



**Tionól Réigiúnach an  
Oirthir agus Lár Tíre  
Eastern and Midland  
Regional Assembly**

# **EU Just Transition Fund**

**Association of Irish Regions Seminar**

**Bernie Roe, Assistant Director EMRA**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath**



**Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland**



Arna chomhoibriú ag  
an Aontas Eorpach

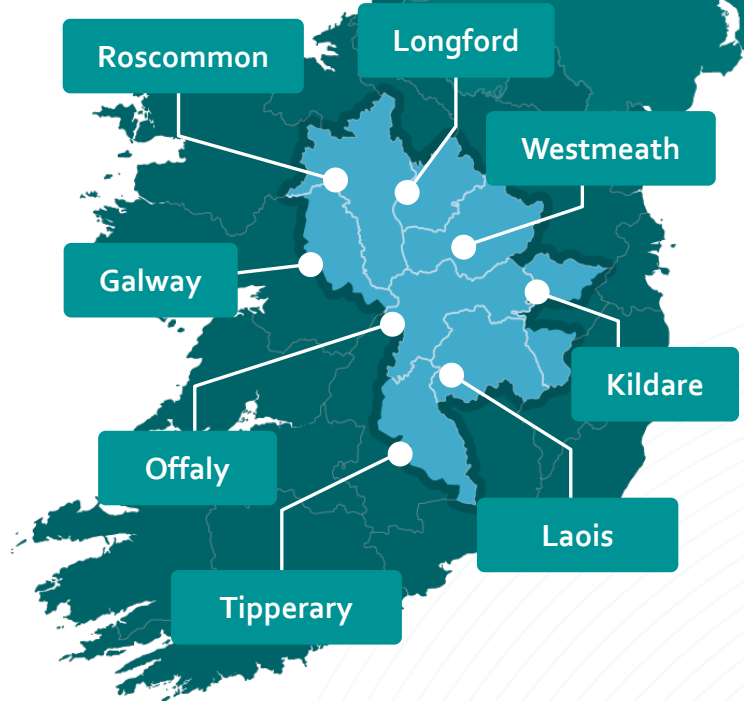
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# What is the EUJTF?

- The centrepiece of the European Union's project to make the continent climate neutral, the European Green Deal strives to cut carbon emissions, decouple the economy from fossil fuels, and improve the wellbeing, health and opportunities of current citizens and future generations.
- The EU Just Transition Fund (JTF) was created to alleviate the socio-economic impacts of this new economic environment and to ensure no-one is left behind. The programme was created to support regions throughout Europe that are experiencing negative impacts from the transition away from fossil fuel-intensive industries.
- The funding programme in Ireland is supporting the areas in the wider Midlands where communities have been negatively affected by the closure of peat production and peat-fired energy generation facilities.
- Co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union, up to €169 million is available over the duration of the fund. The investment is targeted to support the diversification of local economies and the creation of new opportunities that complement the assets of the Territory. The fund will also restore degraded peatlands and regenerate industrial heritage assets, as well as invest in smart and sustainable local mobility so that local communities are able to benefit from the economic opportunities and amenities.



# EU Just Transition Territory





# Overview of the EUJTF Programme

## Programme priorities

Priority 1  
**Jobs**  
(€87m)

Generating employment by diversifying the local economy



Priority 2  
**Bogs**  
(€57m)

Restoration of degraded peatlands and regeneration of industrial heritage assets



Priority 3  
**Wheels**  
(€18m)

Smart and sustainable mobility options



# Snapshot of Priority 1

## Generating employment by diversifying the local economy

- €87 million



What?	Delivery Partners
Support the economic diversification of the local economy through the development of the regenerative Tourism sector	
Support the implementation of local and regional economic strategies	
Support research, development and innovation in the bioeconomy sector	 <b>An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara</b> Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



# Snapshot of Priority 2

Restoration of degraded peatlands and regeneration of industrial heritage assets

- €57 million




What?	Delivery Partners
Support the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded peatlands	   <b>NPWS</b> <small>An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúna National Parks and Wildlife Service</small>
Regeneration and repurposing of industrial heritage assets	 <b>Fáilte Ireland</b>



# Snapshot of Priority 3

Smart and sustainable mobility options

- €18 million

What?	Delivery Partners
Decarbonisation of public local bus route(s)	 NTA Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair National Transport Authority
Support decarbonisation of fleet for private bus operators	 NTA Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair National Transport Authority
Installation of publicly available charge point infrastructure at community centre sites	 zevi



# LA's -key Stakeholders in the EUJTF Strategy



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL  
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara  
Kildare County Council



Laois County Council

Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann  
Tipperary County Council



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council



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[www.emra.ie](http://www.emra.ie)



# Progress in Implementing Priority 1

## Action 1.1 – Failte Ireland Selected Projects

Current selected projects worth a combined €32 million  
Infrastructural and upgrades to existing sites, some examples:

- **Kildare:** Emily Square Urban Renewal
- **Laois:** Rock of Dunamase
- **Westmeath:** Belvedere House, Gardens and Park
- **Longford, Westmeath, and Kildare:** Royal Canal Greenway
- **Tipperary:** Castle Street, Roscrea
- **Galway:** Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre
- **Longford:** Corlea Iron Age Roadway & Visitor Centre
- **Offaly:** Clonmacnoise
- **Roscommon:** Lough Key Forest Park



