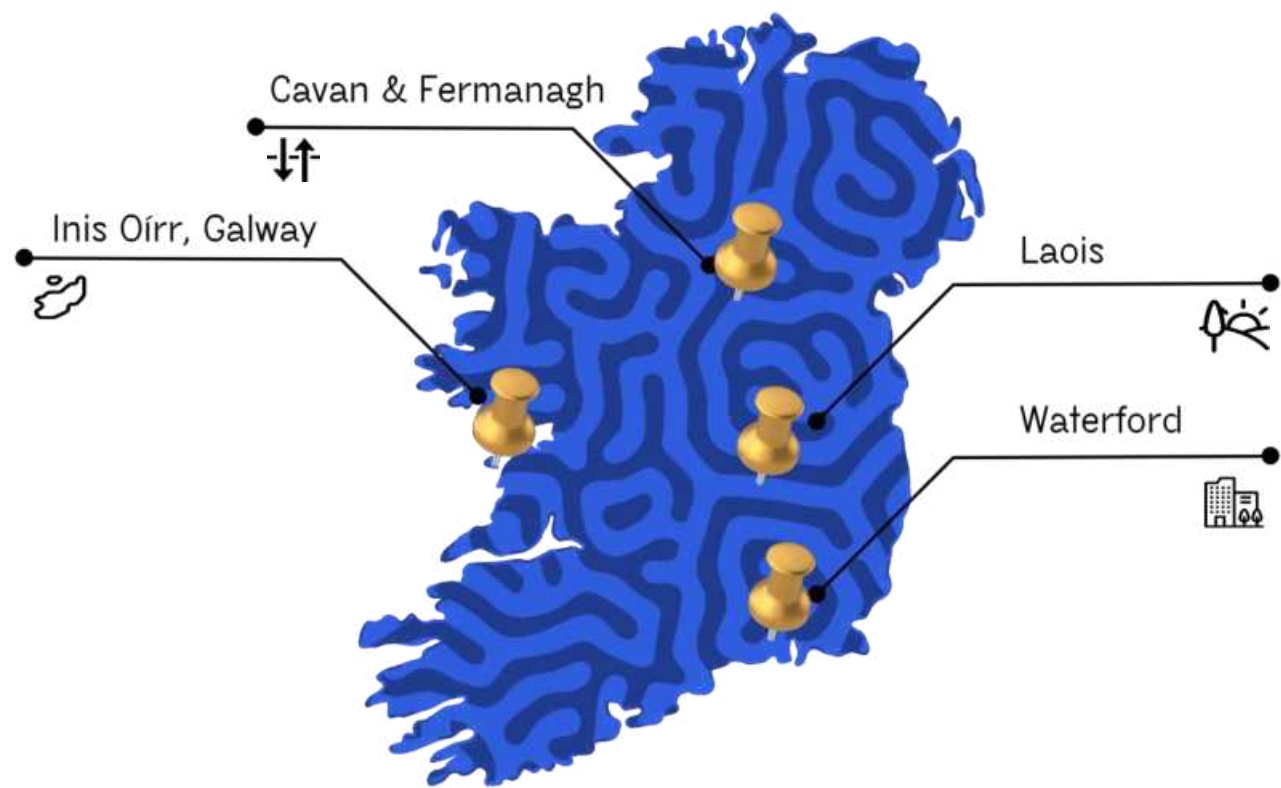
South Dublin
County Council

Thank you

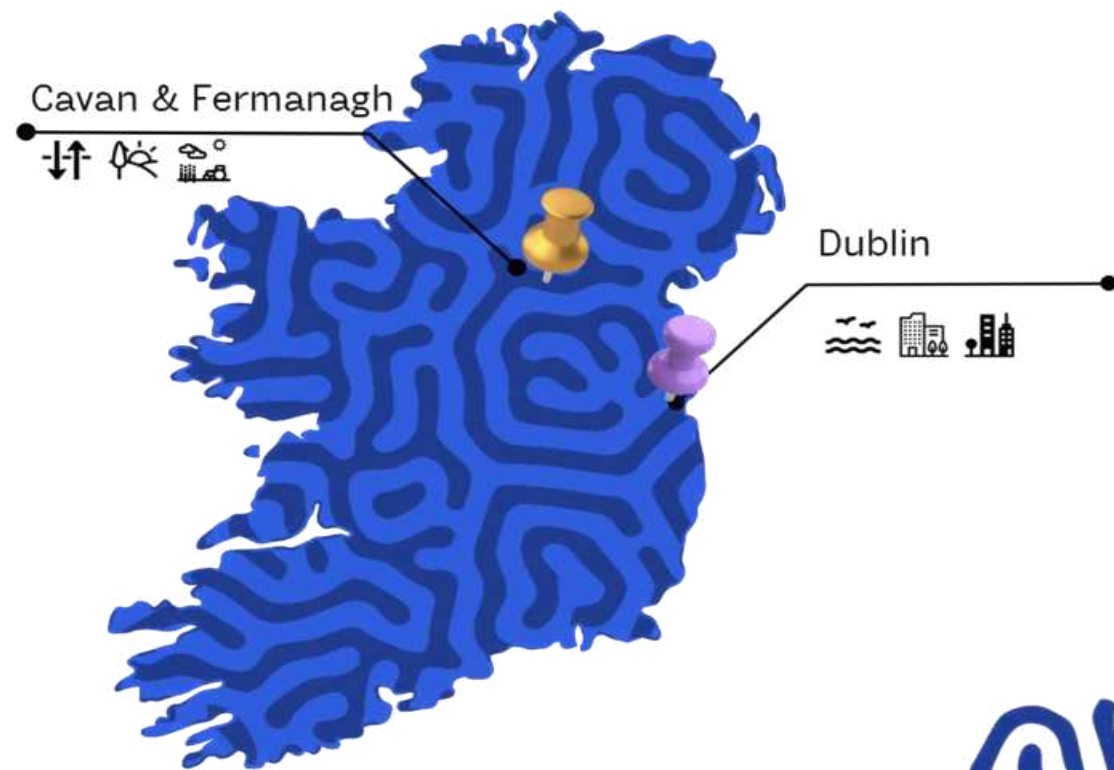




Divergently Together workshop group at the Link Centre, Laois in association with The Urban Farm



- ↕ Cross Border
- 🌳 Midlands
- 🏡 Rural
- 🌊 Coastal
- 🏙️ Port City
- 🏙️ Urban
- 🗺️ Island



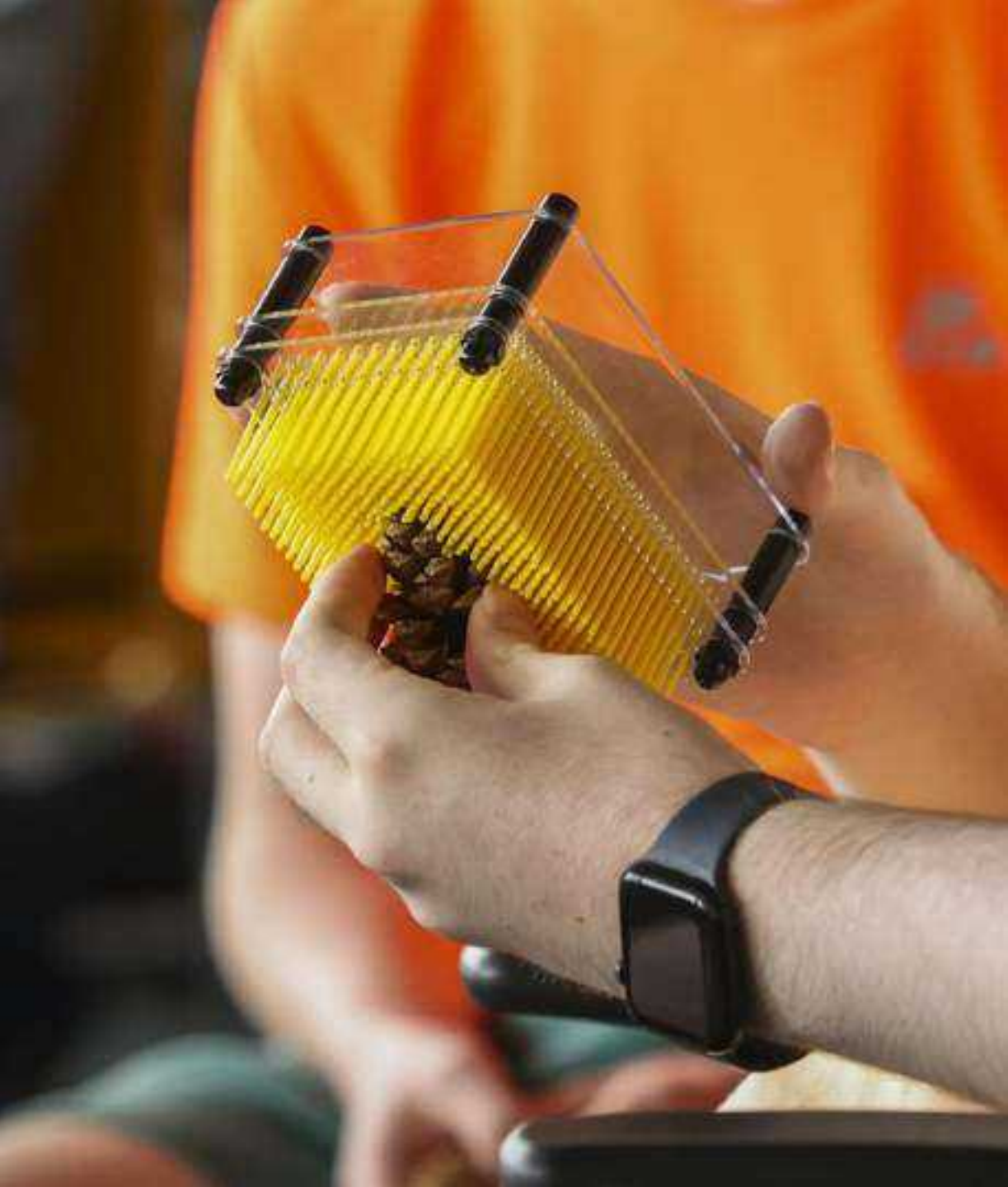


Divergently Together workshop group at Áras Éanna arts centre, Inis Oírr, Galway

does it make you feel?

Anxiety

UNEASY















blackberries - fruits
of the brambles

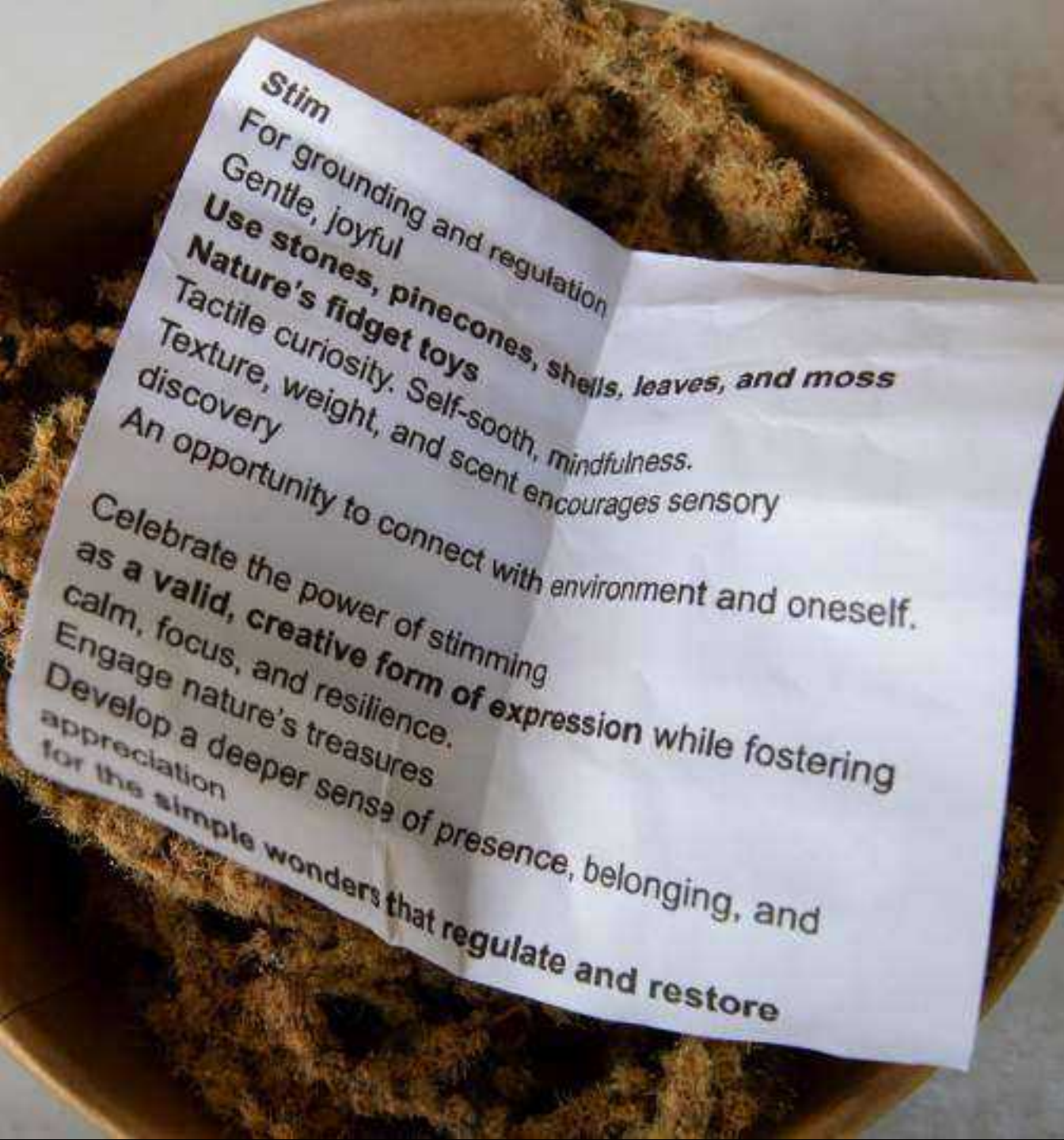












Stim

For grounding and regulation
Gentle, joyful
Use stones, pinecones, shells, leaves, and moss

