Towards Climate Justice

a strategy guide for the community sector in responding to climate change

Community Workers' Co-operative

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Towards Climate Justice: a strategy guide for the community sector in responding to climate change

Part of the CWC series of strategy guides

This strategy guide is part of a series published by the Community Workers' Co-operative designed to inform and engage community workers and the community sector.

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Message from Mary Robinson

I am happy to send my good wishes to the Community Workers' Cooperative at the launch of their report Towards Climate Justice: a strategy guide for the community sector in responding to climate change, which was prepared for the Environmental Protection Agency. Initiatives such as this will help to bring home the reality of climate justice to the public and will encourage debate about the best ways to combat the harmful effects of climate change.

The report analyses the roles of different actors in addressing climate justice. It places particular emphasis on the role that the community sector can play, and the partners which it must work with to highlight environmental issues. The report's emphasis on the fact that policies should take full account of the effects of climate change on vulnerable sections of society is one which I strongly support and which is the basis of my work in the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice.

Communities have a valuable role to play in addressing climate change. Eleanor Roosevelt said that human rights begin "in small places, close to home". The same can be said for the search for climate justice. The report by the Community Workers' Cooperative makes a valuable contribution to this vital cause.

Mary Robinson
President, Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice

Executive Summary

It is becoming increasingly clear that climate change is having and will continue to have a profound effect on all aspects of human life. What is also becoming clearer is that these effects will be felt most deeply by those who are living in poverty and with social exclusion and inequality. These are the people and communities that are traditionally least responsible for climate change but they are also the people and communities with the least ability to adapt and respond to the effects of climate change.

The approach taken in this report was designed to build a process of engagement between the community sector and the issue of climate change. It included: 1) desk research and literature review; and participative workshops based around discussions of different socio-economic scenarios (developed for this process) associated with climate change in Ireland.

This report argues that the community sector has a unique contribution to make in relation to climate change in Ireland. It outlines a three-fold argument directed at the community sector outlining why it needs to engage in climate change in terms of: 1) raising awareness within communities; 2) up-skilling of the communities with which it works; and 3) ensuring that policy development in this area takes account of the fact that climate change policies are likely to have a disproportionate impact on those already struggling with poverty and disadvantage.

The report outlines the relatively new area of climate justice and suggests that this is a useful framework within which to progress the climate change agenda within the sector. This report also outlines the key international and policy instruments governing the Irish response to climate change, arguing that the integration of social policies with environmental policies is clearly an aspiration in Irish sustainable development policy but that this gap presents a significant opportunity for the community sector to articulate concrete proposals for how social/environmental synergies may be developed. The report presents a number of strategies that might be used to encourage the community sector to engage with climate change, both within their own communities and in wider policy development arenas.

Key Recommendations

- Social vulnerability: Undertake a study on social vulnerability to understand the distributional effects of climate change. Such information should support the development of national climate change adaption policy. It should also assist communities in developing a range of climate change responses.

- Policy: The community sector should strive to ensure that sustainable development/climate change policy takes full account of the vulnerability of certain sections of society and mitigates the effects of policy on these individuals, groups and communities.

- Awareness and responses to climate change: The community sector is uniquely positioned to begin to develop awareness of climate change. It is recommended that the state establish support mechanisms which community groups may access to this end.

- Scenario development: Utilise the socio-economic scenario and workshop approach to enable community sector engage further with the possible ranges of climate influenced futures Climate justice: Explore what climate justice will mean in an Irish context and make it central to the policy approach of State agencies/bodies and their programmes that facilitate community development, including the Local and Community Development Programme, the Family Support Programme, RAPID, national Networks.

- Development of strategic alliances between the community sector and the environmental in order to strengthen the capacity of both to effectively deal with environmental issues and build a just and sustainable society for all.

Acknowledgements

The Community Workers' Co-operative (CWC) would like to acknowledge the work and commitment of the members of the Community Work Approaches to Sustainable Development Subgroup that oversaw this project: Seán Regan (Convener), Damien Walshe, Armin Krautgasser and Ann Irwin. The CWC would like to acknowledge Tadhg O'Mahony for his work in developing the scenarios, facilitating the workshops and writing the methodology section of this report. The CWC would also like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Kevin Murphy for writing the report and working with us to bring the project to completion. Thanks also to Ann Irwin for her work in writing parts of the report, to Jamie Gorman for his additions, to Oonagh McArdle and Ciara Bradley for their work in editing the report and to Elva O'Callaghan and Deirdre Massey for proof reading the final document. Finally the CWC would like to thank the EPA, and in particular Dr Margaret Desmond, for her unerring support of the project, her practical suggestions to improve this report and her contribution to the policy section.

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Section One
Introduction & Methodology

1.1 Introduction

We are currently experiencing an environmental and resource crisis which places human development at a crossroads. The impacts and consequences of climate change, energy security and resource scarcity are becoming increasingly visible and are being exacerbated by economic recession. It is now generally acknowledged that these impacts will be most profoundly felt by those experiencing poverty, social exclusion and inequality (Murphy, 2011).

For that reason, in 2008, the CWC Community Work Approaches to Sustainable Development Subgroup[1] undertook a project funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Climate Change Research Programme (CCRP). The project had twin aims. The first was to encourage and support those in the community sector to engage with climate change and to begin to work towards climate justice. The second was to make the case to policy makers to take the community sector, and the issues it represents, into account in the design and implementation of climate change and related policies.

The output of the project, Towards Climate Justice: a strategy guide for the community sector in responding to climate change highlights the need to move towards climate justice, where the specific needs of those living with poverty, inequality and social exclusion are taken into account when developing climate and sustainable development policy. This project also highlights the unique potential of the community sector, particularly that element of the community sector engaged in community work (a) in ensuring that the voice of the most marginalised individuals and communities are heard at policy level, and (b) in beginning the process of developing responses to what are now considered to be the inevitable consequences of climate change.

In order to do that, Towards Climate Justice endeavours to provide basic information on climate change, climate justice and strategies for how the community sector might engage with responding to climate change.

Climate justice is a growing movement around the world. Climate justice acknowledges that climate change both highlights and exacerbates the gulf in equality. It seeks to link human rights and development to achieve a human-centred approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its resolution equitably and fairly[2]. The principles of climate justice include:

- Respect for and protection of human rights
- The equitable sharing of benefits and burdens
- Harnessing the transformative power of education and research
- Ensuring that decisions on climate change are transparent and accountable
- Highlight the gender dimension

According to former President Mary Robinson, founder of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice, the traditional emphasis on environmental policy is too narrow, "I feel we've got the debate on climate change completely wrong. The leadership to date has been provided by environmentalists and scientists and very good economists like Nicholas Stern. But there has been no human-centred approach to the issue...to effectively address climate change, we need the participation of all people everywhere with fair, accountable, transparent, and corruption-free procedures...relations between peoples in different parts of the world must change profoundly."[3]

It is increasingly acknowledged that those least responsible for climate change will experience the greatest impacts and have least resources to respond (Baker, 2006). Climate Justice is therefore of significance to the community sector as it provides a framework for articulating the legitimate concerns that many in the community sector share in relation to the climate change debate. These concerns are further developed in Section Three of this document.

"Towards Climate Justice endeavours to provide basic information on climate change, climate justice and strategies for how the community sector might engage with responding to climate change."

1 - CWC Community Work Approaches to Sustainable Development Subgroup was established in 2008 to explore how community groups can engage with issues relating to climate change.
2 - http://www.mrfcj.org/about
3 - Irish Times Wednesday, September 15, 2010

1.2 Outline of Sections

Section One of this report introduces the objectives of the project and outlines the methodology used in this project.

In Section Two a summary of the scenarios used as a basis for the workshops are outlined and a synopsis of the workshop discussions are presented.

Section Three outlines some basic information in relation to climate change and the impacts climate change is likely to have and explores a number of the reasons why the community sector should begin to engage with climate change.

Section Four explores international and national climate change and sustainable development policy frameworks.

Section Five presents a number of strategies that might be used by community organisations and the community sector to begin to engage with the climate change agenda, as well as a number of recommendations for the community sector and the wider climate change policy community.

1.3 Methodology

The methodology used was designed with the aim of building a process of engagement between the community sector and the issue of climate change. It included both 1) desk research and literature review and 2) participative workshops based around discussion of different socio-economic scenarios associated with climate change in Ireland.

Desk research and literature review

A literature review of Irish and international literature relating to climate change and the community sector was undertaken. The literature review was used to support the identification of potential impacts of climate change on the community sector and those that are represented by the sector, and opportunities for adaptation and mitigation within the sector. This process revealed multi-scale and multi-dimensional problems concerning development, equity and sustainability, vulnerability, impacts, mitigation and not least, the challenges faced by those experiencing marginalisation and social exclusion and the groups they are represented by.

Participative workshops

Three participative workshops were held in order to ascertain the level of understanding and the experience within the sector of issues relating to climate change. The scenarios, outlined below, were communicated to participants via email in advance. Within the workshops, these scenarios were used in a deliberative process to explore the community perspective on potential threats, opportunities and responses to the scenarios. The workshops were held in Cork, Galway and Dublin with approximately 80 participants mainly from the community sector but also from the environmental sector attended. Participants had diverse levels of awareness and knowledge of issues relating to climate change.

Developing climate change scenarios for discussion

Based on the findings from the literature review four socio-economic scenarios using short, medium and long-term climate change emissions scenarios with a horizon to 2050 were constructed in the Irish context.

The scenarios developed were used as the basis for discussion in the workshops. In its 50-year history, scenario analysis has been employed in a variety of sectors and disciplines including climate change and community planning. It has gained much use in environmental analysis and is applied in both scientific and strategy driven inquiry (Alcamo, 2008). Public participation is gaining greater acceptance in environmental assessment and policy-making processes in Europe. Using scenarios can be employed as a method to achieve this participation (Kok et al., 2007).Scenarios can be used in a policy/strategy context for:

- communication of complex issues
- raising awareness,
- eliciting responses, and
- strategic thinking.

Scenario analysis is of particular use with climate change and sustainability issues. The scenarios developed for this project were used as a learning tool that allowed the participant to explore the uncertain future and begin the process of developing and empowering responses.

Scenarios of the economic and social consequences of climate change were produced by the International Institute of European Affairs (IIEA) (O'Mahony, 2008). These scenarios served as a framework for the project but were modified in keeping with the context and purpose of the study and the communication guidance on climate change provided by Moser and Dilling (2007). The possibility of down-scaling the scenarios in the Special Report on Emission Scenarios (SRES) (Nakicenovic et al., 2000) was explored but as Kok et al (2006) point out, this can prove problematic and was not pursued by the research team.

The scenarios used were constructed using guidance available in the literature including Postma and Liebl, (2005), Alcamo (2008), Kelly et al, (2004), based on the plausible evolution of driving forces affecting the 'strategic question' (or issue of the exercise).

"It is increasingly acknowledged that those least responsible for climate change will experience the greatest impacts and have least resources to respond"

Section Two

Scenarios & Workshop Discussions

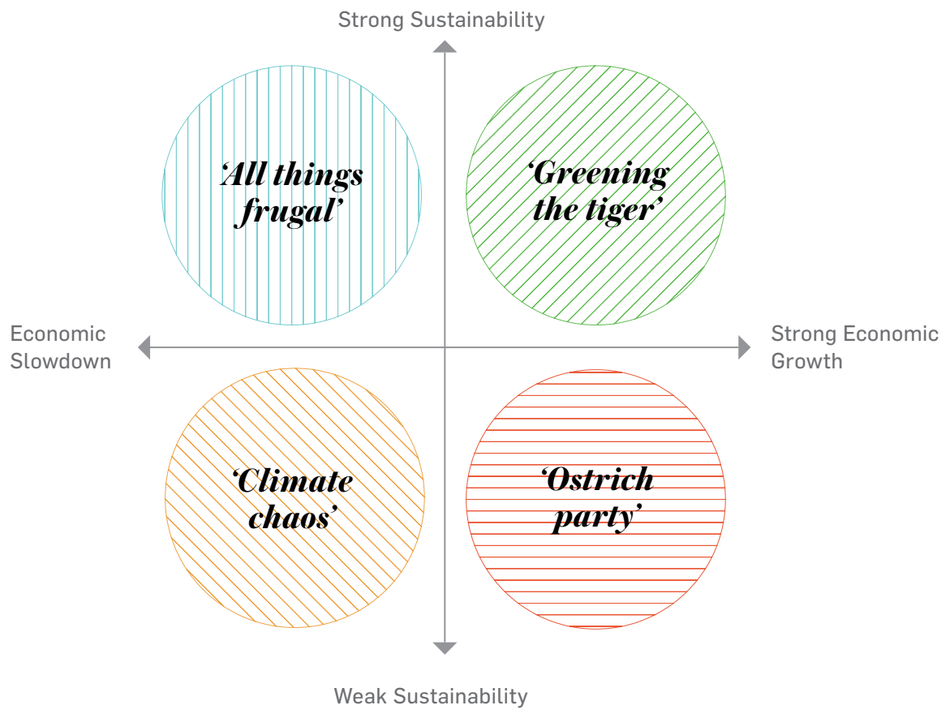
2.1 Introduction

This section of the report outlines a summary of the scenarios that were used as a basis for discussion in the workshops organised as a key part of the project. It then presents a synopsis of the workshop discussion.

