

Towards Sustainable Local Communities

Guidelines on Local Agenda 21



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FOREWORD



The importance of Local Agenda 21 in terms of realising the ambitions and goals recognised and agreed with our global neighbours at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro almost ten years ago cannot be overstated. This publication, building on guidelines first issued in 1995, is at once a recognition of the work that has been carried out so far to take forward Local Agenda 21 in Ireland and a further call to action for local authorities and local communities around the country.

While Local Agenda 21 is often seen as an environmental issue, it is much more than that. It is a multifaceted blueprint for sustainable local communities that are economically strong, socially inclusive and environmentally friendly.

The core of Local Agenda 21 is to encourage greater local ownership of and participation in local decision making for sustainable development. These guidelines are intended as suggestions and recommendations which local authorities should take on board, in partnership with their communities, to give real meaning to Local Agenda 21 in their areas.

I thank everyone associated with Local Agenda 21 in Ireland for their involvement and commitment, in particular the Local Agenda 21 Network which prepared these guidelines. The fruits of this work will serve to focus and intensify our efforts to remould community life in more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable directions.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Noel Dempsey". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

**Noel Dempsey T.D.
Minister for the Environment and Local Government
September 2001**

PREFACE

The Local Agenda 21 Network includes representatives of all local and regional authorities in Ireland. The Network was established in 1997 following a series of workshops which the Institute of Public Administration organised with the support of the European Commission. Since then, the Network has met on a number of occasions to prepare and review a set of guidelines for application by local authorities. The actual drafting of the guidelines was undertaken by a small group of Network members with additional contributions from the world of local and national government, NGOs and others.

In particular the Network notes the contributions of:

Noel Casserly and Kevin Greene of the Department of the Environment and Local Government;

Comhar – the National Sustainable Development Partnership;

Mark Callanan and Sean O’Riordain of the Institute of Public Administration; and

Network members, Frank Murray, Dublin Corporation, Risteard O’Domhnaill, Tipperary (NR) County Council, Jim Stone, Midland Regional Authority and Billy Moore, Monaghan County Council.

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Since the Department of the Environment and Local Government published Local Agenda 21 guidelines six years ago, the concepts of Local Agenda 21 and sustainable development have become better known and more familiar to many people around the country. In one sense, the process culminated with the publication in April 1997 of ***Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland***. However, in terms of implementing sustainable development, we are still only at the beginning. We are also in the early stages of local government reform, heralded in ***Better Local Government*** in December 1996 and being developed at present through, for example, the establishment of Strategic Policy Committees. In addition, the establishment of the County / City Development Boards arising from the recommendations in the report of the ***Task Force on the Integration of Local Government and Local Development Systems*** now provides a clearly defined institutional framework for Agenda 21 at county/city level over the coming decade. Each of these documents is vital to creating an understanding of the approach to Local Agenda 21 and should therefore be consulted in addition to these guidelines.

Local Agenda 21 Guidelines, 1995 - Summary

The ***1995 Local Agenda 21 Guidelines*** made a number of general points about the relevance of Local Agenda 21. Local authorities have wide-ranging responsibilities and functions in relation to the environment, planning, development, housing and the provision of various services. Their policies and programmes in these areas have a major impact on the environment. Sustainable development requires a balance between environmental protection and socio-economic development; planning and administering local authority activities and services with sustainable development criteria in mind will help secure this balance.

Local Agenda 21 in Ireland doesn't start with a completely blank sheet. Much activity in relation to sustainable development is undertaken by local and regional authorities, the local development sector, NGOs and others, almost without the realisation that certain activities do make a significant contribution to a better quality of life. Local Agenda 21 can and should build, therefore, on existing policies and partnerships and provide a framework for changes in attitudes and in practices which can help move society towards sustainable development. It can help local authorities to draw together their various commitments towards a more sustainable society in the long-term. Given that it is a long-term process, it can also be useful to consider short-term goals to maintain interest and momentum.

In that context relevant policies, plans or programmes should be reviewed by the particular local authorities to ensure that they fully address environment and development concerns and reflect the community's overall vision regarding sustainable development. The main issues of local concern should be identified and objectives and specific targets agreed for working towards and achieving sustainable development. The action to be taken, and by whom, to work towards these objectives and targets should be specified. There should be a structure for monitoring and review. Finally, the end product should be clear and simple and generally acceptable to the wider community.

New Guidelines

These revised Local Agenda 21 guidelines have been prepared against the backdrop of significant local government reform in recent years. These reforms reflect much of the thinking of Agenda 21. Therefore, local authorities should consider Local Agenda 21 as part and parcel of the process now underway with the establishment of the SPCs and the County / City Development Boards. New guidelines for the preparation of county/city strategies on economic, social and cultural development have been issued to the Directors of Community and Enterprise. The guidelines were prepared with a clear focus on sustainable development and much of the process associated with Agenda 21 is reflected in these guidelines. Local Agenda 21 Officers should work in close co-operation with the Directors of Community and Enterprise to ensure that the strategic background for Local Agenda 21 is well established.

SECTION 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Defining Sustainability (Sustainable Development)

A standard definition of sustainable development is “development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Sustainable development seeks to reconcile the socio-economic aspirations of society with the ability of the natural environment and its resources to accommodate those aspirations, to ensure that development is within the carrying capacity of the environment.

These themes are captured in ***Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland*** published in April 1997, the overall aim of which is “*to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community*”.

The move towards sustainable development depends on the integration of well-defined sustainability criteria into all programmes and activities concerning environment and development. These include areas where local authorities have wide-ranging responsibilities. Therefore, such a definition must be a key element of the policy-making processes which are found in local government.

Some of the major aims of Agenda 21 are:

- Reducing the amount of energy and raw materials society consumes, as well as the pollution and waste it produces;
- Protecting fragile ecosystems and environments;
- Bringing about a fairer distribution of wealth, both between countries and between different social groups within countries, with particular emphasis on the rights of poor and disadvantaged people.

Many of the principles of Agenda 21 are to be found in the ***Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*** which include the following:

- People are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature;
- Development today must not undermine the development and environment needs of present and future generations;
- In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it;
- Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens. Governments shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making environmental information widely available.

The importance of the involvement of local authorities is clear when one examines the number of functions of local authorities which are environment and development related. Coupled with the powers of the local authority to act in the interests of its community, there then exists a compelling rationale for local authority involvement. The gain for local authorities is through finding the correct balance between economic, social, cultural and environmental development. This is best achieved through a process involving public consultation and partnership of significant interests resulting in the adoption of good practice in relation to sustainable development within the local authority and assisting the country as a whole to meet international environmental commitments and obligations. In addition, the integration of environmental considerations into all policy areas will result in more sustainable policies in the long run.