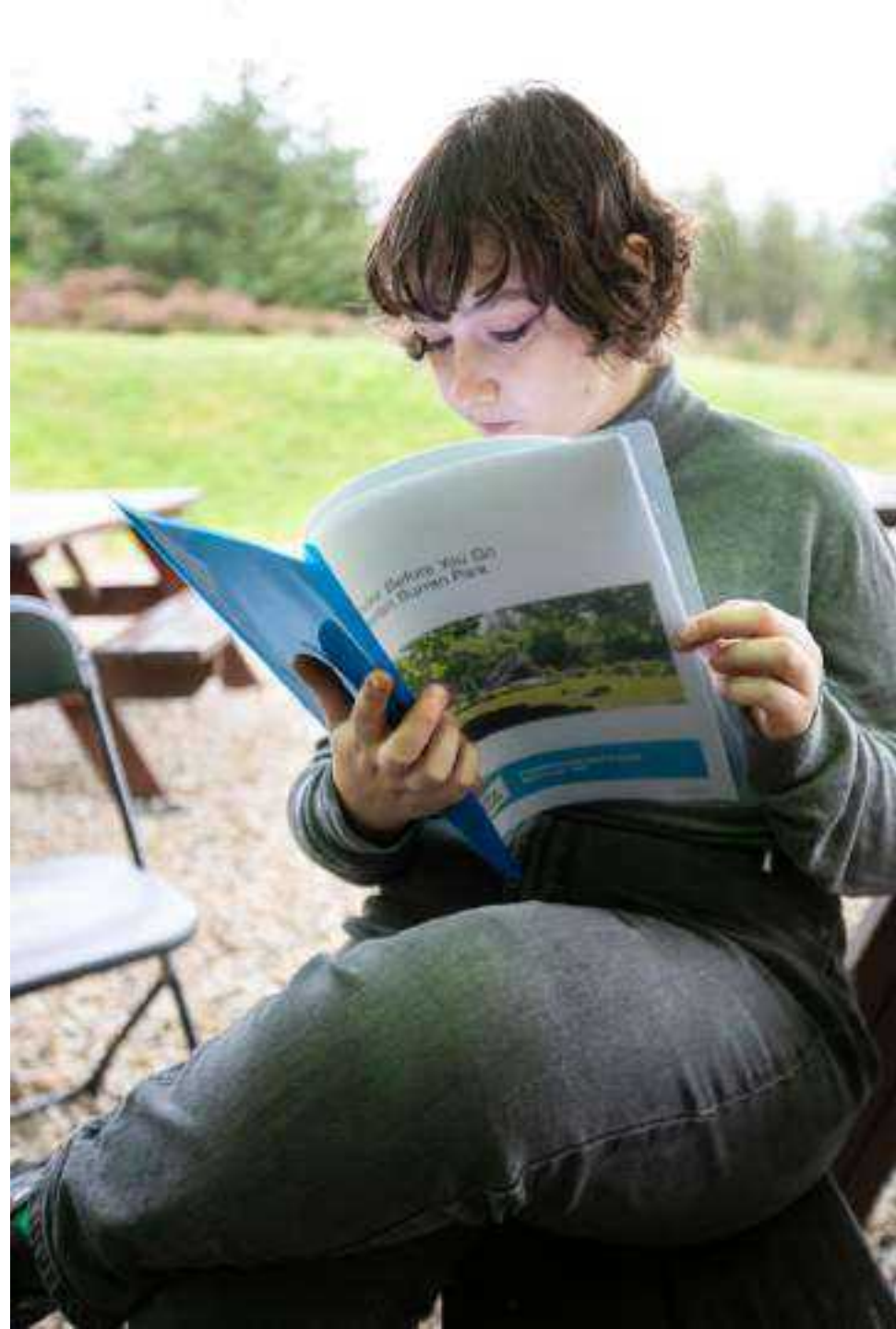
Nature's fidget toys

Tactile curiosity. Self-sooth, mindfulness.
Texture, weight, and scent encourages sensory
discovery
An opportunity to connect with environment and oneself.

Celebrate the power of stimulating
as a **valid, creative form of expression** while fostering
calm, focus, and resilience.
Engage nature's treasures
Develop a deeper sense of presence, belonging, and
appreciation
for the simple wonders that regulate and restore







Know Before You Go Guide

Know Before You Go Cavan Burren Park



Everything you need to know
before you visit



How to get there



The park is close to the village
of Blacklion on the Cavan /
Fermanagh border.



When driving, you can take the
N16 Sligo Road out of Blacklion
village.

You will see a sign on the left
that says 'Cavan Burren Park'.



Follow the signs for around 4km
or 2.5 miles until you reach
Cavan Burren Park.



Common Questions



Can I bring my dog?
Yes. Your dog must be kept on
leash at all times.



Are there bins?
There are no bins in the park.
You will need to bring your
rubbish home with you.



Where can I eat my lunch?
There are picnic tables in the
park.



**Is there a café or restaurant at
the park?**
No. People often bring a packed
lunch with them.



Is it free?
Yes. You can use the visitors
centre, the toilets and car park
for free.



Sensory Tools in Nature



You can touch things in nature.
You can feel soft heather,
smooth stones, or hold a
pinecone. You can use these
textures to stim or feel calm.



You can notice sounds in
nature. You can hear birds
singing, wind in the trees, or
water flowing. It's relaxing to
notice sounds around you.



You can move your body in
nature. Feel the wind on your
face, watch the trees sway. It
can feel good to let your body
move too.



You can smell nature around you.
Breathe in flowers, pine trees, or
fresh grass. Smelling different
things can feel good.



There are so many things to look at,
birds flying, trees in the wind. Can
you spot some bees? Watching can
slow your thoughts and calm your
mind.



Some things in nature you can
taste, like blackberries or herbs.
Always check first that they are
safe before you taste them. Tasting
can be exciting.



Can you find patterns in the leaves,
lines on rocks, or shapes on plants?
Finding patterns can be fun and
make you notice more of nature
around you.



Dictionary



Biodiversity - All the different
kinds of life you'll find in one
area. Like animals, plants, fungi.



Geopark - a protected area that
has unique geology, landscapes
and cultural heritage.



Glacial erratics - large rocks that
have been moved by glaciers.
They look out of place.



Limekiln - an oven used to heat
limestone. This makes a powder
farmers used as fertiliser.



Calf House Dolmen - a kind of
stone monument. Animals
sometimes used this for shelter.





How can arts and creativity support a just transition in your community?



www.alanjamesburns.com

[@alanjamesburns](https://twitter.com/alanjamesburns)





Audience exercise – reverse Q&A

Your table has been assigned one of the five questions from the speakers or moderator.

1. **Individual reflection:** Take a few minutes to reflect independently on the question that your table has been assigned and gather your thoughts. *(2 minutes)*
2. **Table discussion:** Discuss the question with the rest of the people at your table, sharing your thoughts as a group. *(10 minutes)*
3. **Table feedback:** The moderator will invite five tables - one per panellist question - to share a summary of the key points from their discussion with the larger group. *(10 minutes in total – 2 minutes per table)*
4. **Panel response:** The panellists will then respond to the feedback provided, as part of a broader panel discussion. *(10 mins approx)*



The psychology of climate action

Debunking the myths that hold us back



Clare Kelly

Associate Professor,
Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CLIMATE ACTION:

debunking the myths that hold us back



Codema

Dublin's Energy Agency

Decarbonising Dublin Summit
21st October 2025

CLARE KELLY, PhD

SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY,
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & TRINITY
COLLEGE INSTITUTE OF NEUROSCIENCE



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

We are struggling to address the climate crisis because...

Other people don't care enough about it?

Humans brains can't process something so big and challenging?

Humans are fundamentally selfish and destined to destroy ourselves?





ONE NEAT TRICK?



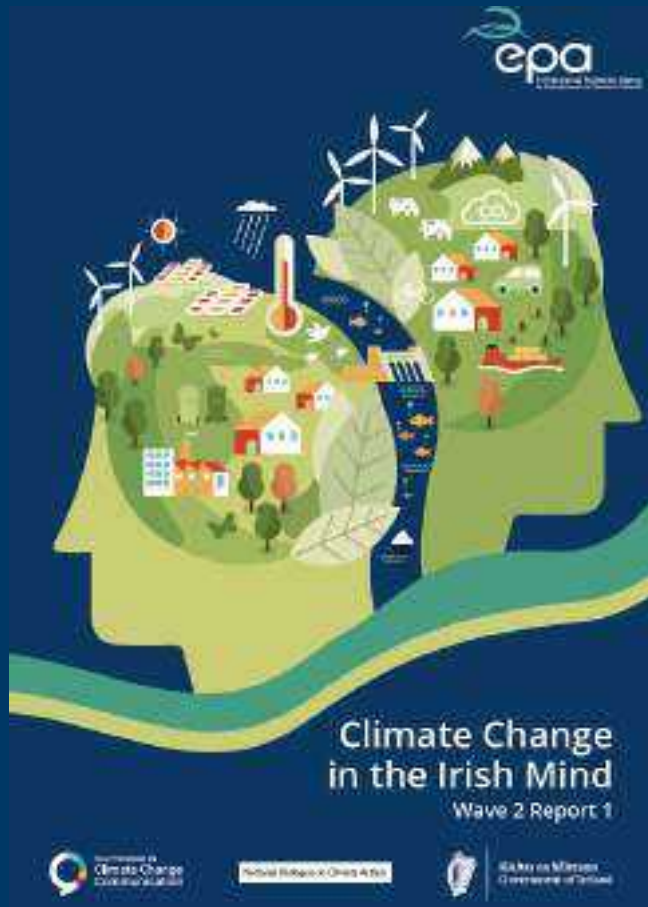
HUMANS ARE COMPLICATED...



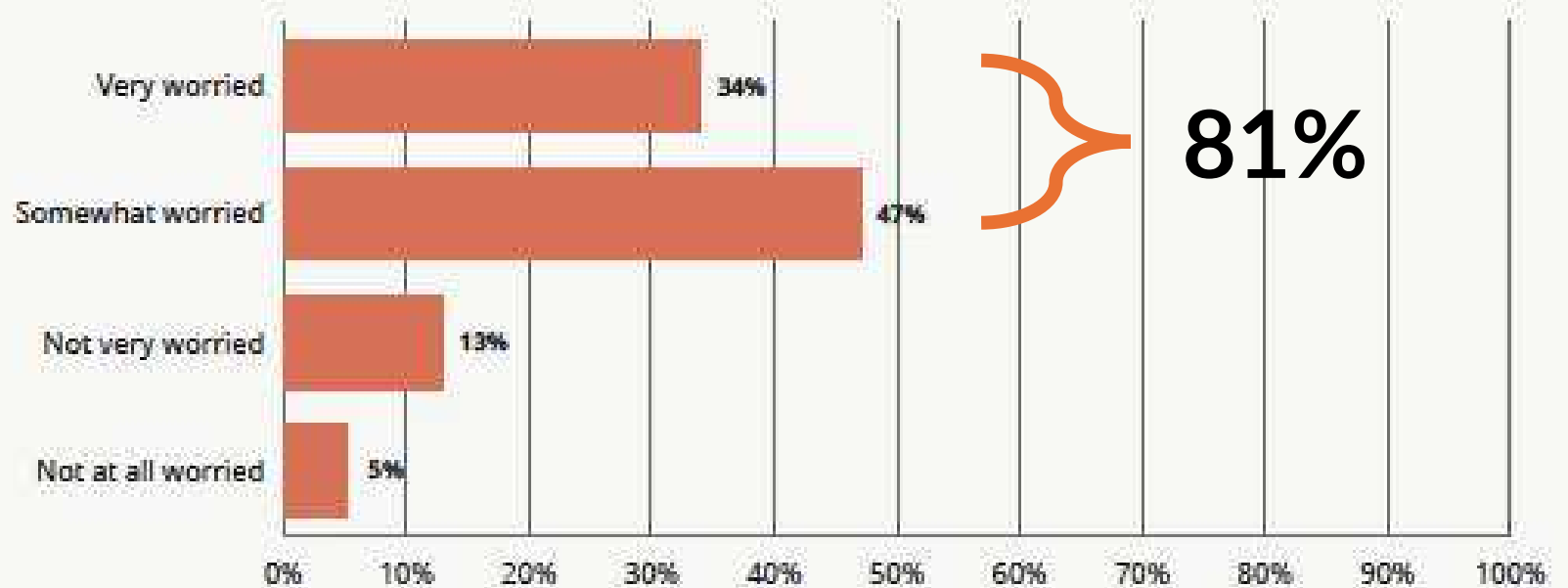
HUMANS ARE COMPLICATED...

Do other people care?

