



THE 'EASTERN AND MIDLANDS EMERGING ROADMAP FOR A GREEN ECONOMY' (EMERGE)

COLLECTIVE AWARENESS BUILDING

23 February 2023

#EMERGEMidlands



Stronger Charities.
Stronger Communities.

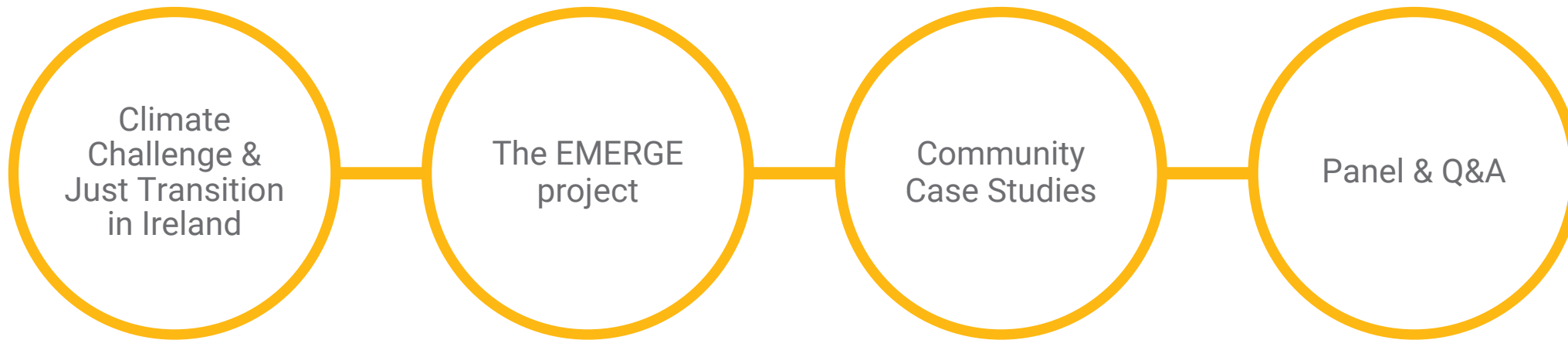


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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Agenda



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INTRODUCING YOUR SPEAKERS



**Dr Graham
Thrower**

Urban Foresight



**Mairead
O'Connor**

The Wheel



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INTRODUCING YOUR PANELLISTS

Peter Clancy

Lough Ree Distillery
(Case Study)

<https://www.lrd.ie/>

Ciarán Mullooly

Lough Ree Boat Trips – Access for all
(Case Study)

<https://www.loughreeboattrips.com/>

Tristram Whyte

Irish Peatland Conservation
Council

Bog of Allen Visitor Centre
(Case Study)

