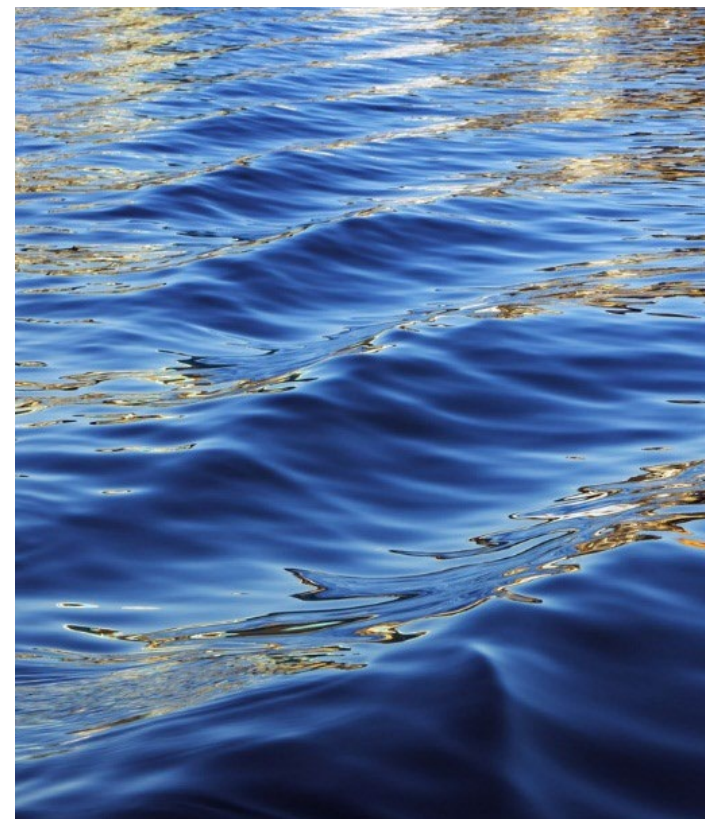




Phase 2: Community Climate Action Fund

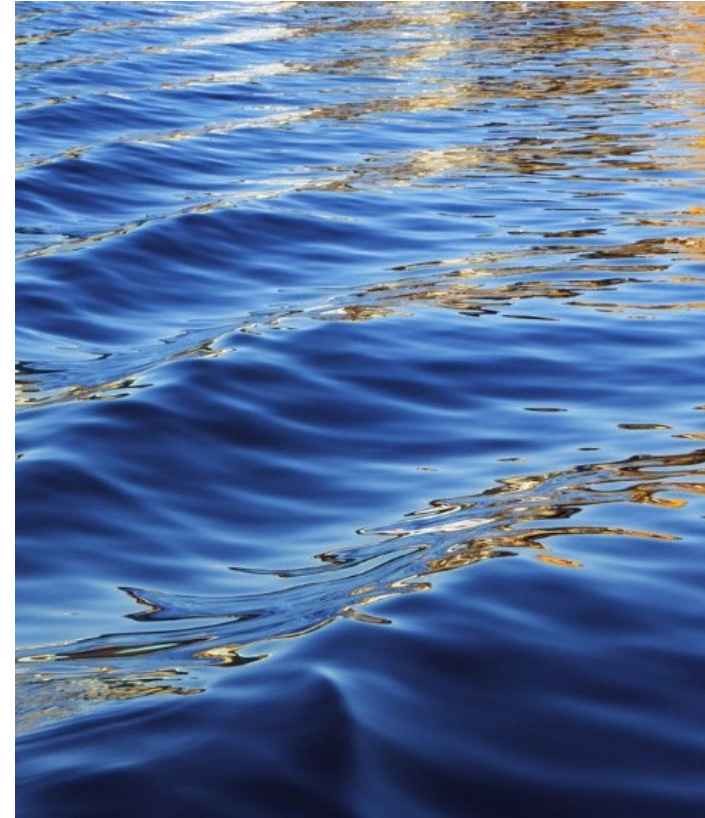
Fiona Kelly,
Community Climate Action Officer





Agenda

1. Background to Programme
2. Programme Objectives
3. Overview of Community Climate Action Fund
 - Strand 1: Building Low Carbon Communities
4. Eligibility
5. Project Themes
6. Evaluation
7. Application



