



LEADER

Programme 2019

Realising Rural Potential



County Kildare
LEADER PARTNERSHIP



The Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2014–2020

Introduction: Sustainable Rural Development in County Kildare

The Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 for Ireland is part of the Common Agricultural Policy: a common set of objectives, principles, and rules in order to co-ordinate the EU agricultural support in Member States. The word 'LEADER' comes from the French acronym for "Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale", meaning 'Links between actions for the development of the rural economy'. One of the key objectives of the Programme is to achieve a balanced, regional development of rural economies and communities. In Kildare, the Programme has been supporting the development of communities, businesses and individuals for more than 20 years.

The LEADER Programme is committed to improving the lives of those living and working in County Kildare. It is based on a philosophy of "Community-led Local Development", understanding that rural Ireland consists of strong communities with ideas and ambition for their futures and these local communities are often best placed to respond to the challenges that face them. The LEADER programme is designed to support these ideas, both through mentoring and through financial aid in the form of grants. It also works to develop networks and strategies that will support sustainable and holistic development into the future. Our work is based on a vision for rural communities as vibrant, inclusive and sustainable, supported by effective stewardship of high-quality environment and cultural heritage. To achieve this our work focuses on a number of key areas:

Developing **sustainable rural communities**: The LEADER Programme supports vibrant rural communities where people can live, work and raise their families in a high-quality environment. Basic rural services, as well as social infrastructure, are vital to underpinning a good quality of life in rural areas.

Developing **the rural economy** and creating new **employment opportunities**: The LEADER Programme supports rural communities to develop their enterprises, create jobs, become more innovative and have the necessary skills and networks to meet the needs of the changing labour market.

Developing **rural tourism** and maximising the potential of our **natural resources and heritage**: The LEADER Programme is aimed at stimulating sustainable jobs through targeted rural tourism initiatives and supporting tourism providers.

Developing **equality and inclusion** in rural communities: The LEADER Programme works to ensure that all rural communities are afforded the opportunities which economic growth provides and will have the skills, knowledge and experience to influence change for the benefit of people within those communities.

Developing a **sustainable rural environment**: The LEADER Programme supports the protection of Ireland's natural environment and the development of initiatives which promote biodiversity and help communities respond to climate change.

These aims were laid out in a **Local Development Strategy** for County Kildare, which was published in October 2016, following research on needs within the county and an in-depth county-wide participative process was undertaken in 2015/2016. This Report outlines the achievements in 2019 under that Strategy under the three broad Themes of **Economic and Enterprise Development and Job Creation, Social Inclusion and Rural Environment**.



The Programme Structure



The specific actions under the Kildare Rural Development Strategy were approved in 2016 by the Kildare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) which is the **Local Action Group (LAG)** that oversees the delivery of the RDP LEADER Programme 2014-2020. Kildare LCDC is composed of statutory (public) and non-statutory (private) sector members, including local authority members and officials, state agencies, private sector, local development and community representatives. The LAG met a total of 6 times in 2019 to consider the implementation of the Plan and to approve funding for projects. The LAG adheres to the decision-making process and voting requirements set out in the RDP 2014-2020 operating rules.



County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP) is the Implementing Partner for the Programme. All applications for support are evaluated by the County Kildare LEADER Partnership's **Independent Evaluation Committee**. This committee is comprised of voluntary representatives with a range of experience, skills and expertise such as banking, architecture, finance, agriculture, horticulture, enterprise, conservation and biodiversity, and public administration. It also met a total of 6 times in 2019.



Kildare County Council is the Financial Partner for the Programme and is responsible for carrying out Article 48 checks on projects.

In total, fifteen projects or initiatives were funded in 2019, representing an investment of 1,351,226.52 Euro in the county. Five of these projects were under the Economic, Enterprise and Job Creation Theme, four under Social Inclusion, four under Rural Environment, one under Support for Rural Towns and one under Rural Tourism. This means that 34.2% of our project budget was allocated in the year.