Perception vs. Reality

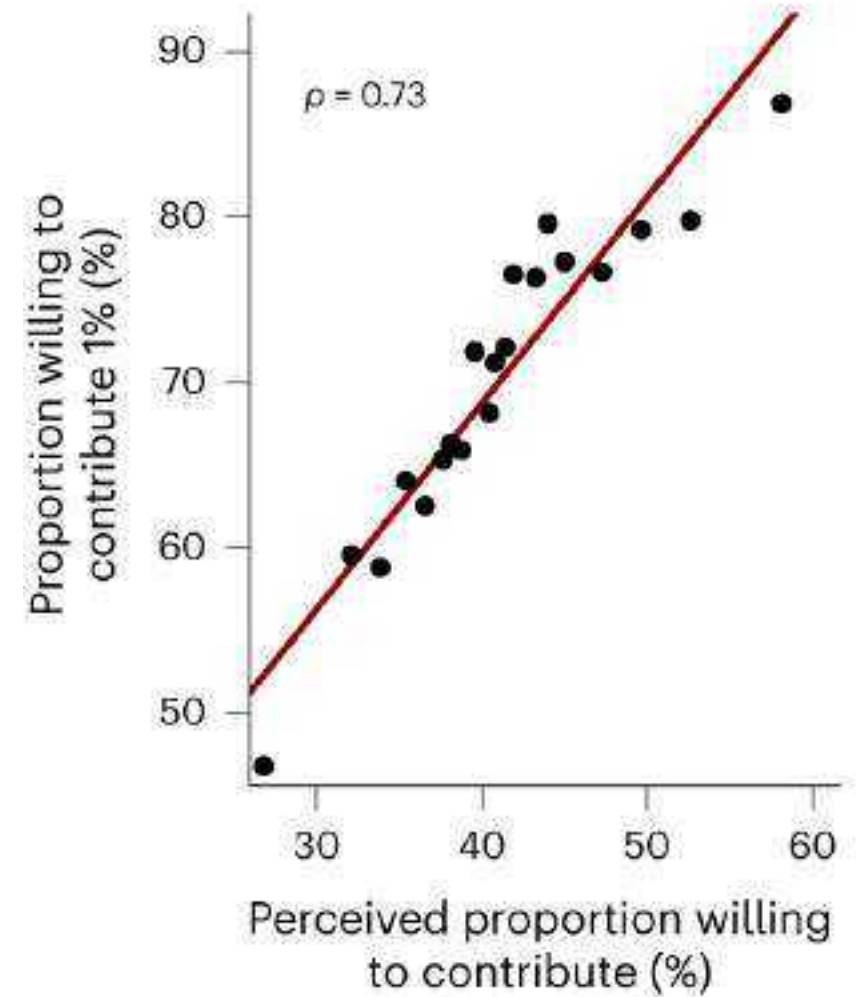
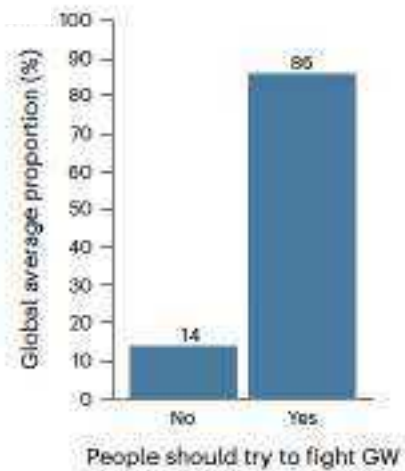
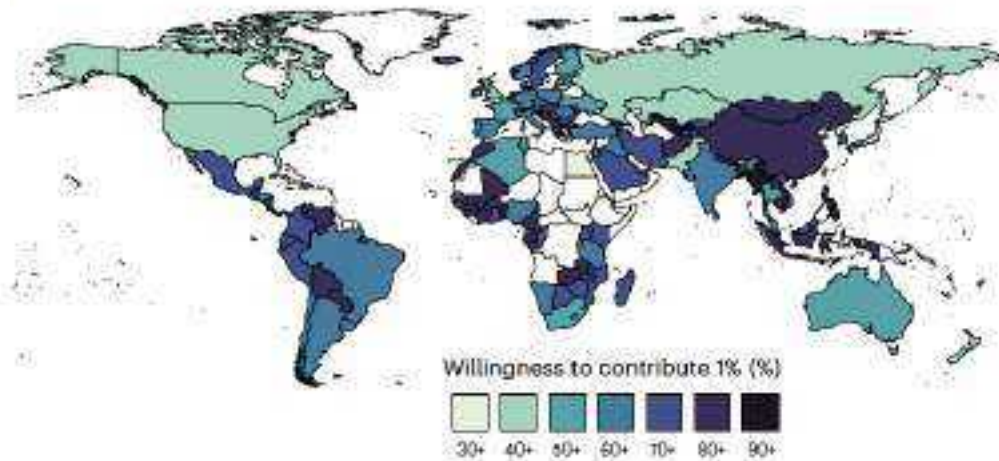
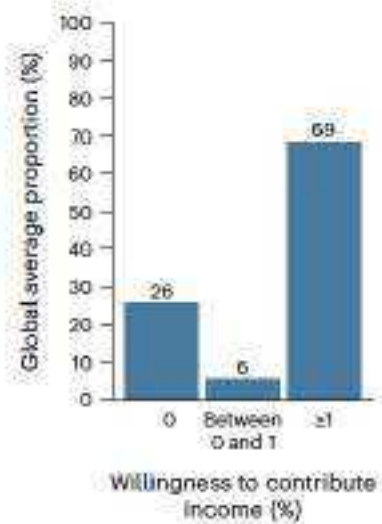


How worried are you about climate change?





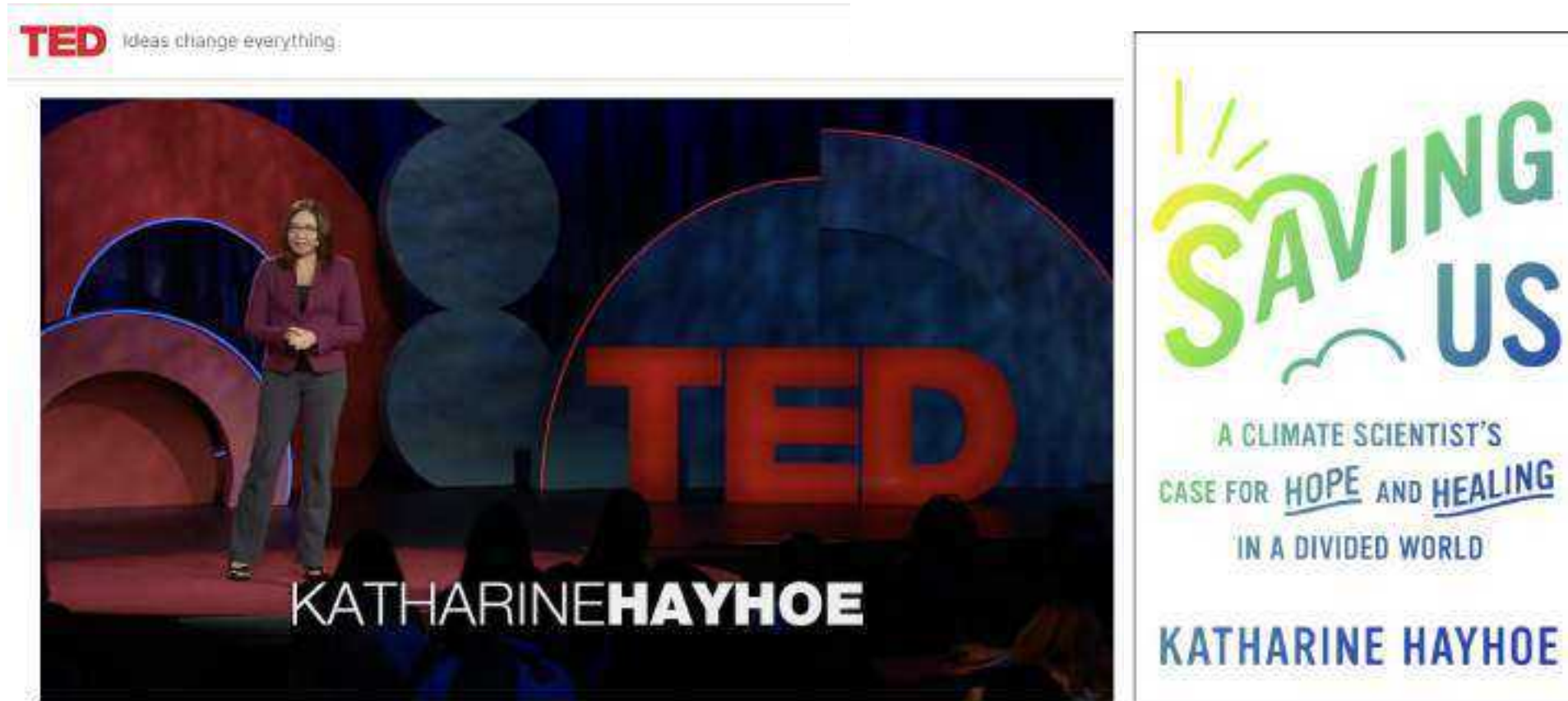
WE LIVE IN A “FALSE SOCIAL REALITY”



Andre et al. (2024)

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-024-01925-3>

Don't be silent about your climate attitudes & actions! TALK ABOUT IT!



https://www.ted.com/talks/katharine_hayhoe_the_most_important_things_you_can_do_to_fight_climate_change_talk_about_it?language=en

Are our brains miswired?

€200
now

OR

€210
next week?

