



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Arna chomhchistiú ag an Roinn Forbatha Tuaithe agus Pobail
Co-funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by
the European Union

LEADER 2023 -2027

County Waterford Information Booklet



Comhpháirtíocht Leader Waterford Leader
Phort Láirge Partnership



LCDC
Láirge agus Phort Láirge
Phort Láirge
Waterford Local Community
Development Committee



LEADER 2023 -2027

County Waterford Information Booklet

Introduction

LEADER stands for "Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale", which translates as "Links between the rural economy and development actions." The LEADER programme has been operating in Ireland and across European Union (EU) Member States for over 30 years. Commencing as an experimental rural development programme in 1991, LEADER has evolved through five successive programming periods to become a key intervention within EU rural development policy. It forms an integral part of the EU funding framework, delivered through national rural development programmes of each Member State. Over the three decades of its existence, the programme has supported the development of a wide range of innovative and sustainable projects that have brought increased jobs and vibrancy to rural communities across the EU. For the purposes of the LEADER programme in Ireland, rural areas are defined as all parts of Ireland except for the areas within the boundaries of the five main cities of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Waterford, and Galway. LEADER promotes a Community Led Local Development (CLLD) approach that involves the participation of local communities in developing responses to key economic, environmental, and social challenges.

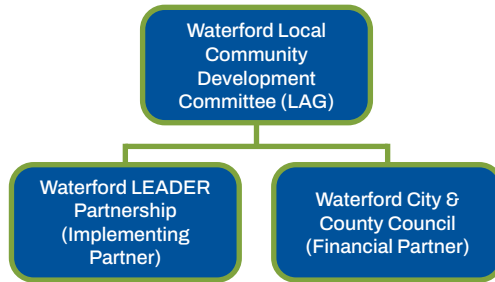
The purpose of this booklet is to provide practical guidance and information to any group, business, or individual applying for LEADER funding in County Waterford. The following sections will outline:

- 1) An overview of the LEADER Programme in County Waterford and the various plans and partners involved.
- 2) Investment Plans– Summary of the County Waterford Local Development Strategy (LDS).
- 3) Summary of Current Funding Ceilings / Support Rates and Documentation Required.
- 4) The process of applying for grant aid up to the approval stage.
- 5) The process after grant aid has been awarded.
- 6) The Promoter's (Applicant) responsibilities for five years after the final payment date.
- 7) Details of Ineligible Activities.



1. An overview of the LEADER Programme in County Waterford and the various plans and partners involved in the Programme

Local Action Group Partners



Waterford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was established in 2014 under the provision of Part 6 of the Local Government Reform Act. The Local Action Group (LAG) is ultimately responsible for LEADER. The composition of the LAG partnership is based on balanced representation from the public and private sectors. It includes representatives from local authorities, state agencies, the community and voluntary sector, and social partners. The LCDC have final approval on all project applications.

Waterford Leader Partnership CLG (WLP), on behalf of the LCDC, is responsible for delivering the new LEADER 2023 -2027 Programme worth €6,092,411.00, of which €4,569,308.00 will be spent on projects. WLP CLG's role as the implementing partner is to animate projects and support promoters with their application for funding in County Waterford.

Waterford City & County Council (WC&CC) is the lead financial partner responsible for maintaining and retaining records of all financial aspects of the Programme.

While the overall Rural Development Programme (RDP) is delivered by the Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine (DAFM), LEADER is administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).



Overview of Programme: The LEADER element of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan 2023-2027 outlines a series of themes identified as part of research and consultations undertaken in developing the plan. These themes are reflective of the key challenges and opportunities for rural Ireland. Each theme is further defined through several sub-themes, which reflect the key areas that require the most support and have the greatest potential to promote the sustainable development of rural communities. The sub-themes are sufficiently broad and flexible to encompass the diversity of local needs in rural areas and the range of projects supported through the Local Development Strategy (LDS).

2023-2027 LEADER Themes

Theme 1: Economic Development and Job Creation

Theme 2: Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion

Theme 3: Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Below is a table of the key themes and sub-themes and while LEADER actions in Co. Waterford do not address all Themes and Sub-Themes specifically, a more focused approach has been adopted to ensure the best use of limited resources and non-duplication of supports across other service providers. **Areas of focus are in bold below.**

Theme 1: Economic Development and Job Creation	Theme 2: Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion	Theme 3: Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
Sub Theme 1a The Green Economy	Sub Theme 2a Rural Infrastructure	Sub Theme 3a Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment
Sub Theme 1b Agricultural Diversification	Sub Theme 2b Accessible Services	Sub Theme 3b Climate Change Capacity Building
Sub Theme 1c Rural Tourism and Recreation	Sub Theme 2c Optimising Digital Connectivity	Sub Theme 3c Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
Sub Theme 1d Enterprise Development	Sub Theme 2d Rural Youth	
Sub Theme 1e Rural Food Production		
Sub Theme 1f Social, Community and Cooperative Enterprise		



2. The Plans for Investment – The County Waterford Local Development Strategy

The County Waterford Local Development Strategy (LDS) is a community-led plan to address identified needs and a defined set of local objectives. The LDS details the proposed areas of investment during the Programme. All projects funded must fit the objectives and actions identified in the LDS. Please find a summary of the actions contained in the LDS below.

Theme 1: Economic Development and Job Creation

Local Objective 1: Strategic Actions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5

Title of Local Objective	Investment in indigenous rural enterprises to maximise efficiencies and competitiveness, increase the offering for visitors whilst supporting a greener sustainable environment.
LEADER Theme/Sub-Theme	Economic Development and Job Creation Sub-Theme: 1a The Green Economy and 1c Rural Tourism and Recreation.
Rationale for the Objective	Small rural enterprises are the cornerstone of the local economy, providing much-needed employment and creating a demand for rural services. Supporting rural enterprises is tantamount to sustaining local services. Investment in greener, more energy-efficient technology enhances performance but is also kinder to the environment. Similarly, investment in redundant farm/industrial buildings and repurposing into sustainable accommodation is vital in rural areas where accommodation is at an all-time low due to the Ukrainian crisis. Lack of accommodation is severely impacting tourism providers trying to enhance their offering and bundling same with other providers to attract overnight visitors.
Link to the LECP	Objective 1: Low carbon and sustainable economy Goal 1.1: Develop a flagship green economy, including the circular economy, and maximising opportunities while transitioning to a low carbon and resilient economy. Objective 2: Economic Diversity and Sustainable Growth Goal 2.2: Scale established indigenous enterprises to maximise their global growth and job creation potential.