Despite the economic progress visible in 2019, LEADER continues to have a vital role in supporting communities to enable a place-based approach to local and regional development. A sustainable environment, a sustainable society and a sustainable economy require thriving communities across the entire country, but especially in rural areas. Many parts of rural and regional Ireland have, for too long, been allowed to fall behind the more urban and economically developed parts of the country. Rural regions will play a central role in meeting the major global opportunities and challenges of the 21st century and ongoing, sustained support for rural communities is required to ensure that this future development is balanced and sustainable. The LEADER programme in Kildare has shown its effectiveness in this support in 2019 and looks forward to continuing to do so in the future.

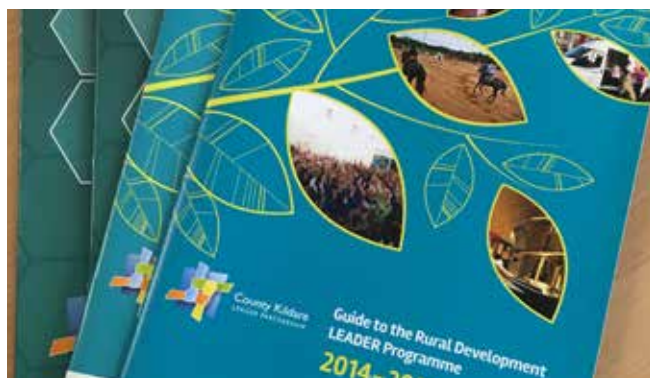
Promotion of the Programme

The LEADER Programme is committed to supporting communities and individuals around the County and worked hard in 2019 to promote awareness of the way it can be a source of support and funding for individual and community actors with ideas for how to improve livelihoods, create jobs, and make our communities better places to live. This meant developing a comprehensive communication strategy and getting out into the community and meet people to discuss opportunities for LEADER support. Thus, we participated in several events to talk about the programme, deliver presentations, and hand out our guidebook. Investment in this type of animation is integral to realizing the LEADER bottom-up approach. The presence and expertise of development officers as support for community groups is essential in strengthening the overall capacity of community and voluntary organisations, as well as in yielding projects.



Meeting with the PPN, and KCC Community Section on funding for communities in the Naas Municipal District, 14/02/2019

January / February	PPN information sessions Athy, Naas, Maynooth
March	Chamber of Commerce Event, Athy
March	St Patrick's Day Parade Athy
May	Biodiversity Breakfast
August / September	Public Meetings on Barrow Blueway Development - Rathangan, Monasterevin, Athy.
October	National Women's Enterprise Day with Kildare Local Enterprise Office, Curragh Racecourse
November	Teagasc Options Evening, Naas



St. Patrick's Day



CKLP participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Athy in March 2019, promoting the services and programmes it offers and highlighting a vision for sustainable development for rural areas. Costumes and decorations for the float were made from materials that were collected from ReCreate, a social enterprise that works with businesses to collect unwanted and surplus items which they make available as art materials.

To promote the Biodiversity sub-theme of the LEADER programme, packs of native Irish wildflower seeds and instructions on how to plant them were handed out to parade goers. The cost of the seeds was kindly covered by the Heritage Officer in Kildare County Council and the seeds were sourced from Design by Nature in Carlow.

The "Pouches of Gold for Pollinators" that were handed out to parade goers

Biodiversity Breakfast

To coincide with Biodiversity Week, the LEADER programme organised a "Biodiversity Breakfast" on 23rd May to allow people learn about funding opportunities that are available under the LEADER programme and to build up a network of people who are interested in nature and biodiversity in Kildare. Louise Rankin from Moyleabbey Organic Farm spoke about the benefits for biodiversity of farming organically, and her motivations for doing so. Louise also provided fruit for attendees to enjoy. PS Coffee Roasters, which have cafés in Naas and Clane, provided the coffee for the event and their co-founder, Simon, spoke about their efforts to go plastic-free and to ensure a sustainable supply chain. The breakfast was very well attended, and it proved to be a great valuable way to network with people who were interested in biodiversity.







Theme 1

Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation

The Economic Theme focuses on driving continued local economic development, including diversification of the rural economy and the creation of employment opportunities for the local community, including those from disadvantaged groups. It includes the sub-themes of Rural Tourism, Enterprise Development, Rural Towns and Broadband.



