



Decarbonising Together

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Dissemination level

Creative Ireland

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List of Acronyms

LCCC	Limerick City and County Council
UL	University of Limerick
PPN	Public Participation Network
SE	Space Engagers
LICP	Limerick Island Community Partners
SPC	Strategic Policy Committee
LCT	Limerick Civic Trust
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
MICA	Muster Indian Cultural Association



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1.0 Introduction

Decarbonising Together invited five communities from the Limerick Metropolitan area to examine how meaningful climate action can become part of their day-to-day lives. Each group explored an aspect of Decarbonisation that matters to them through a creative collaboration with arts and creative industry partners resulting in five creative outputs. The project focused on making and doing together to enable behaviour change towards Decarbonisation in Limerick.

Project implementation began with a series of information events and drop-in-days at Limerick's new Citizen Innovation Lab. An Open Call for expressions of interest was shared by Limerick's Public Participation Network and five communities of interest or of place were selected to participate. The groups were invited to learn about Limerick's plans for Decarbonisation and to identify a Decarbonisation challenge relevant to their day-to-day lives. Decarbonising is about reducing carbon (CO²) emissions resulting from human activity in order to combat climate change. It involves emitting less (e.g. by burning less fossil fuel) and absorbing more (e.g. by planting trees) carbon. These challenges formed the basis of an open call for arts and creative industry partners to work with each community to address their challenge drawing on a range of creative skills.

The Decarbonising Together project was delivered through the Citizen Innovation Lab, a new space for observation, co-creation and experimentation, where digital tools – e.g. the city energy model and community mapping tool – and non-digital tools and processes can support collaboration. Successful participants had access to Fab Lab Limerick, a maker space and digital fabrication laboratory run by the School of Architecture at University of Limerick and co-located with the Citizen Innovation Lab on Sarsfield Street. The five creative outputs of Decarbonising Together were shared within the networks of participating communities and with the wider Community of Limerick. A record of each collaboration is available on the cloud-based digital Citizen Innovation Lab, creating an open record of knowledge and learning to support dissemination and broader replication in Limerick and beyond.

Implementation of the Decarbonising Together project commenced in November 2021 and ended in December 2022. The project builds on the community-led open innovation approach to community engagement and co-creation developed through the +CityxChange Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation project. +CityxChange is currently underway in Limerick and explores how cities can become climate-neutral by 2050.

Decarbonising Together is supported by Limerick City and County Council's Urban Innovation and Arts Office, University of Limerick's Department of Economics and School of Architecture/Fab Lab Limerick, Colaborativa.eu and Space Engagers. The Creative Collaborations were as follows

Table 1.0 Decarbonising Together Collaborations

Communities	Creative Partners	Project Title
Munster Indian Cultural Association	Chelsea Canavan and Deirdre Power	Grounds for Change
Garryowen Community Partners	Veronica Santorum and Daniel Clancy	Decarbonising Together Garryowen
Limerick Island Partners	Patrick Mulvihill & Heather Griffin	Ministry of the Imagination
Meadowbrook Residents Association	Wrkshop Architects	Meadowbrook
Limerick Civic Trust	Maeve Stone & Alex Gil	The Orchard Project

1.1 Project Objectives

Limerick was one of two EU lighthouse cities selected for a major climate-change pilot programme that sought to develop solutions on how to dramatically reduce the carbon footprint of urban areas. The EU [+CityxChange Programme](#) (Positive City Exchange) saw Limerick, along with Trondheim in Norway, chosen to roll out a project to examine the potential to revolutionise how energy is produced in cities and towns in Europe

Decarbonising Together sought to build on a series of interconnected concepts known as CommunityxChange, developed in the +CityxChange project to support top-down and bottom-up processes of engagement to enable and to accelerate the co-creation of a decarbonised city. CommunityxChange was developed across the =Cityxchange project through the development of the following frameworks;

- Framework for Bold City Vision, Guidelines and Incentives Schemes¹
- Development of Citizen Participation Playbook and Platform²

¹<https://cityxchange.eu/knowledge-base/framework-for-bold-city-vision-guidelines-and-incentive-schemes/>

² <https://cityxchange.eu/knowledge-base/delivery-of-the-citizen-participation-playbook/>

- Framework for Innovation Labs towards DPEB Solutions³
- Framework for an Innovation Playground⁴
- Framework for a Positive Energy Champions Campaign⁵
- Development of Limerick Citizen's Observatory⁶

The project was programmed to promote and support change at a local level and in day-to-day activities of people and communities in Limerick with the objective to help facilitate a just transition towards decarbonising Limerick by 2050. The project focused on exploring behavioural changes through activities of co-learning and co-designing in communities who have not tended to engage with climate action, sustainability and the scale of the change required from society. It was proposed as a mechanism to enable community-led open innovation in Limerick's decarbonisation mission through collaboration between communities and the arts, culture and creative sectors, supported by the Council, University of Limerick and others project partners.

The community and creative collaborations would support learning and doing together, within the Citizen Innovation Lab process and create impact through:

- Deepening understanding of the need for decarbonisation amongst participating groups through active learning events,
- Building capacity to take positive action to enable decarbonisation which can be incorporated into the day-to-day lives and activities of participating groups.
- Empowering communities to take action at community level.
- Enabling interactions with new tools, technologies and processes
- Introducing new communities to the Citizen Innovation Lab and Fab Lab Limerick spaces for a place for collaboration and co-creation on Climate issues.

By empowering the community, this type of collaborative approach – of learning and doing together the project determined to promote positive behavioural change and propel each community towards greater environmental equity.

The effectiveness of this approach was measured according to the scope and reach of each project which can be demonstrated in the quantitative figures that recorded attendance,

³ <https://cityxchange.eu/knowledge-base/d3-6-framework-for-dpeb-innovation-labs/>

⁴ <https://cityxchange.eu/knowledge-base/d3-3-framework-for-innovation-playgrounds/>

⁵ <https://cityxchange.eu/knowledge-base/positive-energy-champions-2/>

⁶ <https://cityxchange.eu/knowledge-base/d4-8-limerick-citizen-observatory/>

demographic of events, the number of events, number of community groups involved as well as gathering feedback from creative and community collaborators.

1.2 Open Calls for Creative and Community Participants

Community groups were paired with an arts or creative industry practitioner – both selected through an open call process. This involved first recruiting interested communities and working with them to explore aspects of decarbonisation that were meaningful to them in their daily lives. Once this feedback had been gathered an Open Call for Creative partners was launched, which contained some information on the communities involved.

1.2.1 Community Partners

Recruitment of communities to participate in the project began in November 2021 with a series of information events and presentations to relevant structures such as the Limerick Public Participation Network. The Open Call for communities was launched on MyPoint Limerick – the public collaboration and consultation portal of Limerick City and County Council – on December 10th 2021. It sought five community groups, inviting them to explore a decarbonisation challenge or opportunity relevant to their day-to-day lives and activities with a creative industry partner. The Open Call posed two key questions for communities to consider;

What climate challenge matters most in your community?

How could your community start to make a difference?

Through the Open Call process, communities would receive €2,000 in funding to support their participation in the project as well as the support for their Creative Partner.

Applications closed on Jan 31st 2022 and a selection committee was established to review the application and select five communities to participate. The objective of the selection committee was to select community groups that represented a spread of communities across the Metropolitan area of Limerick with a particular focus on those that do not normally participate in activities around Climate Action.

Key Considerations for Selection;

- Geographical spread across Limerick Metro area
- Demographic spread with a focus on those that do not regularly engage in Climate Action Organisation capacity and reach
- Priority given to groups who have not received funding through Limerick City and County Council's Urban Innovation Department in the previous 12 months.
- Group / Organisation must be an established group, not formed for the purpose of applying for funding

The five successful communities were invited to a workshop with the project team on March 8th 2022. The purpose of this session was to fully introduce them to the project team, timelines and objectives but more importantly to introduce the different aspects and concepts surrounding decarbonisation ([Appendix 1](#)) and ask them to start to think about which of these might be meaningful to explore in their own communities and to consider how changes related to these aspects might be beneficial to their communities.



Figure 1.0 DT Community Workshop, March 8th 2022, Citizen Innovation Lab, Limerick.

As part of the workshop a group from each community worked with a member of the project team on exploring some key questions.

What is important to your community?

What are the challenges and benefits of Decarbonisation?

What aspect would your community like to focus on?



Figure 1.1 DT Community Workshop, Exploring Decarbonisation in your community

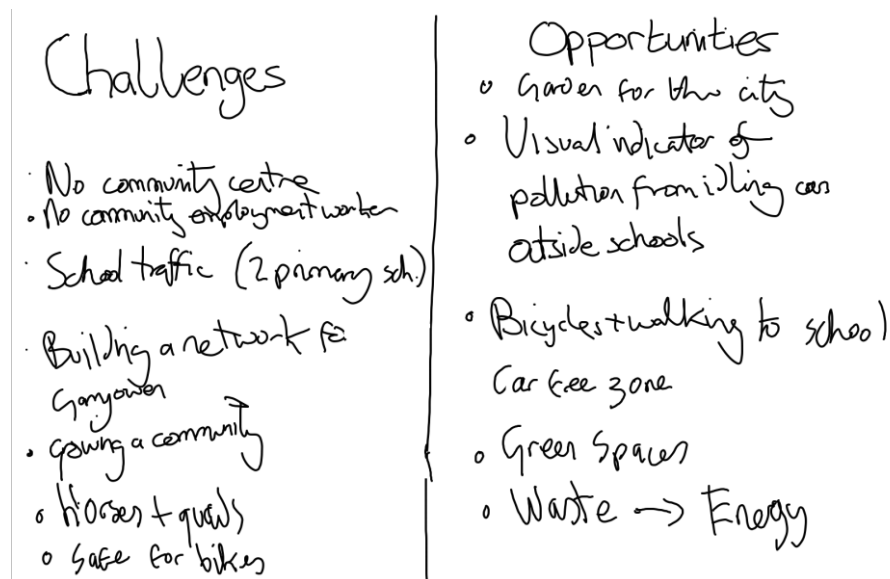


Figure 1.2 DT Community Workshop - Localising Decarbonisation

The feedback and content collected from the community was key to informing the Open Call for creative industry partners and gave prospective applicants an indication of the types of communities involved and challenges that were to be explored through the creative process.

1.2.2 Open Call for Creative Industry Partners

Following the selection of community partners and the Decarbonising Together Community Workshop, an Open Call for Creative Industry partners was prepared and launched on April

6th, 2022. The Open Call was left very open, creative practitioners from a range of disciplines including Arts: Music, performing and visual arts, Architecture, Crafts, Design: product, graphic and fashion design, Audiovisual: Film, TV productions, TV, video, radio and photography, IT: software and computer game development, Publishing and literature, Museums, galleries and libraries, Advertising and marketing were eligible to apply. The focus of the Call was on recruiting creative partners whose practice is collaborative, participatory and involves people as the medium or material of the work. An emphasis by the practitioner on the participatory element of socially engaged practice was key, where the artworks or outputs created often hold equal or less importance to the collaborative act of creating them.

As part of the Open Call a briefing note on the communities and the early stage themes that emerged as areas of interest during the Community Workshop was included, [Appendix 2](#). Based on the themes and challenges below; applicants were asked to choose which community project responded most closely to their work, and then to rank these projects from 1 to 5 in terms of suitability to their experience and medium.

Applications were assessed on the following criteria

Track Record: Previous experience, CV, (15) examples of work (15)	30 marks
Proposed methodology and evidence of planning with timeline	30 marks
Originality/Innovation overall quality of proposal	20 marks
Feasibility of proposed budget and evidence of planning	10 marks
Impact:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social/Community • Cultural • Environmental 	

Following the selection of creative partners and matching with communities by the assessment panel the following creative collaboration were formed.

2. Creative Collaborations

2.1 The Orchard Project

Cracking Light - Maeve Stone & Alex Gill with Limerick Civic Trust

Creative Partners

Cracking Light Productions was formed in January 2021 and brings together filmmakers Alex Gill and Maeve Stone in creative projects that use storytelling to connect people to place, and to one another. Looking for moments that capture something true, sometimes

messy and sometimes composed, these projects are always focused on building connections. Cracking Light is particularly focused on generative action that helps to address climate challenges in an inclusive way, making work that is creative, community led, environmentally focused and builds resilience.

Community Partners

Limerick Civic Trust (LCT) is a self-funding charity, which initiates and undertakes a programme of projects for the general improvement of Limerick's environment in conjunction with local authorities, state agencies and all the sectors of Limerick's commercial, professional, industrial and community life. The organisation has a particular interest in conservation of Limerick's built heritage, this work includes restoring and maintaining heritage properties and green areas. The LCT is a unique organisation who protect not just the built heritage of spaces around the city, but foster healthy citizenship and community in the process. With over 70 staff their close links to community employment schemes mean that their daily activities improve not just the spaces they take responsibility for, but the skills and confidence of the people they employ. Based in the historic Bishop's Palace on Kings island, the organisation also runs the People's Museum of Limerick and works with community and corporate partners on a variety of education, cultural and heritage projects.

2.1.1 Project Proposal

Cracking Light Productions collaborated with Limerick Civic Trust on a film project that highlighted the local connections and networks that the Trust has built over four decades through its work in buildings and green spaces across the city. The creative partners initially proposed capturing a portrait of the complex nature of the trust and its ties to Limerick's heritage and communities. They undertook to understand how the LCT model can host really effective climate adaptation stewardship and resilience and sustainability building in communities across Limerick. They were particularly interested in focusing on the green spaces which the LCT is responsible for as sites for potential creative intervention and in building intergenerational ties and local investment in the environment which could foster real and meaningful behaviour change. The collaboration between Cracking light and Limerick Civic Trust sought to orient Limerick Civic Trust, an organisation that has focused on the protection of heritage of spaces around the city but also in addition towards an activism around decarbonisation by highlighting the pertinence of the topic through active learning events, workshops, and exhibitions, and a film. The collaboration focused on reviving and expanding an earlier project initiated by Limerick Civic Trust named Island Apple a few years before that preserved Limerick heirloom apple seeds. .