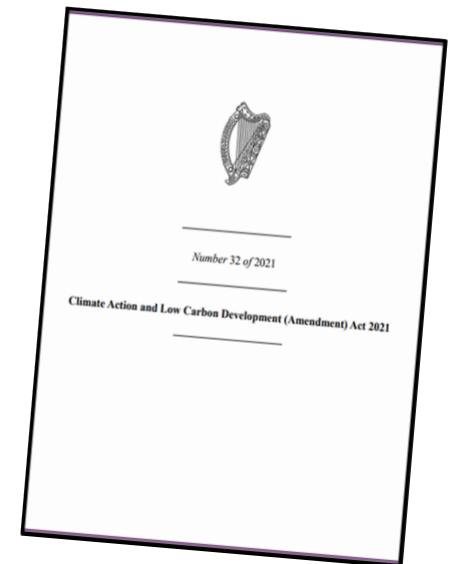
Background

The Climate Action & Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021

Places on a statutory basis a 'national climate objective', which commits to pursue and achieve no later than 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally-sustainable and climate-neutral economy

Climate Goals:

- *51% overall reduction in GHG emissions by 2030*
- *Climate neutral by 2050*



Community Climate Action Programme

Objectives

The Community Climate Action Programme is programme to support small and large, rural and urban communities to take climate action at a local level



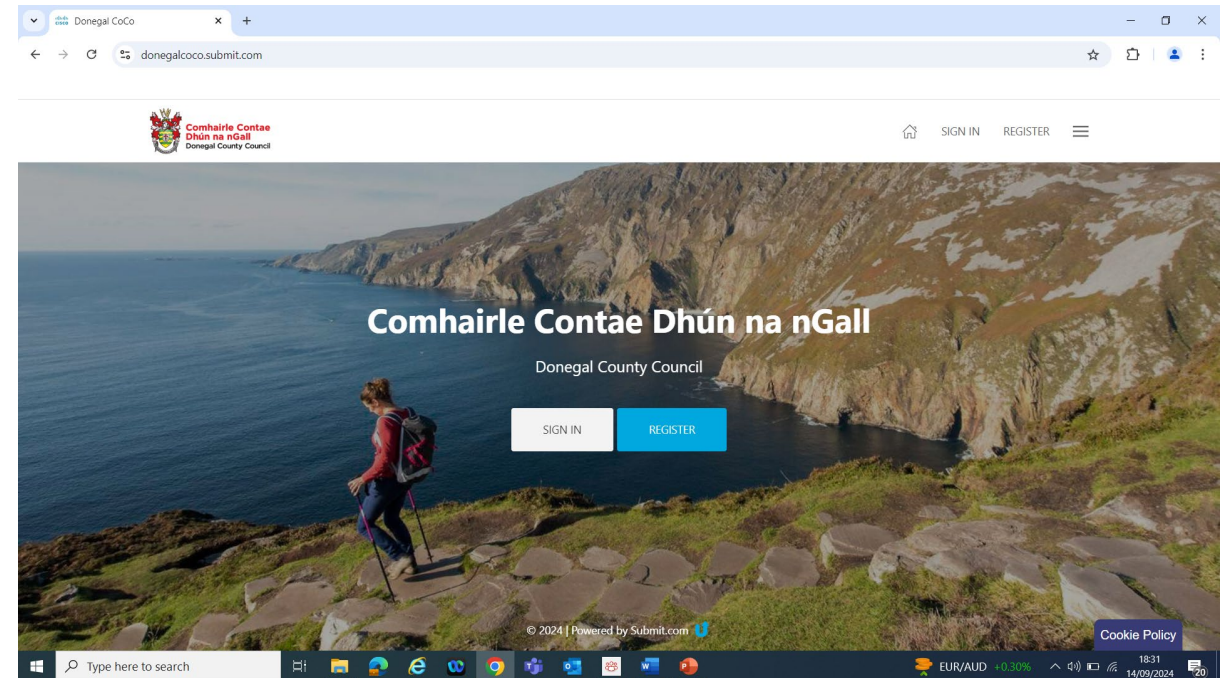
‘Shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in a coherent way to contribute to national climate and energy targets’

Phase 2:
Community Climate Action
Fund

Phase 2: Community Climate Action Fund

STRAND 1: Building Low Carbon Communities

- €699,000 allocated to Community Groups in Co. Donegal
- Online Application Form accessed through the Donegal County Council website
- Opening date: 28th October 2025
- Closing date: 22nd December 2025



What is the Community Climate Action Fund for?

