



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

COLLECTIVE AWARENESS BUILDING

22 February 2023

#EMERGEMidlands



Stronger Charities.
Stronger Communities.

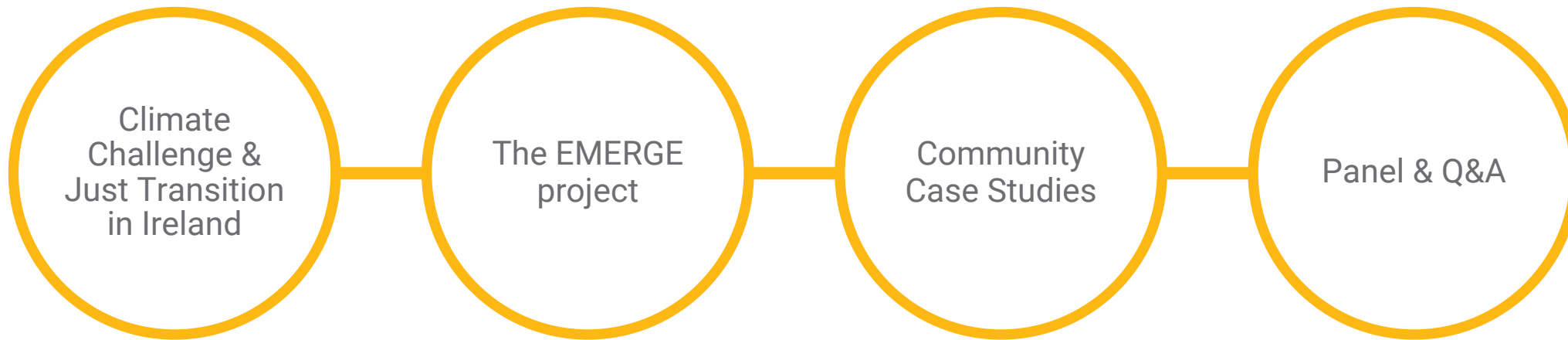


*Funded through the Just Transition
Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund*



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Agenda



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund



INTRODUCING YOUR SPEAKERS



**Dr Graham
Thrower**

Urban Foresight



**Johnny
Sheehan**

The Wheel



Stronger Charities.
Stronger Communities.



*Funded through the Just Transition
Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund*



INTRODUCING YOUR PANELLISTS

Valerie Duffy

Moore Community Hall (Case Study)

<https://www.facebook.com/moorecommunityoffice/>

Connor Carty

Galway Rural Development

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

Linda Kelly

St. Joseph's Community Centre / Kilcormac Development Association

<https://www.facebook.com/kilcormacda/>

Roisin Lennon

Offaly Local Development Company

<https://offalyldc.ie/>

Lyn Donnelly

The Pulse Hub / Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre

<https://www.facebook.com/ThePulseClubBallinasloe/>



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund



CLIMATE CHALLENGE AND JUST TRANSITION IN IRELAND

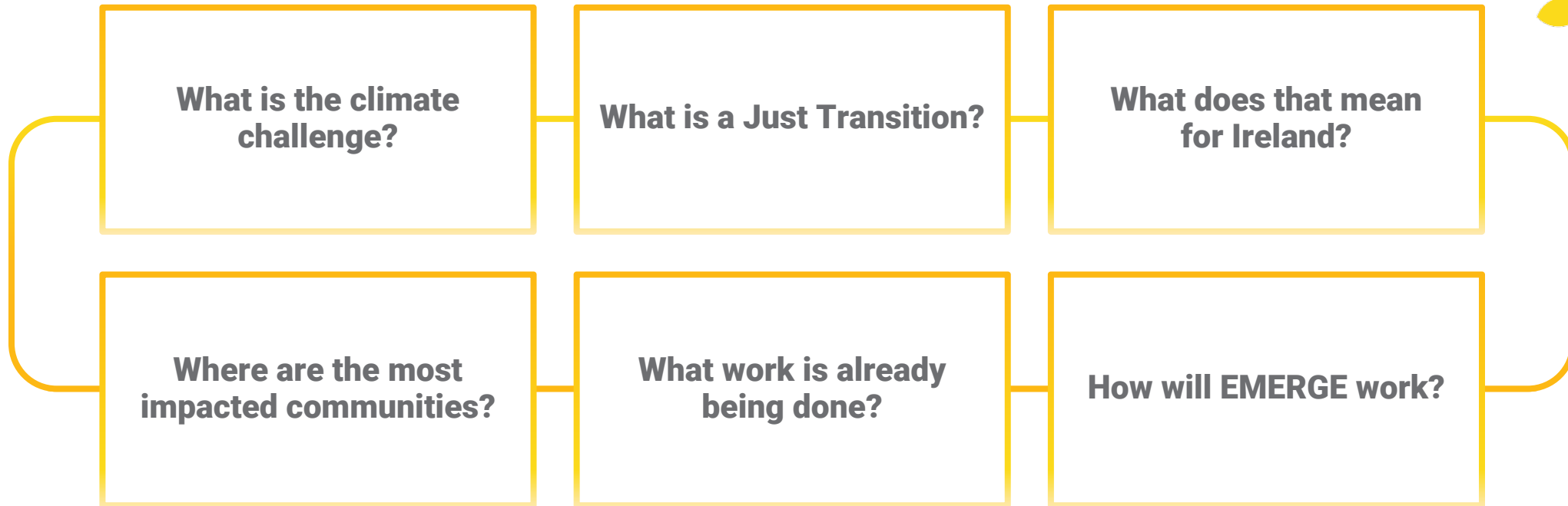
Urban Foresight



*Funded through the Just Transition
Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund*



Moving Ireland to a climate neutral economy



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund





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.