Financial Allocation	LEADER: €2,970,717 Matched: €2,970,717 Total: €5,941,434
No. of Strategic Actions	5

Theme 1 Economic Development and Job Creation / Sub Theme 1a Green Economy

Local Objective 1: Strategic Action 1.1 1a Green Economy

Title of Strategic Action	Capital Investment in Existing and Start-Up Technology that embraces greater efficiency and supports the environment.
Brief Description of Strategic Action	Assist and Invest development of ICT, engineering/fabrication, micro pharma, artisan food and traded services businesses in local villages. Emphasis will be placed on energy efficiency, recycling of waste and greener technology linking to LO3, 3a/c.
Link to LECP	Objective 1: Low carbon and sustainable economy. Goal 1.1: Develop a flagship green economy, including the circular economy, and maximising opportunities while transitioning to a low carbon and resilient economy. and Objective 2: Economic Diversity and Sustainable Growth. Goal 2.2: Scale established indigenous enterprises to maximise their global growth and job creation potential.
Primary Target Group(s)	Private Business Promoters with the skills to operate in the fields listed above.
Geographic Area	The Call will be countywide.
Organisation who will deliver the action	WLP CLG
Collaborating Organisations	Waterford LEO to provide all the soft supports, SEAI, SETU



Timeframe of Delivery of the Action	Q1 2024 to Q3 2026
Anticipated Outputs/ Indicators and Targets	<p>Number of Projects to be Funded: 7 Existing: 5 New: 2</p> <p>Projected Jobs: 29FTEs</p> <p>Sustained Jobs: Dependent on the applicant.</p> <p>Type of Initiative: ICT, Light Engineering, Micro Pharma, and Traded Services and artisan food producers</p> <p>Total Capital: €1,171,714 LEADER: €585,857 Private/Community/State: €585,857 Cost per Job: €40,000</p> <p><i>*NB. The above estimates are based on EOIs</i></p>

Theme 1 Economic Development and Job Creation / Sub Theme 1a Green Economy

Local Objective 1: Strategic Action 1.2 1a Green Economy

Title of Strategic Action	Repurposing farm and industrial buildings into niche visitor accommodation.
Brief Description of Strategic Action	Repurposing old farm and industrial buildings into much-needed niche accommodation to support LO1/SA1.3 and SA1.5 There is currently very limited accommodation available to visitors due to the government's support of housing the Ukrainian community over the next 5-year period.
Link to LECP	<p>Local Objective 3: Sustainable Placemaking and Destination Management.</p> <p>Goal 3.6: Develop Waterford as a sustainable and accessible place attractive to both domestic and international visitors with a sense of place and connected tourist amenities to enhance and support local communities and realise additional economic growth for Waterford.</p>
Primary Target Group(s)	Rural Dwellers establishing Private Businesses.
Geographic Area	The locations for such enterprises will be on the 2 Estuaries, The Suir Estuary and the Blackwater Estuary, Dunmore East, Tramore, The Copper Coast, Dungarvan, The Gaeltacht Coast to Ardmore Coastline, the Waterford Greenway and the Comeraghs, St. Declan's Walk and the Anne Valley Walk.



Organisation who will deliver the action	WLP CLG
Collaborating Organisations	WC&CC, Fáilte Ireland, Heritage Council, Teagasc
Timeframe of Delivery of the Action	Q1 2024 to Q3 2026
Anticipated Outputs/ Indicators and Targets	<p>Number of Projects to be Funded: 4-6 Existing: 2 New: 4 Projected Jobs: 10 FTEs Sustained Jobs: Dependent on the applicant Type of Initiative: 1 – 2 Recreational Vehicle Parks, 1 -2 Glamping/Camping Sites, 1 -2 Community Hostels. These facilities could service the Greenway, the Comeraghs/Knockmealdowns, Copper Coast, Dungarvan, Gaeltacht na Rinne & an tSean Phobail, Ardmore. Total Capital: €1,389,440 LEADER: €694,720 Private/Community/State: €694,720 Cost per Job; €40,000 Visitor numbers: 2,500-3,000 per annum per project</p>

Theme 1 Economic Development and Job Creation / Sub Theme 1c Rural Tourism and Recreation

Local Objective 1: Strategic Action 1.3 Sub Theme 1c Rural Tourism and Recreation

Title of Strategic Action	Support and develop activity tourism products in the county to entice visitors to overnight.
Brief Description of Strategic Action	Invest in the Start-up/Expansion of Existing Activity Tourism/Rural Recreation Businesses focused on Cycling, Kayaking, Chartering, Angling, Mountaineering, Walking, Mountain Biking, and non-core Activity Sports, as well as the specific auxiliary services to support these activities. Based on the proposed infrastructure, EV charging points will be created where possible to keep electric cars and bicycles. This action is also linked to LO1/SA1.2, SA1.4, LO2/SA2.3 and SA2.4.