# Action 1.1 – Fáilte Ireland Selected Projects

## Tipperary

- Carrick-on-Suir Riverside Regeneration

## Longford

- Clondra to Termonbarry cycleway scheme
- Clondra Village Enhancements
- Lanesborough Amphitheatre

## Offaly

- Shannonbridge Plaza and Shannon Callows Reserve Walkway
- Shannonbridge Marina
- Birr Destination Town Plus

## EU JTF territory

- Tourism Activators x 8, one per county



# Progress in Implementing Priority 1

## Action 1.2 – Pobal Selected Projects

### Regional Enterprise Plan Projects

- Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan Pathway for Just Transition
- ReSHAPE app – Regional Skills horizon and pathways to employment

### Local Economic Community Plan Projects

- J17 Enterprise Park, Laois
- Computer Science and tech skills in every secondary school in Co. Longford
- Athlone Smart Innovation and Co-working hub
- Ballaghaderreen Training, Upskilling and Community Hub, Roscommon
- Biomethane Development Office, Tipperary
- Circular Economy Centre of Excellence, Longford
- Fiesta Hall - Green Enterprise and Climate Action Centre, Offaly
- TUS Just Transition Academy (TUS-JTA) Offaly
- Carbon Emission Reduction Training Programme, Roscommon OSI



# Action 1.2 – Pobal Selected Projects

## Community and Enterprise Grants

- Strawchip, Kildare
- CycleUp, Roscommon
- Derrymore Sphagnum Farm, Longford
- Ecochip Energy, Westmeath
- Ethica Planet – Mycelium, Offaly
- Renewables Training Delivery, Tipperary
- Poet's Cottage Community Café, Laois
- EV Technician Training, Offaly
- Insulation Retrofit Training, Tipperary
- Waste Plastic Disposal Facility, Longford
- Peatlands for Prosperity, Offaly [OSI](#)





# Progress in Implementing Priority 1 Action 1.3 – DAFM Selected Projects

## Bioeconomy Demonstration Initiative- Call 1

- Mount Lucas Bioeconomy Aquaculture Initiative Offaly
- Lisheen Bioeconomy Scaleup Initiative (BioScaleUP) Tipperary

## Bioeconomy Demonstration Initiative- Call 2

- Launch date February 7<sup>th</sup> 2025





# Progress in Implementing Priority 2

## Action 2.1 – NPWS (OSI)



**Tóchar**  
Athchóiriú Bogach Lár na Tíre  
Midlands Wetland Restoration

### Join the Wetland Restoration Project

Expressions of interest sought to identify wetland sites within the Just Transition Territory to be restored

**For more information and to apply visit**  
[www.tocharwetlands.ie](http://www.tocharwetlands.ie)



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NPWS

an tOibríocht Náisiúnta  
Náisiúnta agus Eorpach  
National Parks and Wildlife Service



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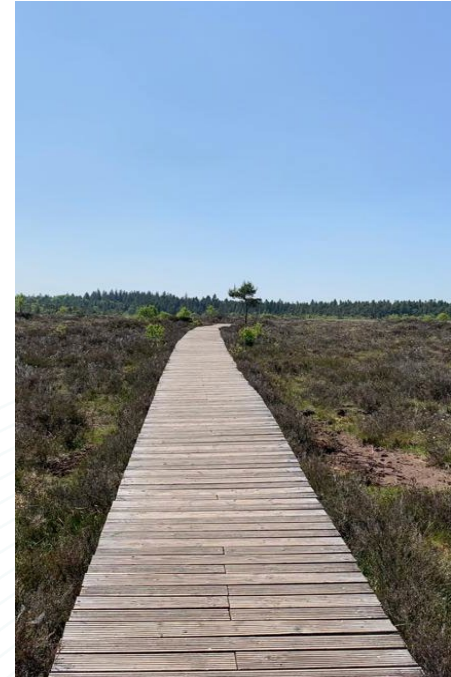
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# Progress in Implementing Priority 2

## Action 2.3 – Failte Ireland Selected Projects

The Trails Network; preparatory work underway for trails between:

- Longford - Lanesborough and Cloondara
- Roscommon - Termonbarry and Roosky
- Westmeath - Athlone and Ballinahown
- Offaly East - Grand Canal Greenway and Mount Lucas
- Offaly West - around Clonmacnoise, Ballinahown and Lough Boora
- Tipperary - Littleton/Lough Doire Bhuile



# Progress in Implementing Priority 3

## Action 3.1, 3.2 – NTA

## Action 3.3 – ZEVI



€18m is committed to Sustainable Transport

Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland is working with Local Authorities in the Territory on the rollout of a network of electric vehicle chargers, while the NTA is currently engaged with local bus operators to explore the transition to electric buses.



# Country Specific Recommendations

EUJTF in Ireland helps to address the following:

- Support to SMEs to upskill in digitalisation and develop their digital presence in the wider tourism sector.
- Expand the capacity of the circular and bio-based sector.
- Decarbonisation of transport.
- Move towards more sustainable, renewable energy sources.
- Upskilling and reskilling of the workforce.
- Diversification of the local economy.
- Restoring degraded peatlands.
- Regenerating industrial heritage assets.



# Green Futures...



**GREEN FUTURES:  
SUSTAINABLE  
INNOVATION IN  
THE MIDLANDS**

**EU Just Transition Fund**  
**Book your place now!**







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Thank You



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