Rural Tourism

Tourism is a key driver of economic development in rural Ireland, providing a stimulus for enterprise and job creation. Tourism has a significant role to play in supporting sustainable jobs and growth in rural areas and as the assets are generally place-specific, for example, landscape and history, it offers significant potential even in peripheral areas. Interventions under this sub-theme focus on actions that make the area more attractive for local, national and foreign visitors.

Examples of actions that may be supported under this sub-theme include feasibility studies to explore the tourism potential of an area, marketing initiatives, the creation of tourism hubs to facilitate a multi-sectoral approach, activities that centre on the development and renovation of infrastructure, which contribute to historic and heritage-based tourism, and actions that promote the development of cultural/heritage infrastructure of local significance and arts-based activities and events; and the provision of amenity and leisure facilities, which can support adventure/eco-based tourism. In exceptional circumstances, and in consultation with the Department, this may include private dwellings where this can be shown to contribute to historic and heritage based tourism.

CASE STUDY

Robertstown Community Amenities Association: Restoration of Barge 52M

RCCA was awarded grant assistance for the restoration of the “52M” Heritage Barge. It is envisaged that the barge will be used as a heritage museum and provide guided tours of Kildare’s inland waterways. An out-of-water survey was carried out to assess the vessel’s condition, and LEADER funding was awarded to complete the internal fit-out and commission.



Enterprise Development

LEADER can support micro, small and medium enterprises. LEADER works closely with the Local Enterprise Office and there are effective systems of collaboration and consultation in place to ensure a co-ordinated and effective allocation of resources. Supported actions might include investment support or sector-specific training programmes for aspiring entrepreneurs, early stage promoters, social enterprises, start-ups and established SMEs. The CEDRA Report (2014) identified areas most suitable for LEADER support, including artisan and other food businesses, farm diversification, Social Enterprises and creative Industries such as traditional crafts, new media and design.



CASE STUDY

Craft Network



**Original
Kildare**

DESIGNERS
CREATORS
& MAKERS

LEADER follows a “bottom-up” approach, namely working from the grassroots and building the capacity of people to work together. This is evident in the philosophy used to support the crafts sector in the county. The need for training was identified by craftspeople themselves who were working on their high-quality products, developing their own businesses and marketing their crafts with support from Kildare LEO. They saw that working collaboratively would strengthen their product and the LEO were keen to support this. Partnering with CKLP Partnership, an innovative training programme was developed to produce a common action plan, a marketing plan and a common brand.

On 10th September 2019, this 24-week programme was launched with the aim of building social capital among local craft entrepreneurs. Social capital can be understood as “networks together with shared norms, values and understandings” [Guidelines on Evaluation of LEADER Community-led Local Development (2017) and OECD (2001)]. Therefore, the programme was designed to enable crafts people learn the skills to establish and operate an independent craft network, embed those skills in the people most directly involved to allow them take complete ownership of the network. Thus, the makers themselves have a common voice in marketing, storytelling, selling and funding.

Craft Networks offer makers a distinct and important advantage in developing, marketing and selling work. A geographical or regional identity provides a focus or “voice” for the group, as it gives each maker an opportunity to tell the story of their work in a specific context, using the landscape, colour and traditions and stories from an area. That basis for a group identity can give a focal point, provide a visual and narrative story for a disparate group, making them stand out, in a busy market.

Vincent O'Shea, Trainer.



The Craft Network is a great opportunity to promote the quality of craft and design in Co. Kildare.

Warren Hayes, Coolree Design





Rural Towns

The LEADER Programme believes that towns and villages are at the heart of rural life. This sub-theme, therefore, supports the regeneration of rural towns, promoting them as attractive places to visit, live and do business in. LEADER is particularly suited to revitalising rural towns through the co-ordination of integrated approaches that build on economic strengths and infrastructure whilst addressing the key challenges for businesses and the community.

Actions to support the regeneration of rural towns can include town renewal schemes that renovate derelict buildings to attract business to vacant properties. The building or refurbishment of community buildings also provides a multifunctional infrastructure for social, cultural, and sporting activities and training for the local community. Developing and promoting unique social events and activities can provide an important stimulus to rural towns. LEADER projects in this area should complement and add value to other national supports for rural towns. Actions should be sustainable and consider and incorporate all the needs of the area, i.e. standalone projects that deliver on one objective and do not seek to address multiple objectives should be avoided. Works that normally come within the remit of Local Authorities, such as large infrastructure projects, are not eligible for LEADER funding.