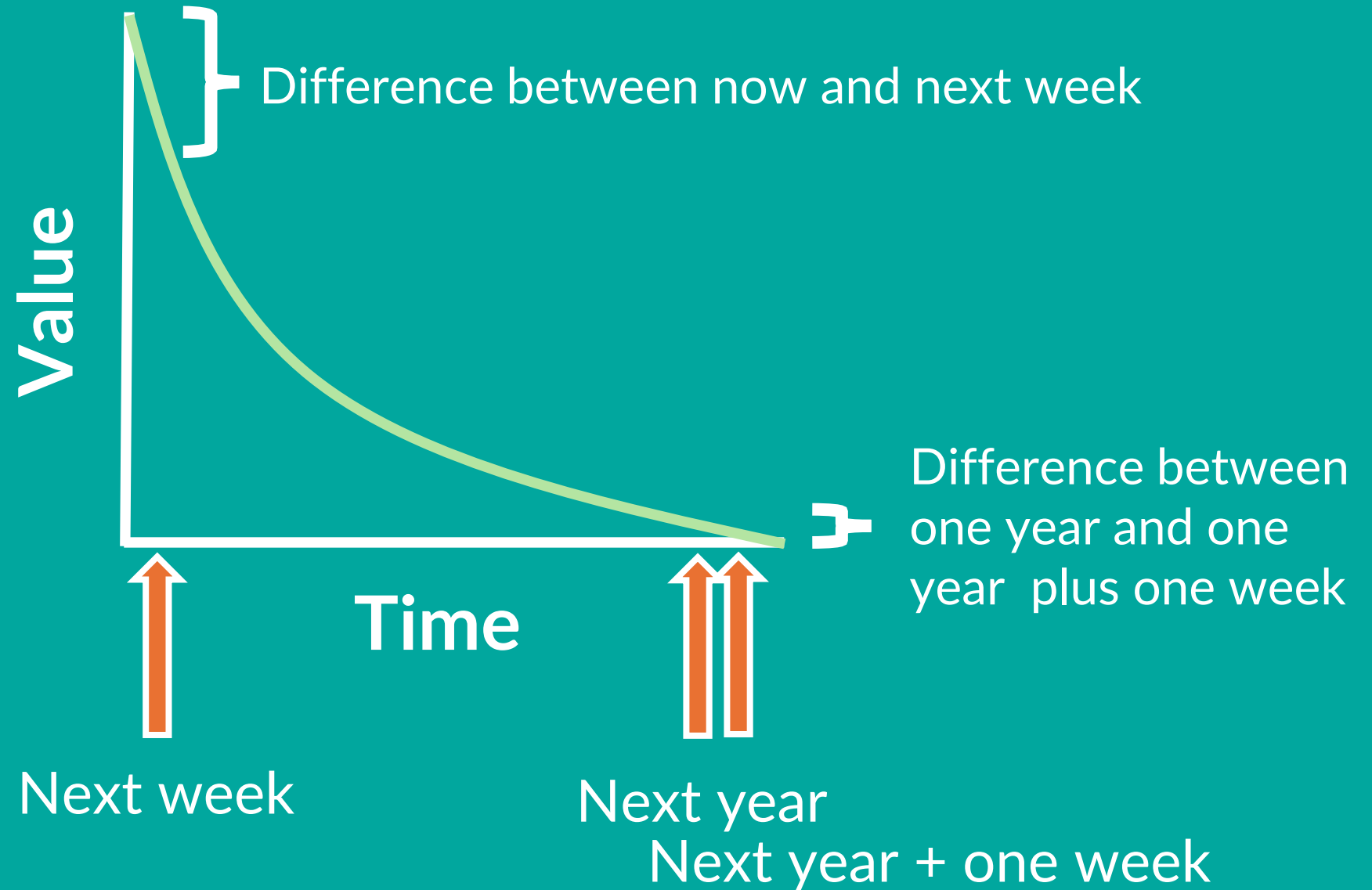


€200
in 1 year

OR

€210
in 1 year
+ a week

Present bias: we prioritise immediate rewards and satisfaction over future gains

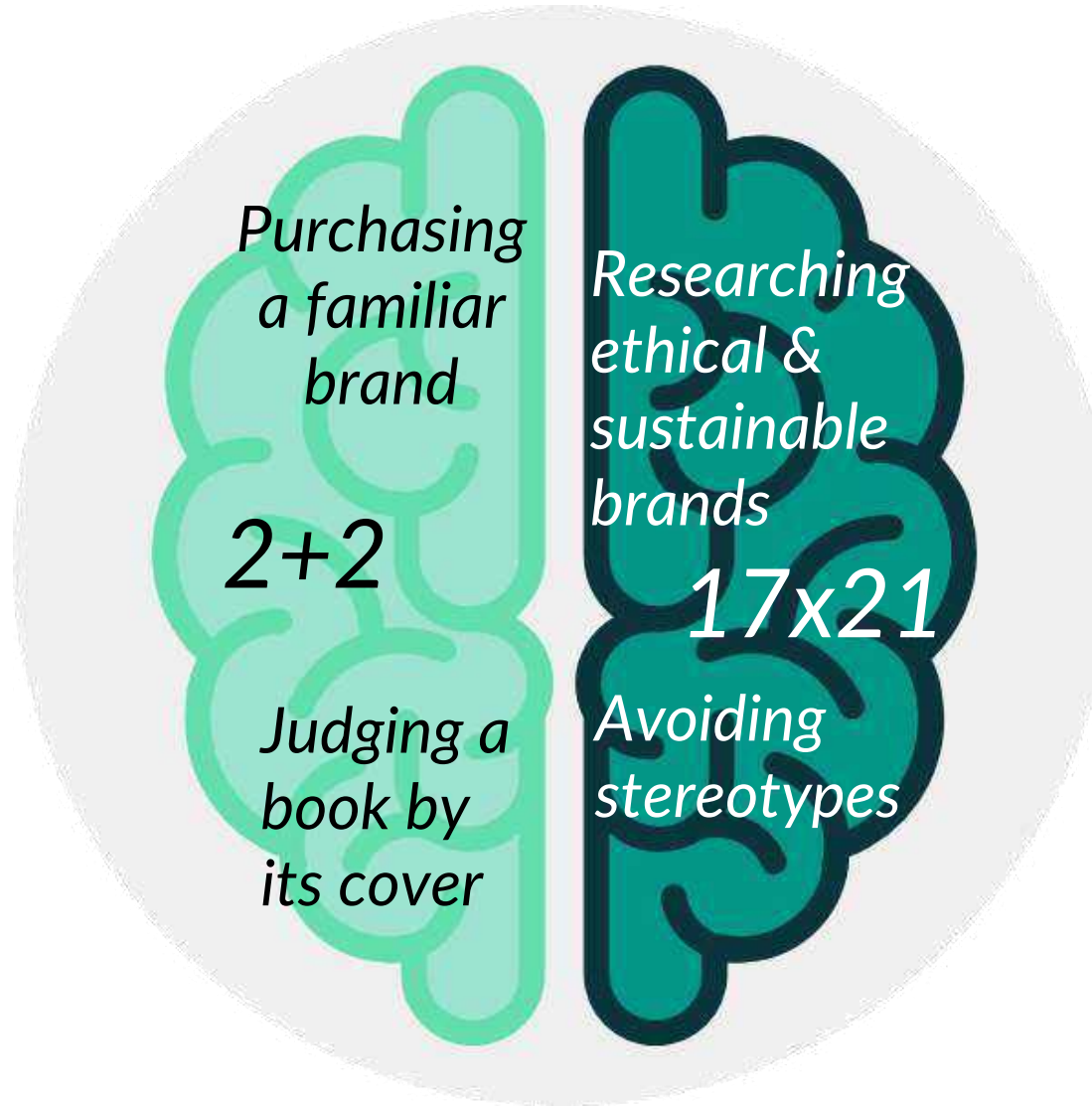


System 1

Fast
Automatic
Little Effort

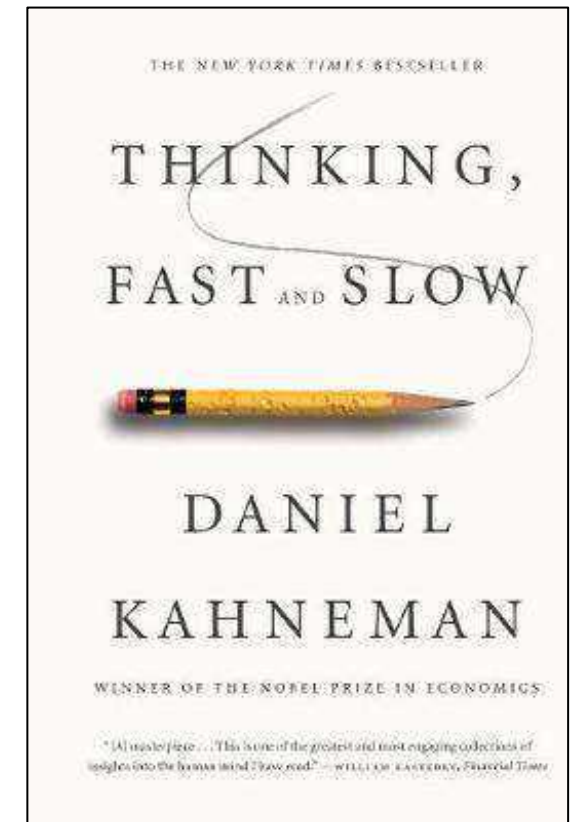
Mental shortcuts
("heuristics") that
help us solve
problems quickly
and efficiently

Work well but *sometimes* lead to
systematic errors in our thinking ('biases')



System 2

Slow
Deliberate
Effortful



Our “dragons of inaction”

We...prioritize immediate rewards & satisfaction over future benefits (present bias)

...are resistant to change (status quo bias)

...pay more attention to information that reinforces our pre-existing views

...deny or rationalise difficult truths (cognitive dissonance)

...favour easy tokenistic change over difficult meaningful change

...tend to stick with something, even if it's not working (sunk cost bias)

...engage in magical thinking (belief in technological or divine salvation)

...are highly sensitive to context

...are overly optimistic

...and many more!



VICE

MOTHERBOARD
TECH BY VICE

Apocalypse Neuro: Why Our Brains Don't Process the Gravest Threats to Humanity

The human brain simply may not be wired to process slow-moving crises like climate change.



By Brian Merchant

10 June 2015, 3:30pm [Share](#) [Tweet](#) [Snap](#)

The New York Times

Opinion

GRAY MATTER

We're All Climate-Change Idiots

By Beth Gardiner

July 21, 2012



BROOKINGS



TIME

IDEAS • CLIMATE CHANGE

Why Your Brain Can't Process Climate Change



Oversimplifies

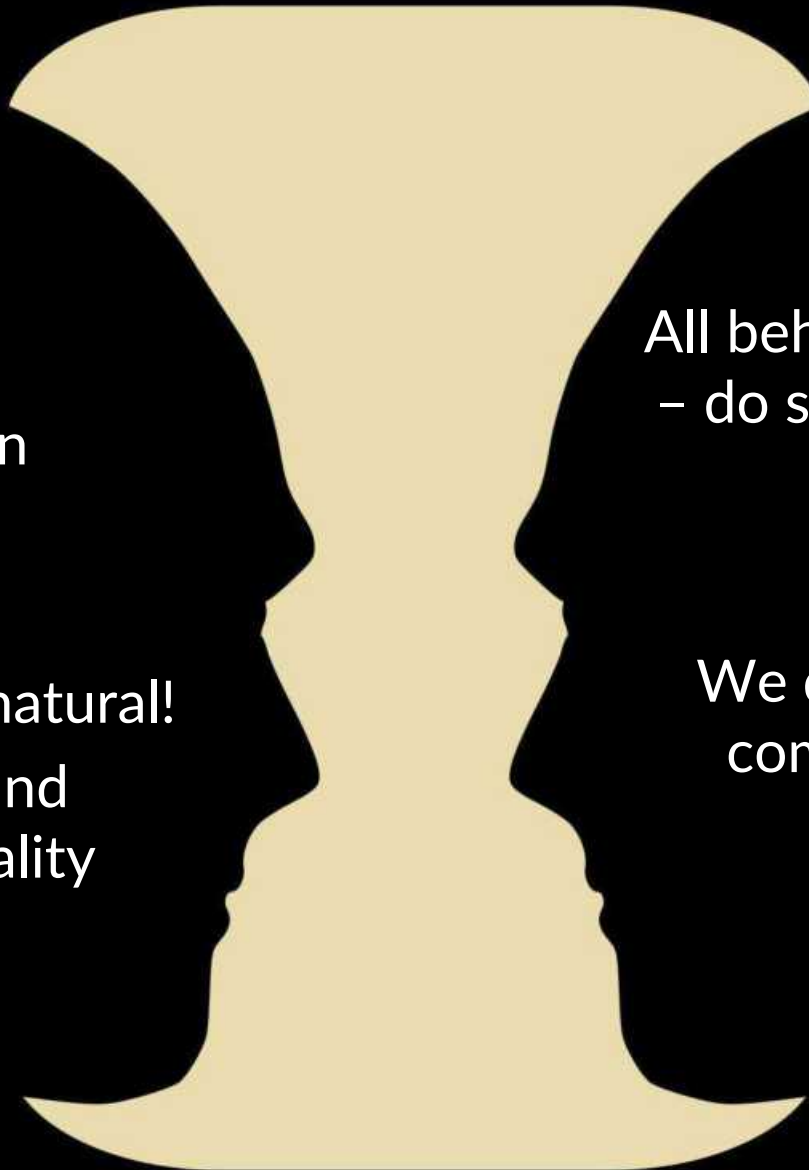
Mislocalises the barrier
to inside our heads

Frames climate action as an
individual responsibility

Risks justifying inaction – it's natural!
Normalises apathy, inaction and
strengthens the false social reality

Pessimistic & fatalistic

Self-fulfilling prophecy



“Biased” judgements and
decisions are not universal

All behaviour takes place in a context
– do structures and systems support
or impede action?

We did not evolve to use phones,
computers, or cars, yet we do...

Many barriers can also be
understood as bridges to action

Atkinson & Jacquet, 2021

Are we destined to destroy?



COP27: Humanity is too 'selfish' to stop climate change - Shane Coleman



James Wilson

19.12.7 NOV 2022

SHARE THIS ARTICLE



Humanity is far too “selfish” to stop the climate crisis, *Newstalk Breakfast* presenter Shane Coleman has said.

NEWS

Home Israel-Gaza war War in Ukraine Climate Video World UK Business Tech Science

World Africa Asia Australia Europe Latin America Middle East US & Canada

Pope Francis blames 'human selfishness' for global warming

18 June 2015



The Pope calls for a radical change in behaviour to save the planet for future generations



You have been given **€100**.

You are required to divide the money between yourself and another player.

You decide how much of the €100 to offer to the other player.

The other player can either **accept** or **reject** your offer.

If the offer is rejected, **you both get nothing**.

Otherwise, the money is divided as proposed.



It's the other player's turn!

They offer you €20.

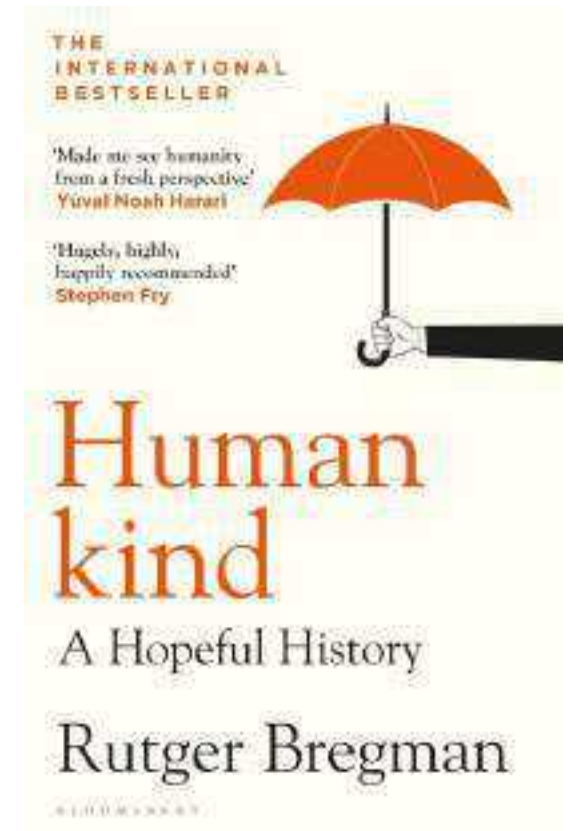
Do you accept?

If you accept, you get €20, they get €80.

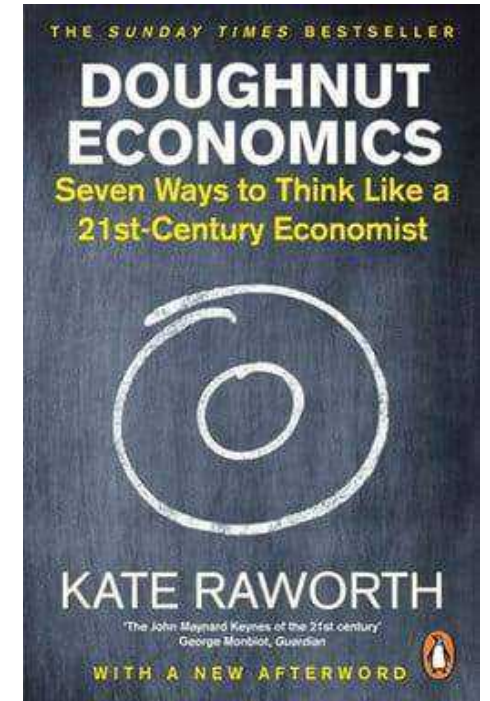
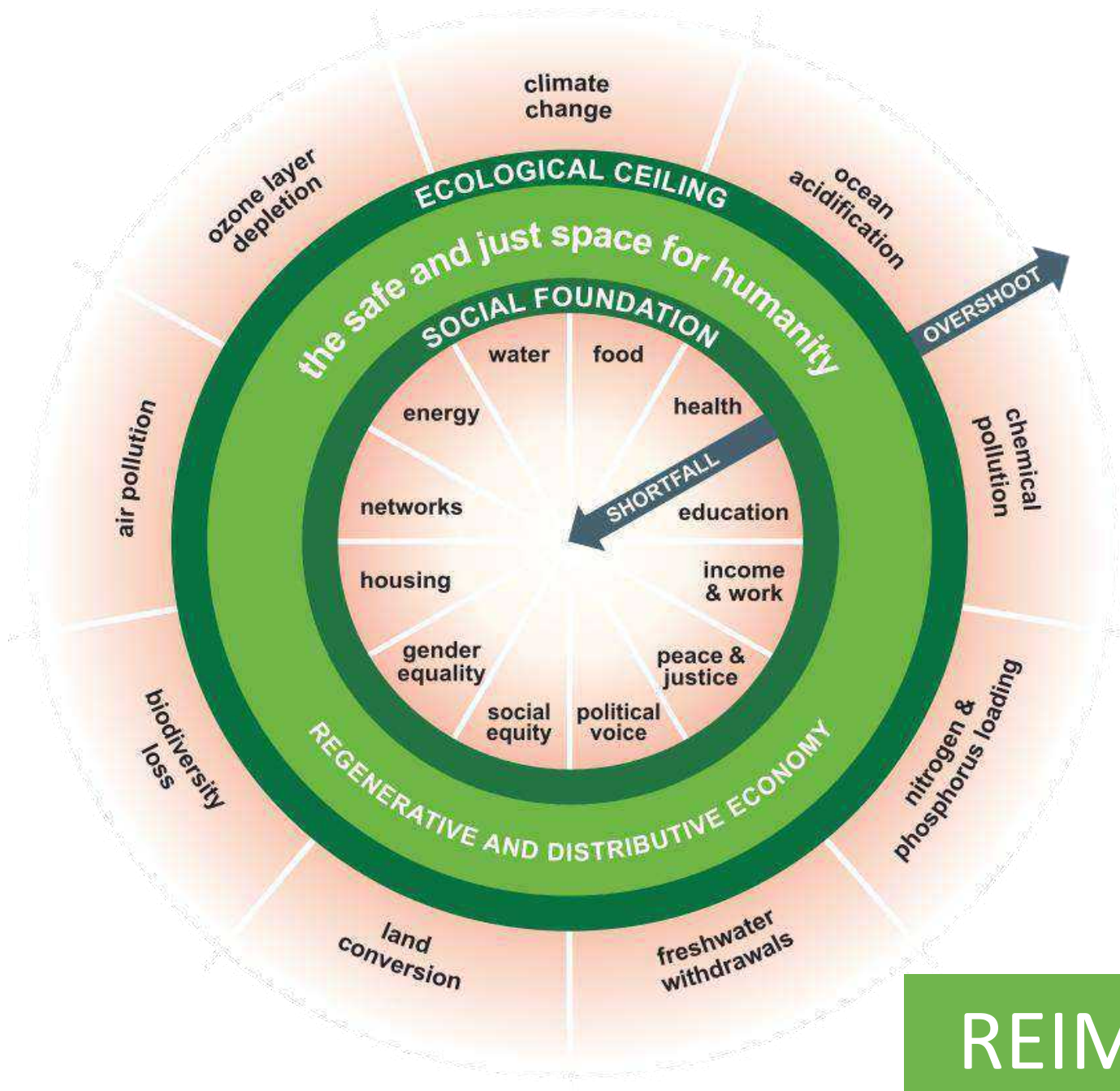
If you decline, you both get €0.