2.1.2 Collaborative Process & Activities

The project was initiated through background research into the role Limerick Civic Trust plays in the wider community to discover areas of opportunity, and establish the basis of the collaboration. This was articulated through interviewing and shadowing Civic Trust employees, and the CEO David O'Brien. This period was further animated through meetings and correspondences with people to gather data and co-design how the project could unfold. Some of the people engaged included employees of the Trust, Limerick City and Council, and people who had developed similar projects such as The Hub in Kileely. While mapping how the project could develop, this research phase generated an abundance of material used in creating the final artistic output – a film.

The project was then developed in two further phases. The next step was picking several Island Apple Tree seeds from Seed Savers in Scariff which were selected depending on taste and relevance to the project and Limerick history broadly. An active learning trip was hosted by Cracking Light with Seed Savers Ireland which included an information workshop on the seeds, and apple tasting. The visit to Seed Savers was attended by employees of Limerick Civic Trust and participants in the Limerick CE Scheme. It raised awareness among this group of the importance of seed saving and of Limerick's heritage seeds, [Appendix 6](#)

The next phase involved holding planting exhibitions, during which the collaborating team planted trees selected at Seed Savers across three sites maintained by Limerick Civic Trust. These were attended by a range of community partners.





Figure 2.0 - Tree planting on Kings Island with LCT staff and Cracking Light

Finally, an official screening of the film was held in the People's Museum of Limerick on November 23rd which captured the origins, activities and process of the Orchard project.

2.1.2.1 Table The Orchard Project - Events and Activities

Date	Project	Event type	Location	Numbers
27/06/2022	The Orchard Project	Meeting	Online	10
28/06/2022	The Orchard Project	Meeting	Online	10
26/10/2022	The Orchard Project	Community Tree Planting Event	Jewish Cemetery, Grove Island & Bishops Place Limerick	50+
23/11/2022	The Orchard Project	Film Screening	2 Pery Square Limerick	44

2.1.3 Creative Outputs & Experience

Outputs

The creative output of the Orchard Project has been a combination of narrative building, design and documentary filmmaking. The final creative output of the project, a 25-minute film named Appletown, tells the story of The Orchard Project. It describes its relevance to decarbonisation as well as capturing the origins of the idea. It charts the journey and learning of the community through the creative process. The film can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/781879320>

Experience

As part of the monitoring and evaluation of the project, the team asked each Creative partner about their creative experience and how they balanced the goal of climate action with the creative process and the value of the artistic output.

Orchard Project - Cracking Light	
Explain how you balanced the goal of climate action with the creative process and the value of the artistic output	The creative output has been a combination of narrative building, design and documentary film making. The final outcome of the doc will be something that helps to tell the story of The Orchard Project to safeguard its future, as well as capturing the origins of the work. As artists, it has been easy to design a creative process that captures this point of transformation of camera because of the willingness of the organisations involved.
Artists Feedback & Reflections	The timeframe and schedule for work were challenging as the recruitment meant projects began mid-summer when many people are away on leave. I would encourage any future iterations of the funding to reframe thinking about the process to allow maximum engagement between artist and community. This underpins a process led practice. Short timelines force a focus towards product. Where you are hoping to engender behavioural change you need a really substantial amount of time to begin building a common understanding of the context, the challenges, and the possibilities.
Please document specific examples of Behavioural Change that have or will be made as a result of your Project	<p>New thinking and skill building within Limerick Civic Trust. At a managerial level the priority to begin transforming the biodiversity of the areas in the Trust's care, especially when it results in less carbon and fuel spending is a clear win. In the community employment scheme it has introduced a new relationship with Seed Savers and has changed how they are thinking about skill building for employees across Orchard planting and management. At a practical level it will result in behavioural change across green space maintenance which were once grass based, away from grass cutting and towards orchard protection.</p> <p>- We could also see a shift in thinking at a council level in conversation with environmental scientists</p>

	and place makers who were unaware of the deep and specific cultural link to orchards in Limerick's past and as a tool for ensuring local, high quality food production. The timing for their own blue and green nature corridor plans across the city has means the potential for this project and new collaboration with LCT can continue to grow.
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2.1.4 Community Impact and Learning

By taking part in Decarbonising together members and staff of Limerick Civic Trust have gained a new understanding of the natural heritage of the city and the important role the organisation can play in improving the green areas of the city. The project also gave staff the knowledge and confidence to implement new carbon reduction practices in the day to day work of the organisation. Planting new orchards with a cross section of the community, the trust and the council was a really impactful moment for the community. It demonstrated positivity around the project, the new relationships that have been established, and that the understanding of Limerick's historical pride as an apple producer can underpin a return for the green spaces in the city to being rich biodiverse spaces.

'As we went through the process of the project, and as a result of ongoing discussions about Decarbonisation it became apparent that there is a lot that can be done on a local level. While not everyone can afford to have solar panels or an electric car, through ongoing activities and practices as a group, myself and my other team members will be able to easily weave the narrative of Decarbonisation into our ongoing activities, and discussions that we have with family friends and neighbours around the area. We will be in a stronger position going forward to help in promotion of Decarbonisation initiatives and education of the community as to how they can play a constructive role in same'

Let's not just let grass grow, let's plant trees, let's not just plant trees, let's plant trees that bear fruit, Let's not just plant trees that bear fruit, Let's build fruitful Communities. The call is out to everyone in the city, come and join us' - David O'Brien, CEO LCT, Appletown

2.2 Decarbonising Together Garryowen

Veronica Santorum & Daniel Clancy with Garryowen Community Partners

Creative Partners

Veronica Santorum is a visual artist with a diploma in Environmental Management and PhD in Ecology. She has been working creatively on environmental themes with community

groups for many years. She uses art as a tool to creatively explore current issues, opening up alternative ways of thinking to problem solve and capacity build, to nurture affinity and connection with the natural world. She tends to use natural materials and utilise traditional craft skills such as basketry, feltmaking, natural dyeing and has recently completed a Level 8 Art Textiles course . She is influenced by land artists e.g. Andy Goldsworthy and various fibre artists.

Daniel Clancy works in audio and film, making pieces about and with communities. Some of these have been for public broadcast and others have been community media projects. He is deeply interested in people's sense of place, particularly the ways people express or forge connections with community and their environment. He is inspired by the creative initiatives and solutions communities come up with when tackling issues that affect them. He relishes opportunities to help unearth, shape and share the stories, experiences and insights people and communities have to offer. He draws great satisfaction from helping people's voices be heard, and by illuminating their stories through radio, audio and film.

Community Partners - Garryowen

Garryowen is a vibrant and tight knit community in the heart of Limerick city. It is an area of social and economic disadvantage which is compounded in particular by a lack of community infrastructure such as a community centre. Two Garryowen community organisations came together to participate in the creative collaboration, Garryowen Community Development Project and Garryowen Residents Association. Both groups are deeply embedded in the community with links to an array of multigenerational and thematic groups from the local men's shed, women's groups to youth, cultural and sporting groups. Garryowen Community Development Project's mission is to make Garryowen a better place to live through empowering local people to be actively involved in meeting the needs of their Community by working together to develop sustainable services and facilities for all members of the Community. In their Resource Centre in Garryowen, the organisation provides a broad range of activities, services and programmes.

2.2.1 Project Proposal

The creative partners commenced with a meeting with the Garryowen community organisations and a tour of the area. They were initially met with some resistance to the concept of using creativity for a project aimed at decarbonisation. In an area where fuel poverty is a challenge for many residents some people in the group were unsure as to what real impact a project like this could have. However, the artists spent time in the community

building trust and understanding over the course of several months. Once they had familiarised themselves with the communities challenges they proposed to bring people together within Garryowen to consider decarbonising themes in a local context using creative thinking approaches, commencing with a series of Climate Conversation. The themes to be examined were:

1. Decarbonising travel and the 15 minute city
2. Decarbonising energy in the home
3. Adapting Garryowen's infrastructure e.g. green spaces, community buildings and schools to become part of Garryowen's decarbonising solution

It was proposed that the project act as a catalyst for new community thinking on climate at the personal and community level and help the Garryowen community to generate and prioritise decarbonising ideas.

2.2.2 Collaborative Process & Activities

Table - *Final Diary Entry for Veronica Santorum And Daniel Clancy*

June	Planning and preparation for the project, two meetings with community leaders to develop the project and engagement with wider community. The collaboration visited Fab Lab to see how the project could best utilise the space.
July	Prepared and led two facilitated walks around Garryowen with the community leaders. 15-20 community members attended each. Community conversations were co-facilitated with the community leaders. We explored '15 minute city' and what makes Garryowen. The walks were recorded using video, audio and photos. Audio has been transcribed for use as text in artwork and to analyse the dominating themes. Participants drew a map of their '15 minute Garryowen' and these maps, together with ones prepared by children, are being compiled into one map. Preparation and facilitation of a Creative Climate stand with a programme of art-based children's activities at the Garryowen Community Day, introducing the project to children and their parents and creating fabrics that could be integrated into the community collage later in the project.
August	Three community climate walks were led and recorded, exploring home energy, community energy generation and future possibilities for Garryowen. People were asked to evaluate the creative approach taken. Audio recordings were transcribed and emerging themes identified. We reviewed the process and learning so far at a meeting with community leaders and began planning for the next phase. Veronica met with the newly formed Women's Shed to explain the project and invite their participation in the next phase.

	Fabrics were dyed and printed in preparation for collage making with the group.
September	<p>Meeting with community leaders to plan for the next stage of the project and to look ahead beyond the lifetime of the project.</p> <p>Four creative workshops, using collage to highlight the themes and words that were most important to people that emerged from the walks.</p> <p>Two meetings with community leaders and external advisors to help the community take the step from participation on this project towards working to become a Sustainable Energy Community.</p>
October	<p>October</p> <p>Design and laser cutting of 'Invisible Bus-stop' sign at Fab lab Limerick with community leaders.</p> <p>Made a presentation on the project with community leaders at the Citizen Innovation Lab Symposium.</p> <p>Stitching the collage and liaising with company who will waterproof it for outdoor display.</p> <p>Meeting with Green Schools Officer and connecting the group with the Green Schools Initiative.</p> <p>Supporting the group in their application for Biodiversity funding as this was a theme identified through the process.</p> <p>Community event to celebrate and mark the work so far and foster community connections for the next stage of becoming a Sustainable Energy Community. The video piece and collage were displayed.</p>
November	<p>We will continue to support the group in dissemination - putting up the collage in a public space, using the video and collage for dissemination with groups (schools and an elders group have asked for visits), making the video and collage available online through Garryowen Community Development Project's website; in placing the invisible bus stop and having a small performance around it; media follow-up with local radio stations.</p>



Figure 2.1 Garryowen Climate Walks. Invisibl Bus Stop - Where does the bus stop? Only the locals know!

2.2.2.1 Table Garryowen Energy - Events and Activities

Date	Project	Event type	Location	Numbers
15/07/2022	Garryowen Energy	Meeting	Garryowen	4
20/07/2022	Garryowen Energy	Community Walk	Garryowen	12
22/07/2022	Garryowen Energy	Funday	Garryowen	50+
27/07/2022	Garryowen Energy	Walkshop	Garryowen	13

03/08/2022	Garryowen Energy	Walkshop	Garryowen	12
10/08/2022	Garryowen Energy	Walkshop	Garryowen	12
17/08/2022	Garryowen Energy	Walkshop	Garryowen	12
24/08/2022	Garryowen Energy	Walkshop	Garryowen	10
29/08/2022	Garryowen Energy	Meeting	Women's Shed Garryowen	10
08/09/2022	Garryowen Energy	Meeting	Garryowen	4
15/09/2022	Garryowen Energy	Meeting	Garryowen	5
22/09/2022	Garryowen Energy	Meeting	Garryowen	10+
22/09/2022	Garryowen Energy	Collage Workshop	Garryowen	5
23/09/2022	Garryowen Energy	Collage Workshop	Garryowen	5
29/09/2022	Garryowen Energy	Collage Workshop	Garryowen	5
30/09/2022	Garryowen Energy	Collage Workshop	Garryowen	5
11/10/2022	Garryowen Energy	FabLab Workshop	FabLab Limerick	4
13/10/2022	Garryowen Energy	Limerick Symposium	Citizen Innovation Lab	2
26/10/2022	Garryowen Energy	Community Event	Garryowen	35

2.2.3 Work with Fab Lab Limerick

Fab Lab Limerick contributed to this project and provided a number of services. The Fab Lab created stamps and stencils for the Family Funday event, met with members of the community, and advised on the creation of the community tapestry. Additionally, we were involved in the production of signage as part of a bus-stop transport experiment, and also produced templates for engraving according to the artist's designs.

This project has also led to engagement with the community in Garryowen that haven't worked with the Fab Lab before and further collaboration with the project leads. We are delighted that the project has led to further collaboration with the community.

2.2.4 Creative Outputs & Experience

The Decarbonising Together journey of the Garryowen Community was recorded through video, audio and photographs. The video can be viewed <https://vimeo.com/777812123>.

Over the course of several weeks, the community produced a collage in fabric which explores decarbonisation in their community. The collage is being sealed and weather proofed and will be out on display in a prominent position in the area. Following the climate conversation walks and discussions regarding sustainable transport, the community worked with their creative partners to construct 'invisible bus stops' that would highlight the challenges for locals in accessing public transport.



Figure 2.2 DT Wrap up Event 26.10.2023 Community Representatives, Tom O'Brien, John Buttery, Helena Kelly and Creative Partners Veronica Santorum, Daniel Clancy



Figure 2.3 Climate Conversation Collage Panel (1 of 10) from the Garryowen Decarbonising Collage,

DT Garryowen - Veronica Santorum & Daniel Clancy

Explain how you balanced the goal of climate action with the creative process and the value of the artistic output

Our process followed an arts-based research approach with a research phase - the walkshops, energetic and fast, facilitated community conversations that generated a lot of ideas and exposed issues while also encouraging peer-to-peer learning about climate action. By recording and transcribing these conversations we had a wealth of material to analyse and visualise in the video and the collage. The process of making the collage gave people reflective time, revisiting the themes that emerged and reading people's words to communicate them respectfully and honestly. We could see the community leaders growing stronger through this process as they relaxed due while making art and realised that they were gaining a mandate and direction from the community as they engaged with the material.