Link to LECP	Objective 3 - Goal 3.6 Goal: Develop Waterford as a sustainable and accessible place that is attractive to both domestic and international visitors with a sense of place and connected tourist amenities to enhance and support local communities and realise additional economic growth for Waterford.
Primary Target Group(s)	Rural Dwellers establishing Private Businesses; Community-owned Social Enterprises.
Geographic Area	The 2 Estuaries - Suir and Blackwater, Dunmore East, Tramore, The Copper Coast, Dungarvan, The Gaeltacht Coast to Ardmore Coastline, the Waterford Greenway and the Comeragh's, St. Declan's Walk and the Anne Valley Walk.
Organisation who will deliver the action	WLP CLG
Collaborating Organisations	WC&CC, Fáilte Ireland
Timeframe of Delivery of the Action	Q1 2024 to Q3 2026
Anticipated Outputs/ Indicators and Targets	Number of Projects to be Funded: 8 Existing: 4 New: 4 Projected Jobs 28 FTEs Sustained Jobs: Dependent on the applicant Type of Initiative: Activity Tourism Businesses/Activity Centres/Charter Businesses/Bike Rental/Pilgrim Route Total Capital: €1,126,760 LEADER: €563,380 Private: €563,380 Cost per Job; €40,000 Visitor numbers: 12,000 increase per annum <i>*NB. The above estimates are based on EOIs</i>



Theme 1 Economic Development and Job Creation / Sub Theme 1c Rural Tourism and Recreation

Local Objective 1: Strategic Action 1.4 Sub Theme 1c Rural Tourism and Recreation

Title of Strategic Action	Community Hostels, RV Parks and Glamping/Camping
Brief Description of Strategic Action	Investment in Private/Community Hostels/Visitor Centres, RV Parks, Glamping/Camping. This action is also linked to LO1/SA1.3 activity tourism provision, 1.5 Culture and Heritage and 3.3.
Link to LECP	Local Objective 3: Sustainable Placemaking and Destination Management. Goal 3.6: Develop Waterford as a sustainable and accessible place attractive to both domestic and international visitors with a sense of place and connected tourist amenities to enhance and support local communities and realise additional economic growth for Waterford.
Primary Target Group(s)	Rural Dwellers establishing Private Businesses; Community operated Social Enterprises.
Geographic Area	The Call will be countywide.
Organisation who will deliver the action	WLP CLG
Collaborating Organisations	WC&CC, Fáilte Ireland
Timeframe of Delivery of the Action	Q1 2024 to Q3 2026
Anticipated Outputs/ Indicators and Targets	Number of Projects to be Funded: 6 Existing: 3 New: 3 Projected Jobs: 42 FTEs Sustained Jobs: Dependent on the applicant Type of Initiative: 1-2 Recreational Vehicle Parks, 1-2 Glamping/Camping Sites, 1-2 Community Hostels. These facilities could service the Greenway, the Comeraghs/Knockmealdowns, Copper Coast, Dungarvan, Gaeltacht na Rinne & an tSean Phobail, Ardmore Total Capital: €1,690,140 LEADER: €845,070 Private: €845,070 Cost per Job; €40,000 Visitor numbers: 9,000 per annum per project *NB. The above estimates are based on EOIs



Theme 1 Economic Development and Job Creation / Sub Theme 1c Rural Tourism and Recreation

Local Objective 1: Strategic Action 1.5 Sub Theme 1c Rural Tourism and Recreation

Title of Strategic Action	Culture and Heritage Product Development.
Brief Description of Strategic Action	Invest in developing the rich cultural and heritage base in Co. Waterford to ensure the natural product is accessible, preserved and enjoyed by the visiting public and supporting the SMART Village concept of creating and appreciating a sense of place. This action is also linked to LO2/SA2.1, SA2.3 and SA2.4.
Link to LECP	Local Objective 3: Sustainable Placemaking and Destination Management. Goal 3.7: Protect, manage, and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, landscape and environment of Waterford in recognition of its importance as a non-renewable resource, providing a unique identity and character for Waterford.
Primary Target Group(s)	Great House-Gardens, Social Economy Groups involved in Cultural Products, Cultural Organisations whose centres are or will be fully open to the public, Organisations involved in Interpreting and Promoting the Gaelic Culture and the Planter/Quaker Culture, Preservation of old traditional skills/crafts at risk of disappearing.
Geographic Area	Focus areas include the Blackwater and Suir Estuaries, the Gaeltacht na Rinne & an tSean Phobail, Dungarvan and Tramore and the Comeraghs.
Organisation who will deliver the action	WLP CLG
Collaborating Organisations	WC&CC, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Fáilte Ireland, FLAG, Heritage Council.
Timeframe of Delivery of the Action	Q1 2024 to Q3 2026



Anticipated Outputs/ Indicators and Targets	<p>Number of Projects to be Funded: 4 Existing: 3 New: 1 Projected Jobs:10 FTEs Sustained Jobs: Dependent on the applicant Type of Initiative: Cultural Facilities, Gaeltacht Interpretation, Gaeltacht Visitor Facilities; Visitor Facilities for the Great Houses/Gardens, National Museum of Ireland Standard Interpretation Facilities; Traditional Music, Dance and Literature, Quaker/Planter Cultural Projects, Traditional skills/crafts Total Capital: €563,380 LEADER: €281,690 Private: €281,690 Cost per Job; €40,000 Visitor numbers; 6,000 per annum per project <i>*NB. The above estimates are based on EOIs</i></p>
--	--

Theme 2: Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion

Local Objective 2: Strategic Actions 2.1, 2.2, 2.3

Title of Local Objective	Underpinning Social Inclusion Initiatives in Rural Areas through investment in Physical and Human Capital.
LEADER Theme/Sub-Theme	Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion - Sub-Themes 2b Accessible Services and 2d Rural Youth.
Rationale for the Objective	<p>Most towns and villages within the county have benefited from LEADER and other community funding schemes to refurbish community centres and halls to a high standard. However, not all communities have benefited from LEADER funding due mainly to the need for capacity building and the limitations of this intervention on the implementor under the RD operating rules. Training is needed for a small number of groups to become tier 1 organisations, i.e., structured and prepared for funding opportunities. These groups can then join forces with neighbouring villages to create projects of scale under SMART Villages/REDZ.</p> <p>Promotion of activities and ancillary facilities to support youth (both NEETs and Non-NEETs) outside the classroom is also required, particularly those who do not take part in field sports, to develop their social skills and sense of well-being.</p>
Link to the LECP	<p>Objective 3: Sustainable Placemaking and Destination Management Goal 3.5: Drive the delivery of sustainable communities with connected amenities and housing of all types (affordable, social and private) in key areas in Waterford for existing communities and to attract inward migration and talent.</p>



