



Local Development Strategy 2023-2027

County Tipperary



Tipperary Local Development Strategy Action Plan

Introduction

The LEADER Programme envisions improved quality of living and working in Co. Tipperary underpinned by sustainable environmental, social, economic, cultural and climate action development. The County Tipperary LDS has been informed by relevant EU, National, Regional, and local sectoral strategies, and key priorities of the Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan have particular relevance. In addition to policy alignment, this Strategy reflects the considered views of the people and communities of County Tipperary as individuals or as representatives of businesses and organisations through structured consultation processes.

The Strategy concentrates on the identified high-level priorities to ensure the optimum distribution of limited resources. This process was managed, and priorities were set through an inclusive, iterative process involving all the key stakeholders and having regard to the findings of the area profile, the outcomes of the consultation process, the overarching policy environment within which the Programme will be delivered, and the many decades of experience in delivering the LEADER Programme in the county by the partnership.

Within the constraints of the matched funding delivery model of the LEADER Programme, the LDS seeks to address disadvantaged areas and communities and those which have not benefitted significantly from previous LEADER funding. The *'Analysis of the Distribution and Social Inclusion Focus of LEADER Funding in Co. Tipperary 2007-2022: Evidence from Project-Level Data'* identifies those areas that did not significantly benefit from LEADER funding in the outgoing Programme. Although the reasons for this are multifaceted, the LAG will encourage promoters from these areas to come forward under the forthcoming Programme.

Promoter and project identification will be initiated through targeted animation and capacity-building activities. This will be multifaceted and build on relationships that the IPs already have in those communities via LEADER and other programmes such as SICAP (Local Community Groups and individuals interested in setting up enterprises), Traveller and Migrant Support Services, Tús, RSS etc. The IPs can thus support those communities to access LEADER funding, where appropriate, in a holistic and effective manner. Methodologies will include a traditional media and online communications strategy, in person and online information sessions, one-to-one meetings with Project Officers for bespoke project development support etc.

The delivery of the LDS will adhere to the following guiding principles: -

- The Programme will conform to the LEADER Operating Rules 2023 to 2027.
- The LDS will foster a cooperative and collaborative approach with other agencies and grant-giving bodies.
- Projects will align with and support the Tipperary County Development Plan (2022-2028) objectives and other relevant international, national, regional, county, and local strategic policies, notably the Local Economic and Community Plan.
- Projects should be sustainable, inclusive and have an innovation element.
- Promoters should demonstrate a clear need for the funding of the project.

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- Promoters should demonstrate the necessary capacity and experience to deliver projects.
- The Programme will look for opportunities for national and international cooperation projects where the budget permits and there is clear potential for added value for Co. Tipperary to achieve the aims of the Strategy.

A rigorous social inclusion and environmental proofing process will ensure that all projects' actions are consistent with the vision of the LDS and adhere to the CAP Strategic Plan cross-cutting objectives.

The Local Development Strategy was devised following extensive consultation in Spring 2023 with a variety of stakeholders, including communities, enterprises, State and other agencies. It was submitted to the Department of Community and Rural Affairs, and has now been approved under the Rural Development LEADER programme.

Tipperary Local Community Development Committee has been awarded the contract to deliver the Rural Development Programme (LEADER) 2023 – 2027 in Tipperary in co-operation with its Implementing Partners (IPs) North Tipperary Development Clg (NTDC) and South Tipperary Development CLG (STDC). The Rural Development Programme 2023 – 2027 Project Budget is €5.8 million across the following themes and subthemes:

LEADER Themes and Sub-Themes		
Economic Development and Job Creation	Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion	Sustainable Development and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Green Economy</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rural Infrastructure</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Agricultural Diversification</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Accessible Services</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Climate Change Capacity Building</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rural Tourism & Recreation</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rural Youth</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enterprise Development</i> 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rural Food Production</i> 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Social, Community and Cooperative Enterprises</i> 		

Theme: Economic Development and Job Creation

Local Objective 1: Developing and Promoting the Green Economy as a Driver of Rural Economic Development and Job Creation in Co. Tipperary.

The shift to a net zero carbon economy (Ireland has a target to reduce carbon emissions by 51 per cent) creates the need for significant changes in all sectors and many jobs. Demand for new talent, skills and capabilities will open enterprise and employment opportunities across all sectors to align with EU, national and local policy on climate change and the green economy.