2.2 Scenarios of Climate Change in Ireland

As outlined above, the scenarios developed for this project were used as a learning tool that allowed participants to explore the uncertain future and begin the process of developing and empowering responses. The scenarios developed are not predictions. Rather they are descriptions of plausible future worlds that highlight threats and opportunities. The aim is to prepare responses that work well under all future conditions. The scenarios are challenging. They are neither good nor bad, but present elements of both. By looking at these potential outcomes we can move towards our desirable future and explore what actions are necessary in the short and medium-term to deliver desirable outcomes.

Scenarios to describe the social impact of the climate change issue in Ireland are created by using a matrix with two key uncertainties: sustainability (strong and weak) and economic growth(strong and slowdown) which describe the different directions of how the future world may unfold up to 2050. The scenarios used in this project are summarised below.



1

Scenario 1. ‘Greening the tiger’

In a world of strong economic growth, the pursuit of sustainable development, including social justice and environmental protection, are given high priority..

A cultural shift has taken hold; society has realigned its priorities. The world that evolves through to 2050 is one of continued robust economic growth allied to strong policy for sustainability. The economic crisis of the 2010s is replaced by a new robust economic growth through the principles of sustainability. Financial markets are regulated and social well-being is prioritised over GDP. This sustainable economic growth provides many employment opportunities in the new economy, from technology development and renewable energy to tourism and local agriculture.

Despite the new UNFCCC global agreement that takes the threat of climate change seriously, changes in the climate and environment are increasingly visible. Severe storms are more common-place. In Ireland floods have become more common in coastal towns and cities and the impact on vulnerable communities has presented itself, with many premature deaths in hot summers. Adaptation is given a high priority in Ireland, along with reducing emissions.

Ireland’s mammoth task in reducing its emissions sufficiently is supported by a new institutional framework. Proposed government supports, incentives and regulation are widely consulted with stakeholders through the new partnership known as the Climate Change Commission. Ireland decides to align itself at the front of the growth in ‘green industries’. Water, food and energy and the natural environment are protected through strong legislative support. Charging systems are used to induce behavioural change. Employment levels are high, but the long-term unemployed find it difficult to gain a livelihood. Stress, anxiety and mental health become of high concern among those in poverty.

The availability of funds and commitment to social justice sees poverty contract. Social equity is top of the agenda, both for the indigenous population and the wave of migration to Ireland from those simply seeking a better life. Localised solutions to social and environmental problems are sought. Powers are devolved to local level and in Ireland the community sector is embraced as a transformative force. The approach to governance seeks to empower the community and the individual. Democratic participation is given high regard. This approach sets up Ireland’s future.

2

Scenario 2. ‘All things frugal’

A high priority placed on sustainability, has been maintained in a world of economic slowdown...

The world up to 2050, although making some recovery, does not return to a path of high economic growth. Strong policies on sustainability have focused governments on moving away from the boom and bust economic cycles of the early 20th century. The realities of climate change have focused Ireland and the world on social and environmental justice.

In Ireland, weather patterns have altered and poverty has not been eradicated. Flooding becomes a constant feature of winter in the north and west, with rivers bursting banks and inundating the flood plains in the south, while serious drought and water shortage in the east has occurred every five or six years. Heat waves have had significant health impacts. The pressures of climate change and resource scarcity mean that tackling social ills seems to be about preventing the situation from getting worse. However, the community sector has made significant inroads in using community programmes to meet challenges, though obtaining funding for this work is problematic. Central government has tried to help this process by devolving powers to local level and cooperating with stakeholders.

Although population growth has been weak in Ireland, the influx of refugees has placed an additional cost on public services; health and welfare are consuming a large proportion of national funds. The price of food has increased considerably, as failed crops combine with more mouths to feed. Energy prices have increased, and efficiency is the by-word.

Ireland has tried to minimise the impact of price increases, particularly on its most vulnerable groups. More families are caught in a potential poverty spiral and means-testing is the norm. There is difficulty funding universal welfare. State borrowing has been significantly increased to meet the shortfall. The marginalised and the vulnerable in Irish society have become quite politicised about the issue of climate change and emissions, as the poor feel the brunt of the impacts.

3

Scenario 3. ‘Ostrich Party’

The world of 2050 is enjoying a consistent level of robust economic growth. Sustainability, environmental and social justice are not priorities. Climate change has been given less urgency and commitment...

The world of 2050 is enjoying a consistent level of robust economic growth developed out of turbulent times in the early part of the century. The all-consuming pursuit of this growth has weakened the response to climate change despite the fact that the impacts of climate change are catastrophic in some regions. International climate change agreements are weak and ineffective. Ireland has to purchase emissions credits to make up its consistent shortfall in reduction targets.

The impacts of adverse weather, food insecurity and poverty are obvious in Ireland, though prosperity has ensured that welfare payments are available and the privatised health service has priced many out of health care. Increases in food, housing and energy costs are widening the gap of inequality. The poverty trap is very real, and social exclusion has increased. Training and education is the preserve of wealthy elites who service Ireland’s gilded technology industries.
The climate continues to change. Summers are hot and heat waves are a regular occurrence. Many diseases and cancers are on the increase with poorer sections of the population most vulnerable. Natural resources such as energy, water, land and food are becoming scarce as the voracious appetite of the world’s consumerist economy eats up whatever can be extracted. Ireland’s relative wealth means the nation can trade in resources, but in other regions wars over natural resources have become common. This chaotic world gives lip-service to human rights.

Energy costs have increased significantly, as a peak in oil production coincides with hungry energy demand. The crunch is a reality for the poor in developing countries and in Ireland where spatial planning has necessitated the use of the private car, but this cannot be afforded by the poor. Nuclear power has been developed in Ireland, as in the EU and North America.

Deprivation and social unrest have combined in an unequal society with a weak community spirit. Crime has worsened in the towns and cities. Stress, anxiety and mental health problems are on the rise, particularly in poorer communities. Recreation options are limited. The population have been disenfranchised and disempowered by a highly centralised governance and apathy to social conditions.

4

Scenario 4. ‘Climate chaos’

The world of 2050 has experienced consistently stagnant economic growth. A low priority has been placed on climate change, while sustainability and social justice are swept aside.

It is a chaotic world where individuals must fight for survival. Economic slowdown has deflected attention away from climate change, social justice and equality. Global agreements to reduce GHG emissions slip down the priority list. Terrorist attacks and wars have disrupted food and energy supplies worldwide. Water is the new gold; two billion are affected by water stress and war within and between nations has been a feature in the Middle East and Asia. The absence of effective controls on reducing global emissions has led to what appears to be runaway climate change. Almost 30% of species are extinct, the Amazon rainforest has collapsed and the natural environment is degraded worldwide from indiscriminate development. Poorer people in developing countries are forced to destroy natural habitats to eke out a living on the land.

The climate in Ireland has changed. Summers are hotter and the lack of appropriate insulation, particularly in older accommodation, means the heat is felt quickly. Heat waves, air quality and water quality problems lead to premature deaths amongst the most vulnerable. Cancer rates and respiratory illnesses have increased. Inadequate health care places a burden on those in poverty, which has increased despite the efforts of communities to build resilience. Consistent problems with annual flooding have destroyed many homes and placed many in poverty. The housing market prices people out of accommodation, living conditions are degraded and it is leaving many people vulnerable to poverty and climate change. Public services and attempts to tackle poverty are overwhelmed as the public finances are in poor shape. Racism has become a problem as migration of refugees has led to a perceived competition for resources. The population is disenfranchised and the disempowered have little access to decision-making.

Livelihoods are difficult to maintain in this world, less to go around means less opportunity and education and training has been highly targeted towards the high value added jobs. The health system is privatised, and expensive but the rise of community health initiatives offer support to those in poverty though in general social protection is limited and the long-term unemployed receive meager supports. Mental health supports are a priority of many communities as stress, anxiety and depression rise.

2.3
Findings from the Workshops

Workshop participants were divided into four groups and each discussed one of the scenarios. The discussion focused on how vulnerable groups would be particularly affected and how the community sector may play a part in responding to the challenges of climate change. Discussion also focused on the kinds of adaptation and mitigation policy programmes which would be relevant to the different scenarios. Each group presented the findings from their discussions which were recorded on flip-charts. This allowed wider discussion among the other groups. Key themes emerged from each presentation and the subsequent discussions among the groups as a whole. These included:

Contradictions and decision making

Participants at all workshops pointed to an inherent contradiction between economic growth and environmental sustainability. The view that society is currently 'locked into' an economic system that requires growth and resource depletion was frequently expressed. Participants also pointed to the need to broaden the democratic base for decision making. It was argued that achieving sustainability necessarily requires tackling vested interests including unions. In particular, it was argued that the community sector needs to become more involved in influencing decisions that affect the environment and marginalised groups. Participants argued that responses to the challenges posed by climate change are currently aimed at two levels – the individual and the state. Responses do not tend to be directed at the community level and this needs to be addressed. Climate change presents threats to community life while community based solutions will also be required. Finally, there was a general acceptance expressed that the 'future' is not as far away as previously thought. For example, insurance companies are cancelling or increasing premiums, while planning for future flooding is now receiving much more policy attention.

Awareness and Community Sector Involvement

The workshops highlighted differing levels of awareness among participants. Some had a high level of awareness while others were engaging for the first time. It was argued at all workshops that those who wish to transmit the environmental message will have to do so in an accessible fashion. It was argued that scientific discourse should be more comprehensible whenever possible. For example, while everyone understands the term 'rainfall', not all understand the term 'precipitation', though in this context, they mean the same thing. The opinion was also widely expressed that the community sector needed to engage more with the idea of climate change, including its impacts on the vulnerable and to take a leadership role within the community to spread the message. It was argued that the community sector needs to 'upskill' in the area of climate change literacy, and that there was a need to increase awareness of international processes such as UNFCCC COPS and their implications for the community sector. The opinion was also expressed that climate change offers the potential for altering the socio-economic status quo in a manner which tackles structural inequalities. In particular, it was argued that the links between social and environmental justice needed to be made. The point was made that:

'Local community projects are ideally suited to promote awareness and to explore creative ways of doing things'

Impact on the Disadvantaged

There was general awareness of the fact that the effects of climate change will disproportionately impact on those most marginalised and disadvantaged. This is a key concern for community workers as they work with those least likely to be able to adapt to the effects of climate change. There was an understanding that while higher income groups may have the resources to protect themselves lower income groups are more exposed to risk. The following views are typical of those expressed in this respect:

'The people that will be most profoundly affected are those without real power'

'The situation of those experiencing poverty, inequality and exclusion will be exacerbated by the effects of climate change'

'Climate change adds another dimension to disadvantage'

Another strong point coming across in this context was that climate change presents considerable physical and mental health risks, and that such risks are traditionally disproportionately felt by socially excluded groups.

Policy and Participation

Participants expressed the view that the vulnerability of particular groups needs to be reflected in policy design and implementation. Carbon taxes must be poverty proofed and the differences between urban and rural living taken into account. In relation to water, there was general consensus that in the face of increasing scarcity and the high costs associated with the management of water resources, there is a need to move towards water charging, though the most vulnerable groups need to be protected against the negative effects of such policies. Taxes needed to be linked to people's ability to pay and also to the availability of good services. While there needs to be a commitment to addressing these issues from the top, responses must also be built from the bottom up, via grass roots movements. Policy design should therefore be based on consultation with groups which will be most affected. Such consultation should be based on accessible language and on a respect for the dignity of vulnerable groups. It was noted that a National Adaptation Strategy will be developed and there is a need for the voice of the community sector to be heard at that table.

Sectoral and Potential Responses

With regards to sectoral issues it was noted that rural development policy needs to be more focused on the concept of sustainability. It was argued that Integrated Companies (Partnerships) operate all over the country and should provide grants for sustainable projects. It was also suggested that models of co-operatives, collectives and community ownership of assets could be developed at community level. Furthermore, the view was expressed that the community sector should seek to reconsider the promotion of older financial structures which were established to support communities in difficult times, for example, Credit Unions.

2.4
Conclusion

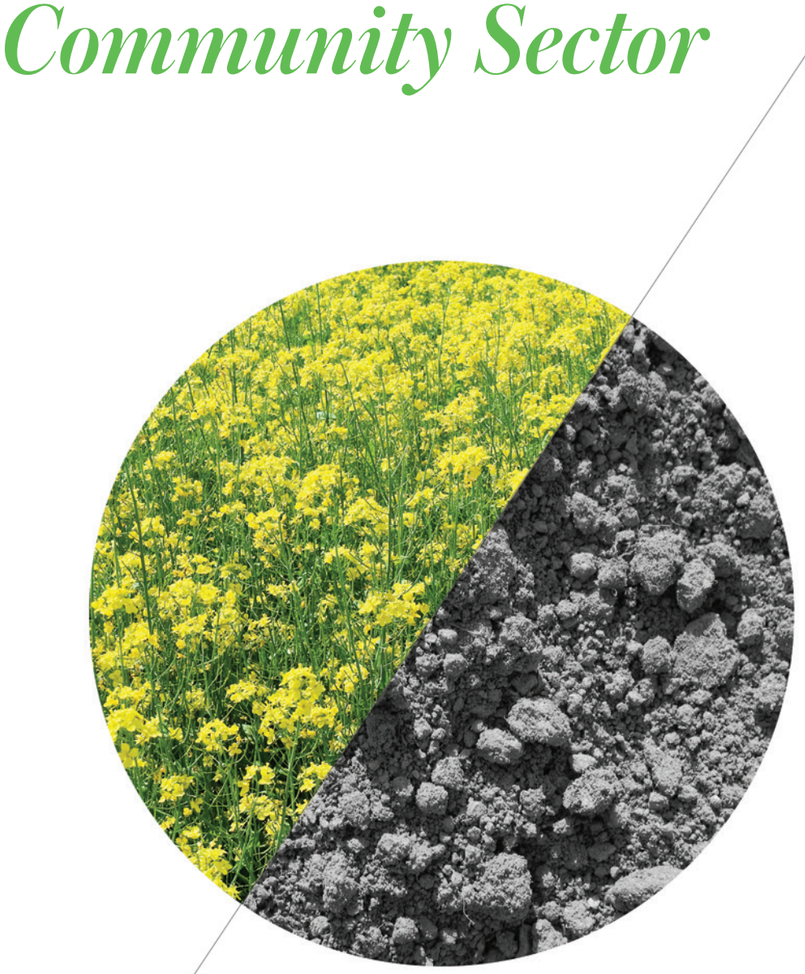
These workshops may be viewed as the community sector putting a 'toe in the water' with regard to how it might engage with the issue of climate change and its effects on marginalised groups. The workshops were aimed at raising awareness among participants, while they also sought to identify impediments to community sector engagement with the issues. They provided an opportunity for people from different backgrounds to share their understanding of a common problem and how this may be addressed.