The artistic outputs: collage, video and invisible bus stop sign, all serve as focal points for continuing community dialogue and action. While the collage and video were planned for from the beginning, the invisible bus stop emerged from the process. It would have been better to have been able to work in a more open-ended way, allowing all outputs to emerge in response to the engagement. However the community would not have been receptive to this - they very much wanted to know what the physical outcome was from Day 1. It was difficult at the start to convince the leaders in the community to trust the creative process, that we would 'make haste, slowly' when they would have preferred us to install insulation or solar panels! It was also difficult to respond when the community were in desperate need of information re. the home grants and we knew our role was not to be a source of information. Given this initial skepticism, it was

	<p>particularly reassuring and gratifying that the process did serve as a catalyst for change within the community and that they are now registered to become a sustainable energy community.</p> <p>A lot of the climate action conversations started from a negative point of view. It was firstly to important to listen and make people feel that their concerns were heard and understood.. By prompting people to come up with ideas and potential solutions to the things they saw as challenges, the conversation moved to what actions can be taken, rather than just focussing on the problems and the barriers to positive action. Every stage of the process, from developing walking routes, to interviewing participants to the collage workshops followed this approach.</p>
Artists Feedback & Reflections	<p>It was hard to go into a community that didnt see the value of working with artists and would have preferred the money in their bank account (this was repeated a few times). At times, I doubted it all myself. However, it was all the more rewarding and reassuring as a creative practitioner, to see that taking the time to engage with the community in this way has been so useful and invigorated those who took part so that they are now advocates for the process.</p> <p>Daniel Clancy: I believe the project's strongest outcome was giving the Garryowen Residents Association a feeling that there is support available on a community level to tackle the challenges they face collectively. The external voices of artists, Council, and other organisations helped validate their belief that their own community can pull together and be ambitious about climate-action.</p>
Please document specific examples of Behavioural Change that have or will be made as a result of your Project	<p>Implementing simple home energy saving tips. Applying for retrofitting grants and doing this work on their homes Walking more and using the bus more As a community - working towards becoming a sustainable energy community; working towards restoring biodiversity and food growing to green spaces; looking into using sports and communal roof spaces for energy generation; providing support to community members to apply for home grants</p>

2.2.5 Community Impact and Learning

As stated above Garryowen is an area of social disadvantage where fuel poverty, infrastructural issues and housing quality negatively impact on a daily basis on the lives of residents. It's therefore understandable that there was some initial skepticism from residents as to what meaningful impact an arts project such as Decarbonising Together could have for them. However, thanks to the careful facilitation and engagement by the creative partners combined with the strong support of the Garryowen community leaders,

notably Helena Kelly, Tom O'Brien and John Buttery the project was successful in moving the community thinking on climate significantly. The climate conversations led by the creative partners gave space for the community to explore the challenges presented by climate change. They were given the opportunity to explore how some of the changes required might benefit the residents of Garryowen. Through the climate walks and other activities the extent of confusion, misinformation and misunderstanding around climate issues became clear particularly regarding renewable energy, transport issues, retrofitting and home energy schemes. The process chosen by the creative partners encouraged peer to peer learning and inter-generational sharing of experiences, opinions and stories about the climate and the community as a whole.

The key community impact of Decarbonising Together in Garryowen had been in moving the climate conversation from one of fear and misinformation focused on the barriers to climate action to a place of optimism and a determination to take advantage of future state schemes to improve the lives of residents. As part of their feedback to the Council, residents said they felt listened to, supported and better equipped to make changes around climate action and particularly home energy following the project.

To this end Garryowen has registered with the SEAI as a Sustainable Energy Community and intends to take steps towards the creation of an Energy Masterplan for the area with the support of Ballyhoura Development (SEAI representatives for Limerick) and Limerick City and County Council. A detailed report on the Climate Conversation dialogue was submitted by Veronica Santorum as part of the monitoring and evaluation process

[Appendix 3](#)

2.3 Ministry of the Imagination

Amicitia - Patrick Mulvihill & Heather Griffin with Limerick Island Community Partners

Creative Partner

Amicitia, Heather Griffin and Patrick Mulvihill collaborate at the intersection of art, design and futures to bring communities together and create new narratives for our transitional times. Within this space they present alternative visions of the world through speculation, play, and experiential learning. Their work is connected with long horizons of time, providing space for considered debate, through multilayered experimentation, prototyping and transdisciplinary collaboration. They mix media, engage communities, conduct deep research and embrace complex systems to build powerful collaborative networks and stories that will help shape more equitable and sustainable futures.

Community Partners

Limerick Island Community Partners (LICP) are a community organisation based in the medieval quarter on Kings Island in Limerick city serving the disadvantaged regeneration

area of St. Mary Park. LICP is a multi-faceted organisation that delivers through sustainable community development. Its main aim is to empower and support local people to effect positive change in their own lives and in the wider community. The organisation has a broad remit and are involved in all aspects of community life on 'The Island' from community service such as meals on wheel and 'care and repair' to community enterprise and cultural and heritage activities. Their goals to build a strong, safe, healthy and resilient community on Kings Island by empowering individuals to effect positive change in their own lives and in the wider community

2.3.1 Project Proposal

Amicitia take a process driven approach to their practice where the community group is central to the process and where plans may change, adapt, and/or evolve as they begin working closely with the participants in their local context. After an initial consultation between the community and the creative partners, the following milestone plan was proposed;

1. Introductory workshop with community participants (min of 8) to build relationships through play, archetype development and speculative storytelling.
2. Interactive mapping workshop with participants expanding on their speculative future stories through a co-created audiovisual map of Kings Island.
3. Artist's response will then work with the content created in earlier workshops, and on site visits, to create a larger installation piece (with support of the Fab Lab).
4. Gift economy workshop will see us 'gifting' our artistic response with an invitation to the community participants to further expand on this work through additional audio, story and visual elements.
5. Community presentation with participants invited to share their creation with local residents of Kings Island.

2.3.2 Collaborative Process

Limerick Island partners is a broad community development organisation with links to a multitude of community groups. Following initial consultation with the creative partners and mindful of the unique challenges of the King's Island / St. Mary's park Community Amicitia was asked to work with Nicholas St Youth Space to co-create an interactive, place-based, installation that sparked conversation, encouraged action on decarbonisation and a just transition in the medieval heart of Limerick City, and supported Limerick's mission to decarbonise by 2050. It was felt that by starting with youth it would spark intergenerational conversations through the wider community. The artists facilitated the process throughout by listening and challenging the young people of Kings Island to co-create the Ministry of Imagination. Based on the findings of the workshop we then designed and prepared the

objects in the Ministry of the Imagination toolkit with the aspiration that the community will use these to gain a deeper community engagement on decarbonisation over time

The process of engagement, co-creation and development of the concept of the Ministry of Imagination has been hugely inspiring and rewarding. Overall we have had a great response. The challenge of time has caught up with us somewhat but we intend to deliver the final outputs of the project over the coming months and have attached a proposal for further engagement. This includes the potential to work with other partners from the UK and EU cities that are working on similar projects and who we have been in discussions with as we develop our own Ministry of Imagination' *Amicitia, DT Final Diary Entry*



Fig 2.4 Ministry of Imagination Workshops, King's Island, Limerick
2.3.2.1 Table Ministry of Imagination - Events and Activities

Date	Project	Event type	Location	Numbers
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- The Ministry of Imagination Top Trumps' game with 30 speculative roles from a decarbonised future Limerick.
- The Ministry of Imagination Kings Island board game. This is a remix of the open-source game, Commonspoly that encourages a culture of cooperation and questions the violent model of neoliberal privatisation. We are redesigning this game to fit the local context of Kings Island. This will provide a place-based tool that will bring members of Kings Island together, young and old, to learn about decarbonisation and collective futures in a fun and engaging way by blurring the boundaries between fictional spaces and real-life action.

Ministry of the Imagination - Amicitia	
Explain how you balanced the goal of climate action with the creative process and the value of the artistic outputs	We were able to discuss future scenarios that will occur as a result of climate change by focusing on speculative design and imagination. For us, the artistic process is a collaborative effort; ideas come from everyone, and we don't see a clear distinction between climate action and the creative process. We cannot achieve fair and equitable climate action unless we are creative (and critical thinkers). The voice of marginalised people is central to this process, and the creative process is required to listen deeply and understand the voices of those who will be most affected by climate change inequalities.
Artists Feedback & Reflections	The process has been enjoyable and challenging. We recognise that the short time frame involved has not allowed us to have as much immediate impact as we would have liked to achieve. But we have enclosed further reflection on further opportunities that links some partnerships we are developing in the UK and Europe. This is an invitation to Limerick Council and Creative Ireland to reflect and appreciate the complex nature of decarbonisation and build strategic alliances that can further embed the practice of imagination in efforts to achieve impact on the scale that is required.
Please document specific examples of Behavioural Change that have or will be made as a result of your Project	We don't believe it is possible to adequately track and monitor behavioural change in a fully transparent and effective manner given the short time frame of the project. We have attached additional proposals for longer term engagement and would recommend appropriate processes to map and track these changes built into the project from the outset.

2.3.5 Community Impact and learning

The young people of Nicholas Street Youth Space fully embraced the artists, engaged with them and worked through the Ministry of Imagination Programme. The toolkit which has been developed will be used by Limerick Island partners in the future with other community groups to continue the climate dialogue commenced by the project. The creative partners communicated to the project team on several occasions that the timeline of the project was challenging given the community involved and particularly due to the complex nature of community frameworks. St Mary's Park in Limerick is one of the most disadvantaged communities in the country and suffers from high levels of poverty, educational and economic inequality, anti-social behaviour and a high crime rate. The project team agrees that more time for project implementation would have been beneficial given the complexity of community issues. As an area of regeneration there are formal community committees and a network of state and voluntary agencies at work on the ground with the communities. The project team agrees that more time for project implementation would have been beneficial given the complexity of community issues. An artist in residence over the long term embedded by the Council in these structures focused on climate issues working across all the stakeholder community groups, state agencies and voluntary agencies would have the opportunity to more deeply impact community and individual activities in terms of decarbonisation

2.4 Grounds for Change

Creative Partner

Deirdre Power and Chelsea Canavan

Limerick Artists Chelsea Canavan and Deirdre Power have worked with communities of interest since 2018, where dialogue is an integral part of their practice. Both are graduates of MA Social Place & Creative Environment at Limerick School of Art & Design. Their work is focused on community-engagement, collaborations (co-produced) and participatory modes of practice. We are interested in the ecology of communities by way of creative participation projects - learning and doing together, fostering expression and dialogue through cross disciplinary engagement. Using the creative exploration of systems, such as the circular economic framework and solutions framework, to empower and tackle challenges, question behaviours, encourage and enact change; the hallmarks of socially engaged practice. We are influenced by the everyday experience, conversations and encounters in spaces and the need to explore the nuance of providing for the everyday.

Community Partners

Munster Indian Cultural Association (MICA)

The Munster Indian Cultural Association was officially formed in 2006 to promote the social and cultural welfare of Indian families in the Midwestern region, Ireland. They organise festive functions, arts, and cultural events to promote traditional values and are a registered charity who donated over €100,000 in various charity activities around the globe. The organisation provides support to members of the Indian community such as financial and educational support, hardship relief and many others. With over 250 member MICA is a wide social network which is dispersed geographically through the whole of Munster and includes members of all age groups and socioeconomic backgrounds

2.4.1 Project Proposal

Grounds for Change sought to build awareness and then to develop practical steps to enable sustainable change, encouraging the community to embrace acts of reciprocity and legacy through the creative process.

2.4.2 Collaborative Process

- The collaboration of MICA and Canavan & Power evolved and grew by way of trust with personal experiences, resulting in the gaining and sharing of knowledge.
- A collective agreement on changes to take effect immediately. In 'decarbonising together', by way of food systems and equity, the group's aspirations became actions, to be published as a manifesto in the forthcoming publication.
- The group took on the task of changing approaches to recycling and reusing in their community gatherings (some with 500+ members attending) - This included switching to using compostable materials, separating recyclables accurately and efficiently in labeled bins, and redistribution of organic food waste.
- Our objectives continued to maintain community-wide awareness (weekly correspondence), share practical and easily sustainable individual and group changes, and acts of reciprocity (MICA's ethos of Share & Care) in an effort to decarbonise the community.
- Through our engagement with MICA and the dialogical practice of our workshops we are currently exploring ways to utilise the use of space within an urban environment. Responding to this notion of 'share & care', we consider mapping spaces, both public and private and its implications for what it means to belong. Perhaps by growing and sharing green spaces within the city, it will grow respect for spaces through personal connection, providing a community with "Grounds for Change".



Figure 2.6 - MICA Community Oman Festival with Grounds for Change

2.4.2.1 Table Grounds for Change - Events and Activities

Date	Project	Event type	Location	Numbers
07/07/2022	Grounds for Change	Visit to Newleaf Urban Farm and meeting	Ballyneety, Limerick	8
27/08/2022	Grounds for Change	Visit to Seedsavers	Scariff Co Clare	10
17/09/2022	Grounds for Change	Onam Harvest Festival	Limerick Racecourse	500+
03/11/2022	Grounds for Change	Workshop	Citizen Innovation Lab	15

2.4.3 Work with Fab Lab Limerick

Through a series of productive meetings with the project leads and members of the community, our team was able to provide valuable insights and support.

Our efforts included the production of displays (writable large-format maps to gather ideas and community input), and contributing to discussions on the potential of urban gardening activities for MICA. This collaboration has led to new opportunities for education and engagement between the Fab Lab and the MICA community. Members of this community have started to use the facilities at the Fab Lab and are exploring applications for further projects with the Citizen Innovation Lab and Fab Lab Limerick.