CASE STUDY

Castledermot Fair Green

The LEADER programme is happy to work with groups such as Castledermot Amenity Group CLG who seek to improve their town or village as an attractive place to live and to raise children. Their project involves landscaping and ground works which will result in a landscaped parkland area and footpath access to a proposed new playground. The design has been developed by landscape architects to a high standard to cater for all ages, with a paved plaza area at the entrance, and a circular kick-about area for older children. Measures such as building up the site rather than topsoil stripping (with the exception of pathways to allow for universal roadside access) have variety of unique raised and lower levels to act as informal swales which will make the area more interesting to the eye as well as helping to manage drainage. It is a very collaborative approach to developing a community facility with the promoters engaging proactively and partnering with the local authority and the LEADER Programme to enhance the townscape and develop a much sought-after amenity.

*Karl Duffy, RDP Manager, presenting
contract to members of the Castledermot
Amenity group at the Fairgreen
Castledermot 04/12/2019*





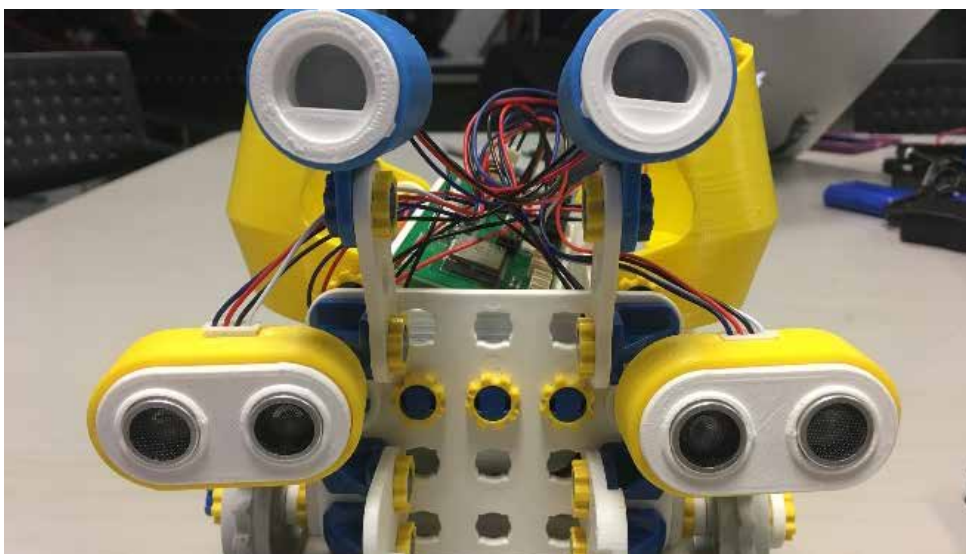
Broadband

Increased access to reliable and high-speed broadband is vital for the economic and social development of rural areas and communities. High-quality broadband enables businesses to set-up or continue to be based in rural areas, by overcoming barriers relating to access to markets and services. There is also a potential to create additional employment as access to broadband can allow businesses to grow (CEDRA, Energising Ireland's Rural Economy, 2014). Additional direction from the Department in January 2019 paved the way for development of an exciting new training project bringing together STEAM learning, the Internet of Things (IOT) and Youth Work through creativity/ problem-solving.

CASE STUDY

CKLP Digital Readiness Training

The Digital Readiness and Technology project was designed to upskill youth workers and volunteers to support young people involved in the Youth Employment Programme to gain skills and experience in digital technology across County Kildare. Unlike formal educational programmes, this project required an ability to engage and motivate a diverse group of people from various backgrounds. Training methods were participatory and hands on with a focus on active learning giving participants an opportunity to reflect on and learn from their experiences. Training was delivered in five modules including Online/Mobile Journalism, Visual Production, STEAM Activities, Computer Science/ Coding and 3D Printing. Participants developed a clear understanding of Online/Mobile Journalism, Visual Production, STEAM Activities & Computer Science/ Coding and have learned to use various types of equipment and software. They have a clear plan of how to use the activities with groups in the future and have access to a support network to gain ideas and resolve issues after the programme is complete.