<http://www.ipcc.ie/visitor-attraction/bog-of-allen-nature-centre/>

Ronan Bilbow

Roscommon LEADER
Partnership

<https://www.rosleaderpartnership.ie/>



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CLIMATE CHALLENGE AND JUST TRANSITION IN IRELAND

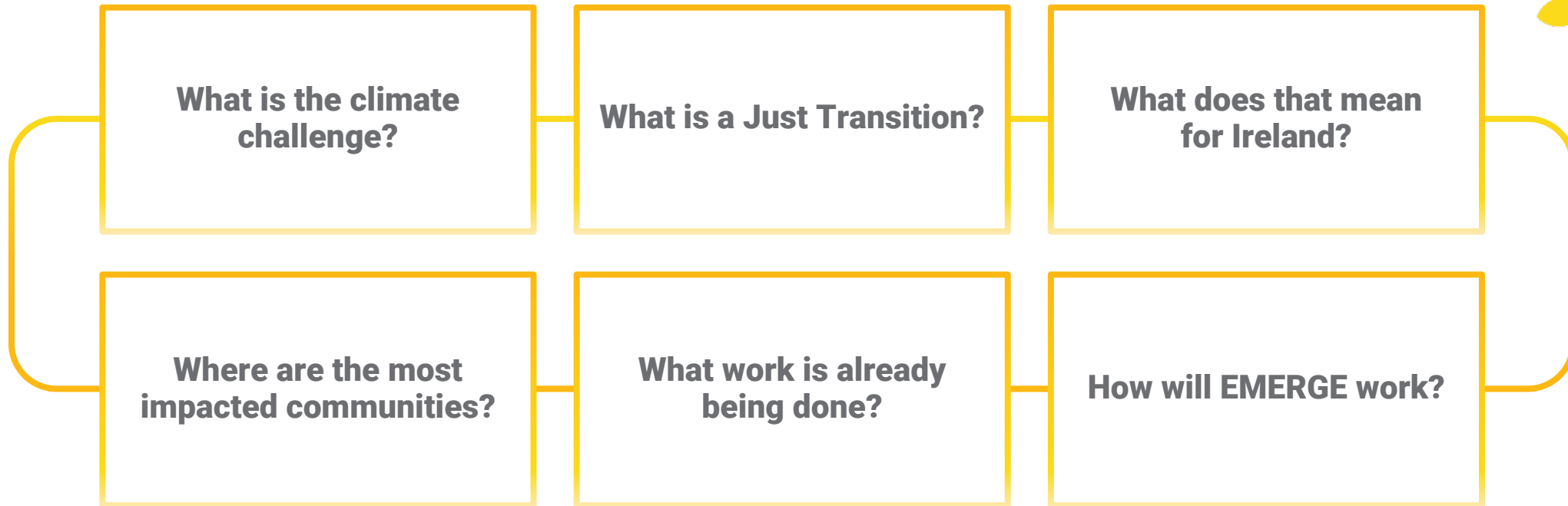
Urban Foresight



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Moving Ireland to a climate neutral economy



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The climate challenge

Global carbon emissions mean that the world is heading to more than 2°C of warming. This would have severe consequences, not only for the environment, but also for our societies and economies.

To respond to this there is a pressing need for countries to decarbonise their economies. In doing so, energy generation is key.

In Ireland, the government has taken a decisive step to cease the industrial harvesting and burning of peat and to invest significantly in renewables.

This both removes the carbon emissions from peat burning but also allows the remediation of bogs, which are a major carbon sink.



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How has this challenge been captured in policy?

The European Green Deal and the European Just Transition Mechanism recognise that regions and communities across the EU require support to transition to climate neutrality by 2050.

The EU Just Transition Mechanism will receive €55 billion in funding between 2021 and 2027. Of this, Ireland will receive €84.5 million, which will be further supplemented by match funding from the Irish Government.

To move towards climate neutrality by 2050, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 commits the Irish Government to reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions by 51% (from 2018 levels) by 2030.

The consequences of moving to a climate neutral economy for Ireland

- The cessation of industrial peat cutting
- Closure of ESB and BnM facilities in the wider Midlands region
- Loss of employment opportunities in the area
- Social and economic impacts
- Environmental and biodiversity opportunities
- Funding opportunities via the EU and Irish governments to address social, economic and environmental opportunities across the most impacted areas



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The Just Transition opportunity for Ireland

The cessation of peat cutting has had a significant impact on communities across the wider Midlands region.

To make the transition to a climate neutral economy fair for everyone, we must support those counties and communities most impacted.

The Just Transition is about ensuring the low carbon future does not leave these communities behind. It is about enabling communities to decide what their future looks like and to maximise employment opportunities.



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How is the Just Transition being driven locally in County Longford?

New Blueway and Greenway Tourism on the River Shannon

- Tourism Masterplan for the Shannon 2020 – 2030 highlights a clear opportunity for Lanesborough and other communities on the River Shannon to develop as a leading water tourism and angling destination.

Adapting Lough Ree for Green Energy and the Circular Economy

- Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 and County Longford Climate Change Adaptation Strategy prioritise exploring how the former Lough Ree Power Station can be utilised for green energy, the circular economy and tourism.
- JTF now supporting studies in how former Lough Ree Power Station can be adopted, with the ambition of creating community demonstration projects in 2023.



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How is the Just Transition being driven locally in County Roscommon?

Meeting Demand for Remote-Working and Community Cohesion

- Establishing community hubs is a priority in the County Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028, with examples such as a €55,250 new remote working hub and training facility in Moore, South Roscommon.

Industrial Heritage Tourism

- Roscommon County Council (RCC) are aiming to adapt industrial assets of Bord Na Mona for new uses.
- RCC are exploring how to create the Cloontuskert Visitor Centre and Organic Farm as part of the former Cloontuskert Bord Na Mona Machinery works - providing an opportunity to create a new industrial, education and virtual tourist experience.



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Driving the benefits of a Just Transition for Impacted Communities

How will these 21 communities be able to use the Just Transition as an opportunity for a better future?



**Upskilling/reskilling
in green sectors**



**Community owned
energy**



**Tourism
opportunities**



Sectoral development



Low carbon travel



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What work has already been done to help impacted communities across Ireland?



Community Owned Energy



New modes of tourism – active, environmental and heritage



Sectoral innovation and SME incubation – agriculture, food, manufacturing



Green skills – retrofit, energy, modern methods of construction



Multi-use community hubs



Education, training and upskilling



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THE EMERGE PROJECT?

The Wheel



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EMERGE is...

A **Training & Mentoring programme** designed to empower communities in the wider Midlands region to meet the challenges and opportunities of Ireland's transition to a climate-proofed and resilient economy and society.

The programme will support the **impacted communities** to:



take ownership of the new opportunities created by climate action



create action plans & access funding



own the economic, social and environmental future of the wider Midlands region



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We are working across these Counties & Communities



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What has been done so far?