The use of the scenarios as a basis for discussion was the principal component of the workshops and was a new approach to the majority of workshop participants. As outlined in the methodology section, the scenarios had been emailed to participants on registration so each had the opportunity to read the scenarios prior to the workshops. The scenarios challenged participants to imagine potential futures and to explore the implications for the community sector within the resented framework. The use of scenarios allowed for a different type of conversation and debate amongst participants that led to more concrete discussion of proposals and suggestions that fed into the recommendations in this strategy guide. The workshops proved to be a positive experience both for the organisers and the participants.

"Human-induced climate change is a global issue and is the primary environmental challenge of this century."

Section Three

Climate Change & The Community Sector



3.1 Introduction

This section of the report outlines some key information in relation to climate change and the impact it has and presents an exploration of why the community sector should engage in the issue.

3.2 Climate Change

Article 1 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate change as ''a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity, that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods" (UN, 1992:3). This definition therefore draws as clear distinction between changes to climate which may be attributable to human activity and those attributable to natural causes.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that "climate change refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified (by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer (UNFCC, 2011:7).

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that climate change refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified (by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties, and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer.

Human-induced climate change is a global issue and is the primary environmental challenge of this century. Increased levels of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide act to enhance the natural greenhouse effect and accelerate irreversible changes in the climate. What is distinctive about the current period of global warming, compared to previous cycles of climate change, is the extent and rate of change, which exceeds natural variation. As the earth gets warmer the damage from climate change will accelerate.[4] According to Dr. Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "Climate change is for real. We have just a small window of opportunity and it is closing rather rapidly. There is not a moment to lose" (cited in Lean, 2005).

The impacts of climate change present veryserious global risks and threaten the basic components of life, including health, access to water, food production and the use of land. In Ireland, the impacts of projected climate change include:

- Air temperature increase;
- Sea level rise;
- More intense storms and rainfall events ;
- Wetter winters in the West, drier summers in the South-East (McGrath et al, 2006:22-9).

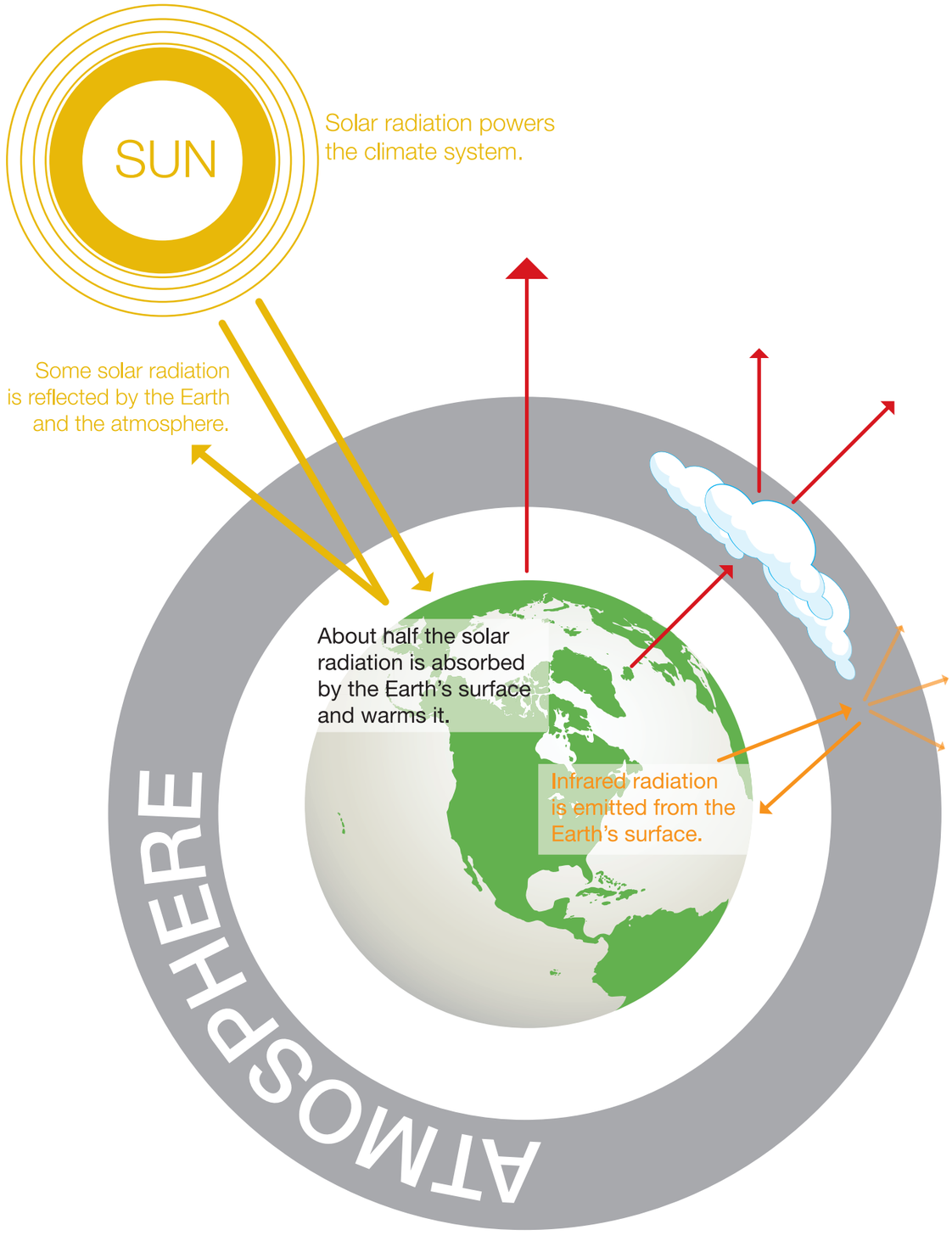
Impacts and consequences

All aspects of human welfare will be affected by climate change. Increases in global temperatures will change many aspects of day to day living. These changes are likely to be of a fundamental nature, requiring radical responses. In some cases there may be short-term positive effects for certain sectors such as agriculture in temperate climates. However, in the long-term climate change impacts are projected to be more profound with major implications.

Increases in global temperatures have, for example, resulted in greater incidences of heat waves. The European heat wave of 2003 that caused the death of over 50,000 people has been described as the 'deadliest weather event in modern European history' (Henson, 2006) and illustrates the disastrous potential of climate change. Rising global temperatures also impact on rainfall patterns and cause an increase in the number and frequency of extreme weather events such as Hurricane Katrina that landed at the U.S. Gulf Coast in 2005, displacing a million people, and killing almost 1,800.[5] The Indian Ocean is warming rapidly, and as a result the Sahel in Africa has lost much of its rainfall, causing famines in East Africa and in countries bordering on the Sahara (Flannery, 2006).

Rising temperatures may contribute to the increase of vector-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue fever and river blindness.[6] Climate change has also been linked to increased deterioration in air, water and food quality. Furthermore, food

4 - http://www.epa.ie/whatwedo/climate/



The Greenhouse Effect

Some of the infrared radiation passes through the atmosphere but most is absorbed and re-emitted in all directions by greenhouse gas molecules and clouds.

The effect of this is to warm the Earth's surface and the lower atmosphere.

borne infections such as salmonella and skin related problems, such as skin cancers, have been linked to climate change (McGrath et al 2006). It has also been noted that melting ice glaciers and rising sea levels lead to contamination of water tables presenting health risks (Bates et al, 2008). Threats to physical health can also create conditions for an increase in mental health problems also, and research suggests that a combination of climate change factors is already contributing to mental health problems (Fritze, et al, 2008).

Our food supply is threatened by climate change. Increased global temperatures threaten food supply as many crops will be unable to adjust to the new growing conditions. Increased temperatures means that while more crops may be able to grow in Northern Europe, there is likely to be a corresponding decline in crop yields in Africa. There is also likely to be changes in the type and range of crops being cultivated.
The impacts of climate change may lead to the displacement of populations, as people are forced to flee from their homes in order to gain access to food and water. In particular, predictions of an influx of climate change refugees from Africa to Europe in the coming decades have been made (Gough et al, 2008; Beddington in McDonald, 2010; Carnegie UK, 2009).[7] Closer to home, significant numbers of people were displaced, albeit mostly on a temporary basis, as a result of the floods in late 2009 and early 2010 in parts of Cork, Galway and other areas.

It is likely that climate change may also have a crippling effect on economies. The Stern Report strongly suggests that climate change will result in an average 5-10% loss in global GDP (Stern, 2006). For example, flood protection and the clean-up costs after extreme weather incidents will place significant burdens on economies. The total cost of the 2009 floods in Ireland, for example, was estimated to be €244m (Irish Insurance Federation, 2010). The rising cost of insurance due to the increased risks posed by climate change will also have major implications especially for those on low incomes. In 2010, the Irish Brokers Association stated that Irish homeowners will face insurance premium increases of up 20% due to flooding (Irish Times, 26/2/2010). In their report, Adaptation to Climate Change: Issues for Business (p. 3), Forfás, Ireland's policy advisory board for enterprise and science, examine the likely impact of climate changes on Irish businesses and state that, 'While not all business sectors will be equally impacted, these climate changes will impact on Irish businesses through changing markets, impacts on premises and processes, increased vulnerability of supply chains, and may have implications for investments, insurance costs and stakeholder reputation.'

3.3 Why is Climate Change an issue for the community sector?

There a number of arguments for why the community sector should be concerned about climate change impacts and adaptation and should be involved in work to raise awareness and begin to prepare communities for the likely impacts of climate change.

- The community sector should be concerned because the impacts of climate change are, and will continue to be, disproportionately felt by those experiencing poverty, social exclusion and inequality.
- The community sector is in a unique position both to begin to support the development of responses to climate change at local level and also to ensure that the experiences of the most marginalised are represented and included in climate change and sustainable development policy development and implementation, which is likely to largely occur at local and community level.
- There are common goals shared by the community sector and the environmental movement in terms of an alternative model of economic growth that addresses both environmental degradation and social inequality.

The **first reason** refers to the fact that it is the groups and communities represented by the community sector that have historically borne the brunt of social and environmental injustice. According to a number of commentators, low income groups have always suffered most from the effects of environmental degradation (Agyeman et al, 2003; Denny, 2005). As Bhatti, (2001) puts it, "... our ability to alleviate, mitigate or even escape (temporarily at least) ecological deterioration is

5 - http://www.infoplease.com/spot/hurricanekatrina.html
6 - For more on this see the World Resources Institute, http://www.wri.org/publication/content/8485
7 - The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that 150 million environmental refugees will exist in the year 2050, mainly due to the effects of coastal flooding, shoreline erosion and disruption of agriculture.

dependent on how much income we have, where we live, which class we belong to and whether we suffer discrimination in other areas of our lives". This reality is recognised by the EU sustainable development indicators set of 2007, which states that 'poorer people are often more affected by environmental degradation' (Eurostat, 2008:196), and further confirmed by research from the UK, "There is a growing realisation among researchers and policy-makers that the impacts of climate change may be unevenly experienced by different social groups in the UK. Adaptation policies and mechanisms therefore need to be designed with an understanding of the difference in vulnerability of individuals and groups to the projected impacts of a changing climate, and with a consideration of the social impacts of the adaptation measures themselves" (Magnus Benzie et al., 2011).

It is increasingly recognised that, individuals and communities living in poverty and with social exclusion and inequality are disproportionately affected physically, socially and economically by climate change. Lower income groups are more likely to live in higher-risk areas, they have fewer resources to cope with malign environmental events and have much lower rates of insurance cover (Gough, 2008). The inequitable distribution of negative outcomes which resulted from Hurricane Katrina, has been cited as evidence that those on low incomes will be the least able to protect themselves from extreme weather incidents (Dryzek, 2008)[8]. According to Mary Robinson[9], "Carbon emissions from industrialised countries have human and environmental consequences. As a result…the basic human rights of millions of the world's poor to life, security, food, health and shelter will continue to be violated".

The impact of many environmental factors such as poor accommodation, fuel poverty etc. has long been a concern of the community sector. The relatively poor health status among members of the Traveller community in Ireland, for example, is directly attributable to the environmental impacts of poor accommodation and associated issues such as poor water quality and sanitation (Pavee Point, 2007; GTM, 2009). Concerns in relation to the effects of climate change and movement towards climate justice is an obvious extension of this.