Summary

Seven projects were funded under this theme, to a value of € 457,407.94.

Subtheme	Description	Grant
Rural Tourism	Restoration of Barge	€40,590.00
Rural Tourism	Upgrade to Outdoor Tourist Attraction	€12,403.00
Enterprise Development	Conversion of Shed to Office	€20,225.00
Enterprise Development	Craft Network Training	€60,270.00
Enterprise Development	Creative Retreat Centre	€167,787.62
Rural Towns	Landscaping works to Fair Green	€135,802.32
Broadband	Digital Skills Training for Youth Leaders	€20,330.00



Theme 2

Social Inclusion

The focus of this theme is both from an economic and social perspective, but it is primarily aimed at tackling poverty and exclusion in rural areas and fostering social inclusion in the county. Actions supported may involve establishing new services for communities and youth at risk of social exclusion or improving existing community and youth services and projects. The Social Inclusion theme is divided into two sub-themes, Basic Services for Hard-to-Reach communities and Rural Youth.



Basic Services for Hard-to-Reach Communities

This sub-theme focuses on improving access to basic services for people living in rural and remote areas and groups who are at risk of social exclusion. Examples of actions that may be supported under this sub-theme include community activities and facilities, education and training projects, social and cultural activities and recreational facilities.

CASE STUDY

Monasterevin Community Centre

The LEADER Programme aims to recognize the importance of community facilities and services in order to underpin a good quality of life, develop positive community spirit, and create comfortable spaces for people to meet and be creative together.

The Community Centre in Monasterevin is an example of such a facility. It is located in a former R.I.C. barracks, which was gifted to the Monasterevin C.Y.M.S. in 1927. It is a protected structure in the centre of the town's Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). The Centre has a long tradition of being the heartbeat of the community, and after a period of closure and disrepair it has recently reopened and been revitalized by a dedicated committee of volunteers, aided by workers through a Community Employment (CE) programme, and it attracts a broad variety of local groups, activities and organisations. It was successful in receiving LEADER funding in 2019 for ongoing improvements, including much needed repairs to the roof and an upgrading of the stage area, installation of accessible toilets, and the addition of coffee/tea-making facilities to the rear of the hall.





Rural Youth

At the heart of any strategy to revitalise rural Ireland is the need to retain the presence of young people. Indeed, ensuring rural areas are good places for young people to live and work is in many ways integral to the revitalisation of rural Ireland. At present, census data also shows a decline in those aged 19 – 25 years of age in rural areas, reinforcing the understanding that young adults migrate to the cities in order to study and work.

To respond to this lack of opportunities for young people living in rural Ireland, the Rural Youth sub-theme focuses on developing employment, education and social opportunities targeting young people in rural Kildare. Examples of projects which can be funded include the provision of youth clubs and cafes, improved access to information and communications technology, sports and recreation activities, arts-based projects and youth development programme.

CASE STUDY

Clane United All-Weather Football pitch

Clane United Football Club was founded in 1973 and competes with 20 teams in the KDUL and KDFL & District Leagues. Like many sporting organizations around the county it is at the heart of the life of the community and plays a significant role in ensuring that young people are involved in sporting activities in their local area. Its “nursery” programme begins with boys and girls as young as 6 years old. LEADER was delighted to be able to support the activity of the club through funding towards a FIFA approved all weather pitch and pitch upgrade project, ensuring that the Club continues to develop its inclusive and volunteer-driven supports for the physical and mental health of young people in the community.





Summary

Five projects were funded under this theme, to a value of € €657,496.57.

Subtheme	Description	Grant
Rural Youth	All weather pitch	€148,366.40
Rural Youth	Fit-out of a scout den/youth facility	€65,396.00
Basic Services	Renovation of community centre	€147,434.00
Basic Services	Multifunctional games area and walking track	€184,480.54
Basic Services	Walkway, lighting, and community energy project	€111,819.63





Theme 3

Rural Environment

The Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan for 2016–2021 noted that living more sustainably is essential if future generations in Kildare are to enjoy an environment equal to or better than the one experienced today. The Rural Environment theme of the LEADER Programme supports community groups and SMEs to undertake projects that have positive outcomes for the environment. Funding is structured across three sub-themes: protection and sustainable use of water resources, protection and improvement of local biodiversity, and development of renewable energy.