2.4.4 Creative Outputs & Experience

With its strength in diversity of culture and nature, Grounds for Change explores the connection between art, science, and the ecology of community towards a more sustainable society. As socially engaged artists Power and Canavan engaged the wider community of 400 plus members of Munster Indian Cultural Association - MICA, in both dialogical and participatory practices. Community wide workshops, group site visits, and exploratory creative drawing were all participatory tools used by the artists. This culminated in a visual and audio presentation at the Oman Festival where the artists presented a seed workshop & display. The outcomes succeeded in changing behaviours in decarbonising, recycling, food waste and management.

- We propose that the cultivation and sharing of spaces in the city, invests in community connectivity and contributes to the overall ethos of 'Grounds for Change'.

Canavan & Power - DT Final Diary Entry	
Explain how you balanced the goal of climate action with the creative process and the value of the artistic outputs	As artists our process and practice is one of recognising climate action and creative process as one process together. We as collaborative artists CanavanPower try to live sustainably and make decisions on a day-to-day basis both in creative practice and daily living that has a sustainable approach towards climate impact. We therefore would like to suggest that there isn't a balance to be made or struck, because this would suggest favouring one over the other, but instead a constant (re)alignment or imagining. The formulation and creative conversation around new ideas, creative process and social progress all contribute to making an action goal and artistic output one-in-the-same through the process of enacting this together in a participatory and collaborative framework.
Artists Feedback & Reflections	Through our creative collaborative and participatory practice, the outcomes involve and need people or interest or commonality and their daily lives and nuances as the medium or material of our work. The climate action and creative process can be found entangled in the participatory element of CanavanPower's socially engaged practice, through the conversation tables and negotiating of complex

	<p>citizenship for those who are culturally foreign to Ireland. As they (the artists) engage with the community through site visits and conversation workshops and learning, the group and the artists creatively move forward through their conscious living and make more sustainable changes toward climate action goals based on shared experience. Share and Care is just as key to these processes as is the artworks or outputs created, although often holding equal or less importance to the collaborative act of devising them. One of the creative outputs was already a workbook for the community to use as a tool, and while this wouldn't regularly be an outcome the artists would expect, the community embraced the idea of having a functional chart and table to encourage behavioural change in looking at food imprint and waste management.</p>
<p>Please document specific examples of Behavioural Change that have or will be made as a result of your Project</p>	<p>A very specific behavioural change made by the group was their outlook and planning on large scale events engaging their community. For example the Onam festival feeds over 400+ families throughout the course of the day, and plays host to activities, traditional dances, games and arts and crafts for families. Here the community normally would have gone with ready-made items such as paper plates and plastic table clothes, however after having workshops and conversations with the artists the community were able to realign their vision and needs with more traditional and even more sustainable outcomes for this festival. Paper and plastic plate were turned into banana leaves and reusable silverware, compostable cups, and waste separation on the day. There were further discussions about how to continue this thinking, and ideas around sourcing the food and crops for cooking locally and ensuring decorations and festival items were more sustainable made or obtained.</p> <p>The artists were interested as well that there be a physicality or making element to the changes being adapted, and the conversation tables and site visits were important factors of the workshopping in bringing the community outside into spaces that would allow them to make the connections and introductions they would need to continue the sustainable pattern of addressing their food sourcing and waste management within their large scale events.</p> <p>FoodPrint is a resource made accessible to every member of MICA so that they can make an effort to make a change for themselves. It could be as little as looking at one food item to source more sustainably, or it could be really ambitious in making a change to an entire meal or shop.</p>

2.4.5 Community Impact and learning.

Key impact for the project took place at the largest festival gathering the MICA Community hosts. For this they rent out the Limerick Racecourse and have a traditional harvest festival.

Previous to this Canavan Power had been working closely with the festival planners to look at aspects of the festival that could be decarbonised. These emerged from the site visits and workshops done in the lead up to this event. It was through these site visits and workshops with the artists the community group developed the ideas to change small behaviours on a large engagement scale. It was looking at the sizable amount of rubbish from their community gatherings, taking account of the cups and plate ware they would use throughout them as well and finding ways that suit their culture to change. The artists also had an opportunity to engage the full scale of the community at the festival, nearing 500+. Canavan Power presented the findings of 3 care families who shopped with the artists and calculated their FoodPrint using the workbook, they then took part in another workshop with the core group to brainstorm ideas around local food production and buying that could lower the Footprint of items they are buying. We spoke candidly about the struggle with school lunches, baby food, and family dinners.. we brainstormed suggestions and ideas for working together to solve these problems and all the while focusing on keeping local at the heart of our buying power of 500+ families.

Presenting the findings to everyone at the festival was really fantastic, and there were so many positive comments, and huge interest in taking part. We shared seeds having been gathered from seed savers for winter crops, we shared the FoodPrint workbook and how to use it, and we also shared the community connections the core group had made with the broader community. This was important in allowing the wider community to feel as if they too could take part in the changes being made, and fulfilled MICA's "Share and Care" ethos.

2.5 Meadowbrook

Creative Partner

Wrkshop Architects were established in September 2018 by David McInerney, Séamus Bairéad and David Williams. Their work generally has a focus on environmentally sustainable practices, such as advanced timber construction (an elective we teach in the University of Limerick), design for disassembly and minimising the embodied and operational carbon of the projects that we work on.

The practice has a particular interest in the potential of microgeneration, low carbon projects and public engagement as methods to produce projects that not only provide sources of renewable energy but also contribute to the social fabric of a community and develop its understanding of the local environment.

Community Partner

Meadowbrook Residents Association

Meadowbrook is a typical residential housing estate in the Corbally area close to Limerick City. It sits in a unique location at the elbow of the river Shannon, a place with a rich industrial and religious history. The housing estate consists of circa 70 houses surrounding a central green which has become a focal point for the community and the work of the residents association who have installed a community garden and worked to enhance the space as a neighbourhood amenity.

2.5.1 Project Proposal

Meadowbrook Residents Association brought members of their community together and started conversations about decarbonisation to initiate some new plans for climate action. The creative partners initially spent time in the community walking the green and speaking with residents and getting to know the area

I met with the community last week and walked around their community garden and central green space in the estate. It was a former quarry so has a steep topography and, given it's proximity to the river, is prone to ponding due to a high water table. A wild meadow has been allowed to grow in the centre of the green area which alleviates some of the ponding. There are also incredibly mature trees on the green which is unusual. I was told that these were planted by the first people who moved in 35 years ago. The space is incredibly well used and was a hive of activity from when I arrived to when I left. Children wandered around the plants and picked and ate peas and slightly under-ripened apples. Paths had been cut through the wild meadow and there was an ongoing game of chasing through the maze. A small picnic table is apparently the most used spot in the estate - Wrkshp Architects, Diary 1

Following these informal engagements and discussion with the Residents Association the collaboration agreed that with regard to decarbonisation what communities needs is an excuse to interact; a focal point that would build on the work already done by the Residents Association and where interests overlap and dialogue would take place. A modest structure, sculptural in form was proposed which would create this overlap of function, would become a new prototype for a "community centre". The structure becomes a symbol of their shared identity and an expression of their common values. Energy, freely generated and provided, becomes a public asset, like the produce of the garden.



Figure 2.6 Sheltered Platform raised above flood level for community dialogue on climate

2.5.2 Collaborative Process

The project involved the co-design of a sheltered platform raised above the flood levels in the shared green area of Meadowbrook. The notional structure was used as a device to generate ideas and momentum for carrying out decarbonising initiatives. Creative thinking happens in response to a proposal so by proposing a structure the community generates ideas that could be incorporated within it. Many of these ideas then could become detached from the structure and pursued by members of the community. We hoped that a physical manifestation of the structure would act as a reminder of the project and when people met on or around it it would initiate conversations about the other proposals that were generated around it. This would help to maintain moments beyond the timeframe of the project.

The collaboration worked closely with FabLab to create the mock up of the structure. Other organisations included Aquasystems who advised on rainwater attenuation without a mains connection, Bat Conservation Ireland, Cedarlan Timber, Active Travel Department of Limerick City and County Council, Limerick Beekeepers Association, Limerick Narwhals.

2.5.3 Work with Fab Lab Limerick

Fab Lab Limerick assisted Wrkshop Architects in their design and fabrication of an outdoor timber sculpture at Meadowbrook. Through a series of productive online meetings and calls with project leads, our team provided mentorship and guidance to participants as they explored potential design options. We supported the planning and development of a bill of materials for the build. We met with members of the Meadowbrook Residents Association

to gain a better understanding of the project site. Through our discussions, Workshop Architects were able to select their materials, and also material that could be easily reused in Meadowbrook's community garden.

Throughout the fabrication process, we arranged for necessary materials and supported the assembly of prototypes. The end result was a beautiful and well-crafted sculpture that was well-received by the community.

2.5.2.1 Table Events & Activities Meadowbrook

Date	Project	Event type	Location	Numbers
06/03/2022	Meadowbrook	Meeting	Meadowbrook	6
21-22/10/2022	Meadowbrook	Installation of purposed architectural intervention	Community Green Meadowbrook	20

2.5.4 Creative Outputs & Experience & Activities

The project culminated in a community event on October 21st and 22nd mock up of the notional structure was constructed with members of the community in the green. This gave an impression of the size of the structure and was also used to engage a wider cross section of the community. We prepared a 'Book of Ideas' cataloguing the proposals that had been generated in conversations around the design of the structure. We also printed drawings of the proposed structure. These were all hung on the structure itself which was left in-situ over the weekend. We stayed in the green on Saturday and spoke to residents who called over to enquire and share their thoughts on the structure and the Book of Ideas.





Figure 2.7 Meadowbrook Community Construction Event

Meadowbrook - Wrkshp Architects	
<p>Explain how you balanced the goal of climate action with the creative process and the value of the artistic outputs</p>	<p>At our first meeting with the community we discussed what Decarbonising meant and looked at some of the things that they were already doing that had a significant positive impact on the environment. At our second meeting we had prepared a map of the area and proposed a structure that would support the positive initiatives in the area. We then proposed the question 'If you did build a structure what else could it achieve from an environmental perspective?'</p> <p>We created visuals of the structure which changed in response to the ideas of the community. Essentially we facilitated a conversation between the community and then represented what they were saying back to them in order to continue the conversation.</p> <p>We would hope that a physical place to gather would continue this conversation and these initiatives beyond the time frame of the project.</p>
<p>Artists Feedback & Reflections</p>	<p>We really enjoyed working with this community. The active members are incredibly inventive and resourceful and have an monk-like approach to sharing the fruits of their labours. We got a huge amount from working with them and it also gave us a better understanding of the relationship between community cohesion and the ability for collective action.</p> <p>It was highlighted by some of the other groups who possibly had more experience with community engagement projects that the short time frame of the project would make it difficult to develop a strong relationship with the community. We found that we made very strong links with some members of the community but struggled to engage, at an early stage, with those who were maybe more reticent.</p> <p>Having made the 1:1 mock up we felt that, with a small bit more time, we could have made something that functioned as a temporary structure that could be used as intended. We plan to update the final drawings and consult with a structural engineer to find out what would be required and</p>

	would hopefully see a temporary platform built using the materials from the 1:1 mock up.
Please document specific examples of Behavioural Change that have or will be made as a result of your Project	We hope that the structure itself is ultimately built and has a cognitive link to this decarbonising project. The initiatives that were discussed during the co-design process would remain linked to the physical structure and would give these ideas longevity beyond the time period of the project. Certain ideas that were shared by some members of the community during our meetings had received support from others and will hopefully proceed. These include installing bat boxes in the trees along the river bank, setting up a beehive in behind the polytunnel and expanding the food sharing that took place around the raised beds to produce that was grown by locals privately.

2.5.5 Community Impact

Over quite a long period we discussed a number of different issues, such as the scope of the tidy towns community, the active travel plans for the Mill Road, local biodiversity, creating a focal point and emblem for the community etc.

Since the meeting there has been a lot of email communication around other possible initiatives which could be included in the framework of the platform structure. We also discussed the relevance of the structure in terms of decarbonisation, energy poverty, biodiversity and most importantly community engagement. Since sharing the visualisations with the wider community a number of people have expressed an interest in hosting classes and talks on the structure. We feel that a public event around some form of community owned structure would be a great way to encourage public ownership.

3.0 Community Impact

Overall the community response to Decarbonising Together has been overwhelmingly positive with the many communities stating that they felt more empowered, more positive about the future and how they as individuals and collectively as communities can come together to take action on decarbonisation. As part of the process each community was sent a survey close to the end of the project to collect community feedback. Full details Appendix 10. When asked, 84% of respondents said they felt more informed about Decarbonisation and 85% said they felt more empowered to take action after the project. Respondents were very positive about the role creativity can play in climate projects, 87% agreed that the creative aspect of the project helped them to be more engaged. Here are a sample of the community comments submitted;

‘As we went through the process of the project, and as a result of ongoing discussions about Decarbonisation it became apparent that there is a lot that can be done on a local level. While not everyone can afford to have solar panels or an electric car, through ongoing activities and practices as a group, myself and my other team members will be able to easily weave the narrative of Decarbonisation into our ongoing activities, and discussions that we have with family friends and neighbours around the area. We will be in a stronger position going forward to help in promotion of Decarbonisation initiatives and education of the community as to how they can play a constructive role in same’ Community Feedback DT

‘Both our artists Chelsea & Deirdre were so enthusiastic in bringing up ideas & helping us to do farm visits. MICA was able to organize a 500 people engaged cultural fest with half its usual general waste. We started to understand the importance of reducing carbon emissions.’ Community Feedback DT

‘I feel that the sense of a group effort has emboldened me to do more’ Community Feedback DT

‘I think the project has shown ways in which the community's interest in climate change issues can be promoted. It also pointed to some of the things that can be done locally’ Community Feedback DT

When asked, 81% of respondents indicated they planned on taking further actions on behaviour and lifestyle to decarbonise as a result of their participation in the Decarbonising Together.