The Four Pillars of Agenda 21

Agenda 21 is based upon four pillars or sets of issues which could facilitate a move to sustainable development. These pillars are:

- Social
- Economic
- Institutional
- Environmental

The Agenda 21 process addresses all levels of governance including international relations between governments, national sustainability concerns, regional sustainability and local sustainability. It impacts on relationships between organisations and international groupings such as the WTO and the EU as well as setting a macro policy framework for the signatory States. The national process in Ireland is addressing sustainable development issues in central government, its implementing agencies and local authorities. The key references to sustainable development policy in Ireland may be found in:

Social	National Anti-Poverty Strategy
	Traveller Task Force Report
Economic	National Action Plan for Employment
	Information Age Strategy
	National Development Plan 2000-2006

Institutional	Better Local Government, <i>A Programme for Change</i> A Shared Vision for County/City Development Boards Report of the Task Force on the Integration of Local Government and Local Development Systems Strategic Management Statements of Central and Local Government
Environment	Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland Environment in Focus Waste Policy Statement: Changing Our Ways National Climate Change Strategy Ireland's Environment, A Millennium Report

Agenda 21, Sustainable Development and Local Authorities

Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 seeks to engage local authorities in the creation of sustainable development models in their areas. It is an effort on the part of the UN to define a clear role for local authorities in what is a complex policy arena. The Chapter states:

“Because so many of the problems and solutions being addressed by Agenda 21 have their roots in local activities, the participation and co-operation of local authorities will be a determining factor in fulfilling its objectives” (Chapter 28.1). It further states that:

“Each local authority should enter into dialogue with its citizens, local organisations and private enterprises and adopt ‘a local Agenda 21’. Through consultation and consensus building, local authorities would learn from citizens and from local, civic, community, business and industrial organisations and acquire the information needed for formulating the best strategies.”

Chapter 28 is one of the shortest chapters in the Agenda 21 document and is, therefore, accessible. 4 major objectives are set for local authorities in Chapter 28:

- ❑ Local authorities in the signatory countries should undertake a consultative process with their citizens and should seek to achieve a consensus on a local agenda 21 process for their area;
- ❑ The international community should initiate a consultative process aimed at supporting international co-operation between local authorities;

- Associations of local authorities should have in place mechanisms for co-operation and co-ordination on Agenda 21.

Further:

- Local authorities in each signatory country should implement and monitor programmes to ensure that women and youth are represented in decision making and the delivery of programmes on Local Agenda 21.

What is Local Agenda 21?

Local Agenda 21 means nothing unless it is based upon a process. Local Agenda 21 is, therefore, a process which facilitates sustainable development within a community. It is an approach, based upon collaboration and participation, which respects the social, cultural, economic and environmental needs of the present and future citizens of a community in all its diversity and which relates that community and its future to the regional, national and international community of which it is a part.

What does a Local Agenda 21 Process Involve?

A Local Agenda 21 process should involve the target community. It should focus on the strategic needs of the community and should seek to balance the competing demands of development and environmental protection whilst addressing the social and cultural needs of the community. It should strive to achieve consensus on the strategic needs of the community. The process should try to obtain a reasonable balance, as defined by the community, between the economic, social, cultural and environmental dimensions of development so as to improve community life now and in the future.

What is it not?

A Local Agenda 21 process is not an environmental statement but, in its environmental dimension, it is a process to establish a strategy which integrates environmental considerations into the centre of policy in all aspects of a community's development.

Local Agenda 21 Process: A Model

In European terms, the Aalborg Charter is generally held as the model for preparing and implementing a Local Agenda 21 process. It envisages an eight step approach to Local Agenda 21 as follows:

- Step 1:** Recognise existing planning and financial frameworks as well as other plans and programmes.
- Step 2:** Identify systematically, through extensive public consultation, local problems and causes.
- Step 3:** Prioritise tasks to address these problems.
- Step 4:** Create a vision of what a sustainable community should be, again based upon an active participatory process.
- Step 5:** Consider and assess alternatives and scope other strategic options.
- Step 6:** Adopt a long-term local action plan which includes pre-determined targets.
- Step 7:** Implement the plan with appropriate allocation of responsibility to key partners.
- Step 8:** Monitor and evaluate on an on-going basis (Aalborg Charter Part III).

This approach ties in with the new guidelines ('A Shared Vision') which are in use by the County/City Development Boards (CDBs) in preparing their strategies for economic, social and cultural development. The similarity between this Local Agenda 21 model and the proposed model in 'A Shared Vision' enables Local Agenda 21 Officers to build on and link into the work of the CDBs and their Directors of Community and Enterprise.

Report of the Task Force on the Integration of Local Government and Local Development Systems (August 1998)

The Task Force report, in the context of sustainable development, is important in that it sets principles for local governance which, in many respects are consistent with Local Agenda 21 as laid out at the 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Task Force agreed that any proposals for developing a new model of local governance should reflect:

- Involvement of the Local Community: All local communities should be fully involved in the process. Local government should provide for full participation and influence on the part of local communities in shaping local decisions. Special interventions and arrangements will be necessary in communities with a high level of disadvantage.
- Social inclusion: In line with the National Anti-Poverty Strategy, the focus for local governance must be retained on social inclusion and tackling disadvantage.
- Partnership / Participation: New local governance must be constructed along partnership lines. The local community, the state sector and social partners must have a meaningful involvement in the design and delivery of local services.
- Democratic legitimacy: The democratic mandate of local elected members on the CDB, or on any other related structures, deserves to be recognised and respected by all involved.
- Voluntary effort: The extent of non-paid activity in Ireland is extensive. It should be recognised, supported and facilitated.
- Simplicity: Functional areas and the activities of local bodies should be simple and clear with avoidance of overlapping or gaps being essential.
- Value for money: Again in line with the principle of sustainable development, local governance should seek improved and more effective use of existing resources. Accountability must be an underlying principle and must clearly be seen to be so.
- Process: The very process of participating in shaping local initiatives and visions is in itself important and should be open to the widest possible range of interests and perspectives.
- Flexibility: A recognition of change is called for with a capability of adapting to change through innovative approaches to local and community issues.
- Thematic / area based approaches: New local government, again reflecting the concept of sustainable development, will be called on to address the spatial impact of its policies.

- Local authority services: The Task Force calls on the existing system of local government to develop new structures and attitudes across the full spectrum of local authority services with appropriate staff training.
- Linkages with various programmes: Again a key principle of sustainable development is the relationships required at horizontal and vertical levels of government to ensure an integrated delivery of services and programmes, including EU programmes.

The Task Force Report proposes to arrive at a model of integrated development through the creation of County / City Development Boards. The Boards will be called upon to create a comprehensive social, economic and cultural strategy for each city / county in the State, prepared through partnership of all local agencies and communities. The requirement is that local government, local development, other public sector agencies, the local social partners and the community will co-operate to create a vision for the future of the city / county over a 10 year period with strategic targets over 3 – 5 years.

In effect, the Boards will be charged with implementing a process similar to that outlined in the Aalborg Charter covering the cities and counties up to 2010 and including the town authorities.

The Boards will have a wide representation operating under the local government umbrella. They will include Chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees provided for under the renewal programme for local government, the Mayor or Cathaoirleach of the County/City, one representative of the town local authorities, the County/City Manager, representatives of the social partners at local level, the local development agencies and relevant state agencies. In addition, they will be supported by more broadly based working groups or sectoral committees.