COOPERATION EVOLVED



DISCOURSE OF DELAY: DOOMISM



Raworth (2017)
<https://youtu.be/Rhcrbcg8HBw>
<https://doughnuteconomics.org/>

REIMAGINE OUR FUTURE



Read more



ANOTHER
WORLD IS
POSSIBLE

THANK YOU!

clare.kelly@tcd.ie

Please be back in the room by 2:00pm

Lunch break



Session 4

Rethinking Dublin

Fair and innovative solutions for a low-carbon future



Session 4

Rethinking Dublin – fair and innovative solutions for a low-carbon Dublin



Ali Sheridan

Just Transition
Commission of Ireland
(Session Moderator)



Sarah
Longlands

Centre for
Local
Economic
Strategies



Sarah Blake

Geological
Survey Ireland



Clare O'Connor

Friends of the
Earth Ireland



Gavin Harte

Sustainable Energy
Communities
Regional
Coordinator and
Mentor



Sinéad Murphy

Fingal
County Council

Decarbonising Dublin.

A Community wealth building approach!

**Dr Sarah Longlands, Chief Executive,
Centre For Local Economic Strategies**

Email: sarahlonglands@cles.org.uk

Web: cles.org.uk

www.linkedin.com/in/sarah-longlands-35128a29



CLÉS
the national organisation
for local economies

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

Finance

Ensuring flows of investment and financial institutions work in the interests of people, communities and local businesses.



Workforce

Increasing fair work and developing local labour markets that support the wellbeing of communities.



Land and property

Maximising the value that communities receive from land and property assets, including those held by the public sector.



Spending

Maximising community benefits through procurement and commissioning, developing good enterprises, fair work and shorter supply chains.



Ownership

Developing more local and social enterprises which generate community wealth, including employee-owned firms and co-ops.



CLÉS
the national organisation
for local economies

CURRENT SITUATION- LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local authorities and other public sector organisations increasingly concerned about decarbonisation. Significant impacts on delivery (eg management of buildings, habitats, transport & public housing)

Often disconnected from wider questions around economic justice, public sector expenditure. health and reform as well as dysfunctional markets - eg in housing and employment.

Growing appetite to use **community wealth building** as a new way of addressing decarbonisation. Increasing the flow, circulation and ownership of wealth. Democratisation of the economy.



CLÉS
the national organisation
for local economies

3 BOLD IDEAS THROUGH A JUST TRANSITION LENS!

- **Spend with greater intent:** public sector investment should drive stronger outcomes for decarbonisation through better procurement and commissioning. (esp on capital schemes). *Reflect peoples needs, added benefits for Dublin*
- **mobilise public sector assets like buildings and housing to pilot new innovation,** *Develop people's skills, support local businesses & social enterprise.*
- **Co-ordinate decarbonisation asks and outcomes across the city** by encouraging Dublin based organisations to work together. *Greater co-ordination of public services, reflect local needs better, avoid duplication, create opportunities for listening and participation and co-production.*



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Geological Survey
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta
Ireland | Éireann

Rethinking Dublin - fair and innovative *geothermal* solutions for a low-carbon future

Sarah Blake

Geothermal Programme
Groundwater & Geothermal Unit

Decarbonising Dublin Summit, 2025

What is geothermal energy?

- Commercially proven renewable energy that can be used for heating and/or cooling, and electricity production.
- EU definition: “energy stored in the form of heat beneath the surface of solid Earth”.
- Heat flows outwards from the centre of the Earth, and the temperature (and the amount of available energy) increases with depth at an average rate of 25 to 30 °C per kilometre for most places in the world.
- Whilst not a ‘traditional’ geothermal setting (i.e., far from active volcanoes), geothermal energy could be a viable, significant source of energy in Ireland.

Always on

Local and
secure

Carbon-free
at source

Improved air
quality

Small land
footprint

GSI publications on geothermal energy available [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)

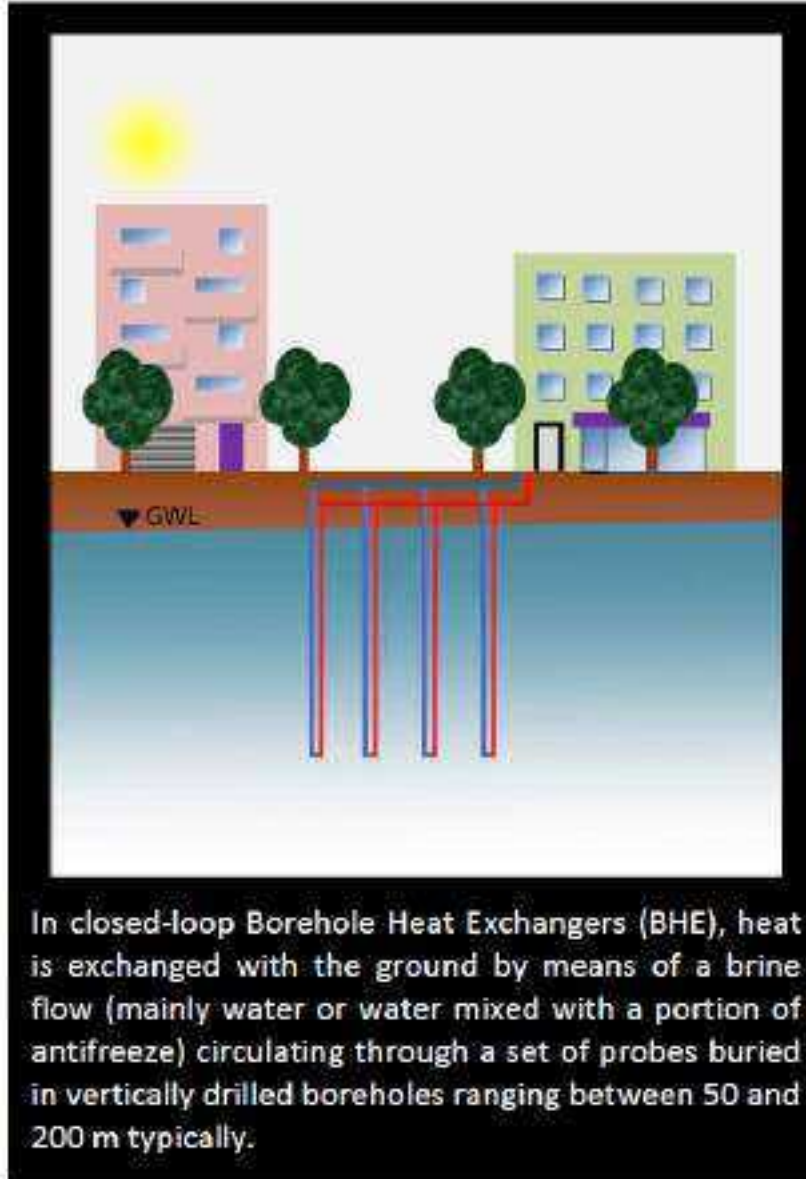
Solutions 1&2: shallow geothermal energy

- Looked at closed loop geothermal energy for deliverable **commercial space heating**
- Example: 4.5 TWh/yr available beneath Dublin City
- Over 4 times the commercial (+ public sector) heat demand in the City



Solutions 1&2: shallow geothermal energy

- Looked at closed loop g for deliverable commercial
- Example: 4.5 TWh/yr available in Dublin City
- Over 4 times the commercial



Solutions 1&2: shallow geothermal energy

- Looked at closed loop geothermal energy for deliverable commercial space heating
- Example: 4.5 TWh/yr available beneath Dublin City
- Over 4 times the commercial (+ public sector) heat demand in the City
- **Residential: heat** over 450,000 B1 rated homes in Dublin County

We are looking at a GIANT heating (and cooling) resource as long as we can match it up with suitable end users



Solution 3: deep geothermal in Dublin City?

- Existing DH network and geothermal investigation borehole at TU Dublin
- Deep seismic reflection survey needed to de-risk a deep geothermal exploration hole



Solution 3: deep geothermal in Dublin City?

- Existing DH network and geothermal investigation borehole at TU Dublin
- Deep seismic reflection survey needed to de-risk a deep geothermal exploration hole

2022: Slim hole

Maximum temperature of
37.98 °C at 1km depth

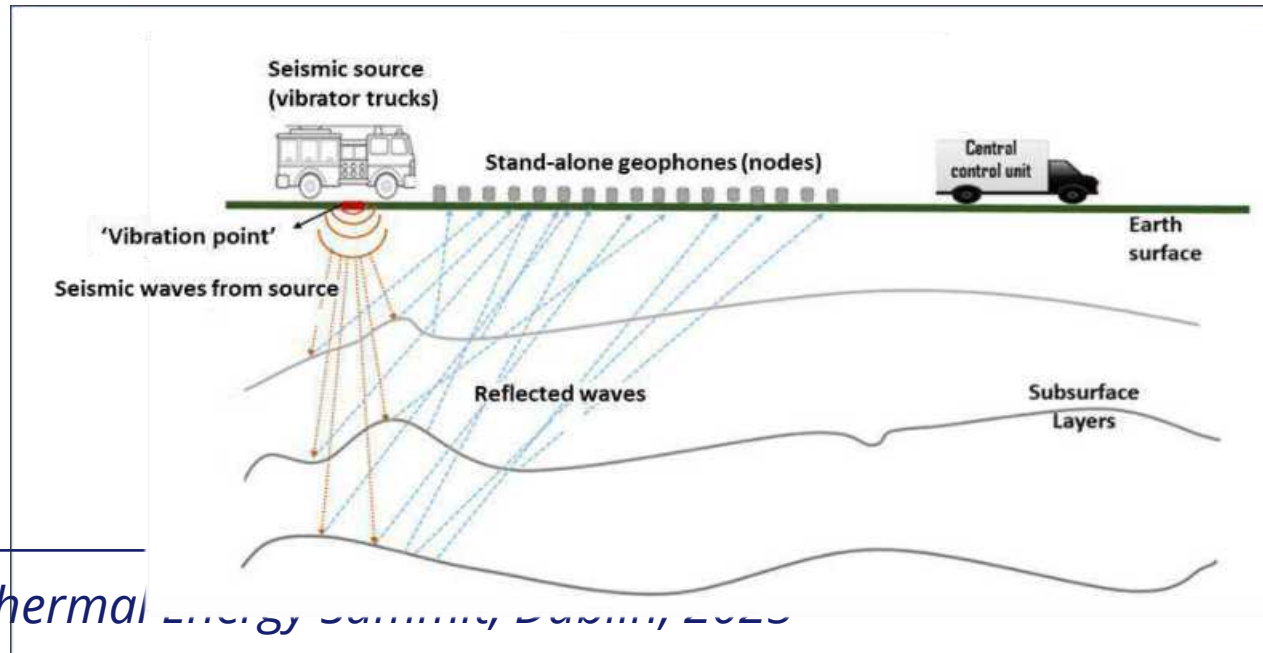


Solution 3: deep geothermal in Dublin City?

- Existing DH network and geothermal investigation borehole at TU Dublin
- Deep seismic reflection survey needed to de-risk a deep geothermal exploration hole

2022: Slim hole ➡ **2026: Geophysical survey**

Maximum temperature of
37.98 °C at 1km depth

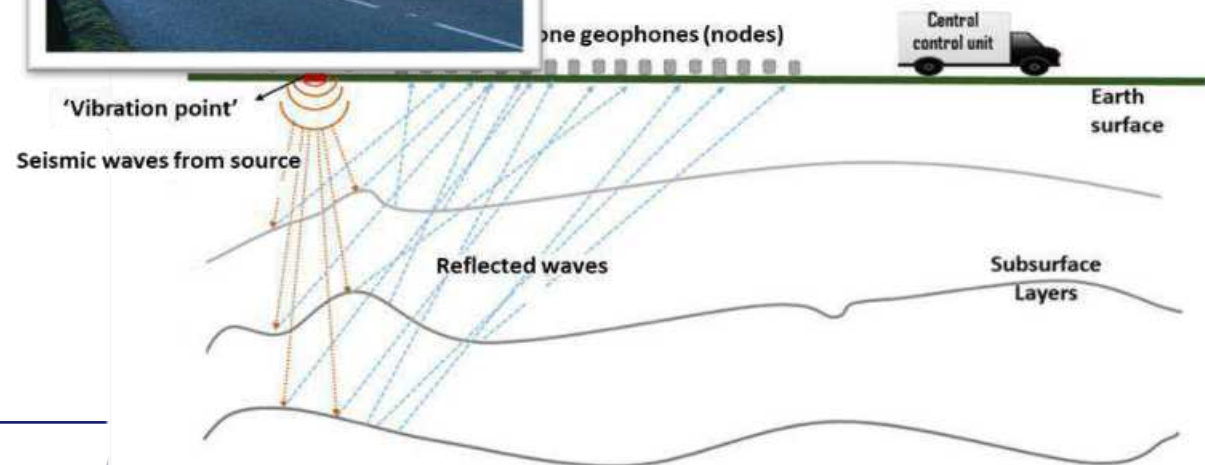


Solution 3: deep geothermal in Dublin City?

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2022: Slim hole ➡ **2026: Geophysical survey**

Maximum temperature of
37.98 °C at 1km depth



Solution 3: deep geothermal in Dublin City?

- Existing DH network and geothermal investigation borehole at TU Dublin
- Deep seismic reflection survey needed to de-risk a deep geothermal exploration hole

2022: Slim hole ➡ 2026: Geophysical survey ➡ 2028: Deep drilling



Maximum temperature of
37.98 °C at 1km depth



one geophones (nodes)

'Vibration point'
Seismic waves from source
Reflected waves



Solution 3: deep geothermal in Dublin City?

