

# CORCA DHUIBHNE / DINGLE PENINSULA 2030

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENGAGING SOCIETY IN LARGE-SCALE CLIMATE RESPONSES

FEEDBACK CARD 4 OF 4 IN SERIES



### Continue the Work of Dingle Peninsula 2030

- Dingle Peninsula 2030 is a test case for rural Ireland and should be built upon by government.
- It can lead the way, especially in relation to farming and smart farming.
- Keep sharing the experiences, in-person through visits and exchanges, and building relationships.
- Bring down groups of officials from different departments to see for themselves. They are the ones with a long-term commitment to development. They see it, hear it and remember it.
- Show people everything that works, does not work and the challenges. The challenge is how to scale these changes.

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I think they've done one of the best jobs of any community in Ireland from a farming perspective, at least in terms of starting to understand what's needed and what can be beneficial (in terms of energy transition).

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People think engagement should be easy and cheap and it's not. You actually have to go out to people where they are, and you have to meet them there, and you have to facilitate their views being heard, you have to create the structures for them to engage and the better the structures are, the more effective the engagement is going to be.

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### Produce more Data

- I would really like to see the detailed costs involved in Dingle Peninsula 2030 and the challenges and failings. Many projects fail, but if we know why we could watch out for those points in future projects.
- I would like to see more numerical outcomes and statistical results, to assist people and researchers.
- Communicating the emissions benefits would give extra credibility.
- I would be interested in seeing data on carbon emissions and other indicators compared over a period of time.
- We want to build on the experiences and trialling in Dingle and extend the learnings through our research programmes. We would like hard data plus feedback on community engagement.



### Scale Up and Pilot Elsewhere

- There needs to be more than one Dingle sharing learning, knowledge and experiences, so that agencies can form appropriate policy. Examine how to scale up and replicate the Dingle Peninsula 2030 initiative. Such projects need inter-departmental support.
- It is really important to learn from the mistakes. Go from test bed to pilots that are scaled up incrementally (e.g., to 10 communities). Monitor and evaluate continuously and reflect before scaling further.
- Approaches like the Ambassador Programme show engagement and transition in action and could be replicated on a broad scale.

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If the work is worth doing and if the work is producing results, then it is worth resourcing

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I think there is a public interest...in having the data available as well as all the findings and outcomes.

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## Focus on Community Engagement

- Most people want to see something happen to address climate change. People know best what will work in their areas. It is really important to bring them along and not to lecture or impose on them.
- Government needs to talk to communities and not just itself. It needs to take a longer view of how communities transition and to facilitate them talking to, and learning from, each other.
- Policy makers need to create structures and systems where people's voices get heard. People have a right to have their voices heard. I think it makes for more stable societies.
- More work is needed around community engagement across industry partners and public bodies.



## Provide more Funding and Resources

- Transitioning society will take significant investment but this will be modest in the overall scheme of where we need to be. There will be payback - green, climate, social and economic - in the long run.
- There definitely needs to be some sort of support mechanisms for communities. Many funds are re-orientating towards climate, but agencies and departments need to come together to pool resources, understandings and definitions.
- Decarbonisation is very complex and communities need facilitators and co-ordinators to support people to take action.
- There will be a lot of community benefit funds in the coming years. Easy access to these funds needs to be established. Give communities funding to buy in the administrative expertise they need rather than relying on volunteers.
- Set up an endowment fund whereby significant contributions are made by government and philanthropists – the fund stays in place, but the interest goes to green programmes.

[Link to Card 1 on Introduction](#)

Interviews conducted by Dr Maria Power of Community Consultants

**Interviewees:** Aoife MacEvilly, Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU); Eimear Cotter, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Enda Gallagher, (formerly) Dept Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC); Ian O'Flynn, Gas Networks Ireland (GNI); Laura Devaney, Dept. of the Taoiseach (DoT); Mark McGranaghan, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI); Mícheál Ó hÉanaigh, Udarás na Gaeltachta; Rebekah Keaveny, Green Offaly; Ruth Buggie, Sustainable Energy Authority Of Ireland (SEAI); Ruth Freeman, Science Foundation Ireland (SFI); William Parnell, (formerly) Dept Rural and Community Development (DRCD).