A recent study carried out by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's Climate Change and Social Justice (2011) programme in the UK on vulnerability and adaptation to climate change set out to introduce the concept of vulnerability to climate change within the context of social justice and found that assessments of who is 'vulnerable' to climate change are highly complex. Vulnerability is generally understood as a combination of someone's exposure and sensitivity to climate hazards (e.g. heat waves) as well as their ability to adapt. The inequitable distribution of the impact of environmental risks has particular relevance to climate change as vulnerable groups will be hardest hit. These communities are most at risk from the effects of extreme weather events and suffer disproportionately from the effects of carbon, water and other taxes and charges.

The health impacts of extreme weather events are likely to be borne disproportionately by the most marginalised in society because as the Combat Poverty Agency (2008, p. 1) put it, people experiencing poverty already have poorer health outcomes from poor or inadequate access to health services, become sick more often and die younger than those who are better off. They are in effect more vulnerable to climate change. Older people and those living alone are also thought to be particularly at risk, with those living in social isolation tending to be the most vulnerable to the effects of heat waves,

The main policy responses to climate change; mitigation and adaptation, also bring with them a cost that falls disproportionately on those most marginalised. Charges, such as carbon taxes[10] or charges for water usage are designed to incentivise good behaviour (decreasing usage) and penalising bad. However, carbon taxes, for example, have a greater negative impact on low-income households because they spend a higher proportion of their income on domestic fuels, they live in less energy efficient houses, and they are more likely to consume certain fuels such as peat, coal and oil which have higher carbon content (Combat Poverty Agency, 2008). Research demonstrates that, proportionately, low income groups pay significantly more than high income groups on, for example, waste charges. According to work completed for the Community Platform[11], the 'good behaviour' argument is undermined by international studies that show the highest consumers of water – high income groups – will alter their behaviour least due to the fact that such charges are minimal for those on the highest incomes and therefore they have the least incentive to reduce consumption. The Community Platform warns that we will end up in the inequitable situation where low income groups, who use the least amount of water per capita, will bear the brunt of charges and be forced to reduce consumption further, while those on the highest incomes, who use the most water, will experience little burden and have the least incentive to reduce use[12]. This is likely to be the same for carbon[13] and other charges[14].

Initiatives that attempt to encourage consumers to change to more environmentally friendly behaviour often overlook the fact that consumer choice is often constrained by income, with eco-friendly purchases often beyond the reach of low income budgets. It also overlooks the fact that maintaining social status, reinforced by the considerable power of the advertising industry, often pressurises individuals or families into buying environmentally unsound goods (Scott Cato, 2004; Doran, 2007).

The emphasis upon the individual consumer also serves to divert attention from the responsibilities of industry which has the financial power to resist environmental legislation (Benton, 2002). Further, the emphasis upon 'individual' consumption tends to downplay the need to significantly increase 'collective' consumption choices. Such choices would include a major expansion of public transport systems; the building of a national grid based on alternative energy sources; or 'green procurement' programmes which entail the purchase of low carbon goods and services by of the state. Such consumption choices are beyond the scope of the individual consumer.

In addition, some commentators believe that it is inevitable that climate change will present a threat to the welfare systems upon which many of those living with marginalisation depend, referring to an impending 'clash' between social and environmental policy, whereby expenditure is directed away from social welfare towards the cost of adapting to climate change (Dryzek, 2008). A recent report into flood management, for example, reveals that adequate protection against flooding in Cork will cost in excess of €100 million (Irish Times, 1/02/10), while it is also estimated that the cost of cleaning up after the floods in Cork will also cost about €100 million (Irish Times, 21/11/09). Such figures serve to highlight the point that local and national budgets will face increasing pressures due to climate change. This may result in the diversion of funds away from social welfare programmes placing even greater strains on marginalised groups.

Climate change also presents threats to social cohesion, a key concern for the community sector. As McKibben (Foreword to Jackson's Prosperity without Growth: Economics for a finite planet (2009)) puts it, "Global warming literally threatens the underpinnings of our civilisation, and it's caused, quite directly, by the endless growth of material economies". The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina provided a clear illustration of how extreme weather events significantly undermine social cohesion. The residents of New Orleans were faced with dramatic rises in homelessness and crime, including looting. There were also major disruptions to the provision of basic welfare services. Closer to home, the Irish floods in 2009 serve to illustrate how certain vulnerable members of society may be affected and how the community sector has a key role in responding in instances of flooding and other climate related emergencies. At the time the community sector played a vital role in responding to the 2009 floods in areas such as Cork City when community workers worked with the emergency services and others to identify those in need and distributive water and other goods to stranded families, particularly in disadvantaged areas. Climate change and energy insecurities are likely to have a disproportionate effect on particular groups and communities with which the community sector work directly. Women, for example, are more vulnerable to poverty and they are thus more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Women are also often more vulnerable to the effects of extreme weather events. For example, the mortality rate for women in the European heat waves of 2003 was 75% higher than for men (Johnson et al, 2009). In addition, women are most likely to be the ones who deal with the impacts of flooding such as caring for children when schools are closed, and caring for vulnerable relatives (Johnson et al, 2009).

The needs of rural communities differ significantly from urban communities in the context of sustainable development. Rural communities face significant challenges in the face of climate change and resource depletion. Relevant issues include sustainable transport; access to services; higher consumption of carbon based fuels; one-off housing and opportunities around the production of alternative energies. While policy measures such as carbon taxes are necessary to reduce Irish CO2 emissions, it must be recognised that rural groups will be disproportionately affected by this as they are more dependent upon the car for mobility and there are few alternatives to private transport in rural areas. Rural travel accounts for 86% of vehicle-kilometres driven annually in Ireland (Comhar, 2008a). Car ownership is higher in rural areas (86.2%) than in urban areas (73.3%). A study on rural poverty in Scotland shows that low income rural households often make considerable financial sacrifices to own and run vehicles and that car ownership is higher among the rural poor than the urban poor (Gray et al, 2005). Weir and McCabe (2009) argue the difficulties faced by rural communities in Ireland has been exacerbated by the increased centralisation of services, employment centres and declining agricultural activities, factors which are increasing the requirement for rural dwellers to make more frequent and longer trips. Thus, the challenges facing the groups with which the community sector work are significant and likely to be further exacerbated by projected climate change.

The **second reason** why climate change should be an issue for the community sector is because it has the potential to make a valuable contribution to building capacity to respond to climate change, both in terms of mitigation and risk management and a valuable contribution to make in ensuring that the experiences of the most marginalised are represented and included in climate change and sustainable development policy development and implementation.

Local knowledge and experience has the capacity to add

8 - In New Orleans, the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the 'poor and elderly' were disproportionately affected and 'as most of the city's citizens fled the city, those without cars or the financial means to relocate were left behind. The 100,000 who remained in the drowning city were largely poor and predominantly black, exposing the racial dimension of New Orleans's persistent poverty: 28% of New Orleanians are poor (twice the national average) and 84% of those are black. The elderly poor were also disproportionately affected by the disaster: 70% of the New Orleans area's 53 nursing homes were not evacuated before the hurricane struck. 'http://www.infoplease.com/spot/hurricanekatrina.html

9 - http://www.moibrahimfoundation.org/en/opinion/about-mo-ibrahim-foundation/the-opinion/climate-change-is-an-issue-of-human-rights-the-independent.html

10 - A tax rate of €15 per tonne of carbon applies to petrol and diesel from the 9th of December 2009. This was extended to home heating oils in May 2010. This will also be applied to coal and peat at a later date. A vouched fuel allowance scheme will be developed to offset the increases for low-income families dependent on such fuels (Dept. of Finance, 2009). In delivering the budget the then Minister for Finance, Brian Lenihan, stated that 'The yield from the Carbon Tax will be used to boost energy efficiency, to support rural transport and to alleviate fuel poverty' (Department of Finance, 2009)

11 - A network of 30 national organisations that work in anti-poverty, equality and social inclusion

12 - Community Platform & TASC. Paying our Way: Progressive proposals for reforming the Irish tax system, Community Platform, Ireland 2012.

13 - The tax rate of €15 per tonne of carbon announced in the 2010 budget may already be placing inequitable burdens on low income Irish families. However, it is generally believed that to seriously tackle CO2 emissions in Ireland this tax rate will have to increase significantly. Therefore the scope for greater hardship exists unless adequate compensation measures are designed and implemented.

14 - he negative impacts on low-income groups can be reduced if the revenue generated by the energy taxes, is used to compensate vulnerable groups (Scott, 2006).

considerable value to risk management and adaptation strategies and there is growing awareness that risk management and, in the longer term, climate changes adaptation strategies will work best when local experiences and knowledge is combined with that of experts in the area of climate change. The potential of these synergies will only be achieved if information is understandable to local communities and stakeholders and if their participation is supported.

Responses to climate change and sustainability challenges need to be comprehensive and connected (Comhar, 2008b) and the community sector is in the unique position of having an infrastructure (membership, networks, access to 'hard-to-reach' communities etc.) at local and national level that could be used to begin the process of building awareness and developing strategies to respond amongst the most vulnerable individuals and communities in the country. Organisations in the community sector work with and represent the most marginalised in society. In the communities with which they work, they are immersed in the narratives of the local environment, aware that it is a contested space in which social, economic and environmental injustice is realised. The community sector's values, structures and unique position at the nexus of the relationship between community, State and environment mean that it is best placed to represent the needs of local communities at policy level. (Scandrett, 2010). Community organisations have the potential to collectively advocate for a stronger approach to climate change policy at national and sub-national levels. In addition, the sector has a role to play in lobbying to ensure that policies are adequately poverty proofed to protect the most vulnerable. One of the key steps to ensuring that this happens is to conduct a vulnerability audit of communities – geographical and issue-based – to assess where the highest vulnerabilities lie and how they might be affected by future climate change.

Our Common Future (WCED, 1987) established the aims of sustainable development as 'the improvement of human well-being; more equitable distribution of resource use benefits across and within societies; and development that ensures ecological integrity over intergenerational timescales' (Sneddon et al. 2006). The community sector distinctively marries concerns about resource distribution and sustainability (Kirby et al, 2008) and is uniquely placed to demand adherence to the 'triple bottom line' of sustainability: social, economic and environmental justice (Hilman, 2002).

The third reason refers to the significant areas of common strategic ground between the community sector and the environmental movement. At a macro level, the community sector is quite often critical of an economic model of development that has seen decades of economic growth but has left a legacy of high levels of inequality and poverty. Similarly, environmentalists are critical of relentless economic growth that has left as its legacy serious environmental degradation (Daly, 1995; Christie and Warburton, 2001; Baker, 2007).

It is argued that the traditional economic model is linked to the idea that individual and collective wellbeing is primarily the product of increases in material gain. The assumption is that individuals become happier as they become richer. In such a model, as the GDP of a country increases, the more successful it is regarded. These assumptions justify the pursuit of individual material gain and national economic growth. However, the assumed link between increased wellbeing and increased wealth has become increasingly challenged (Max-Neef, 1995; Jackson, 2006; Clinch, 2006). Many academic studies have shown that increased material wealth does lead to increased wellbeing but only to a certain point. Wellbeing, it is argued is largely dependent upon other factors such as inter-personal relationships, family and community and health. It is also argued that the greater the level of equality in a society, the greater the level of individual and collective happiness and wellbeing (Wilkinson and Pickett, 2009).

Environmentalists argue that the traditional growth model fails to recognise the fundamental contradiction between the pursuit of economic growth and the reality of ecological limits. It is argued that in the face of population growth, energy insecurity, climate change and increasing global demand for goods and services, the very idea of continued economic growth in this current model must be questioned. Other writers have suggested that linking wellbeing to increased wealth results in environmental degradation (Sachs et al, 1996; Jackson, 2002; 2006; McLaren, 2003). It is argued that if wellbeing is only linked to increased material consumption the problems of climate change will be exacerbated.

Environmental protection and the promotion of equality and social justice appear to go hand in hand in certain countries. Dryzek (2008) points to empirical evidence suggesting that social democratic welfare states are best placed to meet the challenges of climate change while liberal Anglo-American welfare economies face the greatest challenges (Dryzek, 2008:334).[15] Dryzek observes

> the more liberal, market-oriented countries of the Anglo-American world in particular have both lower social policy effort and weaker environmental policy performance... Liberal political economies currently feature low energy prices, low levels of environmental regulation, a reliance on private cars as the main means of transport, suburban sprawl and welfare states more likely to be seen in terms of safety nets than universal entitlements (Dryzek, 2008).

Evidence also suggests that countries with a greater commitment to social justice and equality exhibit a greater commitment to tackling climate change. On the other hand, countries wedded to a neo-liberal approach to public policy are characterised by more pollution and more inequality.[16] The issues of climate change and energy insecurity challenge the traditional growth model. Addressing these issues presents opportunities to promote a fairer, more equitable society based on cooperation rather than individual competitiveness.

Challenging the dominant model of economic, social and environmental development is a key complimentary aim of both the community sector and the environmental movement. Both advocate a realigning of society's values so that 'economic growth is seen as a means to sustainable and equitable social development' (Kirby et al: 2008), placing the common good ahead of individual greed. The environmental movement has built up significant technical, legal and policy knowledge around global environmental problems and can therefore provide clear and thoughtful alternatives to current models of development. The community sector's capacity to support participation of marginalised communities and build consensus between diverse groups can augment the effectiveness of responses to climate change and seek to ensure that such responses from either the top or grassroots are not authoritarian or divisive (Cannan, 2000). Partnership between the community sector and the environmental movement, based on their shared vision for society and marrying their individual strengths of strategy and participation, would provide a dynamic response to environmental issues which finds its strength in local communities but has a global reach.