- Existing DH network and geothermal investigation borehole at TU Dublin
- Deep seismic reflection survey needed to de-risk a deep geothermal exploration hole

2022: Slim hole ➡ 2026: Geophysical survey ➡ 2028: Deep drilling



Maximum temperature of
37.98 °C at 1km depth



one geophones (nodes)

'Vibration point'

Seismic waves from source

Reflected waves





Go raibh maith agaibh.

www.gsi.ie

sarah.blake@gsi.ie

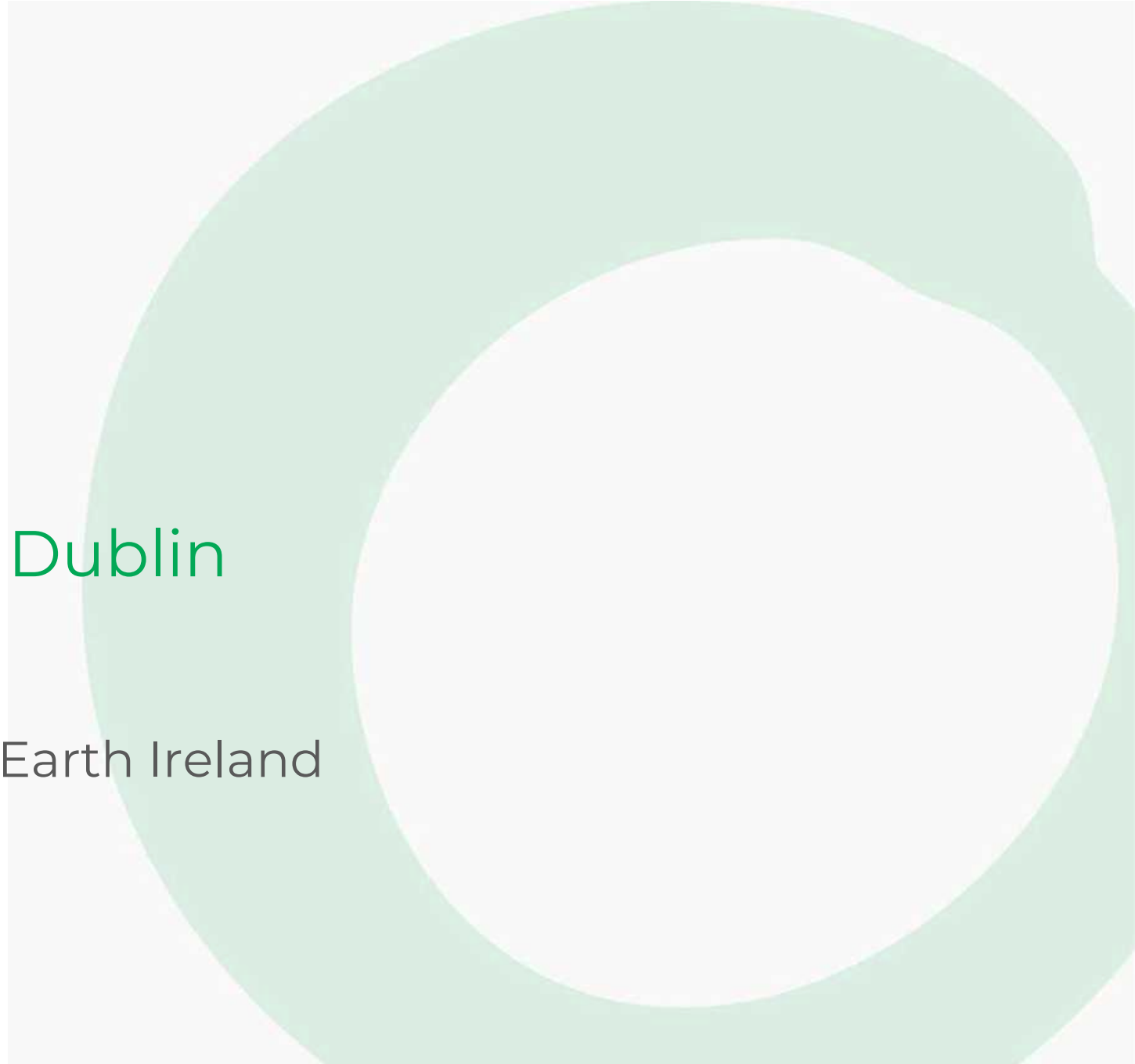
Acknowledgements:

Taly Hunter Williams, Monica Lee, Oisín Ó'Briain, Caoilfhinn McCormack, Paul Stafford, Rory Dunphy, Ric Pasquali, Mark Muller, Aisling Cunningham, Siobhán Power, Russell Rogers, Beatriz Mozo, Ger Cott, Jason Rehill

Rethinking Dublin

Codema Decarbonising Dublin

Clare O'Connor - Friends of the Earth Ireland
21st October 2025



Heat, Buildings, and Energy Poverty

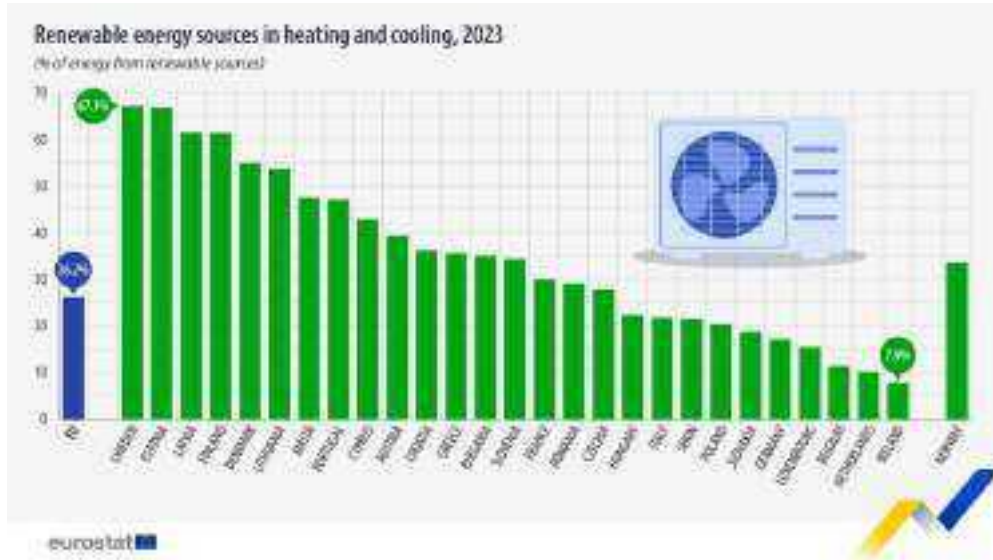
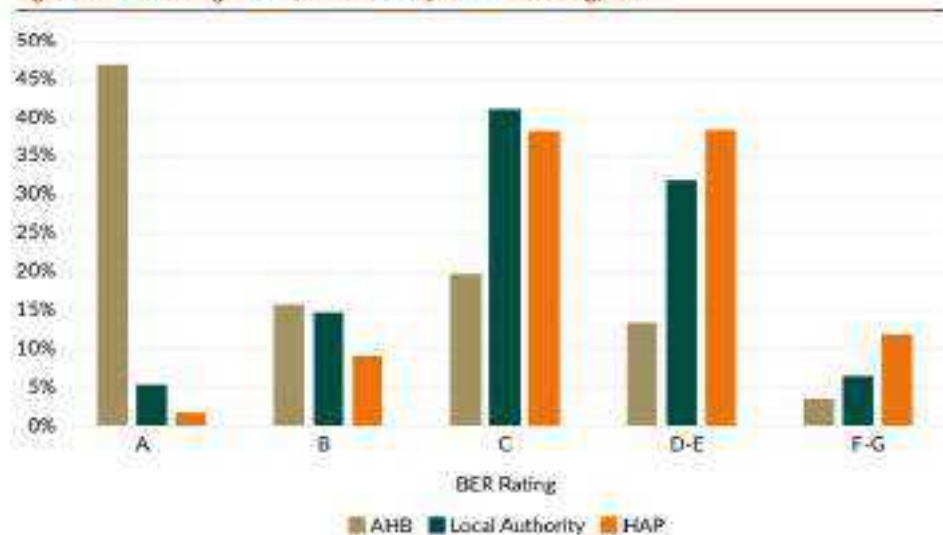


Figure 11.2: BER rating of AHB, local authority and HAP housing, 2022



- **90%** of heating comes from fossil fuels in Ireland
- **36%** of households in Dublin are renting
- Renters significantly more likely to struggle to heat their home than homeowners (**34% vs 17%**)
- Struggling to keep your home warm intersects with other vulnerabilities:
 - **20%** one-parent families went without heat in 2024 due to cost
 - **24%** disabled people



3 Ideas

- Set a goal to **End Energy Poverty**
 - Data collection, monitoring, and targets
 - Set **Minimum Energy Performance Standards** for rental properties
 - Retrofit and regeneration of all social housing
 - Introduce an **Energy Guarantee Scheme**
- Plan to **phase-out fossil fuel heating** in Dublin by 2035
- **Community Energy Advice Services** in every LEA

The background of the slide is a collage of various images related to social and environmental issues. It includes a person holding a 'DCC FIX' sign, a window with a view of a city, a person sitting in a chair, and a sign that says 'HOME NOT HAZARD'.

Fairness and Equity

- Recognise that climate action starts with people's lived realities - meet people where they are.
- What that means in practice:
 - Protect and empower renters - a warm, energy efficient home should be **a right**, not a privilege.
 - Ensure renewable heat solutions are **cheaper and easier** than fossil fuels.
 - Tackle energy poverty as **part of climate action**, not in a silo.
 - Build trust through **face-to-face support** and relationship building.
 - Prioritise investment in **areas of high deprivation first**.