Interest in the Rural Environment theme was quite lacklustre at the beginning of the programme and environmental-type projects were slow to appear. In 2018, CKLP sought to address this by recruiting a dedicated Project Development Officer to work on the Rural Environment theme specifically and promote LEADER as a source of funding for environmental projects. This post was filled in November 2018 and 2019 saw greater interest in the Rural Environment theme, mirroring an increase in interest in environmental sustainability and environmental activism throughout the country and wider world.

The national *Climate Action Plan* was published in 2019, following the deliberations of the Citizens Assembly on climate change in 2017 and the publishing of the cross-party report by the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action entitled, '*Climate Change: A Cross-Party Consensus for Action*'. These developments put environmental sustainability on the agenda and spurred on interest in the Rural Environment theme of the programme in Kildare.

Renewable Energy

Renewable sources of energy have a lower environmental impact on nature than energy sourced from fossil fuels. Renewable energy technologies may also generate new employment opportunities in rural areas. Therefore, early in 2019, a closed call for Renewable Energy projects was launched. Two sizable projects were awarded funding under this call: repair works to the tailrace and sluice gates at The Mill in Celbridge, and the installation of a straw pelleting plant in Strawchip Ltd. outside Athy.

CASE STUDY

Celbridge Community Centre CLG

Celbridge Community Centre CLG own 'The Mill' in the town centre; a historic building complex on the River Liffey. It is a significant building in terms of the industrial heritage of Celbridge and the extensive property dominates the centre of the town. It was taken over by the community in 1985 and restored for community use as well as for small commercial units.

Hydroelectricity generation has been a feature of the site since 1903. Electricity that is generated by the turbine is fed into the national grid and the centre receives payment for this that goes towards the upkeep of the centre. Over the last three years, it became apparent that electricity production had reduced significantly. This was due to the poor condition of the screens, sluice gates, and mill race. Extensive repair works were needed to restore electricity generation to full capacity.

LEADER funding of €100,992 was approved to carry out these essential repair works. Work is still ongoing on the site as the project experienced some setbacks due to high water levels in late 2019





Biodiversity and Climate Change

Biodiversity refers to the variety and variation of life and living things that surrounds us. The protection of biodiversity is a growing concern, with the loss of habitats and many species of wildlife, flora and fauna. Actions permitted under this sub-theme include awareness-raising, and practical actions on how to protect biodiversity in the county.

CASE STUDY

Communities 4 Climate action



The LEADER Rural Environment Project Development Officer, Maeve Howe, initiated an in-house training project called Communities 4 Climate Action in the Spring of 2019. Maeve worked on developing the brief and gathered input from the newly established Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office. We were also happy to see the level of interest among members of Kildare PPN and funding of €49,901.09 was approved for the project in May. The project started in the summer with a recruitment drive taking place in July and August. Fifty-six people registered for the programme and it kicked off in September with a full day in the inspiring surroundings of the ecologically sustainable Solas Bhríde Centre in Kildare town, which had received funding under the last LEADER programme (2007-2013).

Participants met every week in Athy for a 3-hour session on different aspects of climate action, including Sustainable Production and Consumption, Managing Energy and Transport, and Sustainable Land Use. Our Rural Environment Project Development Officer joined the sessions to be on hand to answer LEADER-specific questions. The group went on a fieldtrip to Cloughjordan Ecovillage in Co. Tipperary on 19th October, which was a big highlight for everyone.

Eleven participants from the course took part in a competition to win €1,000 to put towards their project. This involved writing up an Expression of Interest and delivering a short presentation. Each of the presentations were pitched at a very high level and Kilcullen Community Action was successful with their idea to develop a community garden in the centre of Kilcullen that would provide the flowers for their annual “Kilcullen in Bloom” event.

After the course finished, 4 workshops were organised for the course participants in December. took place in the CKLP office and focused on the LEADER application process and the essentials of public procurement.