Financial Allocation	LEADER: €1,005,633 Matched: €55,398 Total: €1,314,553
No. of Strategic Actions	3

Theme 2 Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion / Sub Theme 2b Accessible Services

Local Objective 2: Strategic Action 2.1 Sub Theme 2b Accessible Services

Title of Strategic Action	Facilitation support and capacity building for new/established Voluntary Groups.
Brief Description of Strategic Action	The project involves providing training targeted at voluntary, not-for-profit groups to bring them together and help strengthen and consolidate their leadership ability to deliver a cohesive plan for their village/town. Previous experience has shown that this intervention consolidates one representative community group in an area where there may be many to design and deliver unified actions. Portlaw Community Enhancement Group is one example which conducted a study of the needs in their area and identified some priority actions which are now being realised through securing Rural Regeneration Funding.
Primary Target Group(s)	Community training to Tier 1 status, i.e., SMART Villages and REDZ, Women's and Men's Sheds and the PPN.
Geographic Area	The Estuary - Dunmore East, Passage East and Cheekpoint, Comeragh area – Portlaw, Clonea Power, Ballymacarbry, Stradbally, Women and Men's Shed.
Organisation who will deliver the action	WLP CLG
Collaborating Organisations	PPN, WAP, SETU
Timeframe of Delivery of the Action	Q1 2024 to Q4 2025



Anticipated Outputs/ Indicators and Targets	<p>Number of Projects to be Funded: 8-10 Training Initiatives Existing: 40/80 Volunteers New: N/A Projected Jobs: 0 FTEs. Based on experience, this soft support intervention has a huge multiplier effect with a 50% success rate in transforming voluntary members/groups into structured and organised entities capable of harnessing funding and implementing worthwhile projects. Sustained Jobs: None. Progression to capital funding Type of Initiative: Training Total Capital: €131,455 LEADER: €118,309 Private: €13,145 Cost per Job; N/A <i>*NB. The above estimates are based on EOIs</i></p>
--	--

Theme 2 Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion / Sub Theme 2d Rural Youth

Local Objective 2: Strategic Action 2.2 Sub Theme 2d Rural Youth

Title of Strategic Action	Support for rural youth facilities to encourage participation and social interaction.
Brief Description of Strategic Action	To support youth facilities in the rural areas that are currently lacking, providing an alternative to field sports and catering for more diverse needs representative of emerging communities. Initiatives to be supported include performance arts, drama and music and scouting activities to encourage more active outdoor experiences. Linked to LO1/SA1.3 and SA1.5. This action will also be linked to the implementer's Care Farm initiative, facilitating youths to experience life on the farm and undertake meaningful tasks.
Primary Target Group(s)	Rural Youth 12 - 18 yrs
Geographic Area	Lismore, Tramore, Kilmacthomas, Dungarvan, An Rinn and An Sean Phobal.
Organisation who will deliver the action	WLP CLG
Collaborating Organisations	Intreo, Macra na Feirme, WWETB, Teagasc, Waterford LEO, WAP, TUSLA, Comhairle na nOg, Care Farming, Clann Credo.
Timeframe of Delivery of the Action	Q1 2024 to Q3 2026



Anticipated Outputs/ Indicators and Targets	<p>Number of Projects to be Funded: 5 Existing: 3 New: 2 Projected Jobs: 0 FTEs. Most Community Facilities are staffed through DSP Programmes. Sustained Jobs: Dependent on the applicant. Type of Initiative: Capital Investment in Youth Equipment/supports Total Capital: €56,338 LEADER: €42,254 Private/Community/State: €14,084 Cost per Job; N/A <i>*NB. The above estimates are based on EOIs</i></p>
--	---

Theme 2 Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion / Sub Theme 2d Rural Youth

Local Objective 2: Strategic Action 2.3 Sub Theme 2d Rural Youth

Title of Strategic Action	Investment in three outdoor activity facilities.
Brief Description of Strategic Action	Investment in three outdoor facilities to support rural youth to become more active and participative in their community. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a hugely negative impact on this target group, where people have been forced to isolate and operate in a virtual world. Many now suffer from anxiety and retreat indoors. The locations chosen are based on interest from the communities and feedback from the public consultation process.
Primary Target Group(s)	Rural Youth
Geographic Area	An Rinn & an Sean Phobal, Dungarvan and Knockanore
Organisation who will deliver the action	WLP CLG
Collaborating Organisations	WC&CC, WLP CLG, Local Communities
Timeframe of Delivery of the Action	Q1 2024 to Q3 2026



Anticipated Outputs/ Indicators and Targets	<p>Number of Projects to be Funded: 3 Existing: 0 New: 3 Projected Jobs: 0 FTEs. Most Community Facilities are staffed through DSP Programmes. Sustained Jobs: Dependent on the applicant. Type of Initiative: Capital Investment Total Capital: €1,126,760 LEADER: €845,070 Private/Community/State: €28,169 Cost per Job; N/A <i>*NB. The above estimates are based on EOIs</i></p>
--	---

Theme 3: Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Local Objective 3: Strategic Actions 3.1,3.2 and 3.3

Title of Local Objective	Supporting sustainable environmental initiatives.
LEADER Theme/Sub-Theme	Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation – Sub-Theme 3a Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment.
Rationale for the Objective	Creating exemplary biodiversity and renewable energy projects within communities will raise awareness and educate on a practical level. Experience from the consultation process has highlighted the lack of clarity around some of the jargon used in the public arena and the resulting lack of knowledge. Similarly, working with the experts in the field and creating an alternative village electricity scheme and building on the tradition of hydropower in the county, supporting a hydro scheme to generate greener energy.
Link to the LECP	Objective 3: Sustainable Placemaking and Destination Management Goal 3.7: Protect, manage, and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, landscape, and environment of Waterford in recognition of its importance as a non-renewable resource, providing a unique identity and character for Waterford.
Financial Allocation	LEADER: €592,958 Matched: €452,112 Total: €1,045,070
No. of Strategic Actions	3