We held a launch event which introduced the EMERGE project and outlined the social and economic opportunities of climate action in Ireland.

We are now speaking to each of the counties in pairs to show how you can be involved in the Just Transition, the support available to you, and examples of successful community projects in your region.

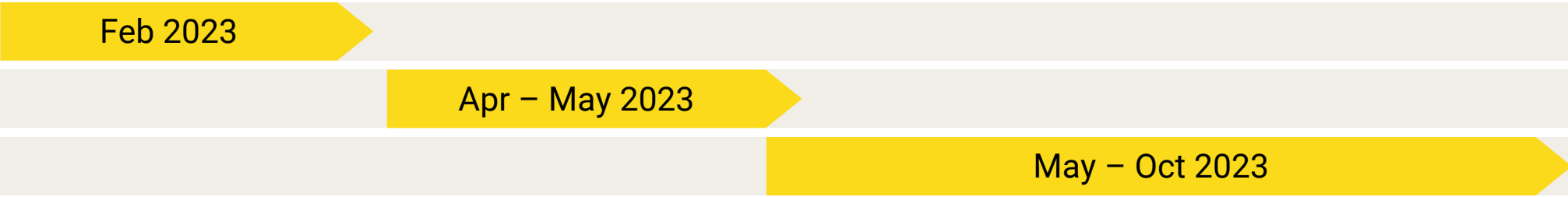
This session will give you an idea of what communities are already doing and give you a chance to speak to those involved.



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What's next?



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Community Transition Dialogues

April – May 2023

Purpose:

To support a group of 21 impacted communities across the wider Midlands region to identify a local opportunity and idea for development.

Format:

- Face-to-Face events in 21 communities
- Facilitated discussion on the key opportunities that each community sees for meeting the challenges in their area
- Case study examples of what is working elsewhere
- Prioritisation of needs, opportunities and ideas



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Community Activation Toolkit

May – October 2023

Purpose:

Help participating communities to turn their ideas, insights and actions into practical projects and realities.

Format:

- Communities will have ongoing support from Urban Foresight & The Wheel throughout this period for advice, guidance and signposting
- Communities will also be put in contact with other communities around the region who have previously carried out similar projects
- Each community will be supported to produce a project Toolkit [incl. Resource Maps; Project lifecycle; Funding plan; troubleshooting etc.]



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Community Activation Plans

October 2023

Purpose:

Showcase and celebrate the plans and projects developed by the communities involved.

Format:

- Online event
- Communities will showcase the planning toolkits they have established by presenting to each other
- Specific projects will be discussed in detail
- This session will offer final evaluations and feedback



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Our approach to helping these communities

We recognise that great work is already being done at a community level across Ireland. So how will our approach add to this?

- We are speaking to other entities also delivering support, such as SEAI, Irish Rural Link, the LEADER programme and Forestry Ireland.
- We are also in contact with local community development companies and county councils.
- Co-creating priority projects with communities
- Focusing on additionality and problem solving
- Creating peer learning networks
- Using real world case studies from other communities
- Creating toolkits which provide practical help to realise projects

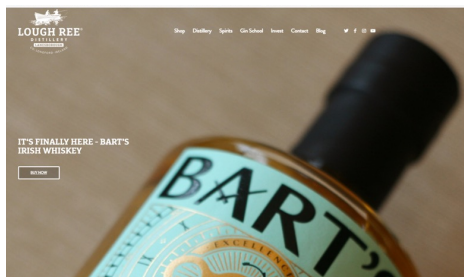


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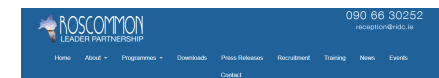


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Co. Roscommon LEADER Programme 2014-2020

The LEADER Programme 2014-2020 is financed by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and by the EU under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development - Europe investing in rural areas.

LEADER in Co. Roscommon - Applying for LEADER funding
The Co. Roscommon LEADER Programme 2014-2020 currently has funding available for projects across all Themes and Sub-Themes on both a rolling basis and targeted calls. If you have a project idea and would like to submit an [Expression of Interest](#) or discuss your idea further, please contact a LEADER Project Officer.

Co. Roscommon LEADER Transitional Programme 1 as Targeted Call for Projects 2021 (March 2021)
A new round of LEADER funding is now available under the LEADER Transitional Programme. [Click here](#) for press release and [click here](#) for further details on first targeted call for projects.

For Further Information
Further information on the Rural Development LEADER Programme 2014-2020 is available from:
The European Union <http://ec.europa.eu/rural-development/2014-2020/en/index.htm>
Dept. of Rural & Community Development <http://www.rdc.ie/>
PAM <http://www.comai.ie/leader/roscormons/LEADER/Support/LEADER.aspx>

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PANELIST'S AREAS OF WORK



THANK YOU!

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