The need to promote an inclusive, sustainable, and targeted approach to addressing the county's strategic green economy and enterprise development can build on its strengths (light engineering, agriculture, agri-industries) and opportunities (skilled workforce, graduates, circular economy etc.) and ensure a genuine prospect of green economy opportunities in the county. In addition, this can significantly enhance competitiveness.

The local consultation process identified the need for support and capacity building across all sectors for green entrepreneurs and those wishing to "green" their businesses.

Strategic Action 1.1: Developing Tipperary's Green Economy.

This action seeks to support animation, capacity building, and feasibility analysis to address immediate green economy knowledge gaps, training needs and policy priorities.

Support will be directed to existing businesses exploring the feasibility of or seeking independent technical assistance that promotes decarbonisation, circular economy, and sustainable production.

Support for external expertise to assist with developing and implementing companywide measures that address green economy objectives.

Support to gain awareness and develop action plans to strategically integrate green procurement, production, and skill development throughout Tipperary.

Capital, training, analysis, and development (feasibility) and marketing support to encourage green entrepreneurs to adopt a green approach to improve production processes and procurement in their business to develop and grow businesses in Co. Tipperary.

Local Objective 2: Supporting Agricultural Diversification in Co. Tipperary.

Traditional farming needs to adapt and diversify due to new information on climate mitigation and emerging labour-reducing technology. A vibrant agricultural sector is essential in sustaining rural areas. The local consultation process identified a need to encourage diversification opportunities for Co. Tipperary farm families to address their economic survival by developing and using farm assets for non-agricultural enterprise generation.

Building on Co. Tipperary's national and international reputation in its agriculture, horticulture, and bloodstock industry, the County Development Plan notes that *'rural areas provide opportunities for development in expanding economic*

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	<p><i>sectors, such as rural tourism, the bioenergy and renewable energy sectors’.</i> In terms of renewable energy and bioeconomy, the Plan advocates support for <i>‘diversification of agriculture and land-use, to develop sustainable and circular business models for lower carbon farming, and production of bio-based products and bioenergy in line with the ‘Common Agricultural Policy’ and the National Policy Statement on the Bioeconomy (Government of Ireland, 2018).’</i></p> <p>The LDS will work closely with Teagasc to assist farmers in identifying potential areas for diversification and implementation.</p> <p>The objective will encourage diversification opportunities for Co. Tipperary farm families to address their economic survival by developing and using farm assets for non-agricultural enterprise generation.</p>
<p>Strategic Action 1.2: Supporting Agricultural Diversification.</p>	
	<p>The Strategic Action will support farmers and farm family members in establishing on-farm businesses to improve farm income and add value to their farming enterprise or existing agricultural diversification business.</p> <p>Support will be in the form of feasibility studies, training, capital, and marketing support.</p>

Local Objective 3: Developing and Promoting Co. Tipperary as Ireland’s Leading Inland Tourism and Recreation Destination.

	<p>Tipperary is covered by Bord Fáilte’s <i>Ireland’s Ancient East</i> and <i>Hidden Heartlands</i> Destination Plans. In addition, the Lough Derg and Munster Vales Tourism offerings cover part of the county. The <i>Tipperary Transforming Tourism Product Development Plan 2020-2030</i> highlights projects that link to wider national networks, e.g., the Lough Derg Blueway and the Beara Breifne Way and other walking and cycling trails, Thoroughbred Country Destination Experience etc.</p> <p>Consultation with tourism providers, agencies, and networks, identified a need to develop and promote the sustainability and growth of an integrated collaborative tourism sector in Co. Tipperary, along with a requirement to continually develop and market the Tipperary brand.</p> <p>This will require the enhancement and development of the product offering, adding value to a range of attractions, activities, and experiences, fostering activity, cultural, heritage, night time and eco-tourism, encouraging engagement with all relevant stakeholders, and improving marketing and promotions leading to increased visitor numbers, dwell time, spend and satisfaction in the area, thus leveraging the benefits of international <i>‘honeypot’</i> destinations such as the Rock of Cashel.</p> <p>There is potential for niche tourism accommodation, i.e. Glamping in response to growing market interest, where facilities are compatible with adjoining amenities and protection of the environment.</p> <p>The local objective will develop and promote the sustainability and growth of an integrated collaborative tourism sector in Co. Tipperary.</p>
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Strategic Action 1.3: Promoting Rural Tourism and Recreation.	
	<p>Development of amenities and activities based on Co. Tipperary’s natural resources, such as lakes, rivers, mountains, and unspoilt rural countryside, e.g., walks, hikes, water-based activities, cycling hubs, equestrian trails etc.</p> <p>The action will also support development and marketing of heritage, food, cultural and eco-tourism products and the night-time economy.</p> <p>The LDS will work with collaborating bodies to foster the development and add value to trails, greenways and blueways and related outdoor activities that offer a <i>‘tourism product with significant potential to attract overseas visitors’</i>.</p> <p>Linked to activity tourism, support for the provision of niche accommodation, e.g., Glamping, camping or hostel accommodation will add to the tourist offering, with priority given to projects that support the aims and objectives of the <i>Tipperary Transforming Tourism Product Development Plan 2020-2030</i>.</p> <p>To promote, market and develop the tourism experiences in Tipperary with a cooperative and collaborative approach</p>