Theme 3: Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation / Sub Theme 3a Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment

Local Objective 3: Strategic Action 3.1 Sub Theme 3a Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment

Title of Strategic Action	Support of exemplar projects in biodiversity.
Brief Description of Strategic Action	The provision of support for three community groups to develop exemplar biodiversity projects similar to the Anne Valley in East Waterford through land donated by estate owners under a license agreement. Where community groups have access to council land or donated ground to create community allotments/gardens.
Primary Target Group(s)	Community groups who have access to local authority/donated land.
Geographic Area	Countywide
Organisation who will deliver the action	WLP CLG
Collaborating Organisations	Teagasc, EPA, WC&CC, SETU, Southeast Energy Agency, GIY.
Timeframe of Delivery of the Action	Q1 2024 to Q3 2026
Anticipated Outputs/ Indicators and Targets	<p>Number of Projects to be Funded: 3 Existing: 0 New: 3 Projected Jobs: 0 FTEs. This cannot be estimated at the time of application. Indicators will be kept to create a future baseline. Sustained Jobs: Dependent on the applicant. Type of Initiative: Capital support Total Capital: €281,690 LEADER: €211,268 Private/Community/State: €70,422 Cost per Job; N/A <i>*NB. The above estimates are based on EOIs</i></p>



Theme 3: Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation / Sub Theme 3a Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment

Local Objective 3: Strategic Action 3.2 Sub Theme 3a Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment

Title of Strategic Action	Development of Renewable Energy.
Brief Description of Strategic Action	LEADER will work with one of the SECs to develop a practical energy reduction project in one community as an exemplar, as the county's energy strategy heavily emphasises reducing residential energy usage. In addition, hydropower will also be supported, given the abundance of large rivers and tributaries within the LDS area and the history of hydropower in the now-defunct milling industries in places like Portlaw and Kilmacthomas.
Primary Target Group(s)	Rural Dwellers.
Geographic Area	Interest has been expressed in the River Glasha, Anne Valley and Clashmore area and one SEC area in West Waterford.
Organisation who will deliver the action	WLP CLG
Collaborating Organisations	WC&CC; LAWPRO, South East Energy Agency.
Timeframe of Delivery of the Action	Q1 2024 to Q3 2026
Anticipated Outputs/ Indicators and Targets	<p>Number of Projects to be Funded: 2 Existing: 0 New: 2 Projected Jobs: 14 FTEs Sustained Jobs: Dependent on the applicant. Type of Initiative: Capital Investment into 2 Micro Hydro Power Facilities Total Capital: €563,380 LEADER: €281,690 Private/Community/State: €281,690 Cost per Job: €40,000 <i>*NB. The above estimates are based on EOIs</i></p>



Theme 3: Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation / Sub Theme 3a Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment

Local Objective 3: Strategic Action 3.3 Sub Theme 3a Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment

Title of Strategic Action	Installation of smart electronic management systems into community-owned facilities.
Brief Description of Strategic Action	As previously stated, due to the plethora of community-funded schemes towards the refurbishment and upgrading of community facilities, the consultation process highlighted the need for exploring alternative use of some of these facilities to address rising overhead costs. This, coupled with the reliance on a limited number of volunteers responsible for some of these centres, ignited a smarter solution to give remote access to these facilities. Investment in this new technology will be supported as this action will also link into LO1/SA1.4 Investment in Community hostels, etc.
Primary Target Group(s)	Rural Dwellers.
Geographic Area	The Greenway hinterland and St. Declan's Way.
Organisation who will deliver the action	WLP CLG
Collaborating Organisations	WC&CC, SEAI, South East Energy Agency
Timeframe of Delivery of the Action	Q1 2024 to Q3 2026
Anticipated Outputs/ Indicators and Targets	<p>Number of Projects to be Funded: 4-6 Existing: 4-6 New: 0 Projected Jobs: N/A Sustained Jobs: Dependent on the applicant. Type of Initiative: Capital equipment Total Capital: €200,000 LEADER: €100,000 Private/Community/State: €100,000 Cost per Job; N/A <i>*NB. The above estimates are based on EOIs</i></p>



LO2	SA2.1	Place-Based Groups	New Communities	2024	€10,000
LO2	SA2.2	Rural Youth	Young People	2024	€42,254
LO2	SA2.2	Green Care	Social Farming	2024-29	Management Administration
LO2	SA2.2	Rural Youth	Capital Facilities	2024-27	€845,070
LO2	SA2.2	Green Care	Social Farming	2024-29	Management Administration
		LTU's	LAES		
LO2	SA2.2	Green Care	Social Farming/Justice	2024/2026	Management Administration



3. Summary of Current Funding Ceilings and Support Rates

Summary of Current Funding Ceilings and Support Rates

Type of Project	Applicant	Maximum Rate of Aid	Maximum Funding
Community Projects not involving Economic Activity	Community	Up to a maximum of 75%	€500,000
Community Projects involving Economic Activity	Community	Up to a maximum of 75%	€200,000
Investment & other supports (including promotion undertaken as part of the implementation of a project)	Private	Up to a maximum of 75%	€200,000
	Community	Up to a maximum of 75%	
	Community under accessible services sub-theme targeted at hard-to-reach communities	Up to a maximum of 90%	
Analysis and Development	Private	Up to a maximum of 90%	€30,000
	Community	Up to a maximum of 90%	
Training	Private or Community	Up to a maximum of 100%	€200,000

Rate of Aid: The minimum grant amount is €5,000, and the maximum is €200,000. There is a maximum funding rate of €500,000 for community projects not involving economic activity. Consideration of the rate of aid offered is on a project-by-project basis, and the top rate will not always be recommended.

Types of Funding Available: Eligible projects can apply for assistance for Capital, including Equipment, Analysis & Development, Co-Operation projects, Marketing & Training.