The strategy, which should be considered as the sustainable development strategy for the city/county, should provide the framework within which the operational strategies of the Boards' constituent members operate and each agency is expected to proof its individual plans and programmes against the strategy.

Support Mechanisms

Each Board will have a Director of Community and Enterprise who is an official of the local authority at, in effect, Assistant County Manager level. He/she will be supported, over time, by a team of Community and Enterprise Development Officers and others whose role will be the animation of communities towards the development in a sustainable manner (defined within the parameters of the County/City strategy) of those communities.

Community and Voluntary Fora

The fora which have been established under the terms of the Task Force Report will facilitate the SPC process as well as the operation of the County/City Development Boards. The nomination process is covered in the guidelines published for SPCs and CDBs. The fora will become the key consultative arena for Local Agenda 21. Local Agenda 21 Officers should therefore work closely with the Community and Enterprise Development Officers to ensure that the fora are adequately briefed on sustainable development issues and on the content of these guidelines.

Area Committees

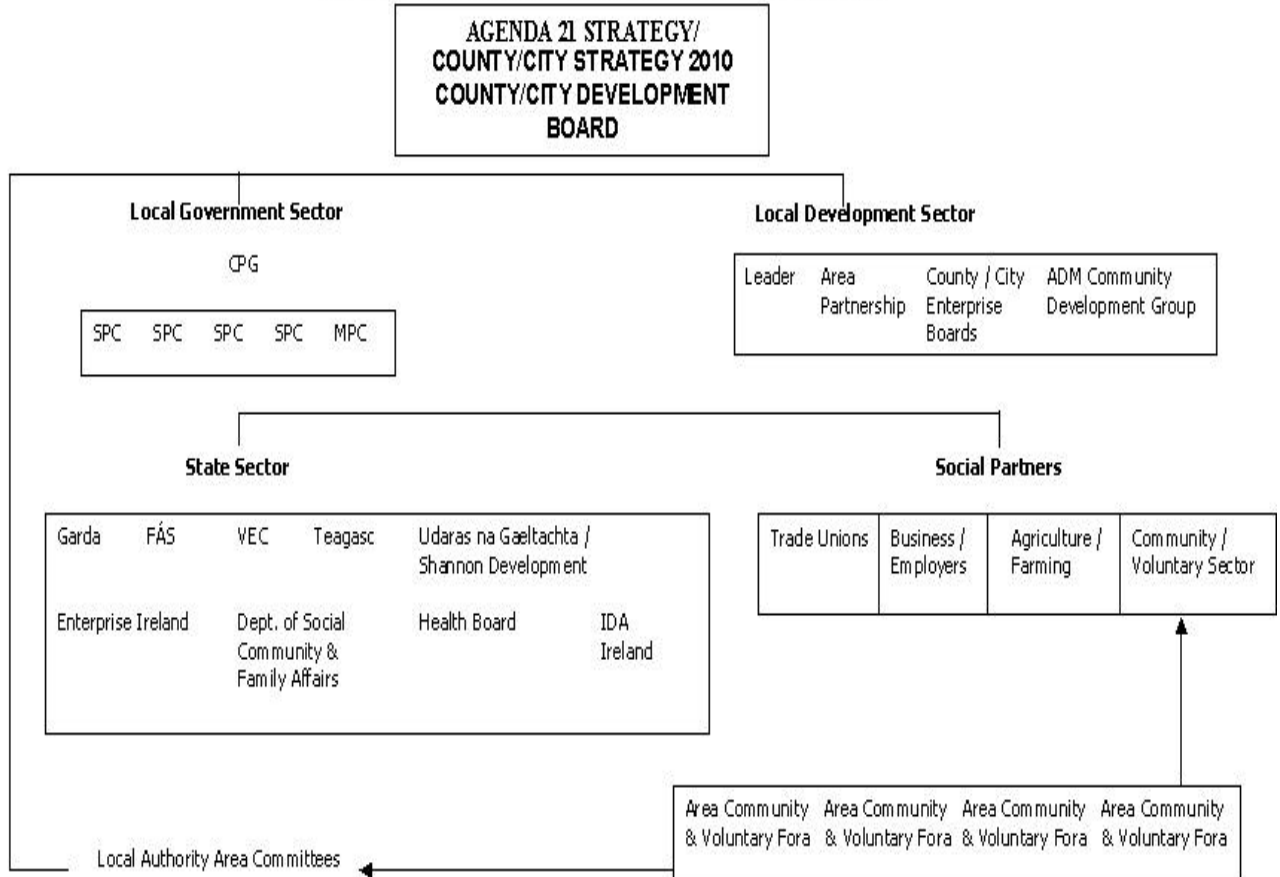
Traditional area committees of local authorities made up solely of elected members will be expanded to include representatives of local development and the community when dealing with community development. These committees will feed into the internal policy process of the local authority on issues of community development and also, more significantly, into the County/City Development Boards thus contributing to the framework strategy under which all public agencies will operate. Area committees will therefore become a critical feature in the implementation of Local Agenda 21 and in its monitoring and evaluation.

Conclusion

The County/City Development Board process should be considered, given its strategic intent, as the Agenda 21 process for each county/city. The putting into effect of the strategy will fall to the constituent members of the Board. In that regard, therefore, the putting into place of the strategy will be reflected in the corporate strategies of each organisation represented on the Board. This corporate strategy should, therefore, be considered the internal Agenda 21 process of the organisation concerned. Table 1 provides an organisational framework for the CDB process.

Table 1

AGENDA 21 PROCESS – ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK



SECTION 3: AGENDA 21 AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Decision-Making and Delivery

All operations within the local authority will now be required to fit in with the Strategy for Economic, Social & Cultural Development determined by the County / City Development Board. Notwithstanding this, much of existing local authority activity reflects an Agenda 21 perspective. The key is to develop recognition of this and to ensure its continuing development. Two aspects should be considered, therefore, in addressing Agenda 21 at a local authority level:

- The policy decision-making process
- The delivery of those policies

Policy Decision-Making in Local Authorities

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

The introduction of SPCs represents a significant departure from the way local authority business has been conducted up to now. It calls for change by all involved. It makes available to councillors, as the key players, a framework and opportunity to fulfil to a far greater extent their role as overall policy makers. It also develops opportunities for partnership with local interests. SPCs will prepare the groundwork for policies which will then be decided on by County or City Councils. It is therefore imperative that the SPCs become the leaders in adopting policy on sustainable development.

A Strategic Role

It is envisaged that SPCs will have a major role in assisting and advising the council in relation to functions of a strategic statutory nature, (e.g. preparation of a development plan, waste management plan, water quality management plan). They will also have a function in other, non-statutory policy fields, such as urban and village renewal plans; policy related to the development of work programmes and the establishment of priorities for particular services; consideration of the needs of people with disabilities in the formulation and implementation of relevant policies; integration of sustainability principles to all services; and the strategic monitoring of local authority services. SPCs will need, therefore, to be involved from the preliminary phases of preparation of a policy and to assist in the setting of overall parameters, identification of issues to be addressed and approaches to be taken etc. In this way, SPC members can have a meaningful involvement in presenting to the full council for decision the values and choices which are important elements of policy preparation.