In the Irish context, common political strategies which seek to promote social justice and environmental goals simultaneously must be an area to pursue at local and national levels. One recent development in this regard has been the social movement, *Claiming our Future*, which brings together a range of civil society actors, including the community and environmental sectors. The policy demands developed by *Claiming our Future*,[17] such as Equality and Environmental Sustainability, reflect the intersection of the concerns of the sectors and suggests that more co-operation in achieving shared goals might be the future.

"The questions of whether society should focus on mitigation or adaptation has been highly political"

3.4 Conclusion

All aspects of human welfare will be affected by climate change. Increases in global temperatures will change many aspects of day to day living. Increasingly it is acknowledged that climate change will impact on those who are already living in poverty and with disadvantage. This section of the report outlined some of the arguments why the community sector should become increasingly involved in the climate change debate and policy development. It is crucial that the community sector takes advantage of its unique position to support the development of responses to climate change at local level and to ensure that the concerns of the most marginalised individuals and communities are represented. The next section of the report will give an overview of existing international and national climate change policy, which are of relevance to the community sector and its aspirations.

15 - In a similar vein, Ozler and Obach (2009) examined economic policies and environmental performance in 110 countries from the years 1996 to 2003. The results indicate that countries associated with a free market, laissez faire policy ethos, have higher ecological footprints than countries which pursue more collectivist approaches to policy making.
16 - In this context, it should be noted that the Irish social policy approach has been described in the literature as an expression of neo-liberalism (Kirby, 2004; Fanning, 2004), with high levels of inequality and a particular preference for means tested rather than universal welfare provision (NESC, 2005). Furthermore, Ireland is also considered an environmental 'laggard' (Mc Gowan, 1999; Pepper, 1999) with a particularly poor record regarding GHG emission levels (Friends of the Earth, 2007).
17 - For more see http://www.claimingourfuture.ie/

Section Four
Policy Context

4.1 Introduction

This section outlines some of the core areas of international and Irish climate change and sustainable development policy and highlights potential areas of interest and relevance for the community sector and its goals.

Sustainable development refers to development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (WCED, 1987). Climate change policy falls under this category (Lafferty, 2001; Baker, 2006) and requires that policy makers strike a balance between economic, social and environmental policy objectives. The idea of policy integration has long been a key concern of EU environmental policy and many EU level environmental policies already integrate climate change policy to varying degrees, including water, flooding, biodiversity, agriculture, energy, transport, etc.

4.2 Key policy responses to climate change

The policy positions discussed in this section refer to mitigation and adaptation strategies, which are key policy responses to climate change.

- Mitigation refers to efforts to reduce the *causes* of climate change by, according to the IPCC, implementing policies to reduce GHG emissions. Mitigation policies include the promotion of renewable energies, energy efficiencies, carbon capture and storage, emissions trading and carbon taxes. Policy makers tend to place a great emphasis upon 'economic instruments' or 'fiscal measures' as part of mitigation policy. Economic instruments include 'carbon taxes' which seek to penalise consumption of carbon heavy goods. The basic premise behind these taxes is that if polluting behaviour becomes too costly, then individuals will alter their behaviour and engage in environmentally benign behaviour. These taxes are typically applied to the use of motor fuels and domestic heating fuels. Mitigation policies also attempt to change the purchasing choice of the individual consumer when individuals are exhorted to purchase goods which have the least environmental impact.

- Adaptation refers to addressing the *effects* of climate change and includes adjustments in natural or human systems to a new changing environment ((IPCC, 2007b). Adaptation strategies presuppose that climate change is inevitable and we must prepare for its effects. Actions based on adaptation policies include; technological interventions such as the construction of flood defences to adapt to rising sea levels[18], the retro-fitting of housing insulation, management responses such as land use planning and fiscal responses such as personal insurance.

The questions of whether society should focus on mitigation or adaptation has been highly political, with many environmental groups reluctant to open discussions about adaptation, feeling that it weakens the drive to find solutions based on mitigation (Ibid, p. 4). However, in reality the strategies of mitigation and adaptation are inter-related. Effective responses to climate change include both mitigation and adaptation and though the policy focus has been on mitigation to recently, this is rapidly changing as evidenced in, for example, the Cancun Adaptation Framework (COP16 in 2010).

18 - As the Netherlands is particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels, the Dutch are exploring the potential of developing a 'Hydrometropole', which is in essence, a floating city capable of accommodating fifteen million people (Henson, 2006).

4.3 International & National Sustainable Development Policy

Climate change is of international concern. International and EU climate change policy has considerable influence on the development of national climate change policy. As the community sector in Ireland seeks to influence Irish climate change policy and how it affects vulnerable groups, it is important that the central principles established through international and EU policy is absorbed by those who seek to influence Irish policy.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development concluded in 1992 with the opening for signature of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Ireland ratified the Convention in 1994. The objective of the UNFCCC, according to Article 2, is to "achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system". Article 2 goes on to state that such a level should be achieved "within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner" (Desmond and Shine, 2011).

Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The major feature of the Kyoto Protocol is that it sets binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European community for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established in 1988. It is a scientific intergovernmental body established by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Its role is to assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the latest scientific, technical and socio-economic literature produced. The overall objective of the IPCC is to understand the risks of human-induced climate change, its observed and projected impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation and to present this information in a policy-relevant but policy-neutral way to decision-makers.

EU White Paper on Adaptation

The EU White Paper on Adaptation (European Commission, COM 147/4: 2009). was published in April 2009. The core objective of the White Paper is to improve the EU's resilience to the impacts of climate change. Enhancing resilience also means the chance to invest in a low-carbon economy, for example, by promoting energy efficiency and the uptake of green products. A phased approach is proposed by the White Paper: the first phase will run from 2009 to 2012 and will lay the foundation for preparing a comprehensive EU adaptation strategy.

These international and EU climate change initiatives should be of interest to the community sector because they are key drivers for national policy. In understanding these initiatives, community workers will have a clearer idea of the direction of any proposed national policy initiative.

Local Agenda 21

Local Agenda 21 (LA21) emerged from the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, (UNCED, 1992) otherwise known as the Rio Earth Summit.[19] LA21 may be regarded as a broad action plan for sustainable development, the purpose of which is to facilitate the consultation of all groups in environmental and developmental debates. The operation of LA21 in Ireland should therefore be of significant interest to the community sector. Chapter 28 of Local Agenda 21 states that, as so many of the problems and solutions being addressed by sustainable development have their roots in local activities, each local authority should enter into a dialogue with its citizens, local organizations and private enterprises with a view to producing a plan for achieving sustainable development (UNCED, 1992 Chapter 28). An 'Agenda 21' is

...a strategic programme, plan or policy which has emerged from a consultative process initiative by local authorities with both local citizens and representatives of relevant local stakeholders, with a particular interest in involving women and youth (Lafferty, 2001)

A total of 179 countries, including Ireland, have committed to implementing LA21. This commitment is expressed in Ireland's National Sustainable Development Strategy Sustainable Development a Strategy for Ireland (Department of Environment, 1997) which includes a call to all local authorities to complete a Local Agenda 21 for their areas. The renewed strategy, Making Ireland's Development Sustainable (DoEHLG 2002) recognises the important role of NGOs in achieving environmental sustainability and notes that sustainable development cannot be achieved without the consent of all sections of society.

The LA21 process offers scope for the community sector to influence decision making at the local level with regards to climate change policy. While the implementation of LA21 in Ireland has been described as 'disparate' and in need of acceleration (Amajirionwu and Barlett, 2009) some progress has been made. For example, participation at the local level has been facilitated by the establishment of the Strategic Policy Committees, (SPCs) the County/City Development Boards (CDBs) and the Community Forums, which operate at local authority level, though it has been argued by, for example Comhar, that these participative mechanisms have failed to reach their potential, stating that local empowerment has not been fully realized, with some groups still excluded from decision-making processes despite the new structures and processes (Comhar, 2007). Inadequate resourcing is one of the reasons highlighted by Connaughton et al, (2008) for this, while others have noted that community sector involvement in the social partnership processes generally, at both national and local levels, has been more tokenistic than real (Meade and O'Donovan, 2002; Forde, 2005).

The Aarhus Convention

The Aarhus Convention (UNCE, 1998), which builds on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration (UNCED, 1992), is a key mechanism for facilitating participation in decision making on environmental matters both in the EU and Ireland. It is:

...an environmental treaty that grants citizens access to environmental information, participation in decision-making in environmental matters, and judicial redress where the two previous rights or other environmental law have been violated. To this end, it lays down a set of basic rules (Europa.eu, 2003)

The Convention recognises that for citizens to engage in the decision making processes they must be adequately informed regarding the issues being debated, and their participation must be adequately facilitated. Article 1 of the convention states that:

Public authorities are therefore obliged to make environmental information in their possession available upon request. The convention also enshrines the right of citizens to participate in environmental decision making and arrangements must be made to enable the participation of the general public and civil society organisations to comment on proposals for projects which are environmentally significant. These comments must be taken into account when final decisions are made. The convention also provides for the right to challenge public decisions which have been made in a way that violates the right to environmental information and the right to participate in decision making. The Aarhus Convention therefore provides for the right to

- Access to environmental information
- Public participation in environmental decision making
- Access to justice (UNCE, 1998)

Two EU directives give legal effect to the convention. The first, Directive 2003/4/EC, relates to environmental information and this was incorporated into Irish law in 2007. A Commissioner for Environmental Information (CEI) was appointed in May 2007 to assist in the enforcement of the directive. The CEI operates as part of the Office of the Ombudsman. The role of the CEI is to decide appeals taken by members of the public who are not satisfied with the outcomes of their requests for environmental information from public authorities. Irish regulations now provide for a statutory independent appeals mechanism which has the power to make binding decisions. Therefore the legal position regarding access to information has improved considerably. However, it has been argued that the absence of the necessary capacity building in public administrative bodies and in the public has resulted in a lack of proper implementation of the directive (Ewing et al, 2008). The second Directive 2003/35/EC relates to the right to participate in environmental decision making. This has not yet been incorporated into Irish law.

The full implementation of the Aarhus Convention into Irish Law is in the interests of the community sector as it promotes the participation of community groups in environmental decision making. It therefore reduces the likelihood that the interests of community groups and marginalised individuals can be ignored.

The National Sustainable Development Strategy

The National Sustainable Development Strategy was published in 1997 and is called *Sustainable Development a Strategy for Ireland* (DoE, 1997). The aim of the strategy was "to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community"[20]. The principal goals and polices continue to inform the development and delivery of policies and programmes in the area of environmental protection and sustainable development. The strategy sees the integration of environmental considerations into other policy areas as a key means of securing balanced development. In this context it is vital that the community sector seek to influence national sustainable development policy in ways which ensure that environmental objectives are made compatible with social justice.

19 - The conference was attended by 170 governments, 2,500 NGOs, 8,000 journalists and over 100 heads of state (Elliot, 2006).
20 - http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/SustainableDevelopment/

National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012

Building on the first National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) (2000), the National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012 sets out a range of measures, to ensure Ireland reaches its target under the Kyoto Protocol. The Strategy provides a framework for action to reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions. As part of this policy position, the Government is committed to developing a national adaptation strategy, which will provide a framework for the integration of adaptation issues into decision-making at national and local level. It is vital that the community sector review all proposed climate change related legislation during consultation periods to ensure that the needs of vulnerable groups are protected.

Comhar Sustainable Development Council

Until recently, one mechanism through which the community sector may articulate concerns regarding the implementation of the policies listed above was through Comhar Sustainable Development Council. Comhar SDC was established by the Irish government in 1999. Its role is to create awareness of sustainable development and to engage key stakeholders in a debate on how the sustainable development agenda may be advanced in Ireland. Comhar also acts as an advisory body to Government on matters of sustainable development, providing 'guidance to the Government on measures that can move us to a sustainable, equal and low carbon society'[21]. Comhar includes representation from the 'social/community' pillar and offers some scope for raising the concerns of the community sector in relation to how Irish sustainable development policy impacts on the most marginalised and disadvantaged individuals and communities.

In 2008 Comhar hosted a national conference that dealt with community responses to climate change. The resulting document, Implementing Sustainable Development: Empowering Local Communities (Comhar, 2008b) documented the suggestions from stakeholders for how sustainability may be promoted at the local level. Some examples of the recommendations included the formation of stakeholder panels to help guide a communications strategy to address the issue that the scientific language used in the climate change debate is incomprehensible to those with no environmental background, the development of templates for area and village plans, the involvement of schools, local competitions to involve communities; methods to support communities when they need it. Comhar also participated in the national adaptive capacity assessment (Desmond and Shine, 2011 in press).

In October 2011, the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government announced that the functions of Comhar SDC are to merge with the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) and it mains to be seen which elements of the work of Comhar will be maintained and developed.

21 - www.comharsdc.ie

4.4 Linking social & environmental objectives - gaps in policy

While the relationship between economic development and sustainability is clearly explained in Irish policy documents, the links made between environmental and social objectives are vague. In 2002, for example, the Department of Environment and Local Government published a review of activities undertaken at national and local level in Ireland since 1992, entitled Making Ireland's Development Sustainable: Review, Assessment and Future Action (DELG, 2002a). This document alludes to some social issues such as anti-poverty initiatives, social segregation and educational disadvantage; however links to environmental issues are not made.