Eligible projects are those which achieve direct climate actions through:

- Reducing greenhouse gases
- Increasing production or use of renewable energy
- Improving energy efficiency or climate resilience
- Nature based projects enhancing biodiversity
- Supporting the low carbon economy
- Providing innovative solutions to climate change



Strand 1: Community Climate Action Fund

Overview

- 100% project funding for vouched expenditure
- Open to community groups
- Direct climate action projects - capital expenditure items
(Education/capacity building projects are currently not eligible under this fund)
- Projects must be delivered within 18 months from the letter of offer

This is a competitive fund and we expect more project applications than the value of funding available

Community Climate Action Fund

Furthermore:

- The project must be in line with the aim/purpose of the fund
- Only one application per organisation may be submitted
- Costs submitted are for the sole purpose of implementing the project itself
- Option to prefund projects by 25% - on a case-by-case basis
- Projects are encouraged to cut across several themes and be included as part of one application

Who can apply?

Community Organisation Eligibility:

- Must be a **not-for-profit** organisation
- Must be located in **County Donegal**
- **Must be registered** with the PPN or connected with other collectives such as The Wheel, Tidy Towns and /or a community group with Articles of Association or a Constitution, which hold an AGM, and for which approved minutes are available.



Groups Not Eligible

- Private individuals
- Commercial undertakings (including sole traders)
- Schools
- National community and environmental organisations

Ineligible Costs include:

- Audits and feasibility studies costs
- Staffing and Training costs
- Operational Costs such as Travel, Banking, Legal costs

Project Sizes

Project Scale	Project Value
Small Scale Projects	Up to €20,000
Medium Scale Projects	€21,000 up to €50,000
Large Scale Projects	€50,000 up to €100,000

Project Themes



Ideally projects would involve more than one theme but this is not a requirement

Theme 1: Community/Energy

These projects aim to reduce the climate impact of buildings in communities by using less energy, utilising renewable energy and avoiding heat loss.

This can include:

- Community Building Retrofits eg. Windows & doors, insulation etc.
- Solar PV Systems
- Heat Pumps
- LED lighting
- Energy Efficiency Measures eg. Smart Controls



Theme 2: Travel

Projects which contribute to emissions reductions to travel

This can include:

- Community Electric Vehicle Charging Points
- Bike Parking and Shelters
- Improving access to cycle ways
- Bike repair stands
- Active travel routes



Theme 3: Food and Waste

Projects that reduce food waste and promote locally grown/sourced food and food security

This can include:

- Community gardens and orchards
- Polytunnels and greenhouses
- Allotments
- Food markets
- Food banks



Theme 4: Shopping & Recycling

Projects of interest under this theme would increase the variety and number of recycling facilities in the local community and initiatives aimed at reducing, reusing, recycling and repairing to support the circular economy

This can include:

- Community repair hubs
- Upcycling projects
- Swap shops
- Books/musical instruments library
- Water filling stations
- Elimination of single use items



Theme 5: Local Climate & Environmental Action

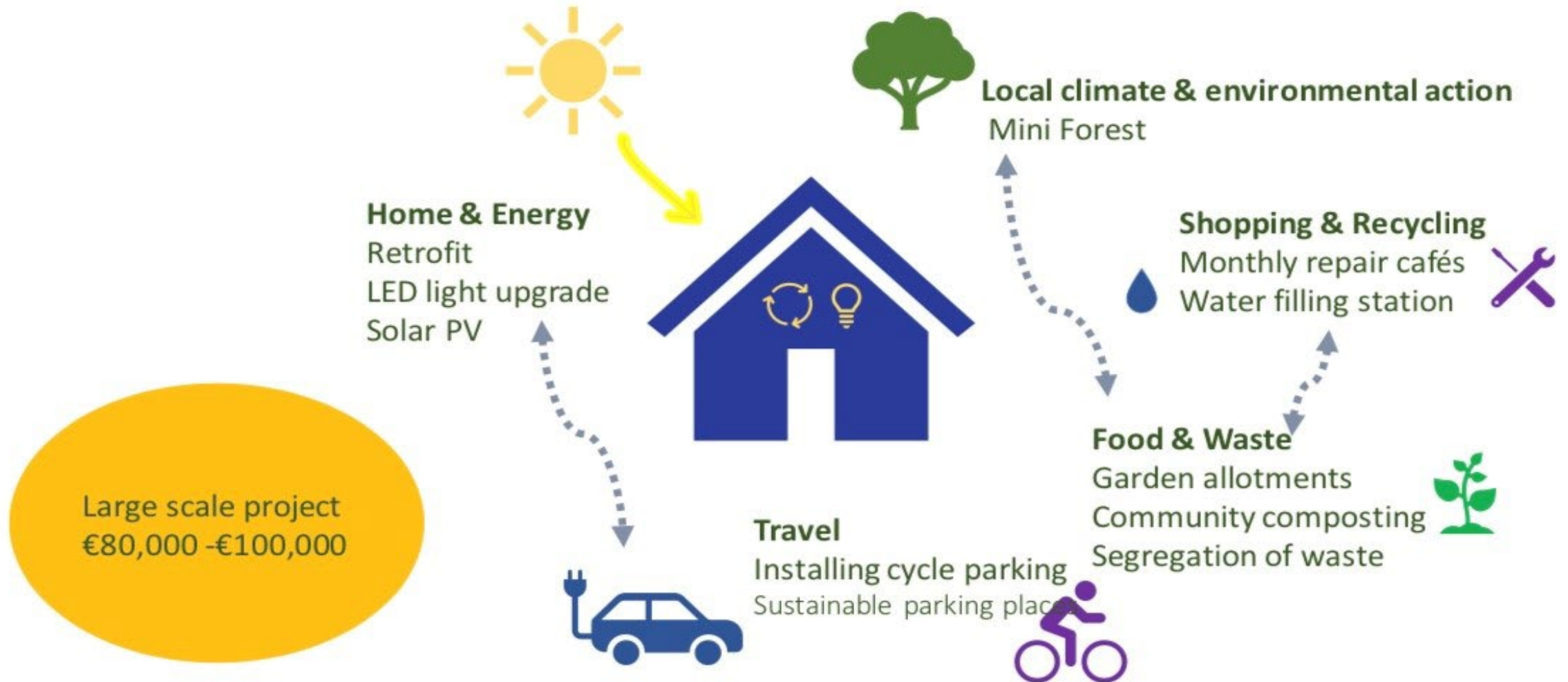
We are interested in projects that take a holistic approach to managing the local environment to support climate action and biodiversity