Furthermore, given that sustainable development is a cross-cutting issue for all policy areas in local government, discussion and consultation should not rest solely with the SPC with an environmental remit, but should involve all SPCs.

The SPCs will, therefore, play a key consultative role in determining the internal policy aspects to Agenda 21 in each city and county local authority. Local Agenda 21 Officers will need to work with the appropriate Directors of Service to ensure that members of SPCs are fully briefed on Local Agenda 21 issues (including these guidelines).

SPCs, CDBs and Agenda 21

The SPC will help to ensure that there is a clear relationship between the policy process of the local authority, the County/City Development Board and the national policy framework. Furthermore, the County/City Development Board and the Community and Voluntary Fora present good opportunities for wider consultation. These should be fully accessed before any attempts are made to establish other forms of consultation.

Agenda 21 and the Regional Dimension

Each County/City authority operates within a regional framework which includes the eight regional authorities and the two regional assemblies. The Planning and Development Act, 2000 introduces a strategic dimension for the first time into the planning system. Provision is made for regional planning guidelines which will provide a framework within which the County/City and other Development Plans will be formulated. The guidelines and plans will in turn be informed by the National Spatial Strategy which the Department of the Environment and Local Government has been mandated by the Government to prepare.

The regional authorities will play a key part in the roll out of Agenda 21 at a regional level. In this regard, the Local Agenda 21 process in both County/City Development Boards and the local authorities will be expected to take account of any agreed regional development strategies and programmes, as well as regional planning guidelines and the emerging National Spatial Strategy. In the meantime, local authorities, through the regional authorities, should:

- Take account of possible inter-county and regional projects based on the approaches recommended in these guidelines;
- Develop appropriate “regional thinking” in their own Local Agenda 21 process by encouraging regional interaction through the Regional Directors, including regionally based Local Agenda 21 Officers meetings; having a specific regional dimension, especially where there are regional economies of scale in delivering Agenda 21 initiatives including training; avoiding any unnecessary or wasteful inter-county competition in their services by regional waste management, regional transport initiatives etc.

Relationship with County / City Development Plan

The Planning and Development Act, 2000 provides an enhanced focus on sustainable development. Given the close relationship between the Local Agenda 21 process and the physical development plan of the authority, there is a need in the adoption of County and City Development Plans to have regard to the Local Agenda 21 process internally in the local authority and to the CDB Strategy.

The CDB Strategy will, in future, provide socio-economic context for the local authority's physical development plan and will therefore be reflected in the plan. As regards Local Agenda 21 initiatives, they will need to take account of the plan in their detailed application.

Delivery on Agenda 21 by Local Authorities

There are two elements to delivery of the Local Agenda 21 process. One is internal to the local authority, the other external. As already indicated, much is already happening as regards the external aspects. To correspond with this, the internal delivery processes are to be reflected in:

- The Strategic Management Initiative (SMI) and the local authority corporate strategies.
- The existing sectoral strategies of the local authorities over the 8 programme groups as reflected in the SMI.
- The FOI strategy.

The 1995 guidelines on Local Agenda 21, prepared by the DoELG, suggested that Local Agenda 21 should provide a framework for local authorities to:

“Consider the social and environmental impact of their activities as well as the interaction between these activities and the practical objectives of sustainable development.”

Local Agenda 21 therefore encourages local authorities to *“find ways of conserving resources, minimising adverse impact on the environment and society and obtaining maximum benefit in financial, social and environmental terms from the discharge of their functions.”*

In order to make this happen, there is a compelling argument that, for a local authority, the first stage in the Local Agenda 21 process should be the internal stage of “greening” itself and training staff in this regard before moving on to externalising the process into the wider community.

Therefore, *“it is important that the principles of sustainability are integrated into all areas of local authority policy and practice if local government is to have credibility and play a key role in Local Agenda 21.”* Each local authority should engage in a process of internal review and lead by example, creating an ethos of sustainability within its staff. Given this, it is considered appropriate that Local Agenda 21 be a key component of the SMI process which is now to be undertaken as part of the on-going reform of local government.

SMI and Agenda 21

Guidelines for the preparation of new corporate plans in each local authority were issued in 2000. The new plans are now being put in place. It is envisaged that actions and initiatives associated with Local Agenda 21 will be reflected in each element and in the processes associated with their delivery. The corporate planning process should, therefore, be the Local Agenda 21 internal process in the local authority.

The key elements of corporate planning are:

□ *Mission Statement and Mandate*

A clear commitment to the principles of sustainable development should be reflected in the authority's mission statement and mandate.

□ *Core Objectives and Supporting Strategies*

A core objective of the corporate strategy should be to promote sustainable development. Supporting strategies in this area should be expressed in regard to each of the programme groups of the authority.

□ *Operating Environment*

A corporate plan will set out the authority's operating environment, i.e. those internal and external factors which influence the extent to which the objectives can be achieved. Particular recognition of sustainable development would be expected to be reflected in establishing the operational environment. In addition, regard should be had to identifying what other bodies in the area are contributing to an understanding of the aims of sustainable development and whether the local authority should be working, and on what grounds, with them in delivering the authority's core objective.

□ *Citizen / Customer Focus*

The application of environmental friendly approaches to dealing with citizen / customer activities should be clearly identified and flagged as key features in the integrated delivery of local authority services.

□ *Internal capability to realise the authority's goals*

Of particular concern is the issue of staff development and awareness in environmental and sustainability issues. There is to be particular emphasis on a pro-active approach to staff development. This should make clear provision for staff understanding the Council's approach to sustainable development. Training strategies associated with corporate planning should therefore reflect this.

□ *Resource allocation / reallocation issues*

Value for money is a key feature of good corporate planning along with efficient use of resources within the local authority. Where a clear waste of resources or inefficiencies arise, these should be corrected particularly in areas such as energy usage, materials management etc.

□ *Implementing strategy and assessing progress*

On-going review of the corporate plan will require full understanding of sustainability issues and will help ensure actual implementation of any action plans associated with achieving the corporate strategies set down in the plan. The use of an Environmental Management System may facilitate this. More immediately, appropriate environmental indicators should be developed.

□ *Monitoring / reporting / corrective action*

Under the Local Government Act, 2001, the manager is required to submit, to the elected Council, an annual report on progress in implementing the corporate plan. This provides the opportunity for Local Agenda 21 implementation to be reviewed either as an integral part of the corporate plan or as a separate document.

Key General Aspects of a Local Authority Agenda 21

- The first step in developing a Local Agenda 21 process is to obtain management commitment and support which is based on a full understanding of Agenda 21. This requires an active management team input on the basis that the constituent pillars of sustainable development are a key feature of managing the local authority.
- Consideration might be given to the establishment of a Local Agenda 21 Committee within the local authority, made up of members from each section, which would meet regularly to support the LA21 Officer and provide input from across the sections of the local authority. In particular, the office of the Director of Community and Enterprise, the Social Inclusion Unit (when such exists) and the social inclusion/anti-poverty cluster of the Community and Voluntary Fora could be represented on this committee.
- Each local authority should examine all aspects of office management from an environmental perspective. The Green Government Guide, published by the Department of the Environment in 1996, is a very useful document in this regard and provides practical advice which is easy to follow.
- Each local authority should identify best practice and share developmental ideas via the Local Agenda 21 Network.