Local Objective 4: Developing and Promoting an Integrated and Targeted Approach to Sustainable Enterprise Development and Job Creation in Co. Tipperary	
	<p>Enterprise in Co. Tipperary must expand to meet new challenges and further develop its full potential across all sectors and areas, as evidenced by the LDS public consultations and specific stakeholder meetings.</p> <p>In line with <i>‘Our Rural Future’</i>, the strategy will boost employment growth in Co. Tipperary by creating an environment that supports entrepreneurship and enterprise growth in rural areas. Local employment adds hugely to the prosperity of rural areas and communities and fosters a positive cycle of growth which can arrest population decline.</p> <p>The objectives are to promote an integrated, innovative, sustainable, and targeted approach to addressing the county’s strategic economic and enterprise development needs, to build on its strengths and opportunities, and ensure a genuine prospect of economic opportunities and increased job creation for all in the county.</p> <p>Working closely with the LEO, the LDS will support start-ups, microenterprises, and SMEs with strategic funding to support their growth and development.</p> <p>The importance of business networking was highlighted during the consultations, and where relevant, the LDS will foster a collective approach within specific sectors, e.g., craft, women entrepreneurs, start-ups etc.</p>
Strategic Action 1.4: Promoting Enterprise Development.	
	<p>Capital, training, marketing, and analysis and development (feasibility) support to encourage rural entrepreneurs to develop and grow businesses in Co. Tipperary through support for micro and SME indigenous enterprises, both start-up and existing.</p>

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	<p>This action seeks to support animation, capacity building, and feasibility analysis to address immediate enterprise development knowledge gaps, training needs and policy priorities.</p> <p>There will be a continuing focus on developing entrepreneurship in non-traditional sectors and others for which take-up among females, new communities, the Traveller community, and young people will be supported.</p> <p>Support will be directed to new and existing businesses that foster innovation and promote sustainable production and employment.</p>
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Local Objective 5: Promoting and Developing Rural Food Production as a Driver of Rural Economic Development and Job Creation in Co. Tipperary.

	<p>Co. Tipperary has a strong tradition of artisan and local food production, providing the potential for further development. A vibrant rural food sector, particularly community / locally based and focused, is essential in sustaining rural areas. Given the recent renewed focus on the production and consumption of local foodstuffs, the LDS supports the development of Tipperary's food and beverage sector.</p> <p>The County Development Plan is committed to working with local food producers to consider innovative ways to market, support and showcase local products nationally and internationally.</p> <p>The LDS public consultations and the <i>Tipperary Food Producers Network Strategy and Brand Development 2022-26</i> highlight the need to adapt and diversify due to climate mitigation requirements and emerging trends and technology.</p> <p>This action will complement rural tourism and agricultural diversification activities. It will be undertaken in a way that builds on its strengths and opportunities and supports existing enterprises, start-ups, and innovation.</p> <p>There will be support for individuals from new communities and for new food areas.</p> <p>The objective will promote an integrated, sustainable, and targeted approach to addressing the development of the Rural Food Production sector of the county.</p>
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Strategic Action 1.5: Developing and Enhancing Rural Food Production in Co. Tipperary.