3.1 Behaviour Change

The Citizen Innovation Lab platform for collaboration has supported implementation of the Decarbonising Together project. An adapted version of the Transtheoretical Model⁷ (TTM) of behaviour change is used by the Citizen Innovation Lab to track the impact of its programme of engagement on citizen behaviour. This draws on an approach to behaviour change piloted in Limerick through the +CityxChange Positive Energy Champion Campaign⁸.

Well established in health and travel behaviour research, TTM structures progress towards a particular change in behaviour in five stages including “precontemplation”,

⁷ Prochaska, J. O., & DiClemente, C. C. (2005). The transtheoretical approach. Handbook of psychotherapy integration, 2, 147-171.

⁸ Fitzgerald, H. & Mee, A. (2020). D3.5: Framework for a Positive Energy Champion Network. +CityxChange Project Deliverable. <https://cityxchange.eu/knowledge-base/d3-5-framework-for-a-positive-energy-champion-network/>

“contemplation” and “preparation”, which precede “action” and “maintenance” of the behavior change desired⁹. Within TTM, particular emphasis is placed on the value of individualised advice and the setting of individual goals and timelines for change. The Citizen Innovation Lab locates the TTM model in the open innovation ecosystem¹⁰ it orchestrates, where the open call and mentoring processes allows citizens and communities to articulate their own behaviour change goals within the broader context of decarbonisation and progress towards the UN SDGs. The process is community-led. In Table 3.1 below, the Decarbonising Together creative collaboration process and projects – described in Section 2 – have been mapped against the TTM stages of behaviour change, and the activities that enable progression through the stages are described. The objective of mapping the creative collaborations against the TTM stages in this way, is to demonstrate progression along a TTM pathway, recognising that each creative collaboration has different levels of readiness and capacity for change. The Citizen Innovation Lab digital platform, a prototype initiated through the +CityxChange project, acts as a repository of the Decarbonising Together (and other) collaborations which are presented as stories. Each story is generated by accounts of the collaboration, sometimes written by citizens themselves. Documenting collaborations in this way creates the potential for cumulative impact, and allows people in Limerick to reflect on and to discuss how their city can change, whilst encouraging others to embark on their own pathway towards change.

Table 3.1 Decarbonising Together structure and projects mapped against the TTM stages of behaviour change

TTM Stage	Decarbonising Together (DT) Open Innovation Process	Grounds for Change	DT Garryowen	Ministry of the Imagination	Meadowbrook	The Orchard Project
1. Pre-contemplation	TTM: Information and awareness raising DT: Open Call and information events.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2. Contemplation	TTM: Social support and skill raising DT: Forming community collaboration for	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

⁹ Friman M, Huck J, Olsson LE. Transtheoretical Model of Change during Travel Behavior Interventions: An Integrative Review. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. 2017; 14(6):581, p. 3.

¹⁰ Fitzgerald, H., Burón García, J., Sánchez Mora, M. (2020). D3.6 Framework for DPEB Innovation Labs. +CityxChange Project Deliverable.

<https://cityxchange.eu/knowledge-base/d3-6-framework-for-dpeb-innovation-labs>

	open call, meetings and mentoring.					
3. Preparation	TTM: Modeling change, making plans, setting goals and timescales, negotiating barriers DT: Mentoring, choosing a decarbonisation theme, and initiation of the creative collaboration process.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4. Action	TTM: Dealing with barriers, overcoming setbacks and reinforcing positive consequences DT: Making and doing together to co-produce the creative output and sharing this.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5. Maintenance	TTM: Maintain changed behaviour DT: Legacy of the collaboration	Y	Y	-	-	Y

4.0 Learnings and Recommendations

Creativity as a Catalyst for Climate Action and Behaviour Change

It's clear from the activities and outcomes of Decarbonising Together that creativity can be a powerful catalyst for community climate action. It should be acknowledged that differing communities will have varying levels of awareness and capacity in terms of climate issues. One of the critical activities of the creative partners was to build community capacity to enable communities to take positive action which can be incorporated into the day-to-day experiences and activities of participating groups. This was demonstrated across the collaborations where the creative practitioners developed lasting connections with the community and put a huge effort into researching, understanding and spending time in the communities involved. This led to in-depth community conversations that were unique and tailored to the challenges people have on the ground in affecting behavioural changes.

A key to the success of these projects was in matching the right creative practitioners to the community so as to realise meaningful results. As with any collaboration, personalities, networks and politics on the ground can impact on the success of a project where time and trust are important factors. The matchmaking process was aided by carrying out the Community Open Call and community decarbonisation workshops in advance of the

Creative Open Call. It also gave the community representatives a chance to get to know the project team before the collaboration began, this has helped the Council in terms of project legacy where the Council and project partners can continue to support communities through the Citizen Innovation Lab now the project is at an end.

In addition the importance of allowing the community to lead the process was clear in several of the collaborations as was demonstrated in the Ministry of the Imagination. As an area of regeneration in Limerick City, climate action and decarbonisation are not a high priority for a community dealing with so many social and economic issues. The creative practitioners allowed the process to be co-created by the community which led to the development of the Ministry of Imagination toolkit which will provide a device for a continuing climate conversation in the future

Creative Open Call

The closing date for the Creative Open call had to be extended due to the low level of interest, this may indicate that there are a limited number of individuals and companies using this socially engaged model. Projects such as Decarbonising Together should help increase capacity with our creatives by providing opportunities to develop and deliver projects that explore these themes and which grow the skills for this way of working.

Project Coordination and Collaboration

Decarbonising Together is a continuation of a collaboration established by the Horizon 2020 +Cityxchange project with the addition of Limerick Arts Office. The CxC team had already successfully implemented a series of community engagement and innovation projects through the [Citizen Innovation Lab](#) and the established structure and existing relationships enabled project delivery. This underlines the importance of EU projects delivery in Limerick, in that it has developed expertise that may not otherwise exist within the organization and provides opportunities to leverage current projects to access further EU and national funding to support communities. This collaborative project structure brings a variety of skills across disciplines from the Arts, academia, government and community engagement and development that enabled the project to support the creative collaborations effectively. A formal collaboration agreement between the Council and University of Limerick was required to underpin the SLA agreed between the Council and Creative Ireland which added to the administrative resources required.

Within the Council, the interdepartmental working between the Urban Innovation Dept and Arts Office was supported by a formal Operational Level Agreement that clearly set out the roles, responsibilities and project understanding between departments. A legacy of the

project will be the continuation of this model of working interdepartmentally and further avenues for collaboration will be explored in relation to climate and creativity.

Scientific Input to Creative Climate Projects

In writing the bid for Decarbonising Together the team felt it was important to include access to expert knowledge on aspects of decarbonisation that would inform the creative collaborations. However, during the implementation phase it became clear that there was some resistance from the creative partners to include the scientific community in evidence based approach to creative practice in climate projects.

Several partners communicated to the project team that they saw the proposal to include input from the scientific community into the decarbonisation journey as unnecessary and in some cases as an intrusion to the creative process. For example, in one case the creative partners requested that this budget be used for some music to be provided to their community group by local musicians. The request was denied by the Council as this expense should have been included in the creative partner funding if deemed a requirement to the collaboration. Their diary entry in response is a good reflection of the overall feeling of the creative group.

'We requested additional assistance from "experts" as was offered during the project's early stages. Because storytelling and sound have been identified as key components of the project, it is disappointing that the musician we sought to bring into the project with local knowledge of the area was not deemed an "expert" in this regard. A just transition and decarbonisation are much more than a technical fix, especially in a community where these concepts are rarely discussed. We need to take an interdisciplinary approach to sustainable development, and we believe that this requires us to think beyond traditional expert-led approaches.'

The intersection between the creative and scientific communities will be important for future creative climate projects and developing these linkages is something that should be explored further. For any future creative climate projects LCCC will consider making it a requirement for a scientist/technical expert to be embedded as part of the collaborating team in future open calls.

Requirement for public open events & photo opportunities

The project team were contacted on multiple occasions to provide details of public events that might be attended by the press and others. The requirement to provide these types of opportunities was not set out in the Service Level Agreement for funding. As it was not in the original Decarbonising Together application for funding the project team did not

include this requirement as essential for each individual collaboration. Where this is a requirement by the funder it should be stated in the SLA, however it should be noted that several of the collaborations involved nuanced engagement with communities where attendance by people from outside the community or by press would not have been welcome. A showcasing event/ festival or wrap up day could have been included in the original proposal if required and funding allocated accordingly.

Role of mentors

Mentors provided a one to one communication channel with each project during the implementation phase and an effective means to track each project progress and provide support. They also offered local expertise for those creative partners with less knowledge of the existing networks and stakeholders. Creative partners had plenty of expertise on their respective disciplines and ample experience working with communities so mentors' experience on those areas were probably less crucial as expected initially.

Mentors were well positioned to identify commonalities and crossover themes between projects, but the project did not allow for much interaction between groups within its timeline. A variation for the future could include more opportunities for the groups to collaborate, learn from each other, and celebrate each other's successes, and this functionality could be supported by mentors.

While mentor roles proved more significant in the early stages of project development than in implementation, the role of mentor is a valuable one - particularly in light of the heavy demands placed on the organising local authority to manage the project teams. A variation on the mentor role could be considered for future projects, where the mentor became more involved in the support of project implementation. The Arts Office in particular found the model of external specialist mentors, which was a part of the previous EU project, was of particular value and intend to replicate this model on other projects.

Communications Support

AS the project developed communications support became a challenge, it became clear that the comms team in the Council do not have the resources to fully represent the breadth of the project such as Decarbonising Together at a local and national level. Over the course of the implementation period it was difficult for the creative practitioners to both record and deliver their process. This had an impact on the ability of the collaborations to share their story. A dedicated story-teller working across the collaborations, and a larger photography and av budget which includes a dedicated communications resource should be included in future proposals.

Timeframe

Feedback from both artists and communities was that the time given for project implementation was too short and an option for a longer term collaboration would be

beneficial. Implementation over the summer months can be challenging where many communities will have fewer residents available for school holidays.

Summary of Community Events

Projects	Number of Events	Number of Attendees
Grounds for Change	4	533+
Decarbonising Together Garryowen	19	215+
Ministry of the Imagination	1	100+
Meadowbrook	2	26+
The Orchard Project	4	114+
Total	30	944+

Appendix 1- DT Community Info



Poster advertising the Decarbonising Together Event held as part of Limerick Cultural Night

Appendix 2 - Creative Call Briefing Notes

Community Description	Decarbonisation Challenge
<p>Garryowen Community Development Project</p> <p><i>Garryowen is a neighbourhood located in the heart of Limerick city with a rich history dating back to the 12th century. Garryowen Community Development Project works to empower local people, to be actively involved in meeting the needs of their Community by working together to develop sustainable services and facilities for all members of the Community which will make Garryowen a better place to live.</i></p> <p>https://garryowencdp.com/</p>	<p>Priority issues: The community experiences socio-economic challenges yet Garryowen is not one of Limerick's Regeneration Areas. It has no community centre or community employment scheme and there is a lot of school traffic. Garryowen has lots of green space and the community garden brings people together. How can Garryowen take part in the process of decarbonisation?</p> <p>Decarbonisation Themes: Energy efficient buildings, sustainable energy community, energy from waste, energy poverty, future proof jobs and skills.</p> <p>Challenge: "Growing a Sustainable Energy Community in Garryowen"</p>
<p>Munster Indian Cultural Association</p> <p><i>Munster Indian Cultural Association was established in 2006 to promote social and cultural welfare of Indian families in the MidWest. Our members gather together to celebrate festivals like Onam, Christmas, New Year, Easter, Vishu and many more. MICA's charity wing is an important part of our mission focused on the relief of poverty or economic hardship in our community and assistance in the advancement of education.</i></p> <p>https://micashareandcare.ie/</p>	<p>Priority issues: Sharing food and cooking together, growing food communally, reducing waste and composting, circular food production and healthier local environment.</p> <p>Decarbonisation themes: Healthy, affordable food / / the circular economy</p> <p>Challenge: Responding to the climate challenge through food</p>
<p>Limerick Civic Trust</p> <p><i>Limerick Civic Trust is a self-funded charity which initiates and undertakes a programme of projects for the general improvements of Limerick's built heritage and environment in conjunction with local authorities, state agencies and other interested parties. The Trust is based in the historic Bishops Place on Kings Island in Limerick as well as other locations around the city.</i></p> <p>https://www.limerickcivictrust.ie/</p>	<p>Priority issues: Conservation of built and cultural heritage using traditional skills, managing "everything from lawnmowers to cemeteries", so the scope of decarbonising is multi-layered. Creative ways to share knowledge around clean energy and decarbonisation for all Trust employees is an aim, as well as exploring creative inputs to the Trust's Decarbonisation Plan.</p> <p>Decarbonisation themes: Knowledge building for all staff, renovated, energy efficient buildings / Future-proof jobs and skills</p> <p>Challenge: Decarbonising through the people of the 'Trust'</p>

<p>Limerick Island Community Partners</p> <p><i>Limerick Island Community Centre serves the St. Marys Park and King's Island community in the heart of Limerick City and the Medieval Quarter. The company has a long-standing history of representing and serving the Parish of St Mary's and Limerick City well with repeat engagements of target groups within the services.</i> https://licp.ie/</p>	<p>Priority issues:</p> <p>Socio- economic disadvantage.</p> <p>Escalating Energy Costs.</p> <p>Flooding</p> <p>Decarbonisation themes</p> <p>Skills and Jobs -</p> <p>Community Energy Potential</p> <p>Challenge: Equal access to methods of Decarbonisation</p>
<p>Meadowbrook Residents Association</p> <p><i>'Meadowbrook is a housing estate located close to the river Shannon, off the Mill Road in Corbally, Limerick. The estate comprises approximately 100 residential homes that surround a large green area. There is a strong community in the estate and work has been done to create a community garden on the green.'</i></p>	<p>Priority issues: Resources and time to engage with Climate Action</p> <p>Decarbonisation themes:</p> <p>Energy, Retrofitting Costs</p> <p>Sustainable Transport</p> <p>Challenge: Making space for Climate Action</p> <p>Building a Climate Action Community in Meadowbrook</p>

Appendix 3 - Garryowen Energy Report

Themes Emerging from the Garryowen Decarbonising Together Project 2022

prepared by Veronica Santourm, November 2022

In July-September 2022 Garryowen CDP and Garryowen Residents Association, with artists Veronica Santorum and Daniel Clancy, facilitated a series of community conversations on the theme of decarbonising on walks through Garryowen. The walks and workshops were attended by 12-15 people on average, mostly older women. This is a summary of the main themes that emerged from the conversations. They can be used to help develop new projects, in funding applications, in developing questionnaires or other research tools if more information is required on a particular topic.