- The integration of Local Agenda 21 into local authority policies and practices may be best progressed in the longer term by the implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS) as referred to earlier. This should, however, be clearly reflected in any corporate planning process undertaken by the local authority.
- Developing an EMS requires the following;
 - establishing an appropriate level of resources,
 - appointing an internal environmental programme manager,
 - establishing an EMS Project Team,
 - allocating responsibilities, and
 - establishing a reporting network.
- Each local authority should consider:
 - identifying threats to local economic activity, social inclusion and environmental quality and developing strategies to counteract them,
 - implementing action plans for all its services,
 - sensitising all activities to ensure they accord with Agenda 21 principles,
 - the facilitation of public transport, recycling, culture and healthy leisure activities, repair services, home insulation, local food production, alternative energy, car sharing schemes and the sustainable exploitation of natural resources,
 - implementing apprenticeship programmes, graduate internship and student placement programmes where skills can be passed on to others,
 - developing local indicators of sustainability. (See ***A Shared Vision for County/City Development Boards*** for further guidance),
 - promoting homeworking, using information and communications technology.
- Having regard to the different levels of local government in Ireland, it is suggested that, for the purposes of Local Agenda 21, the pivotal role should be taken at county/city level, where there is a major concentration of functions, responsibilities and capabilities which will be central to implementing sustainable development. There is also a role for borough corporations, urban district councils and town commissioners to add their own particular focus, and local dimension, within the overall county processes.

Education, Training and Awareness of Staff Members and the General Public

Communication of the Council's commitment and approach to Local Agenda 21 to all staff members and others is a fundamental requirement. This calls for a comprehensive training and development programme which should be incorporated into any training strategy being implemented in the local authority. The Personnel Officer should therefore work with the Local Agenda 21 Officer to ensure this.

In addition local authorities should consider:

- Ensuring that environmental education becomes a component of continual professional development for all staff,
- Providing employees with appropriate training for them to take effective action,
- Ensuring that organisational goals and individual responsibilities are clear,
- Displaying and Circulating ENFO materials, and Generating local information material i.e.
 - Brochures
 - Leaflets
 - Newsletters
 - Environmental Action Packs
 - Internet resources/ websites
 - Local radio and other media
- Providing clean technology training for all key staff involved in process-related activities,
- Implementing suggestion schemes for employees, inviting ideas for waste avoidance or reduction of environmental impact,
- Ensuring that all staff involved with liaising with the public are able to reflect commitment and ability to communicate effectively on Local Agenda 21. This will require the Local Agenda 21 Officer to:
 - educate staff on practical day to day sustainable practices, dealing with both internal housekeeping and environmental responsibilities,
 - contact organisations, where appropriate, for training and awareness programmes in Local Agenda 21.
- Ensuring that all staff involved in liaising with the public are able to encourage and support effective participation, especially by groups at risk of social exclusion. This could be achieved by:

- workshops involving representatives of various local groups and local authority staff to examine and analyse the concerns of disadvantaged groups,
- information events to highlight issues relevant to the local authority area which may cause barriers to effective participation.

Options for Local Agenda 21 Action

The following sections set out options for action covering economic, social and environmental issues which should be considered by local authorities in developing and advancing Local Agenda 21. These options are not intended to be exhaustive: local authorities will wish to develop/supplement them in accordance with local needs and circumstances.

Economic Aspects of a Local Authority Agenda 21 Process

- ❑ Maximising the opportunities for local needs to be met locally, consistent with the sensitive exploitation of local resources, including the natural and built environment.
- ❑ Promoting local investment, purchasing, trading, good quality and secure employment, local goods.
- ❑ Making the local community aware of how its purchasing power can impact on achieving sustainable development.
- ❑ Developing in conjunction with local employer and employee interests, appropriate employment conditions to facilitate home working.
- ❑ Establishing local business directories of sustainable products and services. Facilitate their advertisement by developing advertising programmes with the local media. The local authority could also certify such businesses as complying with good environmental practices.
- ❑ Conducting Local Agenda 21 awareness campaigns directly with local business, farming, trade union and community / voluntary interests.
- ❑ Developing strategies to tackle poverty and social exclusion.

Social / Community Development

- ❑ Developing policies to tackle personal debt, and to promote good money management practices and the maximising of social welfare entitlement take-up amongst its tenants.
- ❑ Implementing early warning systems in respect of their debtors.
- ❑ Supporting the development of the social economy.

- ❑ Matching local job vacancies with the unemployed in collaboration with local agents involved in the delivery of this service.
- ❑ Assisting targeted groups (e.g. long-term unemployed, ethnic communities, women and early school leavers) to obtain employment by developing rural transport initiatives, childcare facilities, flexible work arrangements and home working arrangements.
- ❑ Promoting life long learning opportunities.
- ❑ Promoting community networking.
- ❑ Promoting strategies to address environmental and economic concerns within disadvantaged / community groups, and to enable greater participation.

Efficient Use of Resources / Eco-Efficiency

Heating and Electricity

- ❑ Appointing energy efficiency / conservation officers.
- ❑ Undertaking energy efficiency projects in consultation with local Energy Offices of the Irish Energy Centre.
- ❑ Carrying out “benchmarking’ exercises / energy health checks” for all major building projects.
- ❑ Recording energy consumption in heat and electricity in each local authority building over a 12-month period.
- ❑ Calculating performance indicators based on energy consumption per square metre per annum (kWh/m²/pa).
- ❑ Checking electricity tariffs with the ESB:
 - specialised ESB staff will give free advice on tariffs with a view to reducing bills,
 - consider suitability of Maximum Demand Tariff (generally suitable where consumption exceeds 60,000 units per annum).
- ❑ Carrying out an energy audit every two years either by competent in-house staff or by consultants and a ‘walk-around survey’ to check where energy is being wasted.
- ❑ Checking all motive power applications.
- ❑ Minimising paper use

- establish comprehensive e-mail system
 - use both sides of paper sheets
 - ensure that all printers purchased have double-sided printing capability.
- Developing advice to address fuel poverty in line with best environmental practice.

Transport

- Encouraging staff to use public transport, engage in car-pooling etc., and providing cycle parking and other facilities for cyclists.
- Using fuel-efficient vehicles, route planning and driving efficiency in their vehicle fleet.
- Encouraging the social economy to provide transport in town hinterlands and rural areas.