The National Spatial Strategy (DELG, 2002b:13) points to 'interlinkages' between environmental and social issues, though it does not reveal what these are. Examining the social partnership process in Ireland and its attendant documents, Davies (2009) argues that the first five (of seven) partnership deals pay minimal attention to environmental matters. It is noted that the sixth deal Sustaining Progress only briefly alludes to the concept of sustainable development. The social economy is mentioned though without reference to the environment or sustainable development. Furthermore, sustainable development is only mentioned twice in the current partnership document Towards 2016. The Programme for Government (2007-12) (Fianna Fail and Green Party, 2007) refers to a myriad of social, economic and environmental objectives though the inter-relationships between these are not outlined.

The terms 'sustainable' and 'sustainability' are referred to in the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-16 (DSFA, 2007) though, again, links are not made between social exclusion and environmental issues. Making Ireland's economy and environment 'mutually reinforcing' is a stated objective of Building Ireland's Smart Economy – a Framework for Sustainable Economic Renewal (2008) (Department of the Taoiseach, 2008:83), though synergies between social and environmental policies are not specifically mentioned.

The National Development Plan, Transforming Ireland – A Better Quality of Life for All, refers to development in terms of 'three integrated major pillars – economic, social and environmental' (Department of the Taoiseach, 2007:117). It also calls for a coherent policy approach across all sectors which builds on 'the synergies between environmental protection and the economic and social aspects of sustainable growth' (ibid). However, how the integration of these three spheres of activity might work in practice is not developed. Davies (2009) argues that this vagueness may be linked to the underdevelopment of green social economy initiatives in Ireland. She further argues that UK policy statements are much clearer regarding the links between social and environmental dynamics and as a result, green social economy initiatives are more developed there.

The NDP has now largely been replaced by The Capital Expenditure Review[22], which sets out infrastructure investment priorities for the years 2010-2016 and fulfils the requirement to publish a revised set of investment priorities as pledged in the Renewed Programme for Government. The Review represents a reappraisal of the Government's Public Capital Programme, designed to re-focus investment plans and prepare the Irish economy for a return to growth. The Review seeks to identify the optimum level of infrastructure investment and the sectors in which this investment will take place in order to:

- Contribute to economic recovery;
- Support employment;
- Deliver important social infrastructure; and
- Develop a low-carbon, Smart Economy

4.5 Conclusion

Climate change is, by necessity, governed by international policy instruments. These are the main drivers of national policy. Many of these policies provide for participation and consultation and need to be fully implemented in the Irish context. A more comprehensive approach to development is also needed, where the economic and social policy aspirations take account of environmental and climate change concerns. Currently, the integration of social policies with environmental policies is clearly an aspiration in Irish sustainable development policy. This gap presents a significant opportunity for the community sector to articulate concrete proposals for how social/environmental synergies may be developed. Such proposals may include community sector initiatives to develop local environmental programmes, community sector initiatives for raising awareness, linking social economy initiatives to environmental goals and proposals for how vulnerable groups may be protected from the potential inequitable effects of climate change. Whatever the exact nature of interaction, what is becoming increasingly clearer is that there is an onus and an obligation on those in the community sector to begin to engage with climate change to ensure that (a) communities are upskilled to begin to develop strategies in this area, and (b) that policy development is informed by the unique experience of the community sector.

"Even an entire society, a nation, or all simultaneously existing societies taken together, are not the owners of the earth. They are simply its possessors, its beneficiaries, and have to bequeath it in an improved stateto succeeding generations"

-(Marx, 1981).

22 - For more see Department of Finance, 2010. Infrastructure Investment Priorities. Dublin

Section Five

Strategies & Recommendations

5.1 Introduction

This section first outlines a number of strategies with which community organisations and the community sector can engage in relation to informing themselves and their communities on the implications of climate change and beginning to engage with policies in the area of climate change and climate justice. The strategies built on the information from the workshops and were further developed by the CWC Community Work Approaches to Sustainable Development Subgroup. This section then outlines a number of recommendations for the community sector and the wider climate change policy community.

The **strategies** are primarily aimed at individual community organisations. They suggest practical initiatives which may be employed by organizations to promote the integration of the climate change agenda into community work, while they also suggest how individual community groups may begin to engage politically the climate change agenda.

The **recommendations** are primarily aimed at the community sector as a whole. They refer to how the community sector may develop a common position regarding how to respond to vulnerability and develop resilience at the local level, while simultaneously developing a concerted political response. The recommendations also refer to how the state and state agencies may support the sector in this respect. Therefore, while they are primarily aimed at the community sector, they have implications for state action.

5.2 Strategies

The strategies suggested here are designed for community organisations and the community sector as a whole. The key policy perspectives that community organisations and the community sector in general should adopt is to ensure the differential, disproportionate impacts of climate change on people and communities experiencing poverty, social exclusion and inequality are understood and accounted for. The aim should be to ensure that no new climate or sustainable development policy will have an exacerbating effect on those already experiencing poverty, social exclusion or inequality.

Strategies for community organisations

Strategy 1

Begin the process of education and awareness raising of climate change, sustainable development and climate justice within communities

• Explore resources that can be used to begin the process of community education in relation to climate change and sustainable development[23]
• Facilitate a discussion with group(s) in your community
• Develop linkages with other similar communities
• Develop linkages with environmental groups / organisations

Strategy 2

Begin to develop strategies to respond to extreme events (e.g. flooding, storms

• Assess the impact of recent history of weather and other climate change events on the community with which you work
• Document the impacts
• Begin to explore how resilience can be developed with the community against such events by developing immediate prevention and response strategies, as well as medium-term and long-term strategies for increasing self-sufficiency and resilience
• Develop a strategy to respond to extreme events in the future in partnership with other community organisations, local authority and other relevant organisations/agencies.

Strategy 3

Position the community sector to take a proactive role in empowering communities to actively shape the State's response to climate change based on principle 10 of the Rio Declaration that states that 'environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens...'

• Document the experiences of your community
• Develop position/information papers on this basis
• Identify and present to relevant fora
• Include climate change and sustainable development dimensions during the development of all policy positions.
• Engage with stakeholder consultations by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the Environmental Protection Agency and other agencies and organisations, as appropriate, and local authority stakeholder groups
• Lobby to ensure that no policy will have an exacerbating effect on those already experiencing poverty, social exclusion or inequality.
• Create arenas whereby local communities, and in particular marginalised communities, can contribute to the development of environmental policy

Strategy 4

To explore and develop community-based resilience strategies

• Explore the potential of community-owned energy production
• Explore the potential of community-owned food production
• Explore services that might be useful to marginalised communities such as the Sustainable Energy Ireland insulation retro-fitting services for homes in poorer areas

23 - See the resource section in this document

Strategy 5

Develop local linkages and networks

• Local Agenda 21 is at the heart of sustainable development and operates in local authority catchment areas. Make contact with local networks with a view to ensuring that the perspectives and experiences of your community are represented.
• Make contact with local and national environmental organisations and seek to build strategic alliances for social and environmental justice.
• Explore whether there is a Transition Town in your area and establish contact

Strategy 6

To explore and develop community-based resilience strategies

• Explore the potential of community-owned energy production
• Explore the potential of community-owned food production
• Explore services that might be useful to marginalised communities such as the Sustainable Energy Ireland insulation retro-fitting services for homes in poorer areas

Strategy 7

Contribute to relevant policy

• Explore policy development areas
• Contribute by making submissions using the perspective of your community
• Ensure that the Community and Voluntary Sector representatives on, the Environmental Protection Agency Advisory Committee and other relevant bodies are aware of and represent the issues from the perspective of your community

Strategy 8

Netoworking

• Seek to use the national structures and networks in which you are involved to raise the issue of climate justice
• At Community Platform and Community and Voluntary Pillar level, seek to make contacts and develop links based on issues of common concern with organisations engaged in environmental work, particularly those concerned with climate justice.
• Seek to ensure that the issues of common concern are raised by both the Environmental Pillar and the Community and Voluntary Pillar at all relevant fora.
• Linkages should be developed with FEASTA, the Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability. Joint seminars on issues of mutual concern could be explored.

5.3 Recommendations

The recommendations outlined here are directed at the community sector and the climate change policy community and aim to ensure the future inclusion of the community sector and in particular the concerns of vulnerable communities.

Recommendation 1

To carry out a study of climate change related social vulnerability in Ireland.

While much research has been and continues to be carried out on social vulnerability in Ireland, it is not known which individuals and communities are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and other threats such as energy and food security. This report strongly recommends that a study on social vulnerability is carried out with a view to understanding the distributional effects of climate change. Such information should support the development of national climate change adaption policy. It should also assist communities in developing a range of strategies and responses to risk management and climate.

Recommendation 2

Ensure that vulnerability is a key concern in policy development

The community sector should strive to ensure that sustainable development/climate change policy takes full account of the vulnerability of certain sections of society and mitigates the effects of policy on these individuals, groups and communities. It should seek to ensure that policies in relation to climate change and sustainable development are poverty proofed and that negative impacts on those least able to pay are mitigated. It should also ensure that the arguments in relation to climate justice are made by community sector representatives on relevant consultative and advisory bodies.

Recommendation 3

Supporting the community sector to develop awareness and responses to climate change.

The community sector has the potential to make a valuable contribution to building capacity to respond to climate change, both in terms of mitigation and risk management and a valuable contribution to make in ensuring that the experiences of the most marginalised are represented and included in climate change and sustainable development policy development and implementation. The community sector is in the unique position of having an infrastructure at local and national level that could be used to begin the process of building awareness and developing strategies to respond to climate change. This report has argued that there is in fact an onus and obligation on those in the community sector to begin to engage with climate change.

However this needs to be encouraged, facilitated and supported. This report strongly recommends that the community sector, community organisations and community workers are facilitated and supported to work within communities to begin to develop and raise awareness about climate change. Key to this should be developing strategies for risk management and mitigation at local level. All programmes that facilitate community development, including the Local and Community Development Programme, the Family Support Programme, RAPID and national networks, should facilitate and enable this as a new area of concern to the community sector and areas of disadvantage.

Recommendation 4

Developing and using suitable scenarios.

The use of scenarios as a methodology to encourage discussion and debate about an issue that was outside the direct area of expertise of many of the workshop participants was a useful one that gave participants a framework within which they could discuss and give recommendations from their and their community's perspective. This report recommends that the development and proactive use of suitable scenarios be a key methodology is ensuring the achievement of recommendation three above.

Recommendation 5

Put climate justice on the agenda.

Climate justice is a growing area but receives very little recognition from policy makers. Putting people and communities, particularly those that already experience poverty, inequality and social exclusion, at the centre of the climate change debate is the key concern of the climate justice movement but one that is receiving little recognition in Ireland. This report recommends a partnership between community and environmental organisations that would explore and effectively establish what climate justice will mean in an Irish context and how Ireland can respond to the global issues of climate change and un-sustainability. It is also recommended that government policy programmes related to health and social exclusion be cognisant of and reflect the principles of climate justice.

Recommendation 6

Create strategic alliances between the community sector and the environmental movement.

This report has demonstrated the unique qualities that the community sector and the environmental movement bring to the response to climate change in Ireland. It strongly believes that strategic alliances between the two should be sought at national, regional and local level in order to strengthen the capacity of both to effectively deal with environmental issues and build a just and sustainable society for all.

Appendix One

Glossary of key terms

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As used within this report, definitions of key terms are suitable to the aims and audience of this study. Many of these definitions are based on the IPCC Assessment Report 4 (IPCC, 2007b) and SNIFFER, 2009.

For further reading please see www.ipcc.ch.

Adaptation: Adaptation: Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to existing or expected climate changes and their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.

Capacity to adapt: The ability of a system to adjust to climate change, moderate potential damages, to take advantage of opportunities, or to cope with the consequences.

Carbon dioxide (CO_2): (or carbon emissions) A naturally occurring gas it is also a by-product of burning fossil fuels from fossil carbon deposits, such as oil, gas and coal. The burning of biomass, land use changes and other industrial processes can also lead to carbon emissions. It is the principal anthropogenic greenhouse gas that causes climate change.

Climate change: Refers to a change in the state of the climate that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural processes or human activity changing the composition of the atmosphere by adding greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide.

Differential impacts: These are social impacts that may arise to a greater or lesser degree for example due to age, gender, race, health or location (see SNIFFER, 2009).

Exposure: This is to be subjected to, or influenced by, the direct impacts of climate change such as extreme weather events or indirect impacts such as conflicts, food insecurity or increasing costs.

Global warming: Is the increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans and its projected continuation.

Greenhouse effect: Greenhouse gases naturally trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere keeping the temperature at the Earth's surface at on average, +14˚C. An increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases due to human activity leads to an increase in the amount of heat retained and an 'enhanced greenhouse effect' or global warming.

Greenhouse Gases: (GHG) These are gases that may exist naturally in the atmosphere or be added by human activities and lead to heat being trapped in the atmosphere, known as the 'greenhouse effect' or 'global warming'. These gases include water vapour (H_2O), carbon dioxide (CO_2), nitrous oxide (N_2O), methane (CH_4) ozone (O_3) and human-made industrial gases known as 'f-gases'.

Impacts of climate change: The effects of climate change on natural and human systems.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: (IPCC) an intergovernmental scientific body formed in 1988 to examine the phenomenon of climate change and how to tackle it. Established by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the IPCC does not carry out research, nor does it monitor climate or related phenomena. It presents the state of knowledge in the science, impacts and policy of climate change, from thousands of the top experts in the field.