People's perceptions of climate change

People expressed concern about climate change.

Decarbonising is about making it better for the grandchildren coming along, the future generation.

If we don't do it, there won't be a future. There won't be a future for the generations to come.

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Judging by the fires that we are seeing all around Europe and around the world, we need to do something, it's really getting out of hand.

We're not just thinking about the environmental impact, but the health impact of constant flooding and people's lives being distressed. People have awful difficulties trying to get insurance and just to live a happy life, you know?

The reality is like, it's our children and grandchildren, that's going to face the consequences. And us, we're going to face the consequences.

People are also very conscious of economising and this is driving decisions rather than environmental concerns.

It's more about saving my bill than saving my energy!

Home Energy and Garryowen

Garryowen has some of Limerick's earliest housing estates. There is a relatively high level of home ownership with the community having worked together to buy their own homes from the council when this became possible. As well as the different original house designs, residents have added to and modified their homes over the years to create an interesting streetscape of diverse homes. However, Garryowen's housing stock is aging with its oldest residents.

There is a need for accessible information about energy solutions and grants as there is misinformation and confusion. They spoke with longing for an A-rated, small, easy to heat and maintain home and looked with some envy at the new homes being built. People are scared of dealing with contractors and long forms and figuring out eligibility. They are worried about energy bills and the cost of living. This is the highest priority of the themes encountered.

Energy saving in the home

People are trying to save energy at home.

A lady told me that she fills a flask with hot water in the morning. Oh! Do you? I only heard that the other day. She fills a flask and she uses the hot water throughout the day.

Normally I would've left the lights on in the hallway and I would've left the lights on in the landing always. What I do at night now is, the rooms that I'm not in, I turn off the lights.

The only lights that are on, are the lights of the room that I'm in.

You turn off at the switch, you turn off at the mains.

I save electricity, save energy, for a lower bill to keep my costs down.

I used to leave the bathroom one on all the time. Now I turn it off. And I'm like you, I turn it off now.

"When you're brushing your teeth, use a glass for water instead of letting the tap run."

"And when you're doing your wash- in the washing machine have a full wash. Yeah. And, do the washing in the evening, after seven."

The challenge of old housing stock

Homes were seen as a burden and worry to some older people as they struggle to deal with grants and building contractors to make their houses warm and fuel efficient.

My house is the coldest house.

The minute you turn off the heat, a half an hour later, the house is cold. You know, it must be the seventies they were built.

I'm not looking forward to winter coming

The windows need to be replaced. And you know, I think every morning when I get up in the morning, I think, God, where do we start with this? You know, it's terrible.

People are trying to find solutions but are not always clear on how to proceed.

Solar panels. Are they a success? Are they for a hot country?

How to generate energy from the river?

Peer-to-peer learning about home energy

People shared their experiences on the walks and at workshops.

Insulation would be the first thing

If you go and have a look at your meter when your electric shower is running and see how fast it whirrs around and around. The electric showers, you use an awful lot of electricity. Now, with the solar panels, when you turn on the electric shower, you are using electricity for the pump, but the actual water is heated by the solar panel.

My mother got her house totally refitted last year. So, outside insulation, attic insulation, new central heating system, energy efficient lights, energy efficient controls, so you have a separate [control] for the water and that. So it was a complete front and back insulation of the house, but she got it done for nothing, and that was done through SEAI.

Travel and Garryowen
Walking

Garryowen is regarded as well situated for walking.

You are accessible to everything here.

I walk everywhere. We don't have a car.

It's a lovely walk actually up around there.

It's very central here to town, I'd say most people walk.

I walk to town mostly.

So that's the only obstacle I would see, the weather. Other than that, I think everything is easy enough to get around.

Difficulties with walking in Garryowen

Personal Safety

Worries about personal safety were expressed. Some people said they were too frightened to walk on their own and this is why they had joined the project, to walk in a group.

I be afraid to go up to that graveyard. I bring a little personal alarm. My son lives over the wall and he says ma'am gimme a shout. Lot of good that'll be by the time he get over the wall.

Road and pavement safety

There are other difficulties with walking. These emerged when talking about taking grandchildren to school. Safe road crossings, narrow pavements, and a lack of barriers to protect children from traffic were highlighted. This is an area very suited to community and school collaboration. A walkability audit may be a good follow-up and if the Safe Routes to School Scheme should reopen an application could be made. (<https://greenschoolsireland.org/saferoutestoschool/>)

The grandkids tell you, oh, we'd love to cycle or walk, but it's just too dangerous cos they have to cross at St. John's.

They are aged 13, 12. I'd still say no, I'll collect you. The roads are just crazy. you want to make sure they're okay

The footpath, its very, very small on the left hand side of the cathedral.

The path is very narrow. We have to walk down one at a time.

They narrowed the footpath a few years back. You would imagine it was skinny and the trucks were coming in on top of you. Its kinda interesting the way they prioritize the traffic over the people walking.

barriers, um, going all along the side of the school and on the other side, and then, um, maybe two traffic wardens there in the center of the, you know, one at the top of the street, one at the bottom of the street.

If there was a barrier the whole way along those footpaths, then there's no fear of the children with the traffic. They're well protected.

School travel

School traffic is causing congestion, pollution and making it unsafe for children to walk or cycle to school. A suggestion for a real time monitor of air quality was made and is being followed up by the Resident's Association with a researcher in University of Limerick.

Outside the school? It is very hectic there. A lot of cars be parked there. A lot of trucks passing by, well, it is the main road.

It's just very dangerous, but a lot of kids do walk. But having said that there's still an awful lot of cars outside the school.

During the COVID, we did air quality control testing. And it was actually really high. There was nobody around, there was no traffic around and air quality was very high.

We need a real time monitor of air quality, you know, that showed them how much petrol they're using. People double park in front of the school. They're sitting there for five or 10 minutes with their engines on and the stream of traffic is blocked and held up as well. So they're going slower. And that pollution's building up in the air.

Cycling

Cycling was seen as very unsafe due to traffic.

There's every kind of obstacles in the area to cycling or traveling around. It's very dangerous on the road, especially the main road and up by UL in there.

The traffic is too fast and there's no one gives anyone a chance on the bike.

Speed of those cars.

I don't think these roads were built for cycling.

No cycle lane

The cycle lane seems to go for a little stretch. And then all of a sudden, you're like, where do I go?

I suppose that's one of the things we'd want to highlight as well, that the cycle lane should be continuous and safe, you know, for anyone to use 'em.

The bike rental scheme is not used as people do not know how to register.

The Coca-Cola bikes... they're no longer the Coca-Cola bikes, the NTI bikes. I've never used them. I don't know how to use them. You have to have a card and your account. I dunno anybody that does use them.

Mobility for people with disabilities

The difficulties for people with disabilities and mobility scooters were raised, in particular the design of footpaths and curbs.

Those motorized little chairs that people use instead of wheelchairs, I've seen a lady try come up one of those roads near Griffin's funeral home. And her little mobile thing was going off. She couldn't control it. It was sliding off. And because you see you get a dip [on the footpath] and it goes down, but these are for cars, they have to be slanted [the bit of the footpath that meets the driveway]. But I do think that is an issue for people and she struggled.

I do feel for people that need to use a mobility scooter. It must be an obstacle course for them.

For a lot of people who can walk it's, its not too much of a problem, but for people maybe with mobility issues or mightn't be as mobile as others, that, that, that exactly. Then it is a problem. Yeah, it is.

People mightn't be as mobile as others.

Can you imagine if someone disabled, how would they get anywhere?

Bus Travel

Bus travel was the most heated travel issue raised. Some people were avoiding using the buses due to

- lack of marked bus stops and printed timetables,
- buses not stopping,
- buses not following timetables
- unreliable electronic timetables in town,
- long distance to walk from homes to bus stops (15 min, 5-7 minutes considered acceptable)
- lack of places to sit and rest with bags
- lack of shelter

Some people did not know there were bus stops in Garryowen or were not clear on their location.

I didn't know there was a bus.

There isn't a bus service, as far as I know.

There's a bus stop around here someplace, right?

As many bus stops are not marked, there is a problem with buses not always stopping.

Bus drivers don't stop when they don't see a sign

The bus stop down there it's not marked. It's not marked.

There's a bus stop just outside the shrine. There's no stop sign. Sometimes the drivers don't know the stop is there, but it is.

The Residents' Association have raised the issue of unmarked bus stops with the local authority, Bus Éireann and the NTI but the problem has not been resolved.

We've highlighted that issue constantly. On Pennywell road as well.

Bus Éireann are not in charge of the signage. It's the NTI, National Transport Authority of Ireland. They're in charge of the signage. The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing.

People were frustrated by buses not keeping to schedule and the absence of schedule information.

With the bus being late you could be standing at a bus stop for, for a half an hour.

You want to be prepared just to stand and wait because you're never sure, you never know when it's going to come.

There's no timetables now either

The distance that people have to walk to reach a bus stop is also a problem, particularly if carrying shopping.

So I'm walking 15 minutes just to get to a bus. If you have anything heavy, your groceries or anything. It's a No Go. So you just don't do that.

I use that bus and I get off at the well, and I walk up through the crossroad. If you have messages, it's not easy.

If you have shopping, you know, you're dragging those bags.

5-7 minutes, that's the most you'd want to be walking to catch the bus.

There is no shelter at the bus stops.

If you're having the weather and it's milling rain, you know, and you're thinking, well, why would I be going into town and getting wet? Cause obviously there's not going to be any shelters.

If it's raining, you'd like a bus shelter there as well.

While for some people the cost of travel was an issue, most of the group had travel passes and cost was not the factor limiting their use of public transport.

The buses, the trains, should be free. That's the only way we're gonna meet these sustainability goals and bring down emissions.

Garryowen and Green Space

In the past people had access to nature with the swamp and rivers as place of play and biodiversity. This has been lost. Garryowen has long views out to the hills of Clare and Tipperary and people have memories of wild places like the Groody river and the swamp, but access to nature is very limited now for children and for people who do not have a car. In the discussion, it was suggested that the proposed Community Bus could provide people access to places like the beach, Glenstal Abbey. Maybe the community could also organise group trips on public transport to familiarise people with journeys they could make, particularly for retired people who have free transport.

Access to nature in the past

People's experiences of Garryowen 50 years ago were much freer with access to the natural environment at the local rivers and a wetland which has since been drained, known as 'The Swamp'. The social aspect of these wanderings was also very important to people.

It was just a great place to grow up. There was so much freedom here. Everyone was out on the road, down the swamps here, kicking ball.

We knew what to eat off the trees. We knew what was edible. You were reared to it. The older ones taught the younger ones.

The swamp was fun. It was just a haven, an absolute haven. There was reeds and just wild, open ground, and a stream running at the back of it.

The wild leeks used to grow and you pulled them up and there was a stump on them and then there was Stump war!

We used to be netting down there for little minnow fish and also catching, I dunno if you've ever done it, but we used to catch bees in bottles, it was a fun thing.

My kids don't understand. I mean, you played in a swamp? yes, we did! But there were so many hiding places there, you know, playing Cowboys and Indians. There used to be a place called the Groody. It was a river. The Dublin roaders would go to this side and the Garryowners would go to the other side and they'd meet in the middle.

They'd come down through the fields from one side from Garryowen and we'd go to Dublin road.

The Groody, that would have been a very social place to be. It was a big field with just a river that went through it.

And you'd go across the fields and come out at the third bridge up at Plassey. And then Plassey was a wonderful place. Beautiful.

Just going swimming, meeting people and chatting and that type of thing. Oh, oh yeah. We were all kids. Yes. Yes. And everyone was left out together. Weren't they? Yeah.

I'm sure people would remember the fish there. My husband would fish out the Groody.

And we'd take frying pans up and cook sausages and we knew every plant you could eat.

You'd bring the fry pan and you'd be build a little fire. Everybody from Garryowen, all the area, went up there. Oh, every age. That was your day out. Wasn't that up to classy for the picnic.

Certain times of the year, the travelers would come and they'd bring their caravans or their tents there. We used to have great fun, have great fun. And one year there was one girl getting married. Afterwards all the neighbors were invited, and we're all sitting around this big fire and singing. I have lovely memories of it.

There was a nightclub down here as well, The Parkway. You had to have a tie going in. One lad, he had the tie and he'd get in and go around to the loo and hand the tie out the window to get everyone in.

The Circus used to come into the field - all the animals and elephants. It was crazy.

There used to be some kind of playground, I remember there being seats and stuff there and it was nice for people to sit down and relax. If they were out with the children, children could play in the green and the parents could sit there and just watch 'em.

We always used to meet in the Green and play a game of soccer or rounders. Everyone used to come from all over Garryowen, like up the Green Hills road and Downey Avenue, and you know, everyone got to know each other that way.

You'd be gone from nine o'clock in the morning. You went home when you were hungry and I'd say it would keep you kind of fit.

Local landmarks and associated stories

The Marian Shrine and St Patrick's Well are significant landmarks and held many memories and have local stories associated.

St. Patrick was actually here and blessed the well. His brought his donkey with him and it got stolen!

Just under the white Archway there was hoofprints of the Donkey.

It's a Freshwater Well. It's older than the Egyptian pyramids. It was a pagan well, used before it was known as St. Patrick's.

It's supposed to have great healing properties for your eyes. Now you'd be brave enough to put your hand in it.

This was the high area looking down onto the city. When William of Orange came and attacked the walls of Limerick and when the Vikings came, they set their base and camp up here to attack the city. They used the well as their drinking water.