Sustainable Energy Communities Programme



OVER 1000 COMMUNITIES



MORE THAN

40,000

CITIZENS ENGAGED

Part of SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities Network

133

ENERGY
MASTERPLANS
COMPLETED



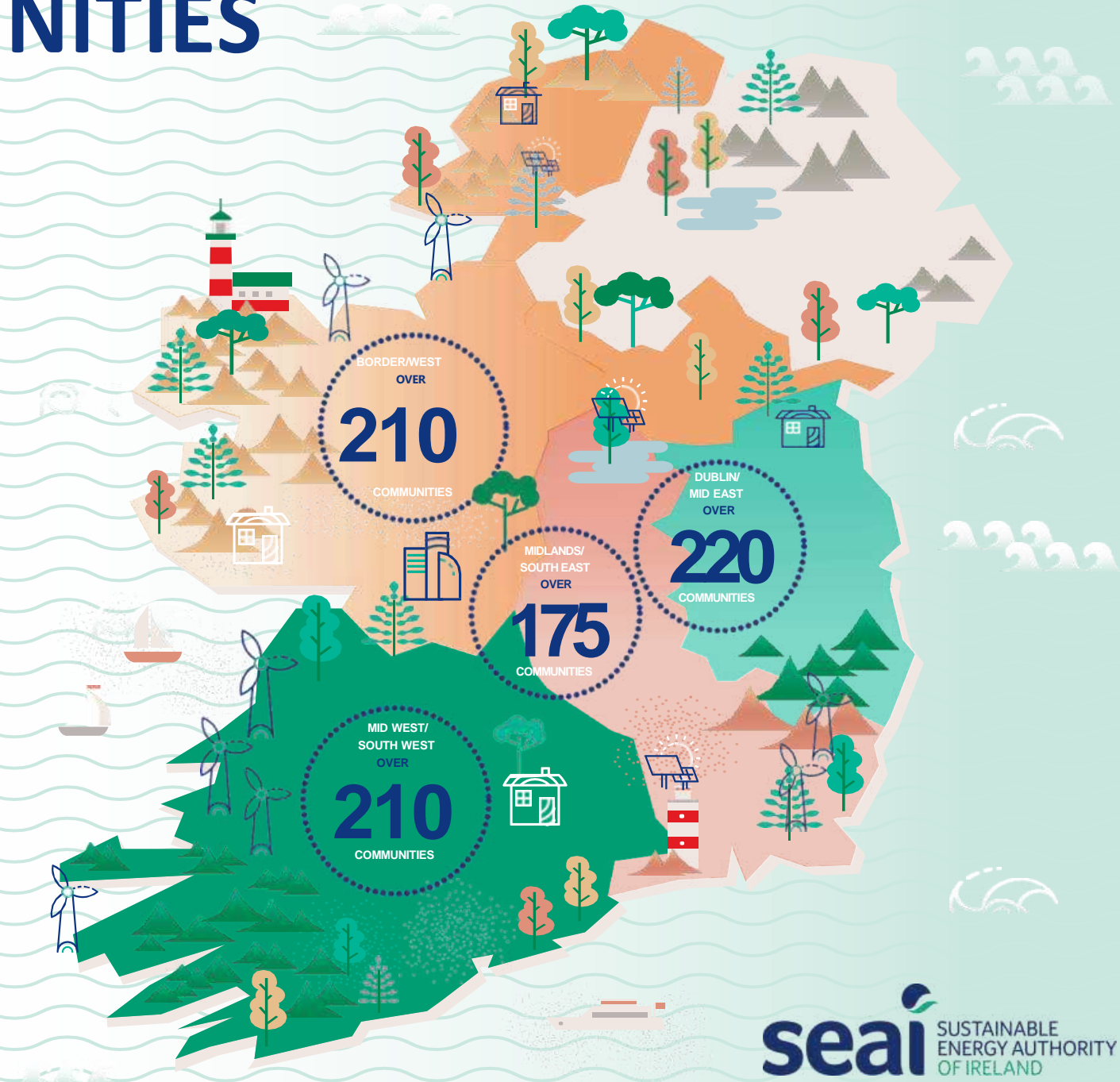
81

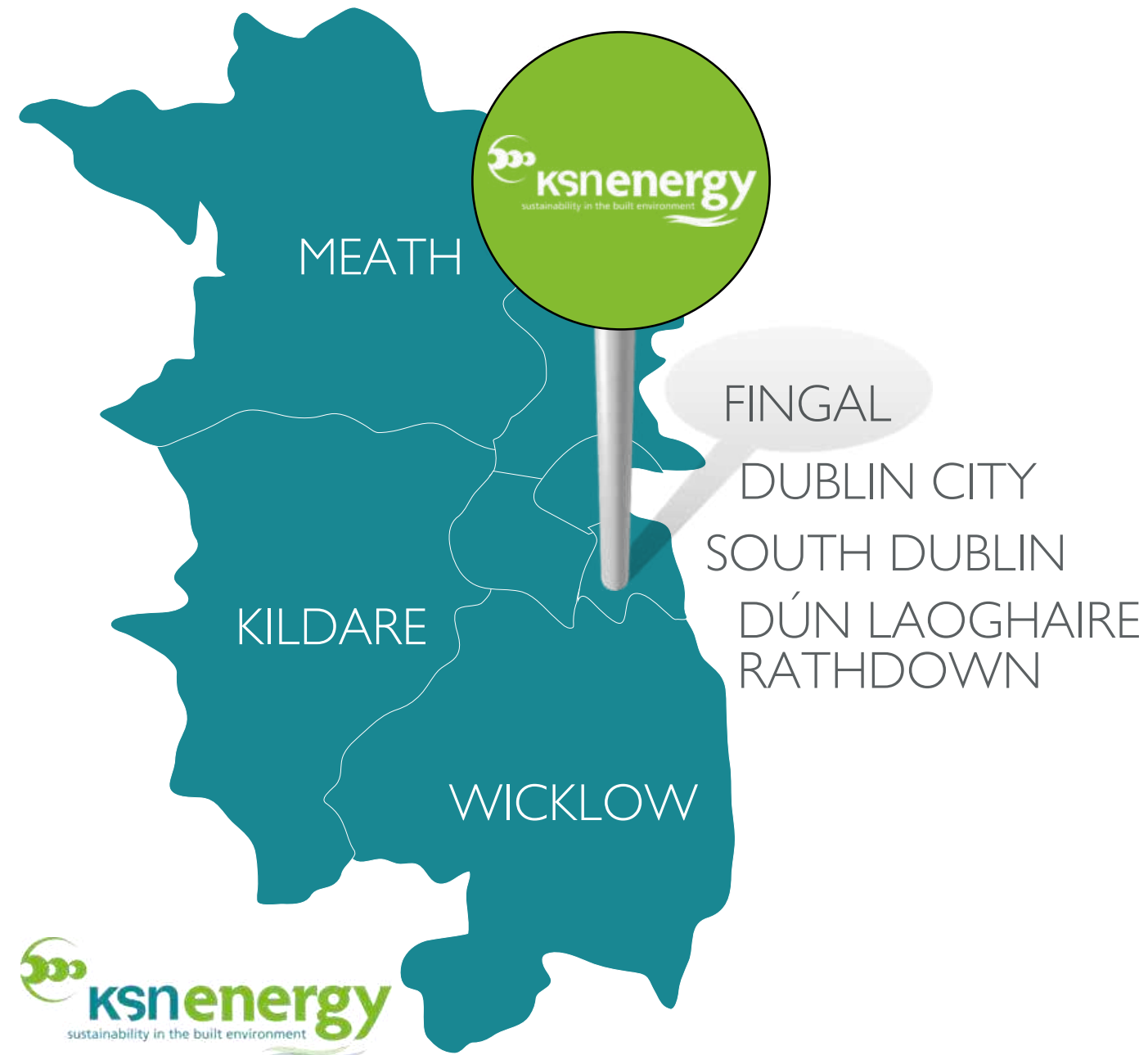
COMMUNITIES

Are currently working on their Energy Master Plans



Find out more at www.seai.ie/sec



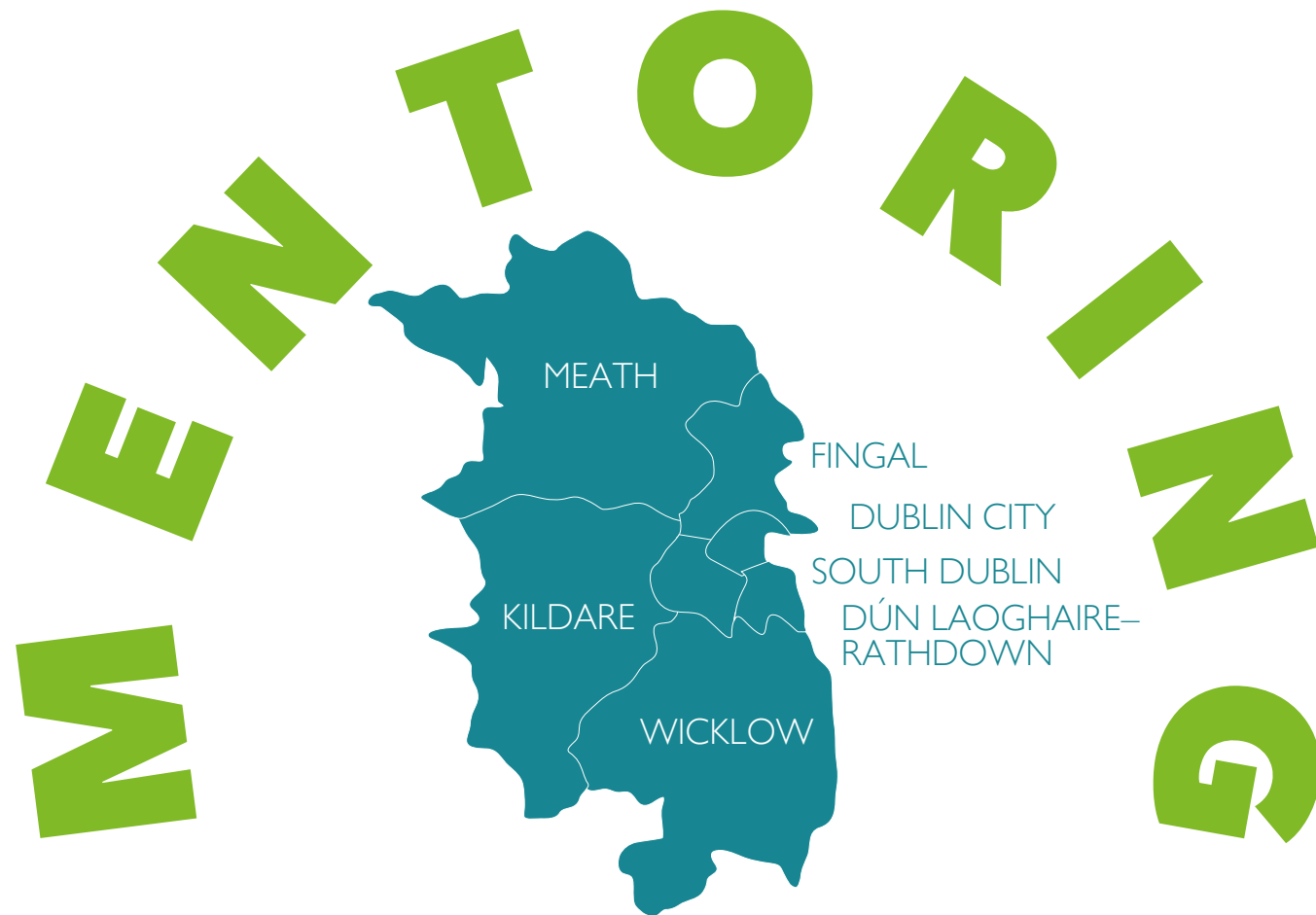


Gavin Harte

gharte@ksncommunities.ie

(086) 828 0978





LEARN



PLAN



DO



SEC BUYING CLUBS



TOOLKIT?



European
Commission



Codema
Dublin's Energy Agency

3 upgrade pathways



WARMING HOMES TOGETHER

Insulation

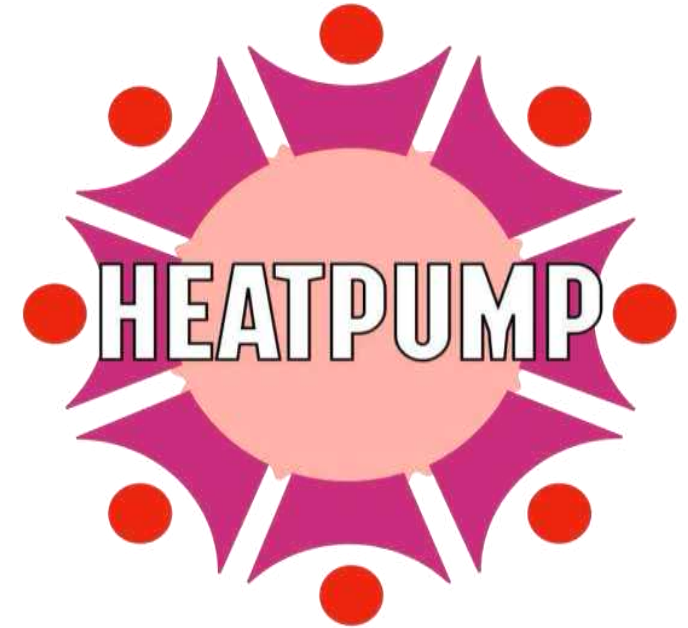
cozy homes



POWERING HOMES TOGETHER

Solar PV

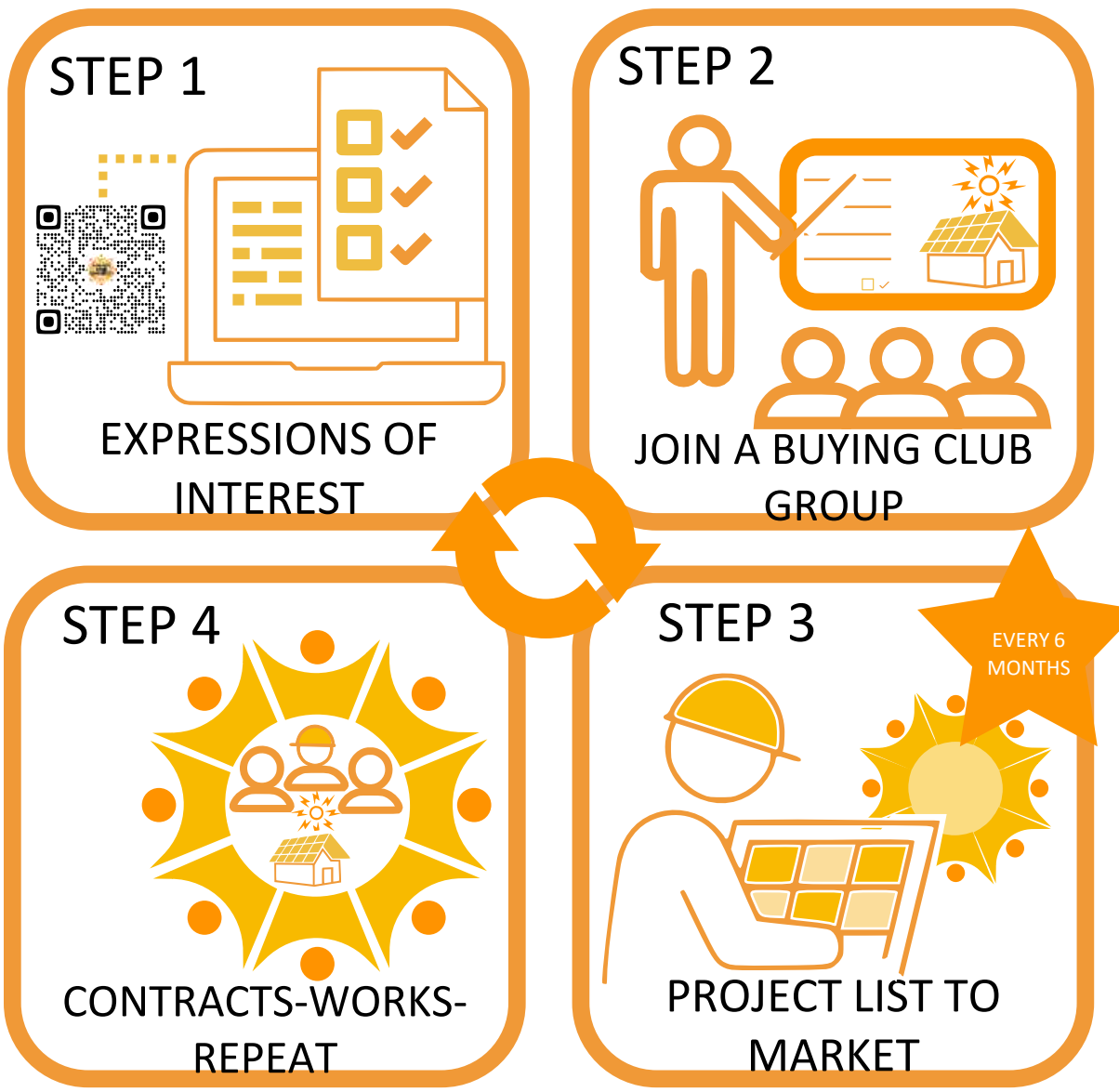
create energy



HEATING HOMES TOGETHER

Heatpumps

efficient comfort and



YOUR SEC BUYING CLUB





POWERING YOUR HOME: TOGETHER Information Event

 **zoom** Wednesday 1st September
19:00 - 20:30





POWERING YOUR HOME TOGETHER

STEP 1
MAKE AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
WITH DALKEY SEC - COMMUNITY

Scan the QR code below to access the Dalkey Solar Community questionnaire. Subject to some qualifying criteria, you will be entered into a draw to win a place on our community buying club.

STEP 2
LEARN ABOUT SOLAR ENERGY AS PART OF A COMMUNITY BUYING CLUB

Join the club to find out more about solar energy and how it can help you save money on your energy bills. You will also have the opportunity to meet other members of the community and learn more about the benefits of solar energy.

STEP 3
PROVIDE AN APPROVED SOLAR CONTRACTOR TOGETHER

Through an agreed tender process, we will select a solar contractor to provide solar panels and inverters for the community. This will be done at a competitive price and will ensure that all members of the community benefit from the same quality of installation.

STEP 4
SIGN YOUR CONTRACT AND UNDERGO WORKS ON YOUR HOME

Once the community has been selected, you will need to sign a contract and undergo the necessary works on your home. This will be done at a competitive price and will ensure that all members of the community benefit from the same quality of installation.



[www.dalkeysec.com](#)





Credit Union



Active Travel in Fingal

Decarbonising Dublin Summit

Sinéad Murphy,
Senior Engineer,
Active Travel Unit
21st October 2025

Active Travel – Why?

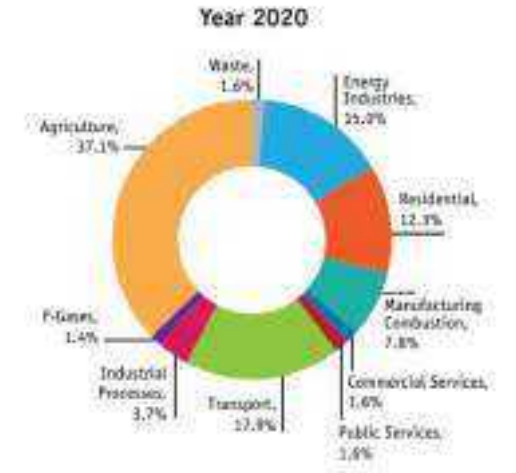
Current situation

- CSO data
- WACI data

Active Travel is travel on your own steam i.e. walking, cycling, wheeling. Normally with a purpose



Climate Action Plan 2025-2029



Ireland's GHG sectoral emissions

Active Travel – How?

