



Climate Action, Heritage and Biodiversity Survey Launched

Date: 25th July 2023

Over the coming months, Galway County Council will be working with communities, businesses, public representatives and other stakeholders to develop two plans: a **Climate Action Plan** and a **Heritage and Biodiversity Plan** for the county of Galway. Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Cllr Liam Carroll launched a consultation to inform both plans on Monday 24th July.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the consultation as “an important step in enabling the voice of all members of the community to be heard to ensure that they can play a part in developing a vision for a sustainable future”.

Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council welcomed the launch saying: “There are challenges ahead to increase the climate resilience of County Galway and to move towards net zero emissions by 2050 but there are also great opportunities and benefits. The preparation of the County Galway Climate Action Plan will assist our County in the identification of strategic climate action policies and the implementation of a roadmap towards net zero emissions. The feedback will help to shape Galway’s future and I would encourage the public to participate so that Galway County Council can deliver the best plans for the people of Galway.’

The consultation includes a survey that will help guide Galway County Council in co-creating the Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 and the Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2024- 2030. Eileen Ruane, Director of Services, noted that “the survey will enable citizens and businesses to identify the actions they would like to see in their towns, villages and communities and highlight how the local authority can assist”.

Local Authorities have an important role in relation to **Climate Action**. This is reflected in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act, 2021, which requires each Local Authority to prepare its 1st Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LA CAP) by the 24th of February 2024.

The Galway County **Heritage and Biodiversity** Plan 2024- 2030 will aim to place heritage and biodiversity at the heart of public life in the county. This will be achieved through increasing awareness, participation, enjoyment, knowledge and understanding of our shared heritage to lead to its proper conservation, management and protection.

Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services – Economic Development & Planning, stated “it is an opportunity for Galway County Council to engage with our communities, listen to their insights and incorporate their perspectives into the development of these plans. I firmly believe that collaboration and inclusivity are key to achieving our shared vision of a sustainable and resilient environment.”

Submissions can be made at the link below, which can also be found on the galway.ie website. The consultation period lasts until the 25th August. Hard copies of the survey will be available in libraries and there will be further engagement with interested groups and sectors.

<https://galway.ie/ClimateAction-Heritage-BioDiversity-Survey-2023>



For further information:

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Biodiversity Officer: Rosina Joyce rjoyce@galwaycoco.ie

Community Climate Action Fund

Galway County Council is also delighted to welcome the announcement by the Minister for Environment Climate and Communications of a new Community Climate Action Fund which is being made available to organisations and community groups interested in developing projects and initiatives related to the challenge of addressing climate change. The Council is developing an application process which will be made available through our website in the coming weeks when the Fund is opened.

For further information on the Community Climate Action Fund, please contact:

Community Climate Action Officer: Denise Feeney climateactionfund@galwaycoco.ie

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