There used to be mass here the whole time, an outside mass. Hundreds of people used to gather here.

She'd always come St. Patrick's Day to leave a potted plant or some flowers there. It was a nice tradition.

People used to go to the shrine every single night just waiting to see Our Lady cry.

There was just great devotion to her, you know, and it wasn't just women. It was men and children.

One night my mother, she said, 'I can see her cry, I can see the tears coming up' We said, 'Would you go away Mam! You need glasses.'

Changes to access and management of green spaces within Garryowen

The consensus was that children have less freedom and access to the natural environment nowadays.

There was just so much freedom in comparison to today. You know, you're afraid to allow your children out. Whereas we'd be gone in the morning. Our parents wouldn't see us! You'd come back in when it was late, just for a bit of food.

It's all polluted now

Concern was expressed at the way gardens are being lost.

Those gardens were maintained by the hospital. They would've used that for food. Shame to see it taken away, turned into concrete, you know.

You see people are cutting down on hedges and slabbing all their gardens. That's why we get all the floods and there's no nature around anymore. There's no garden, no drain anymore.

You put all this pavement here, the water's got nowhere to go. Yeah and the heat, the heat and concrete.

People agreed that there have been some positive developments, such as the development of sports pitches and removal of the electricity pylons.

The pitches have really developed.

It's wonderful, absolutely fantastic to see the trees and to see the pylons gone. That's one of the best things they've ever done around here.

The pylons got moved for the safety of everybody around the place and the actual trees planted down the whole way look brilliant.

The pylons were used for rubbish, throwing rubbish into the centres and they're gone now. You can't have anybody throw stuff in them anymore. So it's an improvement and visually it's better without them

Ideas for Garryowen's green spaces going into the future

There was knowledge and pride in Garryowen's history as the market garden of Limerick but people did not express great interest in growing or buying local food on the walks. This may be due to the age profile of the participants. At the Women's Shed, several people referred to the greenspace discussions on the walks and said that they would like to have a growing space with raised beds that they could grow in. People were very happy with the work of the Residents' Association in planting flowers and maintaining areas such as the Marian Shrine and St. Patrick's Well which held important memories for them.

My nanny used to mind the shrine as well. You could see it from our front door, and it'd be, 'look, its looking well'. You know, we're looking up at it still and it's just very nice to see it's living on.

Interest was expressed in developing the green spaces. Garryowen's many smaller greens could become genuine neighbourhood outdoor spaces, with more biodiversity and more interest for people to spend time there. Community garden, sensory garden are options that people were excited about.

One of the things I was thinking, just walking around is that there's lots of small green spaces here. And you think, well, what would I do with those if it was up to me? It's good to keep green spaces, but on the other, they're not really being used for anything and people don't particularly enjoy them or use them.

There's a fantastic green above St. Lawrence Park. A man keeps it and they plant flowers in it.

It's about wellness and communities.

Its just an open space and that's fine. But you want these little corners to hide and trees and shade and, you know, creating that excitement and creativity and getting 'em out, getting 'em active.

We chased a grant to try and get investment into Garryowen. It's called the URBACT project, which is a European initiative, a green area incentive and initiative. It is based around decarbonizing, sustainability, getting communities back out, socializing, a thing that we've all missed from the pandemic and everything.

The St Patrick's Men's Shed, they have a lovely garden going on there.

He grows his vegetables. And he does preserves and stuff, and he feeds himself for the winter off of a lot of it.

Other observations and comments from the walks
Community Hall

The need for a community hall was raised on every walk and workshop. A new community hall has the potential to demonstrate sustainability in Garryowen as well as provide a vibrant hub for community activity. In a 'visioning' exercise, a carbon neutral, community centre was described.

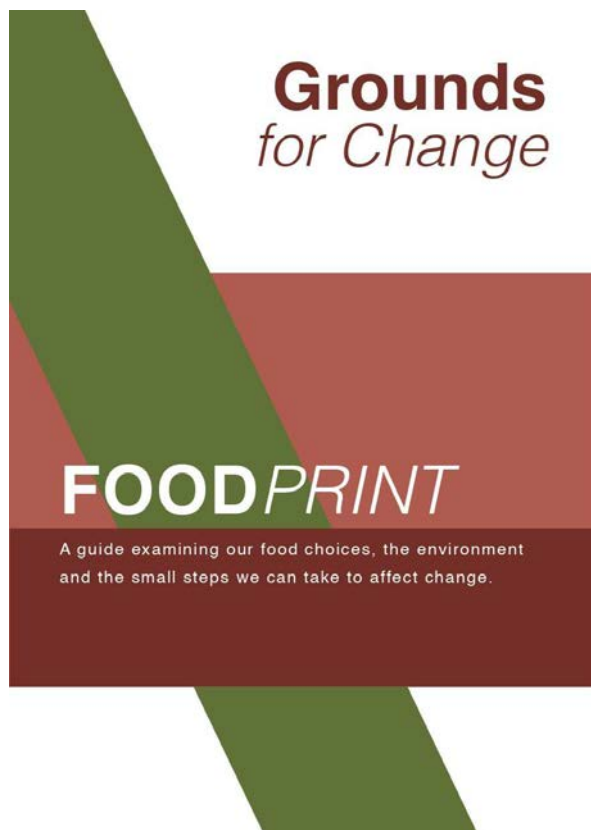
Can you see that lovely community centre? It was completed in 2025. Well, maybe, or was it six or seven? I can't remember. We took great care of the design. With all the solar panels. We also have heat pumps. That's got a carbon neutral footprint. You can walk out next to the creche area and the children's playground and the shrubbery that's been put in, stretching around there. There's a really vibrant area. The senior space faces onto the community cafe. You can be helping yourself to tea and coffees and come in for a chat. And you can have classes in the multipurpose room. It's a great addition to the community. I can hear the laughter of children in the play area. The little community cafe here, you've got sun loungers and people can have their, their tea and coffee and just chat and meet.

Community Energy

Community energy generation was discussed with the possibility of solar panels on the roof of the Markets Fields Stands and other sports facilities in Garryowen raised. This is subsequently being explored by the Resident's Association with the relevant sporting organisations and Ballyhoura Development.

Other matters raised were the need for council support and a local employment scheme for the maintenance of areas and to develop new initiatives.

Appendix 4 - Foodprint Brochure



What is *Grounds for Change*?

Grounds for Change is a creative project with artists Canavan-Power and MICA exploring issues around decarbonisation and the small steps households can make to affect change. These changes, when applied into a lifestyle with support from the collective community can ultimately achieve greater impacts.

If you'd like further information contact us through:
canavanpower@gmail.com

FOODPRINT

We are all intrinsically linked to food. MICA community participation in FoodPrint can lead to understanding the effects our food choices have on the environment. The goal with FoodPrint is to challenge current food practices by reducing carbon emissions and to encourage farm to table (local grown food) with access to healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food.

Imagine 400 families, all making one small change

How to take part in FOODPRINT

01 Buy groceries

For the purpose of recording your food intake, we suggest you shop in your regular grocery store. Whatever your preference, we ask that the items you purchase are what you would normally buy every week.

02 Record and Calculate

When you return home enter the selected items into the carbon calculator (use the QR code). Record your FOODPRINT data using the worksheet insert.



Then, display your items on your counter-top and photograph them, the worksheet, and the receipt. Send it to: canavanpower@gmail.com.

03 Make the Change

Together as a group we will look at the best way to support each other in making a changes to our carbon food-prints. This could be buying a local veg-box or taking part in a Grow-it-Yourself Project.

04 Implement the Change

The next time you buy groceries, try to implement at least one of the suggested decarbonisation methods found by the group, and share your thoughts with us.



“ This project is not just about finishing, but for MICA and the team to plan on further actions so we can contribute to the community. Implement better waste management during community events, continued community awareness and long term involvement

– Hariharan Kv

”



FOODPRINT - Example

Item	QTY	Carbon Foot Print (CO2e/kg)
Egg: Free Range	73g	0.37kg CO2e (5.34kg CO2e/kg)
Pig: Lunch ham	200g	1.87kg CO2e (9.33kg CO2e/kg)
Bread	800g	0.71kg CO2e (0.89kg CO2e/kg)
Poultry: boneless	500g	3.28kg CO2e (6.55kg CO2e/kg)
Bananas	800g	0.91kg CO2e (1.14kg CO2e/kg)
Carrot	1kg	1.02kg CO2e (1.02kg CO2e/kg)
Apples	1kg	1.04kg CO2e (1.04kg CO2e/kg)
Aubergine	100g	0.41kg CO2e (4.1kg CO2e/kg)
Tinned tomatoes	500g	1.68kg CO2e (3.36kg CO2e/kg)
Juice	1L	0.85kg CO2e (0.85kg CO2e/kg)

TOTAL FOODPRINT	12.14kg CO2e
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CO₂e per serving is equivalent to driving 65.98km in an average petrol car.

For this example I did a pretty simple shop. Sometimes I would get crackers or rice, noodles, or sauces pre-packaged. This time, I estimated this as 1 serving on the calculator... imagining that it would be 1 week worth of food for my household, never did I imagine that 1 week worth of eating was the same as driving (one-way) to Kinvara, Galway... Lahinch, Clare or Cahir Castle, Tipperary!

- Artist Chelsea



The *FOODPRINT* Worksheet

[illegible]

TOTAL FOODPRINT



Brochure on food footprints produced by Grounds for Change Project

Appendix 5 - The Orchard Project Images





A group of Civic Trust employees attended at Seed Savers for a day of research and tasting


Food Security

"How can you detect whether a complex system might be approaching a tipping point? It begins to flicker. [...] Flickering is what the global food system is now doing" (1)

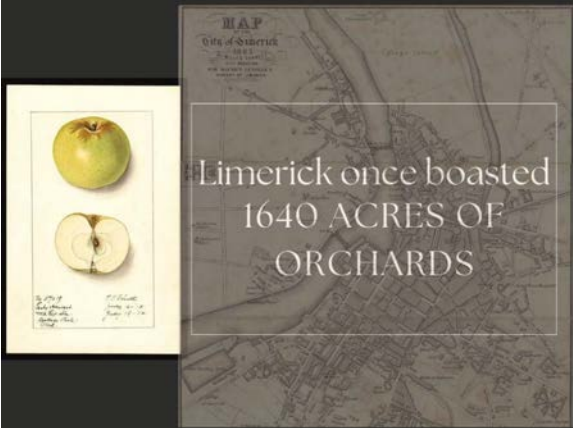
Irish Imports 2020 (2)	
QUANTITY / TONNES	PRODUCE
75,000	Potatoes
45,000	Apples
38,500	Onions
25,000	Carrot
20,000	Tomatoes
25,000	Cabbage
13,000	Lettuce
61 Million Litres	Water

All of these foods can be grown in Ireland.

Our global food system is the primary source of biodiversity loss according to the UN. Biodiversity loss will continue to accelerate, unless we change the way we produce food. Policy makers are urged to take a system-wide approach to account for the impacts of food systems, develop global guidance for change, and translate this to national targets. (3)




(1) Humber, George, "Regeneratively Feeding the World Without Devouring the Planet" 2022
 (2) Central Statistics Office 2020
 (3) <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/our-global-food-system-primary-driver-biodiversity-loss>



Limerick once boasted
1640 ACRES OF
ORCHARDS

Kennedy, Ellis, "The Last of the Cackagees? Cider Making in Limerick and Clare", 2005

Decarbonising Limerick Civic Trust




Limerick Civic Trust maintains acres of green space across the city.

An increase in fruit tree planting across these spaces would increase carbon sequestration, biodiversity, reduce the use of petrol and help to keep carbon dioxide levels below 400ppm in the city centre.(1)

48lbs


The amount of Co2 one tree can absorb from the atmosphere in a year.

(1) The CAFE (Clean Air for Europe) Directive sets air quality standards for member states in Europe



Decarbonising
TOGETHER

Limerick Civic Trust
& Cracking Light



Brochure produced by the Orchard Project



Limerick Civic Community Tree Planting Event, planting heritage apple trees for their orchard on Kings Island on 26/10/2022



Poster for film screening of the Orchard Project film 23/11/2022

Appendix 6 - Grounds for Change Images



Members of the Munster Indian Cultural Association along with Canavan Power visit to Newleaf Urban Farm and meeting on 07/07/2022



Images from Onam Harvest Festival in Limerick Racecourse on 17/09/2022

Appendix 7 - Ministry of Imagination Images



Images of the toolkits co-created as part of the Ministry of Imagination in conjunction with the Limerick Youth Service

Appendix 8 - Garryowen Energy Images



First meeting of Garryowen Energy on 15/07/2022



Image from the Limerick Leader of Garryowen Funday on 22/07/2022



Images from Garryowen Energy Walkshops held over July and August 2022



Meeting of Garryowen Energy project on 15/09/2022



Members of the Garryowen Energy Project discuss their experiences at the Limerick Symposium in the Citizen Innovation Lab on 13/10/2022



Images from the Community Event held on 26/10/2022

Appendix 9 - Meadowbrook Images



Meadowbrook Residents Association met with Richard Gorey of Limerick City and County Councils Active Travel Team to discuss the Mill Road Active Travel plans on 26/08/2022