Kyoto Protocol: The Kyoto Protocol is a protocol to the (UNFCCC), adopted in 1997 and now legally ratified by 184 countries. It sets targets to limit the GHG's that may emitted by developed countries to 2012. Kyoto was designed as a first step towards long term reductions in GHG's in order to meet the objective of the UNFCCC.

Mitigation policy: Policy designed to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases emissions from human activities. These policies can be implemented at any level from influencing personal and community behaviour to national and international measures. Mitigation is intended to prevent further climate change (or global warming) and avoid 'dangerous interference' with the climate.

National Climate Change Strategy: The National Climate Change Strategy was first published in 2000, followed by a revised strategy in 2007. The objective of the strategy is to limit the emission of greenhouse gases in Ireland in order to meet the national target under the Kyoto Protocol.
No regrets measures: Measures that are beneficial regardless of the outcome and may be of low or no cost. If a measure has benefits even in the context of less rapid climate change, it could be considered as 'no regrets.'

Peak oil: Peak oil is the point in time when the maximum rate of global petroleum extraction is reached, after which the rate of production enters terminal decline.

Resilience: This is the capacity to absorb stress through adaptation, maintain function during disastrous events and recover after the event.

Resource scarcity: Resources such as clean air and water, minerals, land, natural heritage and energy on which our societies and economies depend may be finite, and the rate at which we use them may lead to limits.

Science of climate change: This describes what we currently understand about climate change including past, recent, and future changes.

Social impacts: All impacts on humans and on all the ways in which people and communities interact with their socio-cultural, economic and biophysical surroundings (see SNIFFER, 2009).

Sustainable development: (SD) "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (UNWCED, 1987). SD integrates the political, social, economic and environmental dimensions. Sustainability is the goal, sustainable development is the journey.

United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development: (UNCSD) This United Nations Commission is responsible for reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: (UNFCC) An international treaty adopted after the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, aimed at achieving the stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent 'dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate' while protecting sustainable development. It has been legally ratified by 192 countries, almost universal membership.

Vulnerability: Peoples vulnerability to climate change depends on their exposure to climatic changes, their sensitivity to its impact and their capacity to adapt to the change.

Appendix Two

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Stroudco Food Hub [24]

A social enterprise for local food producers and community

24 - Information is also available at http://transitiontownstroud.blogspot.com/2009/06/new-food-hub.html.

Principles

• Provide affordable, locally-produced food to people in Stroud
• Give producer members access to a local market at higher than wholesale prices.
• Build supportive and understanding links between producers and consumers
• Develop food culture and community strength

Structure

The food Hub has producer members who commit to;

• Supply food for sale at lower than retail prices
• Give 8% of what they sell through the Hub to the Hub for running costs, the most significant of which is the workers' wage.
• Hold an annual event inviting consumer members to help with their work, picking fruit, haymaking, fencing, farm open day, camping, host a bring and share meal, etc.
• Provide a service to other producer members such as shared deliveries, loan of equipment, loan of labour, etc. Offers to have a roughly equivalent financial value.

The Hub has 200 consumer members who

• Pay membership of £24 per year
• Build up to buying an average of £32 of food per month through the Hub within 2 years.
• Contribute at least 2 hours of voluntary work per year such as food packing, farm labour, administration.

Benefits

Producers do minimal marketing. They get up-front ordering and payment, higher than wholesale prices and a single delivery point. Producers control their own market without supermarket contracts.

Consumer members have relationships with producers, community activity, access to farm life, no need to pay 'middlemen' so affordable food at slightly less than retail prices, short supply chain so fresh food.

The enterprise is a not for profit social enterprise, controlled by community and producer members. It is registered as a Community Interest Company. Anyone can join as a community member. Producers can join by permission of existing members. The board comprises of consumer and producer members.

Activities

A worker is employed by the Hub to maintain an on-line catalogue of products available from producers, manage finances, encourage co-operation and organise events. The worker is answerable to the board and paid a wage with a bonus.
Members order and pay for food in advance through the Hub website. Producer members will deliver produce to a central point.

Members are invited to monthly events such as a presentation from a producer, on farm events, joint processing days, etc.

The Hub owns items for loan to members such as a juicer, sausage maker, roasting spit, juice press, etc.

Distribution and delivery space

Food drops will happen initially once a month, building up to a weekly drop with the first year. The co-op will have access free of charge to the hall at Parliament Primary School. All produce is delivered by the producers to this venue.

The worker sorts the food into boxes according to what each consumer has ordered. The consumer members take it in turns to help with the food sort. The co-op worker prints off picking lists which make the sorting job as simple as possible.

Consumer members collect from the school hall on Saturday afternoon. Consumers are encouraged to collect for other consumers local to them.

Consumers can choose to pay a delivery charge and have the co-op worker deliver the food to their home.

Set up

A grant funded worker will set up the enterprise, so that it can be handed over to a part time employee as a viable not-for-profit business after 3 years

information is also available at http://transitiontownstroud.blogspot.com/2009/06/new-food-hub.html

Appendix Three

Cap and Share Initiative

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Under the Cap and Share scheme each citizen of a particular country would be given a carbon emissions allowance allocation, with the total of such allocations amounting to the desired cap on fossil fuel consumption in that country. A particularly unique feature of the scheme is that it entails the allocation of carbon certificates to all adults, entitling them to an equal share of the emissions permitted under that year's cap. For example, the personal allocation in a given year may be 10 tonnes of CO2 and all citizens are issued with certificates to this effect. These certificates are worth money to the individual citizen and may be cashed in at banks or post offices. The fossil fuel suppliers must buy these certificates as they act as permits to import fossil fuels.

Although Cap and Share acts as a carbon levy, it does not entail a direct tax on individual energy consumption. Rather, the cap is enforced by requiring fossil fuel suppliers to have permits to bring fossil fuels into the economy and therefore the cap is placed "upstream" (Lynas, 2008). To compensate themselves for having to buy these certificates, the fossil fuel suppliers will increase the price of energy. This in turn will lead to citizens consuming less energy, thus ensuring the environmental imperative. However, consumers are compensated for rising fuel prices by the money they get for cashing in their certificates. In particular, the poor (who consume less energy) are ultimately protected (Johnson et al, 2009). Cap and Share means that those with a smaller carbon footprint will benefit and those with a larger carbon footprint will lose (www.capandshare.org). The consumer therefore has an incentive to use less fossil fuel.

Appendix Four

Local initiatives and respones to climate change

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Climate change and peak oil means that the satisfaction of basic needs will become increasingly rooted in the local area. The rising price of fossil fuels will result in a marked decrease in cheap food imports while rising transport fuel costs means more and more social and economic activities will be undertaken in the local community. Therefore local communities will be forced to find local solutions to addressing basic needs.

Community ownership of energy production

One way of promoting local resilience and social inclusion is via community production and ownership of renewable energy sources. This enables local communities to withstand energy shortages or dramatic increases in fuel prices, dynamics which affect low income groups most acutely. Community ownership also promotes local employment, offers scope for community involvement in local projects and increases awareness regarding the production and use of energy. The benefits of community ownership[25] include:

- A direct stake in a local project
- Attractive financial return to members
- Extended economic benefits for the local area
- Delivery of local energy conservation projects
- Educational support on environmental issues
- Individual commitment to low carbon initiatives

Membership of a nationwide network of green co-operatives. Community owned energy production boosts the local economy as revenue is distributed locally and is then available for reinvestment elsewhere (www.energy.co.uk). For example, the Bere Island Community Coop produce wind power and the profits generated from this initiative are used to fund other island development projects (O' Connor et al, 2004).

Public ownership of renewable energy sources therefore serves to promote local economic, social and environmental sustainability. In the Irish context, O' Connor et al's (2004) research into community owned renewable energy initiatives presents case studies which serve as a useful illustration of the social, environmental and economic benefits of such initiatives to Irish rural communities. The Renewable Energy Partnership (2004) has also produced a useful guide regarding how to develop community-owned wind power.

Energy sources which may be owned and developed by the community include wind, hydro, biomass, bio-fuels and low grade geothermal. These can provide, heat, electricity or transport fuel and act as substitutes for fossil fuels (O' Connor et al, 2004). Examples of community owned energy production in Ireland are:

Name of Initiative	Energy Type	Description of Initiative
Bere Island Community Coop, Co. Cork	Wind (small scale)	Community Coop with all-island inclusion – sole purpose of project is to generate revenue to fund island development projects.
Barna Wind Energy LTD., Co. Cork	Wind (large scale)	Farmers collective. There are numerous examples of this model throughout Ireland.
Burtonport Coop, Co. Donegal	Wind (small scale)	Community owned turbine to reduce costs of fisheries ice plant
Camphill Coop, Co. Kilkenny	Biomass	Established community owned project which is yielding heat and power for self sufficiency.
Freshford 2020, Co. Kilkenny	Biomass	A project which has utilised EU infrastructures to develop. High emphasis on environmental amenities in the local area with integration of waste management.
Biogreen Energy Products	Biocrops for transport fuels	Farmers collective that have invested in oil refinery
Kilmaley Housing Project, Co. Clare	Geothermal and solar	Community housing for older people that is district heated and has solar panels to provide hot water

Source (O' Connor et al, 2004)

25 - www.energy.co.uk/energy_community.asp

Transition Towns

The Transition Town initiative began in Kinsale in 2005 and has spread internationally. There are now over 800 such initiatives around the world. The Transition Towns movement seeks to involve local communities in finding locally based solutions to the twin challenges of climate change and peak oil. This entails developing plans around issues such as greenhouses gas emissions reduction, alternative locally produced energy, low carbon transport solutions, locally based eco-friendly waste solutions and locally produced affordable food. Transition Towns seeks to achieve resilient local economies which can withstand the shock of rising fuel and food prices while simultaneously reducing GHG emissions. In some cases this involves the development of alternative locally based currencies. For example, the town of Totnes in the UK has printed 10,000 'Totnes pounds' which are accepted by over seventy shops and businesses (Brangwyn and Hopkins, 2008). In Ireland, the 'Kilkenny Cat' is a currency which is accepted in Kilkenny, while Kenmare has also launched its' own currency called the 'Youro'. Local currencies encourage the consumption of locally produced goods, thereby bolstering the local economy and reducing GHG emissions.

Transition Towns engage in many types of activities. For example the activities of the Kinsale Transition Town include:

• Food Forum which addresses the issue of Community Gardens and the Community Composting scheme
• Energy Forum which produces information on how local households and business can save on energy use
• Transport Forum which investigates the potential for pedestrianizing part of the town, promoting cycling establishing a land train around Kinsale and developing a car club to minimize car journeys to Cork City
• Waste and Recycling Forum which is developing a feasibility study for a prototype anaerobic digester for the Town. This breaks down biodegradable material including food waste and agricultural waste. Kinsale also has a 'free cycle system' whereby unwanted belongings are given to others instead of dumping them.
• Publicity Group which works on increasing the profile and the awareness of the activities of Kinsale Transition Town

Transition Towns Initiatives in Ireland

There are many other TT initiatives in Ireland. These include:

• Transition Sandymount
• Transition Town Donard-Glen
• Sustain West Cork
• Transition Ennis
• Trim 2025
• Transition Laois
• Transition Gorey
• Transition East Clare
• Transition Dublin 8
• Transition Blessington
• Middleton Transition Town Group
• Transition Town Omagh
• Transition Wicklow
• Hollywood Transition Town
• Sustainable Bandon
• Transition Donegal
• Transition Wexford
• FADA Newbridge
• Transition Town Kinsale
• Transition Galway
• Transition Town Clonmel
• Future Proof Kilkenny
• Sustainable Skerries
• Sustainable Clonakilty

A low energy future may mean the need to develop new skills for livelihoods and the need to redevelop traditional skills. Transition Town members have addressed the idea of re-skilling for sustainable livelihoods. On the national website, members share information and offer courses on re-skilling. Such skills include:

• Organic/biodynamic gardening
• Working with horses
• Building wind turbines
• Dry stone walling
• Designing rainwater storage tanks
• Wine making
• Rope making
• Darning
• Leatherwork

Community groups who wish greater engagement with the climate change agenda would benefit from contacting a local TT movement with a view to discussing common goals. Community Development organisations should engage with the TT movement in older to ensure that all sectors of the community, regardless of ethnicity, gender or age are aware of what the TT movement is and that space is created for everyone to participate. Local communities who are not engaged in TT may have skills and knowledge to bring to the TT in relation to sustainable livelihoods. The Irish Transition Towns national website contains much information regarding how to develop local resilience to climate change and peak oil. More details are available at http://transitiontownsireland.ning.com/forum.

Transition Towns are not just relevant to areas with an adjacent rural hinterland. Transition Towns are also relevant to urban situations. For example many UK cities, most notably Bristol, have adopted the TT ethos. In Ireland a group is currently attempting to establish a transition movement in Dublin 8. Furthermore, Dublin City Council has recently published the Dublin City Guide to Community Gardens which contains details of 43 existing and planned community gardens in Dublin city. The Guide includes information on the practicalities of setting up a garden, from finding a site to getting public liability insurance. There is a list of resources as well as contact details for community gardening groups already in existence. There is also information regarding accessing funding for community gardens. The guide may be viewed at www.dublincommunityforum.ie/publications.
Developing synergies between the community sector and

the Transition Towns movement may be beneficial for both agendas. The issue of affordable, locally produced food is particularly relevant in this context. Producing and consuming food locally is environmentally beneficial while cheap food imports result in higher CO2 emissions. However the locally produced, organic food available at farmers markets and other outlets is often expensive. Low income families rely on cheap imported food supplied by the larger supermarkets.