- Infrastructure
- Initiatives
- Influence

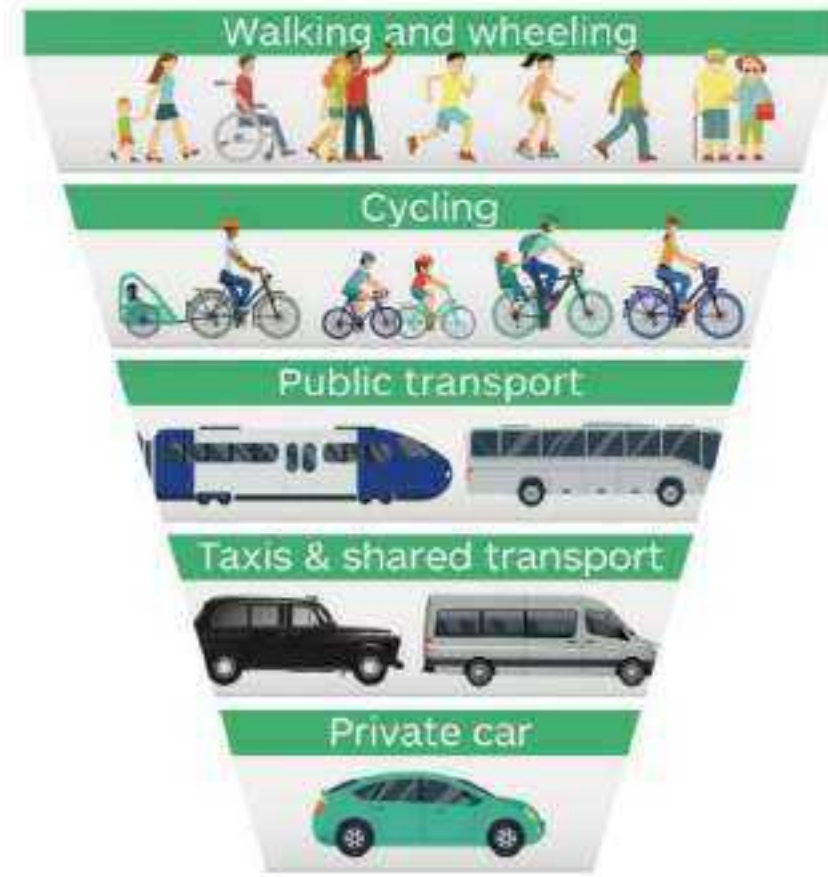


A Just Transition - Spending public money equitably

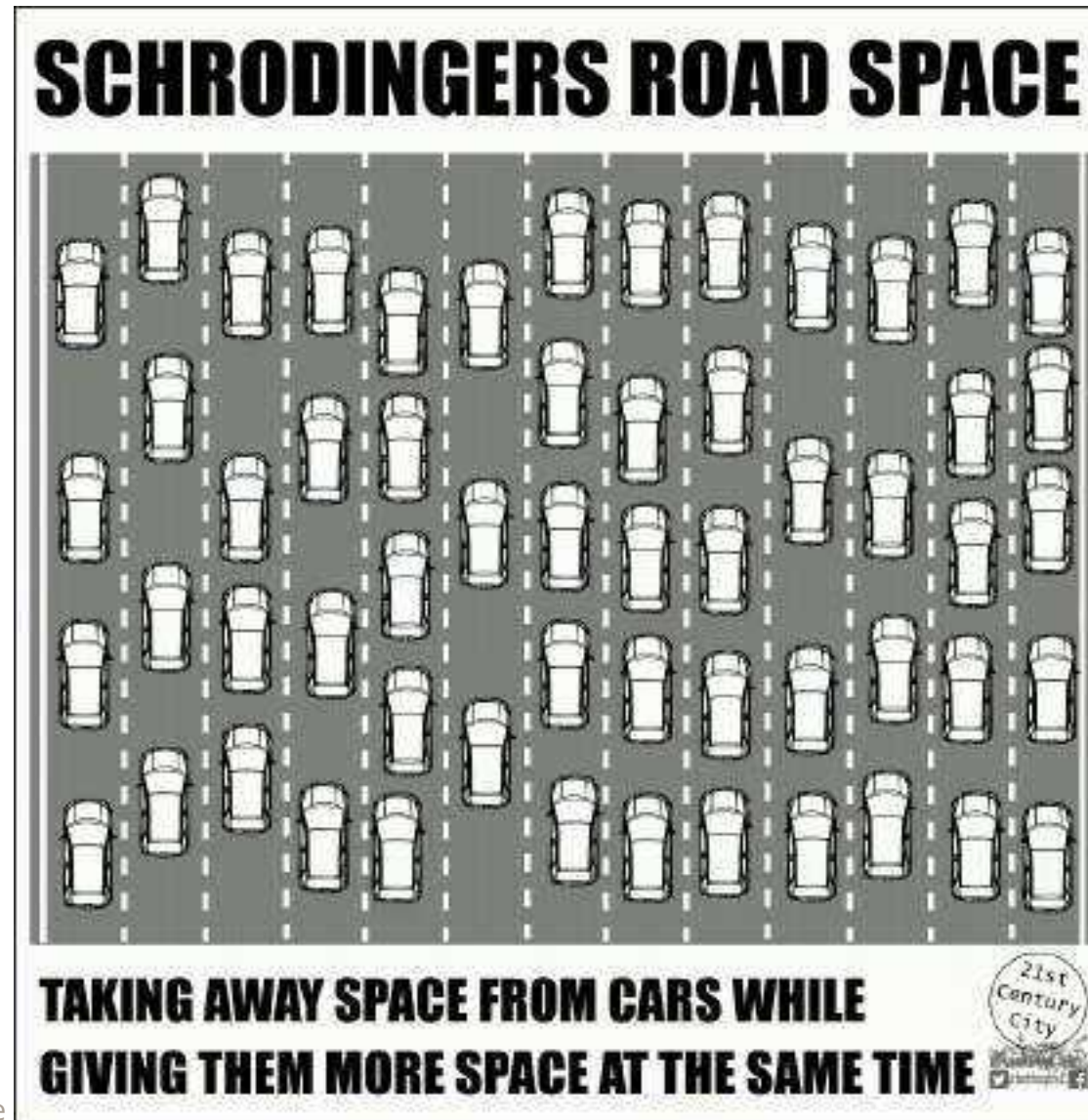


- Transport Users' Hierarchy
- Behavioural Change
- Public Engagement
- Communication
- Public space
- Data
- Mobility
- Economy
- Team

Prioritising Sustainable Transport



Active Travel – Use of Public Space



Systems Change - Infrastructure



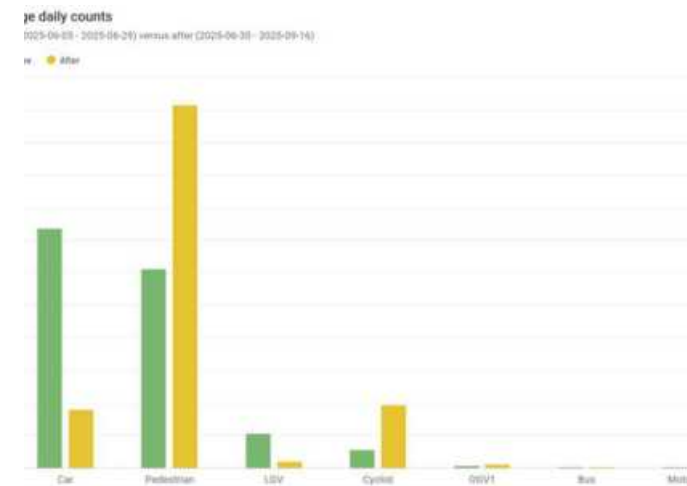
Systems Change - Infrastructure



Systems Change - Innovative Initiatives



- Teen Influencer Cycling Campaign
- Girls Cycle Mechanics
- Men's Walk & Talk Groups
- Healthy Steps
- Sofa to Saddle
- Quiet Streets Initiative



Systems Change - Influence



- Strategy
- Projects
- People
 - Capacity Building
 - Staff
 - Residents
 - Businesses



Systems Change - Mythbusters



Ah but....	Myth	Reality
Weather	Their weather is better than ours	Dublin – 493mm av rainfall/yr, coldest month Feb, av 5C Amsterdam - 548mm/yr, Jan, av 4C Copenhagen - 312mm/yr, Feb, av 1C
Stereotype	All cyclists are speeding middle aged men in lycra	Our designs are actively seeking to encourage all. Disability/gender/age/crime prevention audits
Targeting	Removing all cars	Data, data, data - modal shift, short journeys CSO Census 2016 – 69% children to school in car Govt data – <2km
No one there	Why build infrastructure for no-one?	Data, data, data Build it and they will come!
Economy	Lost parking means lost jobs?	Data, data, data Copenhagen, Transport for London, DLRCC

Systems Change - New Criteria for Success



PAST

TODAY

Flow of cars should be smooth.



Flow of people should be smooth.

Slow car traffic is a problem.



Slow traffic is best. It's safer to walk.

There should be ample parking near important places.



Parking should be limited but always provide for people with mobility needs.

People gathering in public places is anti-social behaviour.



Social behaviour is not anti-social. It is normal and welcome.

Outdoor dining should be provided.

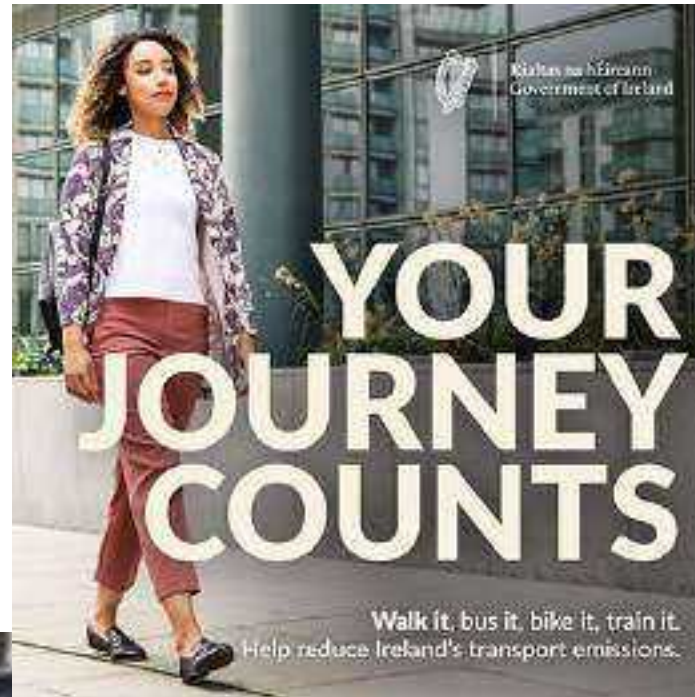


Public spaces belong to the public whether they are spending money or not.

Systems Change - Looking back to move forward



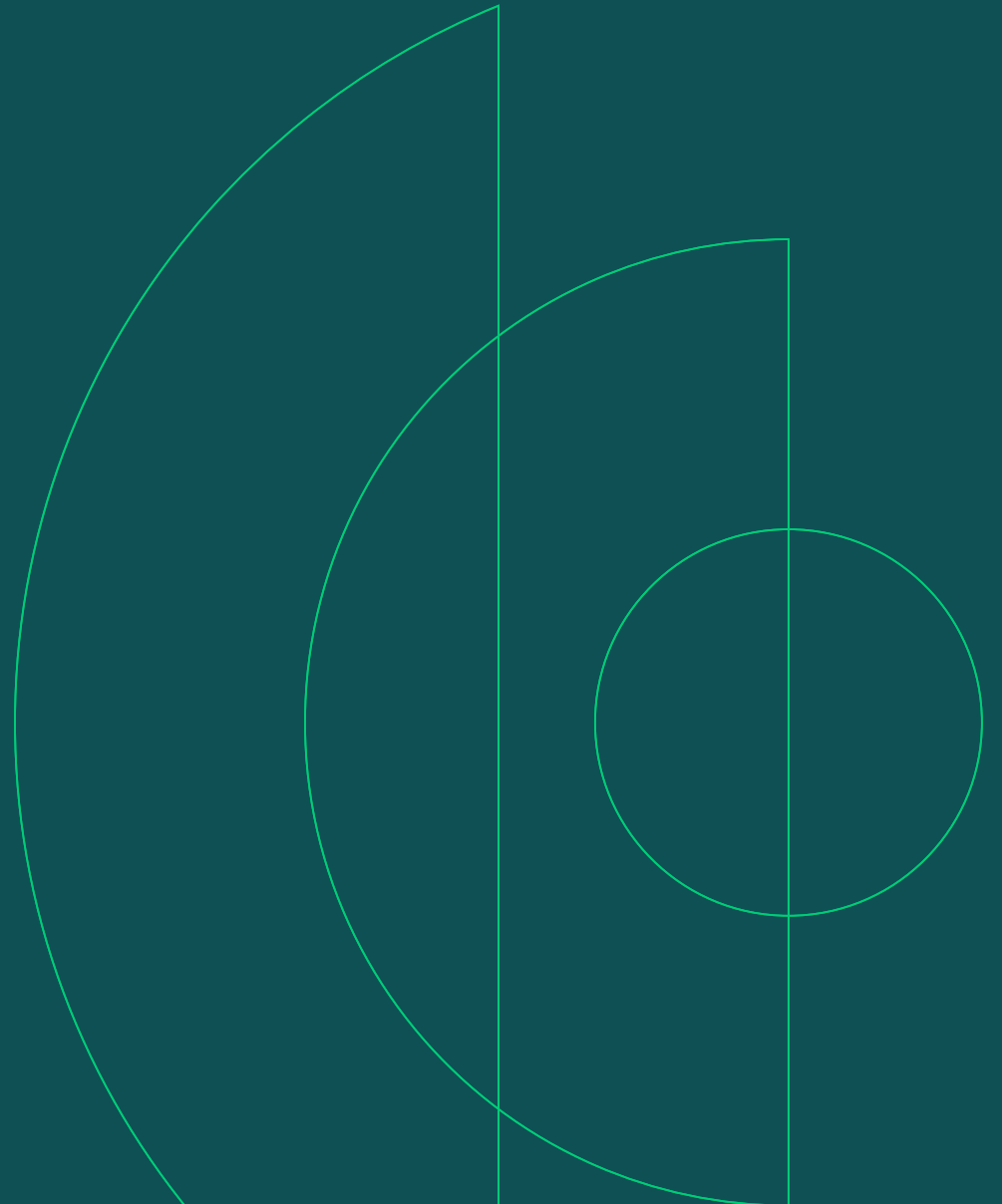
Systems Change – food for thought



Thank You
Go raibh maith agaibh

Q&A Session

Slido code:
#2638805





Audience Exercise

1. Choose **one solution** from the panellists that particularly interests you.
2. Note down **how it applies to your work**.
3. Finally, choose **one concrete step** you could take to help make it a reality.





Final feedback

We want to hear your thoughts on what you enjoyed about the summit and what we can continue to improve.

Please take 2 minutes to complete these feedback forms and leave them on your table for collection.



Thank you for attending the
Decarbonising Dublin Summit

Presentations from the summit will be
circulated by the end of this week.