Support Documents must include but is not limited to the following (additional supporting documentation may be required depending on your project):

Grant Approval will only be made with consideration of all appropriate documentation relevant to your project.


Required Information (*Applications will not be considered unless all the following are included*)

1. Fully completed signed and dated Application Form	
2. Appropriate No. of Quotations/Tenders based on Project Costs and Promoter Status	
3. Copy of Full Audited Accounts / Financial Statements / Management Accounts/Income and Expenditure Accounts for three years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ For existing companies subject to an audit, the three most recent years audited financial statements, signed by two directors & the auditors. ▶ For existing companies that are audit exempt, the three most recent year's financial statements, signed by two directors & the accountants. ▶ For existing sole traders/partnerships, the three most recent year's accounts are signed by the business owners & certified by the accountant. ▶ For voluntary/community organisations that are not companies, the three most recent accounts/income & expenditure statements signed by the Chairman & Treasurer/Secretary & 3 months' bank statements, projections 	
4. Written confirmation of VAT status from Revenue signed by Revenue Commissioners (only required if you are NOT required to register for VAT).	9. Schedule of Members
5. Tax Clearance Certificate or TCAN Number/Income Tax Declaration	10 Business/Development Plan (5 yrs)
6. Copy of Current Bank Statements (3 months minimum) for all accounts held.	11. Marketing Plan
7. Evidence of bridging/matching funding	12. Details of Insurance
8. Relevant Governing Documents	13. Projection (5 years)



Enclose the following items as appropriate (discuss requirements with the Project Development Officer).

Please note that you must provide sufficient information for your project to be evaluated.

1.Planning Permission & Conditions	
2.Notice of Exemption from Planning Certification	
3.Heritage Consents and Approvals (see Guidelines for LEADER Projects Affecting Heritage 2023-2027) 	
4.Statutory Approvals/permission required, e.g. Fire Safety, Special Areas of Conservation, etc	
5.Evidence of Title *; OR	5.Evidence of Leasehold *
6.Certified Valuation of land/property donated	
7.Fair Usage Policy / Inclusion Strategy (Community Groups)	
8.Terms of Reference (for A&D, Animation or Training Projects)	
9.Performance Indicators	
10. Please enclose any other relevant documentation that supports your application for grant assistance.	

**Evidence of title or leasehold must be obtained with respect to capital projects involving land, e.g., sites of building construction or renovation, fixtures, traffic ways, etc. Any lease provided must:*

- ▶ *be signed by the lessor and the Promoter (Applicant)*
- ▶ *be appropriately witnessed (solicitor)*
- ▶ *be accompanied by a map identifying the land*
- ▶ *stipulate the term of the lease (must be for a period of at least five years from the date of the final payment to the Promoter or for a term not less than the term of the contract, whichever is the longer).*

Where the project promoter cannot obtain a lease or evidence of title, written documentation confirming the project promoter's authority to carry out the relevant activities (for at least a five-year period post-payment of grant aid) will suffice. This documentation must be witnessed by a solicitor and signed by a person or body recognised as being in charge of the property. This document cannot be used as a contribution-in-kind. Any agreement for a period of less than five years will deem the project ineligible for funding.



4. The process of applying for grant aid up to the Approval Stage

Targeted Calls

WLP CLG will hold competitive **Targeted Calls** seeking applications across the different themes and subthemes at specific times throughout the Programme. The **Calls** will be based on the themes and objectives agreed upon in the Local Development Strategy (LDS). Targeted calls with a pre-defined budget will ensure that only the best and most worthy projects are approved for grant aid. Dates for the upcoming Information Workshop and Application Workshop are detailed in the advertisement, and attendance is mandatory.

Targeted calls are advertised across all our social media sites and local newspapers.

Towards the end of the Programme, Calls for Projects may revert to Rolling Calls to allow for total budget allocation.

Information Workshops

Information Workshops are held to explain how the **Targeted Call** process works and the rules and regulations of the Programme. Promoters must attend the information workshop to participate in the Call. The Targeted Calls with the relevant Theme/s and budgets are publicised well in advance.

After attending the Information Workshop, promoters are asked to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) Form and, if eligible, go through to application stage. An EOI is the first step in a targeted call for applications and determines a project's eligibility in relation to the Programme rules. The submission of an EOI does not constitute approval for funding, nor does it indicate that a subsequent funding application will be approved. Once your EOI has been submitted and reviewed, a Project Development Officer will either invite you to submit a complete application or advise you why your EOI was not eligible to apply for this Call.

It is important to note that attendance at a Workshop is mandatory if an applicant intends to participate in a Targeted Call.

Advance notice of Information Workshops and Calls will be placed on www.wlp.ie

Application

Promoters that submit an eligible EOI must attend a **mandatory Application Workshop** where Project Development Officers explain how to complete the application form and stress the importance of presenting a complete application by the required deadline. After that, Project Development Officers