Housing

- Incorporating high standards of energy efficiency in buildings.
- Providing facilities for recycling and other environmentally friendly activities on estates.
- Encouraging tenant / resident participation in estate management.
- Involving tenants in management and maintenance of their homes and estate.
- Choosing water-efficient flushing units (e.g. air assisted models).
- Taking account of environmental factors such as site topography, aspect and water supply in site selection, design and landscaping of new developments.
- Working with developers to promote
 - energy and water efficient design,
 - use of reused and local material,
 - protection of flora, fauna and natural habitats.
- Developing as far as possible infill sites for local authority housing to enable new housing to integrate with existing communities.
- Encouraging housing that is closer to the centre of towns and is more amenable to public transport.
- Providing advice to existing tenants on energy conservation and efficiency.
- Establishing an awards scheme so as to recognise good environmental practice by tenants.

Waste

This is a key area: local authorities are expected to develop an active role in citizen awareness of issues associated with waste.

Recycling

- Providing all offices with paper recycling bins which in turn feed bins located on every floor.
- Using recycled paper for all official documents, letters and publications and always use it for:
 - internal memos,
 - photocopying.
- Using re-usable or used before envelopes for all internal post.
- Collecting print cartridges for recycling.
- Separating plastics, cans, glass etc. in staff canteens.
- Collecting fluorescent tubes.
- Providing a bring site in County / City Hall / HQ for collection of cans, glass, paper, clothes and batteries.
- Providing for more education and awareness raising regarding waste, involving households, schools, supermarkets and businesses
 - on the need to reduce waste,
 - on the need to re-use/recycle,
 - on the cost of disposal,
 - on the Packaging Regulations.
- Increasing the number of recycling points and the number of materials which can be collected.
- Re-examining waste management contracts and considering more proactive waste minimisation contracts, e.g. dual collection, weight related charges etc.

Waste Disposal

- Avoiding migration of greenhouse gases, (methane (CH₄) and carbon dioxide (CO₂)) through
 - collection for electricity generation,
 - flaring landfill gas.
- Putting in place measures to avoid groundwater and surface water pollution
 - conversion of 'attenuate and disperse' sites to 'containment' (i.e. lined) sites and collection of leachate.
- Developing an Environmental Management System (EMS) for landfill operations.

Litter

- Raising anti-litter awareness at local level
 - target general public and voluntary, business and commercial sectors regarding their responsibilities under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997,
 - be proactive in encouraging the development of awareness/educational materials for primary/secondary schools,
 - produce multi-media materials (posters, leaflets, videos, etc) to form a campaign/exhibitions aimed at the general public, using ENFO, Tidy Towns and National Spring Clean materials where appropriate,
 - consult local business/commercial/industrial sectors regarding potential sponsorship/co-funding of local anti-litter initiatives (e.g. provision of litter bins, local clean up, etc),
 - provide skips for clearance of litter black spots,
 - provide refuse bags, gloves to local clean up groups particularly in litter clean up campaigns,
 - target litter black spots, illegal dumping areas,
 - adopt litter management strategies/plans for localities with targets and annual reviews of performance.

Water Treatment and Supply

- Pursuing EMAS or ISO 14001 registration for water treatment plants.
- Adopting water conservation and demand management as central principles to ensure that natural resources are protected
 - as a rough guide, levels in excess of 25% for unaccounted for water would signal the need for a leakage detection / water conservation programme.

- ❑ Introducing a programme of water conservation in Council buildings to show good example, e.g., use less water in toilet flush (“brick in cistern”), switch off urinals at night and the weekend, repair leaks quickly, fit plugs to sinks, collect rain water for re-use.
- ❑ Promoting water efficient appliances and devices.
- ❑ Promoting awareness of the cost of potable water provision and encouraging conservation of water in the home and the work place.

Waste Water

- ❑ Ensuring implementation of the “polluter pays principle” in licensing discharges to public sewers / waste water treatment plants
 - capital contributions based on ‘long run marginal cost’,
 - contribution for operating and monitoring costs to be based on pro-rata and actual costs, respectively,
- ❑ Providing phosphorous reduction facilities in sensitive catchments where appropriate.
- ❑ Basing overall level of discharge to receiving waters on the application of the ‘Best Available Technology’ (BAT), rather than the use of assimilative capacity as the sole approach to limiting discharges.
- ❑ In addition to basing the level of discharge to receiving waters on application of BAT, set limits on pollutants entering water so if new industry enters an area the pollution limit is not exceeded.
- ❑ Promoting ‘constructed wetlands’ / reed bed systems for environmentally friendly wastewater treatment.
- ❑ Taking into account volume and concentration when assigning charges for discharge to sewers to encourage reduction in both volume and pollutant concentration.

Water Quality

- ❑ Adopting a catchment management based approach with community / stakeholder involvement.
- ❑ Focusing on the reduction and prevention of pollution of surface waters and groundwaters by nutrients, predominantly from agriculture.
- ❑ Basing a sustainable water policy on protection, management and use of water in the interests of optimised environmental quality and of economic performance and efficiency.

- Preparing a Groundwater Protection Scheme for the county/city.
- Educating the public on
 - the fate of water that enters sewers,
 - the cost of treatment,
 - waste that needs disposal.

Planning and Development

- Reducing the demand for additional transport infrastructure by reducing the need to travel.
- Resisting scattered settlement patterns which are costly to service.
- Auditing County/City Development Plans and Urban Development Plans and the CDB Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development to ensure that they are consistent with the objectives of sustainable development.
- Encouraging environmentally friendly modes of transport by providing safer facilities, such as cycle lanes and secure bicycle parks for cyclists, special pedestrian areas and footbridges.
- Adopting “neighbourhood” community planning so people are able to find as many of the facilities for daily living (e.g. shops, schools, church, crèche, recreational facilities) within their own community.
- Promoting higher residential densities, particularly in redeveloping brown field sites, and in proximity to town centres, public transport nodes and access points.
- Increasing emphasis on adequate open space for out-door recreation and on planting and landscaping.
- Encouraging design flexibility so that buildings are designed or adapted in ways which allow for as many uses and as much flexibility of use as practicable.
- Increasing pre-planning application information provided to developers (e.g. environmental design guides). Highlight examples of good environmental/energy management.
- Bringing redundant and derelict land back into active use. This will re-use available resources, contribute to energy efficiency, sustain the urban fabric, reduce the need to develop green field sites and protect the countryside.
- Using planning controls to prevent contamination of land.

- ❑ Incorporating waste / recycling provision in design of traveller halting sites.
- ❑ Having a clear demarcation in the development plan between urban and rural land use to help prevent urban sprawl, encourage more sustainable development patterns in large settlements and help maintain the rural landscape.

Miscellaneous

Biodiversity

- ❑ Preserving and maintaining hedgerow corridors. Hedgerows should not be cut between 1st of March and the 31st of August in any year (Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000).
- ❑ Avoiding destructive hedge-cutting methods whereby hedgerows and hedgebank vegetation are razed down to the very roots (nearly two-thirds of bird species nest in hedges).
- ❑ Planting of indigenous shrubs and trees where possible.
- ❑ Reducing or eliminating the use of chemicals (herbicides) in landscape maintenance where possible.