This can include for example:

- Mini forests
- Dispersed orchards
- Pollinator projects
- Rainwater harvesting
- Wildlife habitats eg. Bird and Bat Boxes
- Nature based solutions
- Climate resilience projects



Example: Community group building and grounds



Evaluation Process

1. Evaluation



All projects will be evaluated on their own merits against the following criteria to ascertain those that will support the programme objective which is to;

'Shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in a coherent way to contribute to national climate and energy targets'.

Projects should aim to achieve reasonable emission reductions/energy efficiency improvements, build capacity within local communities on climate action and biodiversity and maximise community gain

Selection Criteria

1. Relevance and Impact
2. Innovation and Scalability
3. Value for Money
4. Achievability
5. Partnership Approach
6. Governance Arrangements

All applications will be reviewed and assessed by a DCC evaluation committee against the selection criteria to determine that the project is suitable for funding.

Evaluation Process

2. Selection:

Following evaluation, the final selection of projects may take account of:

- The geographical distribution of projects
- The desirability to fund a variety of different projects across multiple themes
- The contribution of projects to the climate action objectives of the local authority

Selected projects will be put forward to the Department for approval

3. Approval:

The Minister for the Department of the Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) will decide what projects are approved and any specific conditions of funding.

Phase 2: Approximate Timelines

2025 - 2027



October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Application Window			Evaluation & Selection		Evaluation by DCEE		18 Months Completion (October 2027)	
Plan, cost, complete & submit Application Form by December 22 nd 2025			By DCC Evaluation Committee		Approval of projects		Letter of Offer if successful	

Build the Sustainable Community You Want!

- Discuss with your community group to find the best ideas in the community
- Discover what is needed the most
- What local groups already do these projects?
- Who will take the lead on the project?
- Who should you collaborate with?
- Include as many people as possible in the community and ensure as many as possible benefit from your plans!
- Try to put in an application that covers all the themes and connects them
- Contact the Community Climate Action Officer to discuss your project



Application Form

Phase 2: Application Form – Online Form

- Online Application Form accessed through the Donegal County Council website: [CCAF Online application](#)

Section 1: Details on your group/organisation

- Who, What, Where etc.

• Section 2: Project Details

- Description of the project, Project Costs, procurement details, climate and environmental benefits of the project.