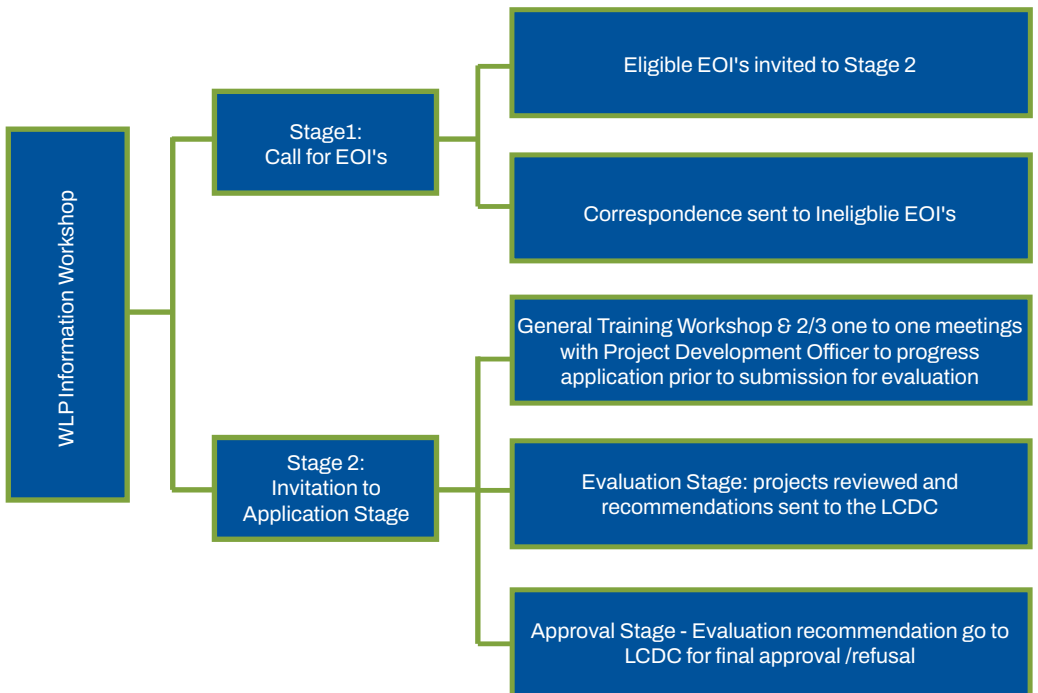
work individually with applicants to guide them through the process. WLP staff will outline the standard requirements that must be met and provide templates, advice, and access to advice through the local LEO Office, WC&CC Office, Fáilte Ireland Office, etc.

Once fully completed applications are accepted by the due date, WLP will assess them internally to ensure that all the required documentation is submitted, and the application is eligible.

An Evaluation Committee will assess completed applications received by the relevant deadline, and the LCDC will then make a final funding decision. Once this decision is made a Letter of Offer will be issued.

Your project is only approved once you receive a signed Letter of Offer (Contract).

Any purchase or works before receipt of the signed Letter of Offer (LoO) is ineligible for funding.



For projects to be considered for funding, the Promoter (applicant) must complete a two-stage application process:



Stage 1: Attend one of the Information Workshops. When a Call is announced, complete an “Expression of Interest” (EOI) form and submit it to WLP by the required deadline. The EOI will be assessed (by WLP and the LCDC) to determine if your proposal meets the objectives of the LDS and complies with the LEADER Programme guidelines.

Applicants who are unsuccessful at Stage 1 will be written to and advised of why they were unsuccessful.

Stage 2: Applicants who are successful at Stage 1 will be invited to submit a complete application with the required supporting documentation.

Time frame: A specific period (advised when each Targeted Call is advertised) will be allocated to Stage 2 to give adequate time for preparation, i.e., to prepare business plans, obtain quotations, planning permissions, etc.

Training Workshop/Meetings with WLP Project Development Officers: During this period, a further training workshop will be organised to go through generic queries relating to the application process. All promoters must attend the training workshop. In addition to attending the training workshop, the promoters will meet with a WLP Project Development Officer for two to three additional meetings. These meetings will be one-to-one and take place in the offices of WLP. The final meeting with the WLP Project Development Officer should be to review your completed application and supporting documentation before officially submitting your proposal to WLP for evaluation. The Project Development Officer may need to conduct a site visit.

Evaluation Stage: All Project Promoters must return a fully completed, signed and dated application form along with all the required documentation by the deadline set. The applications will undergo an internal review by WLP to ensure all the required documentation has been supplied. Incomplete forms or applications missing relevant information will be returned and not put forward for evaluation.

The applications are reviewed by an independent Evaluation Committee, where they undergo a competitive process. Full details on the scoring criteria used, the operational guidelines, and the summary actions from the LDS are available on www.wlp.ie

Approval Stage: The Evaluation Committee recommendations are forwarded to the LCDC for final decision. Projects approved for grant aid are inspected to ensure the project has not commenced before approval. A funding contract (Letter of Offer) will be issued for those projects approved for funding by Waterford LCDC. The applicant must sign and return the contract to WLP within 15 days and before any project activity commences. The offer is valid once WLP gets a signed copy of the contract. WLP will send an acknowledgement letter to confirm receipt.



Applicants who are unsuccessful at the Approval Stage will be written to and advised as to why they were unsuccessful.

Right to Appeal: The appeal of a LAG decision can take place in two stages, Stage 1 and Stage 2, and both are outlined on www.wlp.ie

The Promoter can commence with the project upon receipt of the acknowledgement letter. The project can be paid for in phases if requested at the application stage. At each phase /one-off payment, the Project Development Officer will visit the project to ensure that the project is proceeding as outlined in the grant aid Letter of Offer. If you deviate from what is outlined in the Letter of Offer, that element is deemed ineligible and could affect the whole project. Please speak to your Project Development Officer first, as any changes require preapproval by the LCDC and must fit into the rules of the LEADER programme.

Claim Stage: LEADER does not offer advance payments. The grant is paid in arrears following submission of a fully completed, signed, and dated payment claim form from the Promoter/Applicant with the required supporting documentation, including original receipted invoices and the relevant bank statements. The Promoter/Applicant can only claim expenditures identified in the grant offer, and should costs prove higher than expected no increase in grant aid will be given.

Points to Note at the Claim Stage:

- ▶ Phase payments are not allowed unless requested at the application stage.
- ▶ Submitted invoices are sufficiently precise to allow identification of all items and quantities of goods and services provided and do not include general or unspecific references such as 'goods provided' or 'services provided'.
- ▶ The Promoter and all contractors/suppliers must be tax compliant, which must be clarified at all stages.



Approval Stage

- A pre LCDC grant offer inspection will be carried out to ensure that the project has not commenced.
- Following inspection and if project has not commenced the LCDC will issue a contract (Letter of Offer).
- Signed contract to be returned to WLP within 15 days otherwise the contract is null and void.

Project Commences

- The promoters are responsible for implementing the project as per the Letter of Offer.
- The project should commence within one month of receiving the LoO unless permission has been granted for a later start.
- Phase payments will only be made if requested at application stage.