Procurement

- ❑ Giving preference to environmentally friendly products e.g., by asking for products which carry the EU Eco-label or other appropriate labels such as the Blue Angel or Nordic Swan.
- ❑ Making use of public procurement in promoting and supporting appropriately labelled products, for example Fairtrade.
- ❑ Indicating that environmental performance, implementation of EMS and compliance with all environmental legislation will be included as criteria which will be considered in awarding contracts.
- ❑ Requesting selected suppliers of materials, services or products to submit details of their product specification and environmental policy for review.
- ❑ Promoting awareness of the social and environmental impact of goods production, especially in developing countries.

Coastal Zone Management

- Preparing a Coastal Zone Management Plan for incorporation into the County/City Development Plan
 - balancing development with the protection of sensitive areas,
 - establishing a management policy for the coastal zone, taking account of the interdependence of the marine and land environments.

**EXAMPLES OF LOCAL AGENDA 21
IN ACTION**

Local Agenda 21 in Action - Project List

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Social Inclusion/Community Enterprise Initiatives

LOCAL AUTHORITY: DUBLIN CORPORATION

Project Title:

Cherry Orchard Equine and Education Centre

Project Objectives:

To attract early school leavers back into structured personal development and educational programmes. In addition, it will provide general training and recreational opportunities to the local community.

Contact:

Gilbert Power / Mary Harvey:
Tel: (01) 7237363

General Description of Project:

A centre will be constructed to cater for early school leavers. The centre will have a strong equine focus but will also have a considerable educational element. The project was developed through extensive local consultation and there are representatives of local community and voluntary organisations in addition to the statutory agencies on the board established to oversee the development of the centre.

Budget:

The capital cost is £2.9m/£3.7m. Dublin Corporation has provided the site for the development, which has a market value of approximately £3.5m/£4.4m. In addition, the Corporation is providing £0.55m/£0.7m towards construction costs with the balance of £2.35m/£2.98m being provided by the State.

Target Audience:

Early school leavers with an interest in horses, who would be considered to be both socially disadvantaged and at risk.

LOCAL AUTHORITY: CORK CORPORATION

Project Type:

Social Inclusion

Project Objectives

- (i) To undertake major environmental improvement works, mainly in socially disadvantaged areas, in the Cork City area.
- (ii) To provide opportunities for long term unemployed people to be reintegrated into the work force.
- (iii) To foster improved community spirit in the local area.

Contact:

Michael Buckley
Community Employment Section
Cork Corporation
Tel: (021) 4924441 / 4924460

General Description of Project:

Cork Corporation, in association with FÁS, are currently engaged in a number of environmental improvement projects. These projects were identified as result of the close relationship they have developed over a number of years with residents associations, community and other local groups. Experience has shown that many of the workers, who often come from areas of most social need, through the skill enhancement of the programme achieve fulltime employment in Cork Corporation (parks/roads departments) and the private sector (landscape, parks operatives). There are currently 90 personnel engaged on these schemes. In addition, a further 65 Job Initiative workers are employed to work on parks, roads and housing department projects.

Budget:

The annual FÁS budget for these initiatives is in the region of £1m/€1.27m for C.E. schemes, £0.6m/€0.76m in respect of the Job Initiative, augmented by support from fulltime local authority staff and capital funds.

Target Audience:

Communities involved in the programme and long-term unemployed.

LOCAL AUTHORITY: CORK CORPORATION

Project Type:

Social Inclusion

Project Objectives:

To enhance the quality of life on local authority estates in socially disadvantaged areas

Contact:

Olibheir O'Gobhann
Cork Corporation

Tel: (021) 4924489

General Description of Project:

The Estate Management Programme is in operation in most areas of Corporation Housing Estates. There is an area based Estate Management Project in Mayfield, The Glen, Knocknaheeny and Togher. The projects are based on consultation with local residents on issues which affect the quality of life in these estates; such issues include regeneration, control of vacancies, unacceptable behaviour, environmental improvement including regular clean up. The partnership approach has led to a major improvement in these estates, which in turn has improved the take up of tenancies and this has brought stability and a sense of community to these areas.

Budget:

The overall cost is met from within the Administrative Budget of the Local Authority. This includes a full-time staff commitment of 5 personnel.

Target Audience:

Communities involved in the programme.

LOCAL AUTHORITY: LIMERICK CORPORATION / LIMERICK ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Project Type:

Social Inclusion

Project Objectives:

Krups Engineering Ltd. were a major employer in a socially disadvantaged area of Limerick City. The closure of the plant created an opportunity to develop a local project on the site which would help address the local unemployment problem. Limerick Corporation in conjunction with other state agencies, local business and the community in Southill used the closure as an opportunity to maintain the site as a major source of employment in the area and to provide training facilities for the local community. This would enable the community to participate in and benefit from the project thereby giving them a sense of ownership and integrating them more fully in the life of the city.

Contact:

Conn Murray
Limerick Corporation,
City Hall,
Limerick.

Tel: (061) 415799

General Description of Project:

A strategic plan has been drawn up for the overall complex to include :

- education, training and community support services to be located as a One-Stop-Shop facility within the complex, directly addressing the current education and training needs of job seekers in one location
- provision of marketing and administration facilities on site
- a management plan for the commercial operation of the complex
- all profits to be ploughed back into the project for the benefit of the local community
- identification through the IDA of a tele-services operation employing over 200 people on part of the site

Budget:

- The Krups site was purchased from Moulinex by the Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership Ltd. (a charitable company whose membership is drawn from a partnership of the private sector, state agencies and local organisations) for £2.75m/€3.5m.

- Funding to be a mixture of private, public and EU sources with an initial seven investors each contributing £0.15m/€0.19m.

Target Audience:

Unemployed persons living in the immediate Krups hinterland.

Current Position:

The refurbishment of the building to comply with modern building practice is well underway and an anchor tenant with an employment potential of up to 350 has been secured. The training agencies FAS and CERT are also now in place. Plans for the provision of an adult education/training centre focused on high skill job opportunities in the information technology sector are well advanced.

LOCAL AUTHORITY: LIMERICK CORPORATION

Project Type:

Social Inclusion

Project Objectives:

To develop an Integrated Development Programme for Southill which will provide a framework for creating a positive climate for employment within the community.

Contact:

Conn Murray
Limerick Corporation,
City Hall,
Limerick.

Tel: (061) 415799

Background to Project:

Southill Integrated Development Programme (SIDP) was started in 1993. It brings together the collective experience of 31 organisations, representing state, semi-state and local voluntary groups.

SIDP represents and reflects the desire of the Southill community to achieve the maximum levels of social and economic advancement.

Drivers

There are 31 Participating Groups as follows:

1. Southill Community Services Board
2. Southill Development Co-Operative Ltd
3. Southill Youth Training Workshop
4. Southill Outreach
5. Southill Boxing Club
6. Southill Youth Club
7. Southill Youth Resource Centre
8. Youth Reach Centre
9. Aras Gaeilge Cnoc Theas
10. Holy Family Parish Clergy
11. Southill Community Siamsa
12. O'Malley Park Estate Management
13. Keyes, Carew, Kincora Parks Estate Management
14. Shannon Development Co.
15. FAS

16. PAUL Partnership
17. Limerick Corporation
18. Mid-Western Health Board
19. City of Limerick VEC
20. St. Kieran's Primary School
21. Jamesboro Primary School
22. Galvone Primary School
23. Gaelscoil Seoirse Clancy
24. Southill Jr. School
25. St. Enda's Community School
26. Southill Retired Peoples' Group (2)
27. Southill Credit Union
28. Limerick Youth Service
29. Limerick Travellers' Development Group
30. Southill Community Development Project
31. Local Employment Service

Consultation:

An annual seminar is held bringing in all the participating organisations from the area.