A recurring piece of feedback from participants both when they finished the course, and when we checked in with them later, was that the networking and connections made with the other course participants has been invaluable. The participants continue to meet up and one participant stated that before taking part in the course they felt like a “lone crusader” when it came to climate action but that now they have a network that is “dynamic and positive”.



Lesson learnt from Communities 4 Climate Action

1. This was a pilot programme and it attracted a lot of interest from other Local Development Companies around the country. In Kildare, we have shown that there is demand for this type of training programme and that it can contribute to building awareness but also networks, and act as a launching pad for projects.
2. The trainers brought a wealth of knowledge about sustainability and climate change and many of them have experience leading projects of their own which they were able to share with the participants. However, LEADER staff have been essential for keeping the focus on getting groups to come forward with projects of their own and to maintain a relationship with the participants after the programme finished.
3. This initiative was a very good example of inter-agency cooperation. It involved collaboration with the Climate Action Regional Office for the Eastern and Midlands early in its inception in working out a brief for the project, it was funded through the LEADER programme, and Kildare County Council have approved further funding to projects that have come out of the project.

“The course has been going brilliantly. It is a lot of positivity and good ideas that come out of what can be seen as a very negative subject.”

Rona, Athy



Launch at the Solas Bhride Centre

Summary

4 projects were funded under this theme, to a value of €316,132.54.

Subtheme	Description	Grant
Renewable Energy	Hydroelectricity Hydraulic Infrastructure	€100,992
Renewable Energy	Straw Pelleting Facility	€105,000
Biodiversity	Kildare Community Biodiversity Project	€60,239.45
Biodiversity	Climate Change and your Community	€49,901.09



Hearing the experiences of the founders of Cloughjordan Ecovillage, 19th October 2019



The Key element of Animation, Capacity Building and Social Capital in the LEADER Programme.

LEADER seeks to build the capacity and skills of the local community and socio-economic actors in rural areas to tackle local development objectives. The role of the LEADER Project Development Officer is key in this and the impact of LEADER animation and capacity building in Kildare can be seen in initiatives like the Digital Readiness Programme, the Craft Network Training and Communities 4 Climate Action.



For example, the Craft Network Training was aimed not just as imparting information but on developing the skills necessary for the group to become an effective presence in the county for the foreseeable future. Thus, training was provided in running a group, in clarifying its mission and in marketing its presence to the rest of the country. This led to the design of a very beautiful website which showcases the unique quality products produced by the craftspeople around the county.

The purpose of the Digital Readiness Training Programme was to train Youth Workers from around the county and provide them with the skills needed to introduce and upskill young people in the use of STEAM processes. The programme was designed by SICAP Youth Employment Services Support Worker, Laura Kelly who applied to the LEADER Programme for financial support. In this way the LEADER Programme built the capacity of those working directly with young people in order to enable them respond to young people in a vital area for future employment. Camara Education Ireland were the training partner for this initiative.

In the Communities 4 Climate Action initiative, some project ideas that were initiated in the course, and benefited from the mentoring that was part of it, have since received funding elsewhere, such as the Calverstown Action Network which received funding from the Local Property Tax grant scheme for a wild orchard. This consists of 20 apple trees and an area managed as a long-flowering meadow. Prosperous Community Association have also been awarded €2,300 by Kildare County Council for to plant fruit trees and little orchards around the village.

Other impacts of the Course have been felt in terms of setting up of new community groups that are dedicated to climate action around Kildare. These have included the Climate Action Group in Kilcullen and Kilcock 4 Climate Action which were established by two of our course participants.

Furthermore, participants from the programme have also become politically engaged. This has manifested through engagement with the Public Participation Network Climate Action Linkage Group and taking up positions on the Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee.

Feature on Kilcock 4 Climate Action in the Liffey Champion.



Calverstown Wild Orchard

Through the Wild Orchard Project, we hope to create new community orchards in the village of Calverstown, to benefit:

- local residents
- biodiversity
- climate action

We will be installing growing in the orchard area, as well as planting wildflowers and a range of our heritage variety fruit trees.





County Kildare
LEADER PARTNERSHIP

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The European
Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development:
Europe investing in
rural areas



Rialtas
na hÉireann
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of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



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