Stronger Charities.
Stronger Communities.



Funded through the Just Transition
Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund



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



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund





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.



Stronger Charities.
Stronger Communities.



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund



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

Sectoral Innovation and Job Creation

- Offaly County Council, through its latest LECP (Local Economic and Community Plan) prioritise attracting new investment and enable enterprise.
- Opened in 2014, the Ferbane Food Campus and Innovation Centre now houses 30 start-up food businesses and creating new investment and jobs.

Heritage Tourism and Community Energy

- Offaly County Council have a strong ambition to promote and develop industrial heritage assets, such as the Dalton Centre at the former ESB West Offaly Power Station.

Largescale Infrastructure and Innovation: Rhode Green Energy Park (RGEP)

- County Offaly Development Plan (2021-2027) prioritises supporting the RGEP to act as a base for renewable energy generation, innovation and job creation.



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund



How is the Just Transition being driven locally in East Galway?

Hidden Heartlands Tourism

- Draft County Galway Development Plan (CGDP) 2022 - 2028 aims to capitalise upon Ireland's 'Hidden Heartlands' brand and strategy.
- Manifested in places such as Portumna – supported by a €1.5m investment by Waterways Ireland to provide new greenway and blueway infrastructure to further attract tourists to the area.

Creating New Multi-Functional Hubs

- Draft CGDP 2022 - 2028 recognises the importance of establishing multi-functional hubs to enable economic diversification.
- Examples such as the The Pulse Hub in Ballinasloe to provide remote working facilities and improved digital connectivity.



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund

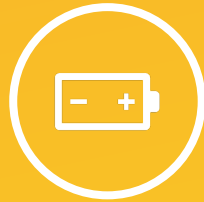


Driving the benefits of a Just Transition for Impacted Communities

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



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund



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



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund



THE EMERGE PROJECT?

The Wheel



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund



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



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund



We are working across these Counties & Communities



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund



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.

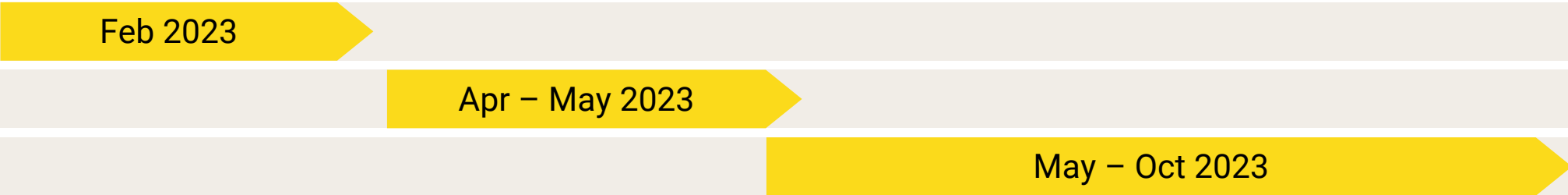
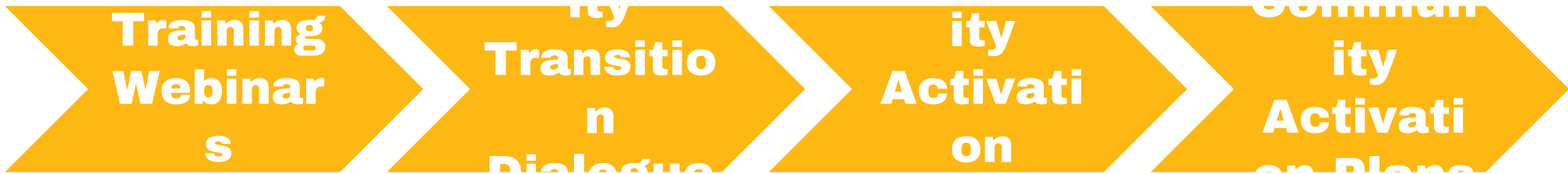
This session will give you an idea of what communities are already doing and give you a chance to speak to those involved.



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund



What's next?



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



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund



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.]



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund



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



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund





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



Stronger Charities.
Stronger Communities.



Funded through the Just Transition
Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund

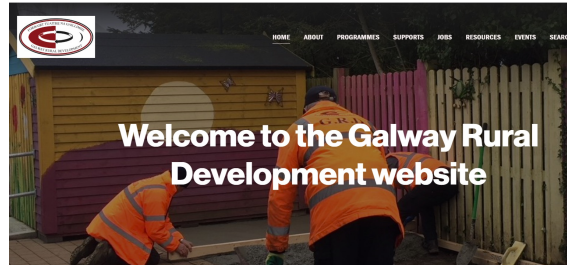




Valerie Duffy

Moore Community Hall (Case Study)

<https://www.facebook.com/moorecommunityoffice/>



Connor Carty

Galway Rural Development

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



Lyn Donnelly

The Pulse Hub

<https://www.facebook.com/ThePulseClubBallinasloe/>



Linda Kelly

St. Joseph's Community Centre /
Kilcormac Development
Association

<https://www.facebook.com/kilcormacda/>



Roisin Lennon

Offaly Local Development
Company

<https://offalyldc.ie/>

PANELIST'S AREAS OF WORK



THANK YOU!

#EMERGEMidlands



Funded through the Just Transition Fund and the Carbon Tax Fund