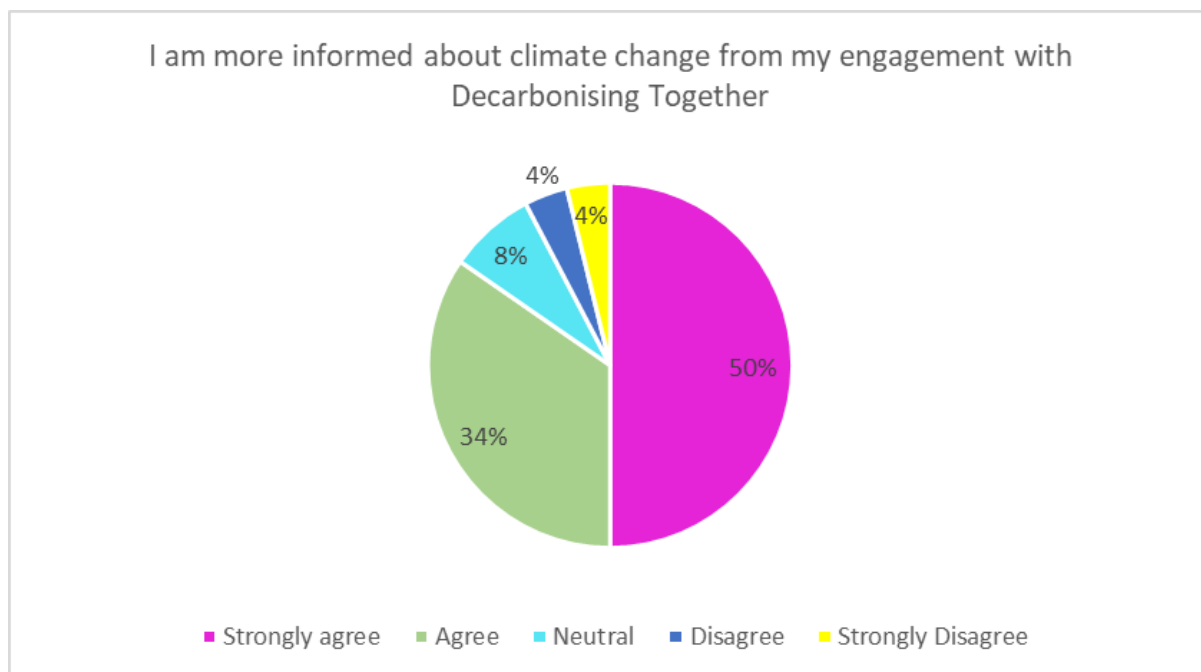
Images from the installation of purposed architectural intervention on Meadowbrook green on 22/10/2022



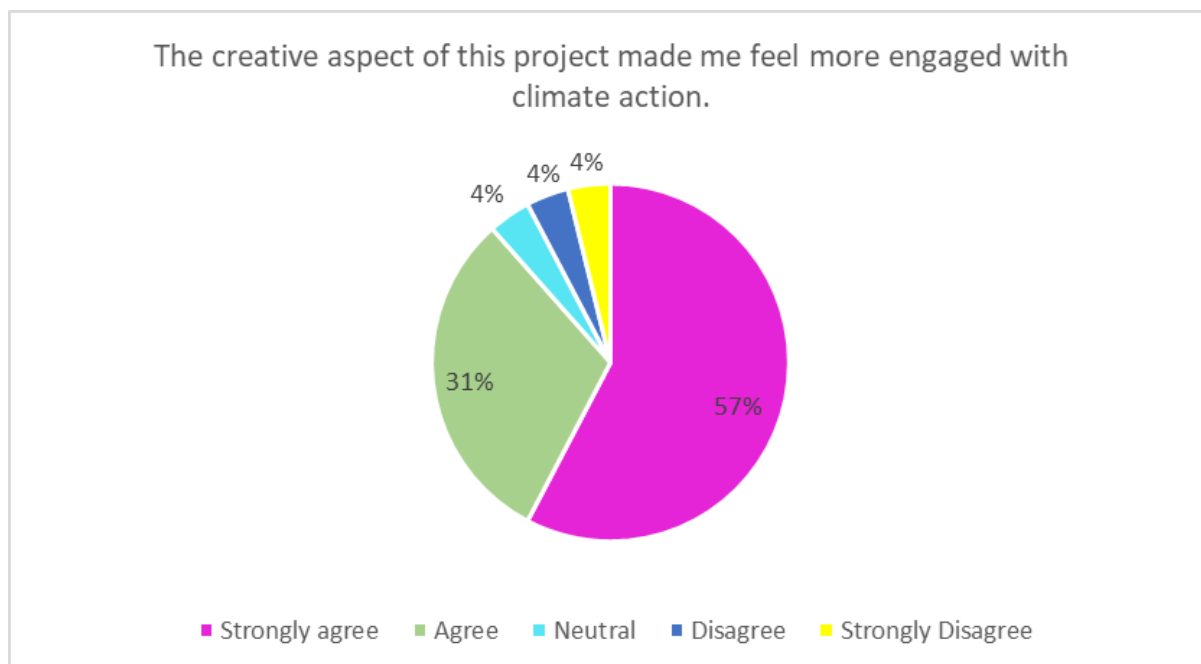
Simulations of the proposed installation of purposed architectural intervention on Meadowbrook green

Appendix 10 - Community Feedback

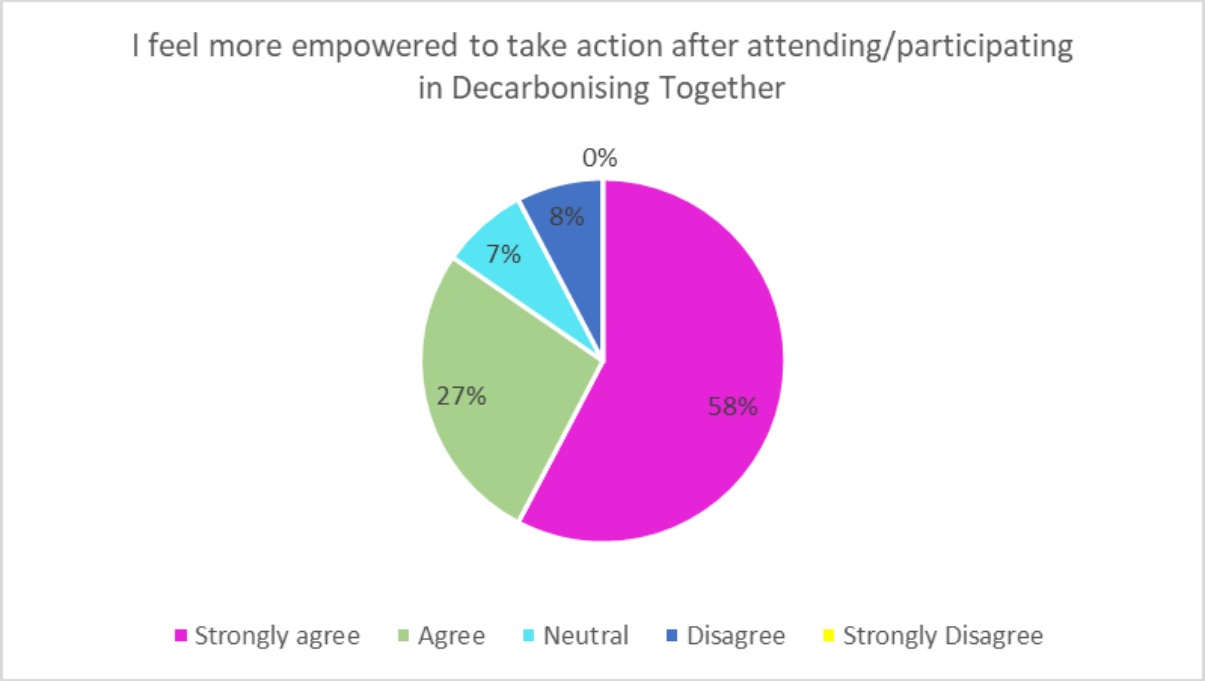
Question 1



Question 2



Question 3



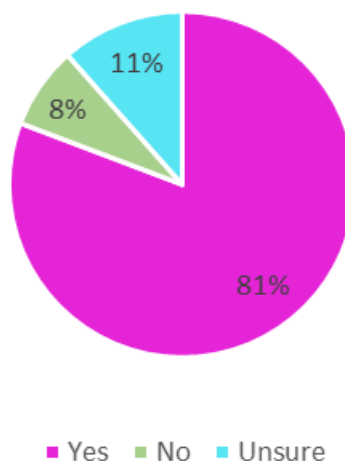
Question 3a
If you agree, explain how

1	I was a participant in a trip to Seed Savers in Co Clare which highlighted not only the importance of biodiversity and locally grown products but native Irish species as well.
2	I feel that the sense of a group effort has emboldened me to do more.
3	More trees!
4	Visit to the Orchard made it simple to see how we can plant more fruit trees
5	Learned a lot from chats and its great to see the change it makes in the city
6	Maeve and Alex are wonderful and made it such a hopeful conversation. I find climate that bit overwhelming so it has been so wonderful to have this positive project to feel like we are all able to make positive changes and to become a bit more positive and active.
7	As we went through the process of the project, and as a result of ongoing discussions about Decarbonisation it became apparent that there is a lot that can be done on a local level. While not everyone can afford to have solar panels or an electric car, through ongoing activities and practices as a group, myself and my other team members will be able to easily weave the narrative of Decarbonisation into our ongoing activities, and discussions that we have with family friends and neighbours around the area. We will be in a stronger position going forward to help in promotion of Decarbonisation initiatives and education of the community as to how they can play a constructive role in same

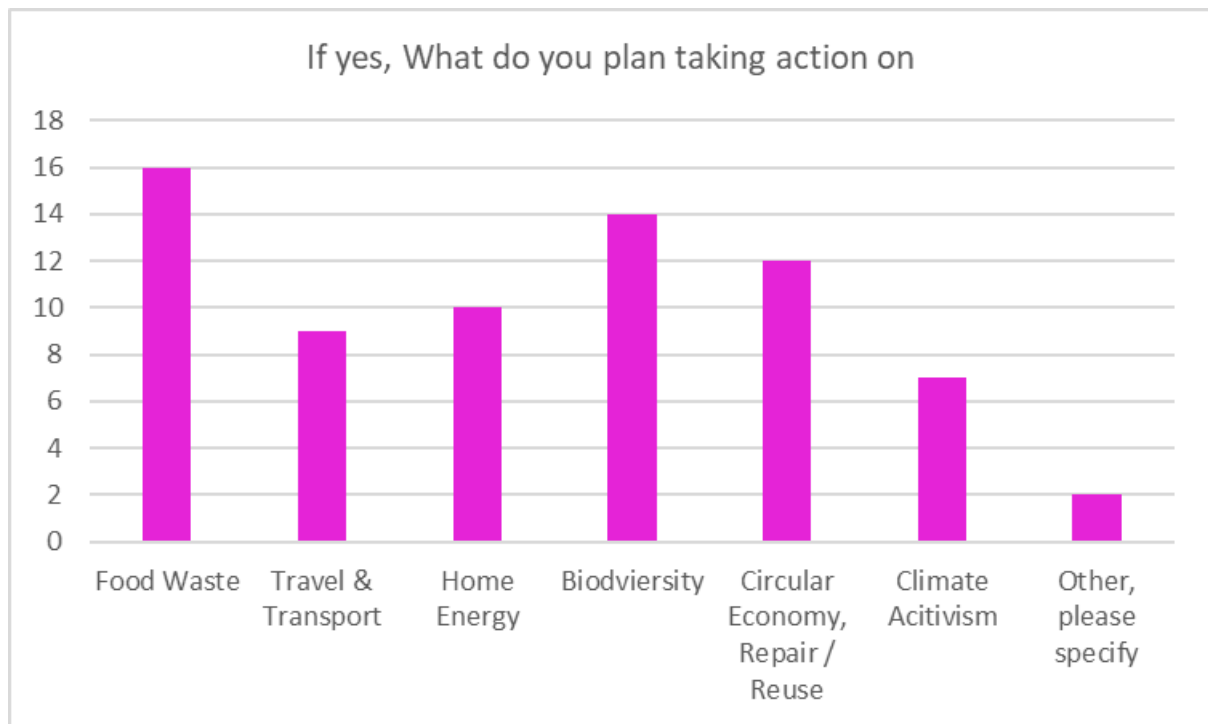
8	It has given us a bit of a kick-start locally, both in terms of resources and building connections with like-minded people around our locality.
9	A small change to your life makes a bigger impact than no change
10	It allowed us to explore more ideas as a community and to put forward a plan of action.
11	I am more aware about the bad effects of Carbonisation
12	Decarbonising Together was a great initiative and eye opener for many people in our community. We often hear about carbon footprint but there were many contributing factors which we were not aware of. These sessions were eye opening to understand the impact from our day to day life. Appreciate the artists for being creative and guiding us through many of those excellent brainstorming sessions to bring out ideas. Thanks to Limerick council for the great opportunity. Me and my family are more empowered to look out for opportunities to reduce carbon footprint along with our community.
13	It provided platform for discussion in the ground root level change
14	Understanding about decarbonisation and action plan at home
15	Realising that there are more ways to make changes than the mainstream media tell us about, and thinking about change making in different ways
16	Both our artists Chelsea & Deirdre were so enthusiastic in bringing up ideas & helping us to do farm visits. MICA was able to organize a 500 people engaged cultural fest with half its usual general waste. We started to understand the importance of reducing carbon emissions.
17	I understood the sustainability and its importance for the future generations.
18	We understand the importance of local farming and advantages of buying it from local farmers. Also trying to make 100% composting of food waste
19	I have learned so much about segregation of waste.
20	
21	I understood the pros and cons of more use of composting used items. It helps the next generation and save nature.
22	It has helped us be more aware about climate changes within our community and put us in touch with like minded people.

Question 4

Do you plan on taking action or making changes to your behaviour or lifestyle after attending this event / participating in this project?



Question 4A If yes, what area do you plan to take action on?



Other

I will be a participant in the urban orchard project but will also look to repeat on a smaller scale at home

Growing own food/vegetables which would reduce carbon footprint. Community awareness, would be the second area.

Urban gardening

Question 5 - Have you any other feedback you would like to share?

I fully support the idea of an urban orchard not just from an environmental perspective but also very much from a community empowerment and inclusion position.

Just a wonderful way of get people thinking differently. Maith thú

It was a very engaging project and the creative team were a pleasure to work with

This is a good initiative. Lots of our community members are aware about the bad effects of Carbonisation and changing lifestyle.

Appreciate the artists for being creative and guiding us through many of those excellent brainstorming sessions to bring out ideas. Thanks to Limerick council for the great opportunity for MICA.

County council our artists did a wonderful job

Super Project