The TT movement wants the production and consumption of local food and low income groups want affordable food. The reconciliation of these mutual aspirations may be promoted by developing links between the community sector and the Transition Towns movement with a view to exploring potential solutions to this problem. The experience of others may serve as a template for Irish community groups in this respect. For example, the residents at the Cloughjordan ecovillage in Co. Tipperary have developed a deal with a local farmer for the production of affordable vegetables. The Stroudco Food Hub in the UK is particularly worthy of exploration as an example of best practice in this context.

Appendix Five

ITM Environmental and Sustainable Policy

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Irish Traveller Movement: Environmental and Sustainable Policy

As a human rights organisation, the Irish traveller Movement recognises that all forms of development must not impact detrimentally on future generations through unacceptable environmental costs. We will strive in its practices to minimise its environmental impact in terms of waste production, energy consumption and water use.

Waste management:

Current levels of waste production in Ireland are unsustainable with landfill still as the main disposal route for all our waste. In order to manage our waste with the minimum impact on the environment, we need to:

- *Prevent*
- *Reduce and reuse*
- *Recycle*
- *Dispose: a last resort for items to go to landfill*

The majority of the waste produced in an office is paper based. Waste can be prevented by the use of electronic documents that can be read rather than printed. All PCs are set to print on both sides as standard. No post-it notes will be purchased or "scribble pads" for jotting notes. Both sides of paper should be used for notes and rough work, including "junk" faxes, and envelopes can be reused for internal communications. All paper and plastic items must be recycled into small bins by desks. **The small bins by each workstation are not for any waste other than recyclable waste (plastic or paper)**. Paperclips and staples need to be removed from documents prior to recycling.

Large bags of recycling waste should be taken... (*specific to individual organisation*) for collection and should be brought by evening staff once they are full. Non-recyclable waste is **disposed** of in ..... (*specific to individual organisation*).

Where Local Authorities provide a brown bin waste collection service, we will procure a brown bin for organic waste (food, tea bags etc.).

For other waste materials, the Dublin Green Guide in the office lists Recycling and Bring Centres in the area and lists the materials that are accepted, including hazardous materials and centres that accept donations of IT equipment, office equipment etc. Other local authorities should be contacted for the same.

We will develop a green and ethical procurement policy to ensure that all purchases are, within costs, are environmentally sustainable. Green procurement covers the purchase of energy efficient computers, office equipment made from environmentally sustainable timber or recycled products, other materials that are easily recycled and buying energy from renewable resources. Environmental office supplies can be sourced from Klee Paper, for example.
http://www.ecoland.com/

Ethical procurement means that goods we purchase come from an ethical source, committed to the fair treatment of workers, fair pay, non-use of child labour, trade union recognition in addition to environmental concerns. Examples for this are goods carrying the Fair Trade Mark.

We strive towards a pyramid of paper use within the organisation, such as:

- 1st choice should be environment-careful recycled paper or 100% post-consumer recycled paper
- 2nd choice should be 100% pre-consumer recycled paper
- 3rd choice should be part-recycled paper
- 4th and final choice - paper made from alternative fibres or from independently certified sustainable forests

If we do use recycled paper, you should include "Printed on Recycled Paper" on any document that you are producing for the organisation to highlight our commitment to sustainable use of resources. Furthermore we will also use unbleached paper in favour over bleached paper as far as practicable.

Energy Consumption:

We recognise that extreme environmental conditions caused by peak oil and climate change will disproportionately affect those with the least power to ameliorate their conditions and that staff practices need to reduce the amount of energy used. Reduction of energy use will also save the organisation money.

The following measures would also save energy:

- Only use enough water as necessary when boiling the kettle

- When heating water for washing dishes, remember to turn the immersion off

- All appliances and lights must be turned off at the end of the day

- All PCs to be set to "sleep" after 20 minutes of inactivity set as default- the PC will automatically power down after this period of non-use

- Appliances on "stand-by" are still consuming energy- if not in use, they should be switched off

- *Remember: Leaving the photocopier on at night uses enough energy to print over 1,500 A4 copies.*

Screensavers do not conserve electricity. They are there for entertainment, not energy saving, and the screen generally continues to use the same amount of power as when the display is actually in working mode.

We as an organisation should look to source its energy from renewable sources, such as Airtricity
http://www.airtricity.com/ireland/

Water Use:

We recognise that water is a common good, which is necessary to sustain, the access to which is a human right. Therefore water must be managed in a way that ensures all people and communities have access to sufficient clean water to maintain life and dignity.

Only use enough water as necessary when boiling the kettle, washing up etc. Small staff numbers mean that a dishwasher is not needed.

We will strive towards using natural or eco-friendly cleaning products and reduce our impact on waste treatment facilities.

Staff Transport:

As far as practicable, we strongly encourage staff to use the following pyramid in relation to work-related travel:

- Walk or cycle
- Train or bus
- Taxi
- Motorbike or private car
- Ferry
- Plane

Obviously environmental considerations are to be taken in conjunction with other factors like the cost to the organisation, staff hours used on slower modes of transport, etc.

As an organisation, we have one standard rate of mileage expenses for use of private transport, thereby creating a financial incentive for staff to use cars with a lower petrol/ diesel usage. In any case all staff are obliged to consider public transport (train & bus) use in preference to the use of private, motorised transport.

Staff Pension:

Staff will be given the option to invest in an ethical pension scheme, as part of their PRSA, such as the Stewardship Fund operated by Friends First.

Payslips:

In the interest of wasting paper, staff have the option to receive their weekly payslips by email. Their choice should be communicated to the payroll administrator.

Appendix Six

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Resources

There are a number of resources available to the community sector to assist them in engaging with the climate change agenda.

Advice is available from Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) regarding how community groups may reduce their energy bills and increase awareness about the relevant issues within their organisations and beyond.

Funding for environmentally focused community initiatives is available from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, Local Authorities, An Taisce and other bodies.

Training regarding how community groups may promote local resilience in the face of climate change and peak oil is available from the Green House and ECOUNESCO and Development, Training, Learning at Kimmage (Dtalk)

Advice on energy-efficiency

Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) runs a programme aimed at increasing energy efficiency in small organisations called 'SEI Service for SMEs'. Although this programme is primarily aimed at businesses it provides advice to community organisations who wish to reduce their energy bill. SEI does not charge for this service. SEI state that participating in this programme can reduce energy bills by up to 20%. This service includes free, one-to-one advice from a specialist energy advisor. This service helps groups to assess their own energy use, to identify opportunities for energy savings and to take action to achieve these savings. More information is available at

www.sei.ie/Your_Business/SEIs_services_for_SMEs.

SEI also runs a 'Small Business Training' course. This is aimed at organisations spending less than €100,000 on energy annually, where resources and time are at premium. It entails three half-day workshops over 10-12 weeks. SEI also provides an 'Energy Awareness Resources' package for small organisations. This is aimed at raising awareness around energy efficiency within the organisation. Advice is given on how to run an energy awareness campaign. As well as advice on savings on energy use, the issue of transport to place of work is addressed. For example, SEI encourages organisations to assess how much energy is being used by staff getting to and from work and how the organisation may respond to this issue by

- Providing accessible information on bus and rail timetables and fares
- Arranging staff discounts for using public transport
- Providing showers for staff who cycle
- Facilitating a car-pooling system

The SEI website also provides energy fact sheet which are relevant to the energy usage of community organisations. Useful templates are also available on the SEI website for power-point presentations, posters or newsletters which focus on this issue.

Funding for environmentally focused community initiatives

The following are examples of grants available for environmentally focused community initiatives:

- The Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund

The Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund promotes sustainable development by assisting small scale, non-profit environmental projects at local level. The Fund has operated in various forms since 1997 when 65 projects received funding. In 2009 the number of projects funded was 408 funded by grants of €636,111. The projects are co-funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Local Authorities. Successful applicants for 2009 are listed at www.environ.ie/en/Environment/LocalAgenda21/EnvironmentalPartnershipFund.

- The Green Communities Programme

Through the Green Communities Programme, An Taisce works with community groups and organisations who seek to enhance their local wildlife/biodiversity and improve access to green spaces. The idea is that groups adopt an area within the locality (i.e. a roof garden, a local woodland, the grounds of community centre, a stretch of beach etc.) and work to make it a friendlier habitat for flora and fauna and hopefully more accessible for people. A wide variety of community groups are involved in this programme including residents associations, asylum seekers groups, drug rehabilitation centres, centres for adults with intellectual disabilities etc. An Taisce provides support and sometimes funding for community groups who want to develop environmental projects. Any activities undertaken as part of the Green Communities project is covered by An Taisce's public liability insurance. There are also opportunities to interact and share experiences with fellow groups from Wales.

- Dublin City Community Grants

Dublin City Council (and other local authorities) provides grants for community projects which have an environmentally related focus. The projects which typically receive support include:

- Summer Projects
- Community Gardens
- Community Festivals
- Resident & Community Associations
- Environmental clean-ups
- Sporting occasions

- Pride of Place Awards

The 'Pride of Place' awards run by Cooperation Ireland also provide grants to community based projects including the promotion of environmental awareness. More information is available at

www.prideofplace.cooperationireland.org.

The following is a list of resources that might be used in developing education for communities.

Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) services:
- 'SEI Service for SMEs'
- 'Small Business Training' course
- 'Energy Awareness Resources' (www.sei.ie)

Assess the **carbon footprint** of your organisation by accessing Irish online carbon calculators such as:

- http://www.cultivate.ie/carbon_calculator.html
- http://carboncalc.repak.ie/flash.php
- www.epa.ie/en/carbonmanagementtool
- http://cmt.epa.ie/en/calculator

Support the participation of staff members taking part in Education and Training programmes which link community development issues with environmental issues. Such courses, described above are available from the Greenhouse (**www.cultivate.ie**), ECO-UNESCO (**www.ecounesco.ie**) and Dtalk (**www.dtalk.ie**).

Develop a **Transport Plan** for the organisation which aims to reduce the energy use associated with staff getting to and from work (see **www.sei.ie**).

Show films about climate change and resource depletion and the effects on communities. Particularly popular films include:

- The End of Suburbia
- Fuel
- The Age of Stupid
- The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil
- An Inconvenient Truth
- The Eleventh Hour
- Our Year Without Oil
- The Story of Energy (aimed at children and available from the SEI website).
- The Powerdown Show

Training

The Greenhouse

The Greenhouse, based in Andrew St. Dublin, provides a broad spectrum of different environmental resources, many of which are relevant to community work. It presents courses on environmental issues, it sells books, magazines and DVDs on issues related to sustainable development and it hosts national workshops on issues related to sustainable development. Of particular interest to the community sector is the course entitled Community Resilience – Ten Active Learning Sessions. This course explores how communities may respond to the challenges of climate change and peak oil by developing local resilience. The course runs in both Dublin and Cloughjordan in Co. Tipperary. The course is aimed at many groups including those working in community regeneration.

The ten modules cover the following areas:

- The Challenges Ahead – Economy. Justice, Climate, Energy and the Environment
- The Power Of Community – Social Capital, Resilience and the Local Economy
- It's All Connected - Whole Systems Thinking and Permaculture
- Rethinking Energy – Conservation, Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Appropriate Technology
- Getting Around - Transport and Mobility
- Deconstructing Dinner - Food Miles, Trade and Local Food Systems,
- Shelter - Future Proofing Our Homes and Buildings
- Energy Descent Pathways - Engaging in the Transition process
- Global Citizenship - Understanding our rights and responsibilities
- Where Do We Go From Here? – Communication and Exploring New Livelihoods

Information about this course is available at **www.cultivate.ie**. There is also a DVD about these issues available from the Greenhouse shop.

ECO-UNESCO

ECO-UNESCO runs a course called Introduction to Sustainable Development (FETAC L5) which is offered either as 3 day Intensive course or over 12 weeks. This course entails 10 Sessions and can be availed in-house or on request nationwide. Participants will learn how to engage communities in the Climate Change Agenda and how to devise responses that are inclusive of social and economic concerns at a local level. The Course module explores:

- The interconnections between economic, social & environmental systems.
- Education for Sustainable Development in theory and practice
- Environmental Auditing
- How to set Sustainability indicators

The course draws on the ethos of 'Thinking global, acting local'. Participants learn how to draw up their own vision for a Sustainable Community, set goals for their sustainable community, devise sustainability indicators inclusive of social, economic & environmental concerns and carry out an environmental audit. ECO-UNESCO also offers a range of day trainings targeted at youth workers on Climate Change, Energy & Sustainable Development. Information about these programmes is available at **www.ecounesco.ie**

DTALK

Development, Training, Learning at Kimmage (Dtalk) runs a training programme entitled 'Climate Change and Development – Impacts, Responses and Policy'. This course is designed to build knowledge and capacity within development organisations to bring them up to speed on the latest climate change thinking and design ways of more effectively integrating climate into development planning processes. The expected learning outcomes from this course include:

- Get an up to date understanding of climate science and current and predicted human development impacts on poor communities;
- Explore the roles and motivations of different actors in the international climate change negotiation process;
- Develop knowledge of climate change adaptation through working on case studies which explore how best to build resilience of vulnerable communities;
- Get a deeper understanding of the links between climate change and other development imperatives such as poverty reduction, disaster risk reduction and social justice;
- Learn about working at the policy level to effect change through campaigning and joint advocacy networks within Ireland and internationally;

More information on this course is available at **www.dtalk.ie** Kimmage Development Studies Centre (KDSC), Kimmage Manor, Dublin.

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