	<p>The Strategic Action will support Co. Tipperary's small, medium and artisan food and beverage producers, both new and existing. It will support animation, capacity building, and feasibility analysis to address immediate enterprise development knowledge gaps, training needs and policy priorities.</p> <p>Support will be provided in collaboration with groups such as the Tipperary Food Producers and local food distribution networks.</p> <p>Action will be taken to foster and support existing Tipperary small, medium and artisan food and beverage producers and to support business development in this sector.</p> <p>The LDS will support collaborative action to market Co. Tipperary as a food brand and home of good food. Similarly, actions will seek to place artisan food at the core of niche and active tourism sectors.</p>
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Local Objective 6: Developing and Promoting Social, Community and Cooperative Enterprises in Co. Tipperary.	
	<p>Social, community, and cooperative enterprises are a developing sector in Ireland, and it is necessary to maximise their potential within Co. Tipperary for social, societal, and environmental impact.</p> <p>Co. Tipperary has 9.5 social enterprises per 10,000 inhabitants, placing it fifteenth of all counties in the State, thus underpinning the need for development.</p> <p>The movement of rural commercial activity and services into urban centres has prompted the development of local responses. LDS public consultations and social enterprise training projects in Co. Tipperary identified a need to promote a focussed approach to developing the county's social, community and cooperative enterprise sectors. Along with capital support, there was a strong need expressed for support for voluntary boards in terms of governance, strategy, recruitment, and retention of volunteers.</p> <p>This will combine support for existing and new enterprises, including capital, feasibility, marketing, training, and networking. In addition, innovation in meeting needs will be encouraged.</p> <p>A specific target will be hard-to-reach communities and those not previously reached by LEADER.</p>
Title of Strategic Action 1.6:	Developing and Supporting Social, Community and Cooperative Enterprises in Co. Tipperary.
	<p>This action will combine support for existing and new social, community and cooperative enterprises, including capital, feasibility, marketing, training, governance and volunteer board support, and networking.</p> <p>To strengthen the sustainability (human, financial, business and market focus) and the social impact of new and existing social enterprises. This will further enhance their contribution to economic regeneration, the social fabric, tackling social inclusion issues, improving the citizen wellbeing, and environmental development of their areas. In addition, innovation in meeting needs will be encouraged.</p> <p>Training and capacity building for Board members, volunteers and staff covering key governance and strategic issues.</p>

Theme: Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion

Local Objective 7: Supporting the Sustainable Regeneration of Co. Tipperary's Towns and Villages.	
	<p>Appropriate, inclusive community infrastructure can improve the quality of life for rural dwellers in the county by providing access to essential services and amenities that enhance communities' physical, mental, and social wellbeing. Such development can help to sustain populations in rural areas, offer employment opportunities, and small hubs to connect communities and businesses, promote local tourism and create a sense of place that can attract entrepreneurs and investors. Remote working offers opportunities for people to stay in and return to Co. Tipperary</p> <p>Connectedness and social cohesion were features of the consultations, with an identified need to build strong community networks, thus reducing social isolation. Community-managed and owned facilities are responsive to local needs, and this action seeks to support them.</p> <p>There are parts of Co. Tipperary where deprivation is high, and families are struggling; these include parts of Clonmel, Carrick on Suir and Tipperary (former RAPID areas), Roscrea, Slieve Felim, and Slieve Ardagh, Templemore, and Borrisokane prioritised in the LECP as needing interagency focus, including LEADER support.</p> <p>The 'Analysis of the Distribution and Social Inclusion Focus of LEADER Funding in Co. Tipperary 2007-2022: Evidence from Project-Level Data' identifies geographic areas for future Programme targeting.</p> <p>Several village areas have lost essential community services, which has reduced the attractiveness of those areas for investment and living. There is a need to address this. The SMART Village approach offers an opportunity for integrated and sustainable planning and will be a key element of this action.</p>
Strategic Action 2.1: Developing Sustainable Rural Infrastructure.	
Brief Description of the Action :	<p>Support initiatives to improve communities as places to live, work, and do business by improving the physical appearance, infrastructure and amenities of the towns and villages in Co. Tipperary.</p> <p>A Sustainable SMART Village approach will be fostered through training and technical support. This concept will ensure innovative integrated development, including benefiting from digital opportunities.</p> <p>The actions will seek to work with community leaders in communities that have not previously received LEADER funding to identify projects showing a strong demonstrated need.</p> <p>The strategic action will use capital investment, feasibility studies, research and development projects to maintain and develop the built and natural environment for the benefit of all.</p>

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Local Objective 8: Developing Accessible Services for All in Co. Tipperary.

The LDS consultation process and area needs analysis identified a need for increased accessibility and affordability of local services and amenities. Previous investment benefits in community infrastructure must be maximised as accessible service delivery hubs. These will help to mitigate social exclusion and to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of communities. This will be achieved by supporting prioritised community infrastructural developments, relevant support services, awareness, and training.

The action will focus mainly on places and communities that have not previously received LEADER funding and those with a strong demonstrated need.