Claim Stage

- The grant is paid in arrears following the submission of a fully completed, signed and dated claim form from the promoter with the required supporting documentation.
- Each payment/claim will require a site visit to confirm that expenditure is in line with what was agreed in the Letter of Offer.



1. The Promoter's (Applicant) responsibilities for five years after the final payment date.

5 Year Rule:

- The project must remain in operation for a period of five years after the date of final payment.
- Random Inspection visits will occur throughout this period to ensure project is still in operation and that the explanatory plaque is displayed.
- Department Inspectors can arrive at any time.

Key Performance Indicators

- KPI 's must be completed and returned as requested by your Project Development Officer.
- PPS numbers of all employees must be provided on request.

Publicity Requirements

- Promoters must display an explanatory plaque in the premises which must be located in a prominent position viewable to the public, ideally it will be place outside by the front door.
- The plaque will be provided by WLP but will be paid for by the project promoter.
- The Project Development Officer will advise of any other publicity requirements.
- Random Inspections to ensure publicity requirements as outlined in LoO are being adhered to.
- Facilitate visits as requested.

Publicity Requirements

Funding requires certain logos to be displayed through construction and on completion of your project. Your Project Development Officer will advise you on what is appropriate for your project. WLP will provide the explanatory plaque for projects of €10,000 and above, but the Promoter must pay for it.

The following logos must be included on all posters/plaques/billboards:

- ▶ Project Ireland 2040 logo: The following text must be used in explaining the role of the Department in the LEADER activity: Co-funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development
- ▶ Our Rural Future
- ▶ EU logo: Co-funded by the European Union
- ▶ Waterford Leader Partnership
- ▶ Waterford Local Community Development Committee
- ▶ Waterford City & County Council
- ▶ Others, as advised by Waterford Leader Partnership (WLP) CLG

Please note that you will be required to do the following depending on the amount of grant aid awarded.



Total Public Expenditure	Requirement – WLP will provide this, but must be paid for by the Promoter
€500,000 or above	Display durable plaques or billboards clearly visible to the public, including logos, as soon as the physical implementation of the operations starts or purchased equipment is installed.
€10,001 – €500,000	Display an explanatory plaque, or equivalent electronic display, with information about the project, including logos.
€0 – €10,000	No requirement.
Reports	Reports funded through LEADER must also comply with the information and publicity requirements, e.g. Feasibility Studies, Training Programmes, etc.

Please note: Details of LEADER 2023 - 2027 Programme beneficiaries may be published on the Department's, LAG and WLP websites. Details will include the name of the project promoter/beneficiary, the town where the beneficiary resides or is registered (including postal code if available), and the total amount of public funding received. Full details can be found at www.wlp.ie

2. Ineligible Activities

Ineligible Activities

LEADER funding shall not be awarded or paid in respect of the following areas:

Primary Agriculture	Loans
Primary Horticulture (including bee-keeping):	Working capital (including stock) funding for a training course provider to run their own course/ training course provider getting funding to run a course and get paid for it out of project funding aid
Fisheries	Operational Costs of Project Promoters – salary/overheads, etc.
Purchase of animal or livestock	Insurance for project promoters



Conventional retail operations, excluding community-based shops and farms shops, outlets selling locally produced produce.	Payments for gifts, donations or personal entertainments, Small Benefit Tax Exemption, Inducements to take part in Training, e.g. shopping voucher for attendance
Courses of instruction or training which form the part of normal education programmes or systems at pre-school, primary, secondary, or higher levels up to and including FETAC & QQI Level 10	Statutory fines and penalties, criminal fines and damages
Private schools and colleges	Legal expenses in respect of litigation, except for those provided for under Section 14.5
Research bodies	Costs associated with meeting a legislative or statutory requirement
Continuous professional development courses	Planning application fees and other measures required for compliance
Reclaimable VAT	Improvements/refurbishment of private residential property
B&B's that are part of a private residence	Cars, industrial/farm/construction vehicles, vans, buses, tractors, diggers, mini-diggers, excavators, forklifts, including trailers to transport such vehicles
General maintenance works of public bodies	Childcare
Health Care & Health Care equipment - unless in exceptional cases where approved by the Department;	Nursing homes
Housing	Race and sport horse industries, with the exception of ancillary activities for the provision of services to those industries (section 6.6.14)



<p>Greyhound Industry and activities that involve greyhounds, such as but not limited to, greyhound tracks, training facilities, and ancillary activities for the provision of services to those industries</p>	<p>Projects where products being funded are made outside Ireland and are kept outside Ireland</p>
<p>In-house Projects involving capital works, such as construction and renovations</p>	<p>Mentoring is not eligible as a standalone project. It may be included as a module in a training project. Mentoring and other capacity building activity must be funded from the LAG Administration and Animation Budget.</p>

Please note:

- ▶ Projects will not be grant aided which are capable of proceeding without LEADER funding ('deadweight').
- ▶ Displacement occurs where an activity funded impacts negatively on activity elsewhere.
- ▶ LEADER will not fund projects that are eligible under other EU-funded schemes or can be funded by other agencies.
- ▶ LEOs have primary responsibility for micro-enterprise support (0-9 employees) and will assist promoters with the skills necessary to implement their projects.

The information in this document is for guidance purposes only and must be used with the Operational Rules of the LEADER 2023 - 2027 Programme, which are subject to change. The Waterford Local Community Development Committee operates the LEADER Programme based on the rules laid down by the Department of Community and Rural Development. These rules can be subject to change by the Department throughout the Programme. A full version of the Operational Rules can be downloaded from www.wlp.ie.

The Waterford Local Community Development Committee, its Implementing and Financial Partner, accepts no liability for any errors or omissions in this document.

This booklet is funded under the LEADER Rural Development Programme, financed by the Irish Government under LEADER 2023 - 2027 and by the European Union.





If you would like to get in touch to discuss potential projects, please contact:

Ms Claire Connors (Project Development Officer) on 058 51505 /087 2311062

Ms Christine Rossi (CEO & Project Development Officer) on 058 54646

www.wlp.ie

