2023



COMMUNITY PROJECTS FOR CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY

**BACKGROUND DETAILS**

Later this year, funding will be available from the County Council and LEADER companies to support community actions addressing climate, environment and biodiversity issues.

This competition aims to stimulate communities to identify and commence the development of projects suitable for funding under these programmes, by them creating a community plan to be ready to apply for these funding streams.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER?**

This competition for the best community project plan is aimed at all PPN-registered local development associations, residents’ associations and Tidy Towns groups across all Municipal Districts in County Tipperary.

Each Tidy Town Group OR resident’s association OR local development association may submit one application only although joint applications are welcome and will receive additional marks. Joint applicants will share the prize.

**HOW TO ENTER**

Firstly, identify an appropriate habitat-related project in your community. Some ideas are set out in Appendix A. Then, prepare an outline development plan for the community project, so that you can answer all the questions on the Application Form at Appendix B. The winning entry will be the one which, in the opinion of the judges, is the most innovative plan, is likely to have the most significant community and environmental impacts, and which gives the best overall responses to the questions on the application form.

**WHAT WILL THE AWARD BE?**

The group submitting the winning entry will receive €1,000 prize. This can be used at the discretion of the winning group but it may consider using the award to pay for professional assistance in developing a project proposal for submission to the funding bodies.

The prize money is being sponsored by Cloncannon Bio Farm.

**APPENDIX ONE**

**PROJECTS YOU MAY LIKE TO CONSIDER**

Your group may wish to include any of the following in your Community Plan:

(1) Lease a piece of land from the Local Authority and create an allotment.

(2) Install Rainwater Harvesting at the Community Building.

(3) Plant Native trees and an edible hedgerow.

(4) Create an orchard and soft fruit area around the Community Walking track.

(5) Develop an outdoor environmental centre to be used by the local Primary and Secondary School.

(6) Erect Bird and Bat Boxes (including swifts and barn owls).

(7) Convert a section of the local public green area for culinary herbs and pollinators.

(8) Use natural materials and craft to create a Community Sensory Garden.

(9) Collaborate with others to develop a Circular Economy Hub in your town or village to up-cycle, repair, re-purpose, share etc

(10) Set up a Community Composting area and use the compost resource in the community garden or flower beds.

(11) Create a wildlife pond (taking due actions for safety).

(12) Propose a safe cycleway for children to the local school.

(13) Liaise with local farmers to create a buffer strip along the local river to protect and enhance water quality.

(14) Liaise with Sustainable Energy Communities Tipperary and the relevant agencies to develop a Community Wind Farm.

(15) Hire an Ecologist to develop a Biodiversity Action Plan for your local town/village or resident’s association/local development association.

(16) Outline the biodiversity themes that your community would like to receive training in, for example, River and Pond Habitats; Gardening for Pollinators; Planting and managing an orchard/ soft fruit area.

(17) Put Solar Panels on the Community Centre.

(18) Invasive Species Control

(19) Other innovative and cutting edge ideas relating to the above themes.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Scoring will be weighted across the following:

Renewable Energy Plans

Enhancing Nature

Protection and Conservation of Water

Low Carbon Actions

The following criteria will be taken into account during the judging process:

• Collaboration between community groups is strongly encouraged

• Waste management/circular economy initiatives

• Best environment initiatives – waste prevention/repair, reduce, reuse &recycling/composting/water conservation

• Planting initiatives – pollinator-friendly areas and sustainable planting

• Sustainable transport – cycleways to schools, community car-pooling etc.

• Plans for communal areas – opens spaces, green spaces & grass margins

• Plans for shorter supply chains for food, energy and materials contributing to a low carbon society

**OTHER DETAILS**

The closing date for entries will be 5pm on Friday May 12th 2023. You can submit your entry by email to Sean O’ Farrell at ofarrejf@tcd.ie OR by post to:

Sean O’Farrell, Cloncannon Biofarm, Moneygall, Roscrea, County Tipperary, E53 AE27.

**APPENDIX TWO**

**APPLICATION FORM**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PPN NUMBER |  |
| GROUP REPRESENTATIVE | NAME:EMAIL:PHONE: |
| PROJECT GROUPS | (1)(2)(3)(4)(5) |
| SITE REFERENCE – GPS/EIRCODE |  |
| ESTIMATION OF PROJECT COSTS |  |
| BREAKDOWN OF COSTS |  |

**Please give an outline description of your project(200 *words max.)***

**What contribution will your project make to the environment and your community?(200 *words max.)***

**Is the site/land community owned? Yes No**

**if the site/land is not community owned, is it likely that a 7 to 10-year lease can be obtained? Yes No Not sure**

**Has the landowner been approached in this regard? Yes No**

**Please provide a sketch of your proposed site and planned project. If you wish, attach photos of site on the following page.**