Regarding access, LEADER supports the principle of *'Universal Design'* to improve the quality of life equally for the able-bodied and people with disabilities concerning public transport access, housing, social, cultural, and recreational facilities and the public realm. In all new development, this is a crucial issue for older people and those with mobility impairments.

Physical and digital connectivity are key areas where a plan-led approach can improve social inclusion.

Strategic Action 2.2: Developing Accessible Services for All in Co. Tipperary.

Capital, training, and development support to combat discrimination and strengthen inclusive community development, e.g., rural isolation, intercultural awareness programmes, inclusive access to services, safe spaces for vulnerable people etc.

Recreational and multifunctional infrastructure is provided or enhanced to respond to identified needs within communities.

Local Objective 9: Supporting Youth (aged 15-40) in Co. Tipperary.

In 2021 Tipperary Education and Training Board noted that areas classified as *disadvantaged* or *very disadvantaged* accounted for 17.5 per cent of the 16-24 population. There is a greater likelihood of young people disengaging from employment and education in these areas.

The LDS consultation process highlighted that accessing services and support for young people in rural, isolated areas is problematic. In addition, there are concentrated areas of high youth unemployment, disengagement, and addiction around the county, e.g., former RAPID areas, major urban centres, and some larger villages. Amongst these areas, some have a demonstrated need for youth interventions.

There are specific challenges faced by minority young people, e.g., LGBTQIA+, those from new communities, refugees, and asylum seekers, which can be addressed by targeted and appropriate support.

There are limited services for young people not wishing to engage in sporting activities. The consultations noted that interventions are required to maximise

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	life opportunities for young people and to support creativity, self-development, and wellbeing, thus enabling them to integrate positively in their community.
Strategic Action 2.3: Developing and Sustaining Facilities and Services for Youth.	
	<p>The strategic action supports the increased use of existing facilities and enhanced programme support for rural youth in areas having gaps in provision, e.g., youth spaces, clubs, and cafés. There will be support for volunteers, communities, and clubs to engage with youth, especially those at risk of being marginalised through differing abilities, interests, sexual orientation, unemployment, ethnicity etc.</p> <p>The development of youth programmes to empower the diversity of rural youth, e.g., music, arts, ICT and digital media, non-mainstream sport, entrepreneurship, volunteer opportunities etc., will be facilitated.</p> <p>Training should complement existing programmes and supports.</p>

Theme: Sustainable Development and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Local Objective 10: Supporting the Sustainable Development of Co. Tipperary's Environment.	
	<p>Climate action and sustainable environment feature strongly in the current County Development Plan, with objectives to encourage local communities and enterprises to develop sustainable energy initiatives and biodiversity and water-focused conservation plans and actions.</p> <p>As part of its national carbon reduction commitments, the Council has designated '<i>Decarbonisation Zones</i>' with many of the broader benefits of improved air quality, health, biodiversity, embodied carbon, agricultural practices, sustainable land management, water, and the circular economy. The LDS consultation feedback focused strongly on safeguarding the rural environment, which is essential for the sustainable development of Tipperary for both locals and visitors.</p> <p>Water resources are under increasing pressure from industry, agriculture, and domestic demand. The Suir and the Nore catchments show the third and fourth worst decline in quality in the country (EPA 2022).</p> <p>85% of protected habitats in Ireland are in an unfavourable condition, leading to a loss of species vital to the ecosystem. An informed community and Citizen Science approaches are successful in monitoring and addressing these issues in innovative ways. Supports are required to develop this further, and also for initiatives such as community gardens and allotments.</p> <p>To meet national and EU climate targets, implementing renewable energy technologies is essential to transition to a low-carbon future. Renewable energy technologies can promote economic development and job creation in rural areas and will play a key role in supporting national and EU environmental targets.</p> <p>Sustainable Energy Communities are well established in Co. Tipperary, and their inclusion as collaborating partners provides a template for community engagement in this area. The LDS consultation feedback highlighted a desire for community-based/collective initiatives, and the intention is to support these under this strategy.</p>
Strategic Action 3.1: Enhancing Co. Tipperary's Environment.	
	<p>Support will be provided for feasibility and technical studies, planning and implementation support for water conservation and quality on lakes and river catchments.</p> <p>Support for projects that develop community environmental, habitat restoration and improvement projects. This will include Community Gardens, Allotments / <i>Grow-it-Yourself</i> initiatives operating on high nature value principles, with priority given to disadvantaged areas.</p> <p>Support for feasibility and technical studies relating to green technologies for communities and enterprises.</p> <p>Support for priority business and community-based renewable energy production models, e.g., solar, biomass, AD, community wind and hydro</p>

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	<p>generation and community-based district energy schemes, and support for local supply chain development, particularly for biomass and forestry residue. Supports for energy efficiency and carbon reduction measures in community facilities, including electric charging points and bike racks and storage etc., to facilitate active travel.</p>
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Local Objective 11: Building Co. Tipperary’s Capacity to Meet the Challenge of Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss.