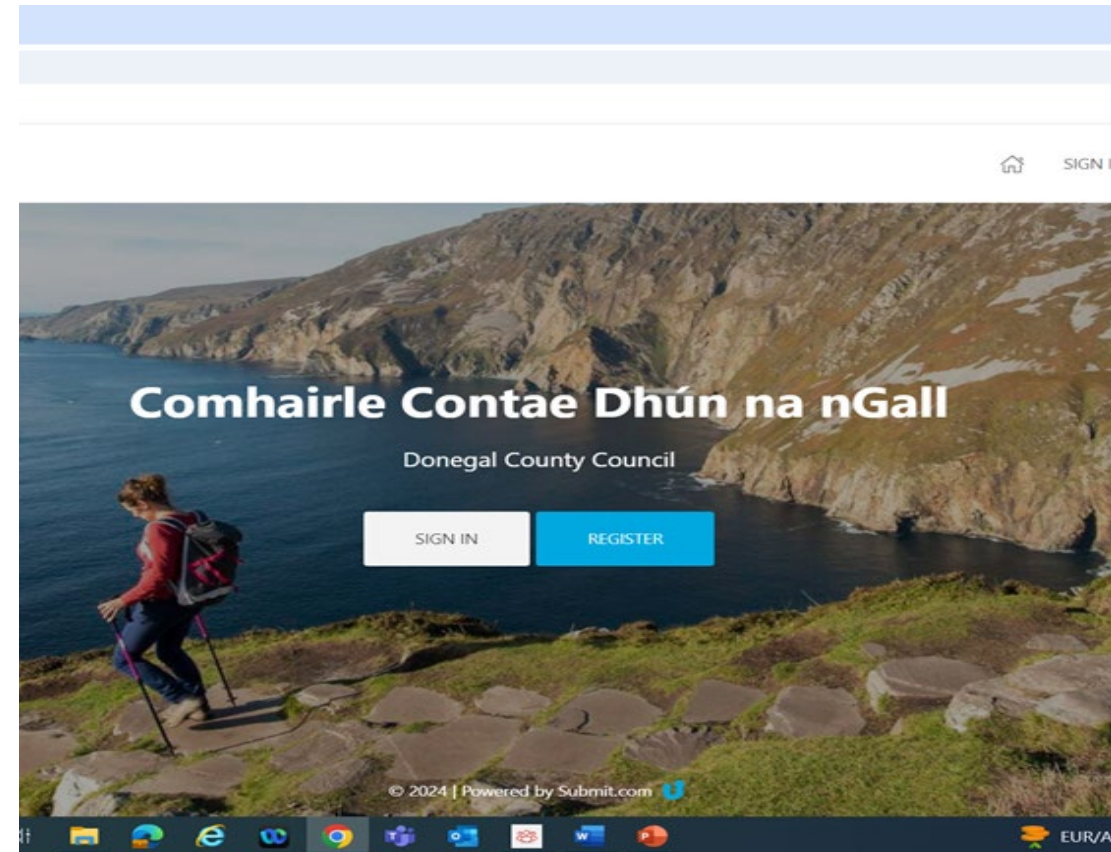
• Section 3: State Aid Questionnaire

- Determine if the funding is State Aid (could it distort competition and affect trade. If yes, list all other De Minimis state aid granted within the past 3 fiscal years).

• Section 4: Authorisation and Statutory Consents

- Ownership, Planning consents for land/buildings for work required.

• Section 5: Declaration



Application process

- Only one application per organisation may be submitted
- Can leverage with other funding sources, provided it's not duplicate funding. e.g. SEAI, LEADER, Pobal, Tidy Towns, Town and Village Enhancement etc.
- 25% prefund option availability
- Funding only available for costs incurred after project selection

Supporting Documentation

- **Organisation/Groups Governance arrangements**

Terms of reference, constitution, AGM minutes, Charitable status no., Tax Reference No., PPN Registration No., Tax clearance access no.

- **Partnerships**

Letters of support

- **Quotes**

Minimum of 3 quotes for materials, equipment, goods

- **Consents/permissions**

Confirmation of ownership or 5-year lease, planning regulatory permissions, rights of access

- **De-minimus self-declaration, if the group answered yes to State Aid**

What is De Minimus State Aid?

De Minimus Aid is small amounts of state aid given to an undertaking cannot exceed €300,000 over 3 fiscal years.

De Minimus: Aid deemed so small that it doesn't distort competition/trade between member states

- 3 Questions in Application Form: Q30-Q32

1. Does the funding confer an advantage on one or more undertaking over others?
2. Does this funding distort or have the potential to distort competition?
3. Does the awarding of this funding have the potential to affect Trade between EU Member states?

If your group answers 'Yes' to all 3 questions you must sign the De Minimus Self-Declaration and list all other De Minimus state aid granted within the past 3 fiscal years.

Further Information

Contact: Fiona Kelly, Community Climate Action Officer

Email: climateactionfund@donegalcoco.ie

Application Form: [Phase 2: CCAF Online application](#)

For more information and guidance document please visit:
www.donegalcoco.ie (Climate Action)



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



**WE'RE
TAKING
CLIMATE
ACTION**



Thank You

