

Ireland

Local Development

Location

Cavan County

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P6 – Social inclusion & local development

Measure

M19 – LEADER/CLLD

Funding

Total budget 126 026.64 (EUR)
EAFRD 79 144.73 (EUR)
National/Regional 46 881.91 (EUR)

Project duration

2019 – 2022

Project promoter

Breffni Integrated CLG T/A Cavan County Local Development

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Website

<https://www.cclld.ie/post/cavan-communities-4-climate-action-the-climate-is-changing-will-you>

Irish LEADER funds raise community awareness about tackling climate change challenges.

Summary

A LEADER Local Development Strategy in Ireland's Cavan County identified needs to raise awareness about the impacts of climate change on daily life. The 'Cavan Communities 4 Climate Action' training programme was developed to enable participants to build knowledge and skills which can help make rural communities more climate resilient and environmentally sustainable.



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Project Results

Over 50 participants completed the training and are now community ambassadors for climate action in Cavan County with improved climate literacy and understanding of local climate action.

A new citizen network for local climate action was established by the project.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ Social media was successful in attracting a high percentage of young people to the training programme.

Context

Ireland's Cavan County Local Development (CCLD) company is committed to helping the Cavan County's transition towards its low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable goals. A need to raise awareness about the day-to-day impacts of climate change was identified by the CLLD Local Development Strategy so a free-of-charge training programme was organised in climate action for Cavan communities and local enterprises.

Objectives

The core aim of the 'Cavan Communities 4 Climate Action' training programme was to build awareness and capacity, amongst the participants, to make their communities more climate resilient and environmentally sustainable.

Activities

Public procurement procedures identified appropriate trainers to provide a six-week course covering a range of topics including climate action, community resilience, energy and transport, climate change and water, sustainable agriculture and land use, and waste and the circular economy.

Three training programmes were delivered (one online and two in classrooms). Content included learning from the Cloughjordan Ecovillage's experience in sustainable living and climate action. Over 100 residents live here in more than 50 high-performance 'green' homes surrounded by 20 000 newly planted trees. The ecovillage is also home to a community farm and gardens, an enterprise centre, a cultural venue, and Ireland's largest renewable energy district heating system.

A Cavan Communities 4 Climate Action Facebook page was established, and over 60 participants joined this group. WhatsApp groups were also established for each class to facilitate per learning and knowhow networking.

Main results

59 participants attended part of the programme and 52 participants completed the training. These people now have improved climate literacy and understanding of climate action in Cavan County. They have greater ability to develop climate solutions and advocate for local climate action.

Another project outcome is the establishment of an informal climate action network. This community supports groups developing climate friendly projects and its results feed into the plans of agencies (including CCLD and local government services).

Key lessons

It was difficult to promote LEADER-funded climate action opportunities in Cavan, but social media channel advertising was successful in attracting a high percentage of young people to the training programme.

Once a critical mass of training programme participants was attracted (approximately 20 participants per programme) the level of engagement from participants improved.

"I felt the course was a rich, broad and balanced learning experience on climate change, its causes, implications and solutions."

Cavan Communities 4 Climate Action programme participant

Additional sources of information

www.facebook.com/groups/cavancommunities4climateaction
<https://fb.watch/e7N8nS4XVv/>