	<p>Climate change and biodiversity emergencies are critical threats to sustainable development. The County Development Plan anticipates a range of interrelated climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity measures. Actions will be identified to address local low-carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs to contribute to national climate action targets.</p> <p>83 per cent of Tipperary people are concerned about Climate Change, according to an EPA 2022 survey, with 68 per cent recognising it will impact on them. However, there is a high perception that a greater effort needs to be made by citizens (90 per cent) and Businesses (88 per cent). This is supported by the LDS consultation feedback, which identified a willingness amongst communities and enterprises to play their part; however, there is a serious knowledge and expertise deficiency in achieving this effectively.</p> <p>There is, therefore, an identified need to provide training and capacity building for businesses and communities to enable them to meet the challenges in this sphere. This will help overcome climate apathy related to the perception of the size of the global climate crisis, how it impacts Co. Tipperary, and what actions can be taken locally. The LDS is well placed to support community-led sustainable energy initiatives, biodiversity, and water-focused amenity plans and actions in collaboration with other actors.</p>
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Strategic Action 3.2: Training and Development in Climate Change, Biodiversity Maintenance and Restoration.

	<p>Implement a capacity-building programme focusing on communities and enterprises in Co. Tipperary to enhance their knowledge, understanding and confidence and unlock their collective power and potential to confront the economic and social challenges of transitioning to a biodiverse carbon neutral and resilient society.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to support and encourage pilot schemes which promote innovative ways to incorporate energy efficiency awareness-raising, understanding and actions on water quality and biodiversity. Where relevant, the approach will be to work with collaborating partners (LAWPRO, TEA etc., in particular)</p> <p>Training on renewable energy production and conservation.</p> <p>Support animation, capacity building, and feasibility analysis to address knowledge gaps, training needs and local priorities.</p> <p>The development of Integrated community, habitat and sectoral plans related to the above will form an element of the strategic action.</p>
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Local Objective 12: Supporting Co. Tipperary Communities and Enterprises to Adapt to the Consequences of Climate Change.

The National Climate Action Plan 2023 and the EU Green Deal outline the need to transition into a modern, resource-efficient, competitive Co. Tipperary that moves towards net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Co. Tipperary and the rest of the island are set to experience significant climate change over the following decades. Projections for the county suggest an increase in extremes of heatwaves and drought in the summer, coupled with increased rain and winds in other seasons. Therefore, it is important that the LDS is future-facing and will support innovation in climate mitigation and adaptation.

The changing climate brings challenges and opportunities to Co. Tipperary communities and businesses. The LDS consultation feedback demonstrated an evident willingness at the community level for change, albeit with some uncertainty about achieving it, and some entrepreneurs with innovative ideas requiring early-stage financial support.

Communities and enterprises faced with high energy bills and inefficient facilities require support to upgrade their infrastructure to reduce carbon. Waste and litter are significant issues across all communities.

In the past, LEADER funding has supported significant innovation in this sector, e.g., the first community-owned wind farm in Ireland at Templederry, supporting the county as the island's 4th largest producer of electricity from wind, the National Bioeconomy Campus (Thurles), the proposed Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy (Nenagh). This track record will be continued in this strategy.

The Technological University of Shannon (TUS), Thurles and Clonmel Campuses have significant EU and National expertise and can support the LDS to develop community-led actions focusing on sustainable development.

Strategic Action 3.3: Supporting Co. Tipperary Communities and Enterprises to Adapt to the Consequences of Climate Change.

The need for adaptation signals an imperative to develop Co. Tipperary's response incorporating reducing carbon emissions and creating cooperative business and community models for bioeconomy, bio circularity and the green economy.

There is a need to develop practical skills in the green economy and support workers to transition from jobs threatened by climate change.

The action will seek to support nature-based solutions and innovation across this area linked with the *Just Transition* framework. Innovative training, technical assistance, and capital projects can help a *Just Transition* to a low-carbon economy in Co. Tipperary, address the direct consequences of climate change, and contribute to the national climate action targets.