General Description of Project:

The Development Programme has recognised that it is much more effective to create a positive climate for employment than to concentrate all efforts on trying to create jobs and consequently has adopted a 'pro-development' rather than an 'anti-poverty' standpoint.

With this pragmatic approach in mind, the Programme identifies a number of future challenges which focus on social and economic issues. These include:

- Design and construction of a multi-purpose community facility.
- Development of a creative programme in drug education; relationships; homelessness; health education; support to combat early school leaving for young people who are vulnerable.
- Further development of the Southill Co-operative, increasing the number of enterprises and establishing an enterprise support team.
- The securing of funding for cultural and social activities
- Outreach to Lone Parent Families to help them to become more socially and economically independent.

Staff Structure:

There are 3 members of staff - Facilitator/Administrator, and two other staff members who work in the "Jobs Club" (based in the Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership Centre).

The salaries of the two staff working in the “Jobs Club” are funded by FAS.
The salary of the facilitator/administrator is met from a combination of sources including private donations

Budget:

This depends very much on the project. The SIDP has various funders; some projects are funded by the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation, others are supported by the likes of the VEC. Social and cultural projects are supported by PAUL Partnership etc. In most cases the 31 participating groups are not expected to contribute.

As a rule, the SIDP looks at projects that are likely to be self-funding. Very often, projects are completed before funding is put in place. In essence, the SIDP must ‘beg and borrow’ for funding.

Target Audience:

The community in Southill, Limerick City.

**LOCAL AUTHORITY: MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL / INTEGRATED
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT KILTIMAGH LIMITED.**

Project Type:

Community Enterprise Initiative

Contact:

Mr. Joe Kelly
Manager
Integrated Resource Development,
Kiltimagh,
Co. Mayo.

Description of Project :

A 1988 survey of population migration in the Kiltimagh area showed 75% of the youth of the area were forced to emigrate to find work. Other problems militated against investment. Situated off the beaten track, the town of Kiltimagh was in crisis. Derelict buildings in the town increased as the population declined, businesses and services continued to close. Farms were small and the land poor.

In 1989 local people in Kiltimagh formed and prepared a prospectus. Between 1990 and 1994 money was collected locally. Mayo County Council and other state agencies gave their financial and technical support.

I.R.D. Kiltimagh Limited is now one of the foremost community enterprise companies in the country and has won every national award possible in community enterprise. Manufacturing, service, tele-working, distribution and craft companies have all benefited from locating in Kiltimagh.

Progress to Date 1990 – 1999:

- Employment Creation. Enterprise House, Aiden Street established (10,000 sq. ft.)
- Tourism. Naturally West Holiday established, local amenity development, brochures prepared.
- Social Programme. Housing Committee established and three units of social housing initiated.
- Arts Development. Kiltimagh Museum opened, Exhibition Centre, Sculpture Park, Theatre, Artists Retreats, Town Forge all developed.
- Employment Creation. Enterprise House Station Road developed (30,000 sq. ft.)
- Theme Town Programme;
 - Upgrading of streets and approach roads, extension of Sewerage Scheme with Mayo County Council, Kiltimagh – “A Litter Free Town” launched.
 - Removal of Derelict Sites and Street Restoration.

- Tourism. Beal Oscailte Festival established, Coarse Angling lakes, Camper Park, Craft Shop, children's Tir na n'Og Fun Park developed.
- Social Programme. 22 units of social housing provided. Kiltimagh Resource Centre established.
- Arts Development. School House Museum and Archive developed and full time Arts Manager employed.

Achievements:

- Economic Activity in the period 1990 – 1994 increased at 15.8% per year and in the period 1995 – 1998, this increased to 30.2% per annum.
- Recent studies have shown that National School pupil members have been increasing at a rate of 6% per year.
- The population is increasing as more employment opportunities become available in the town. Many new businesses/services have been established because of the confidence created.
- The results of I.R.D. Kiltimagh Limited, which was formed to combat the decline of the area, have been the subject of many documentaries and theses and a multitude of other accolades, including 4 prestigious National Awards worth over £120,000 to the company and the community.

Future Development:

- Development of National Centre for Applied Rural Development in partnership with NUI Galway.
- Development of a further phase of Enterprise Workspace comprising 12,000 sq. ft. as an I.T./Telemarketing Centre.
- Development of a further 20 units of Social Housing on a site already procured.
- Provision of a Wildlife and Recreation Park.
- Provision of Sliabh Cairn Amenity including River Valley Rope Bridge.
- Provision of Communal Facilities for the tenants of all current Social Housing Schemes.

Budget:

£0.3m/≈0.38m per annum.

Target Audience:

Local Community.

LOCAL AUTHORITY: MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Project Title:

Clones Regeneration Partnership

Project Objectives:

Due to its location close to the border, Clones had suffered significant economic difficulties over the last 30 years. Several local groups were trying to address this problem, mainly from an economic perspective. Monaghan County Council recognised the need to maximise this interest and to involve all local interests in preparing a plan.

Contact:

Padge Mc Kenna
Monaghan County Council
Tel: (047) 30551

Brian Morgan
Chairman
Clones Regeneration Partnership,
The Diamond,
Clones,
Co. Monaghan.
Tel. (047) 51011

Susan Deery,
Town Clerk,
Clones, Co. Monaghan.
Tel. (047) 51018

General Description of Project:

The local authority met with all interested parties, (business, community and religious groups, social partners) as well as other state agencies and funding bodies. From these meetings a committee representative of the parties was set up to draw up a holistic plan for the regeneration of Clones. Having the state bodies and the funding agencies involved assisted in identification of funding sources. The Committee engaged external consultants to draw up the development plan which was co-financed by Monaghan County Council, the Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, Monaghan County Enterprise Board and The County Enterprise Fund.

Current Status:

Consultants appointed and study under way. Extensive consultation with the community and all relevant agencies taking place.

Funding:

Overall cost of the study and Plan - £30,000/≈38,000

The parties contributed to the cost of the consultants. Projects are being funded by the various local bodies, including the business community, with assistance from the local authority and the funding agencies.

Target Audience:

The local community in Clones.

LOCAL AUTHORITY: DUN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Estate Management

Project Objective:

Prior to the Council's Tidy Districts Competition coming on stream, the Council's Environment Department decided to contact representatives in estates to encourage participation in the competition and give assistance with clean-ups by supplying skips, bags, gloves, litter pickers and any other assistance they considered necessary.

Contact:

Deirdre Sinclair
Environmental Officer
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council,
County Hall,
Dun Laoghaire,
Co. Dublin.

Tel: (01) 2054700

General Description of Project:

A walk-about of a local authority estate in Sandyford with a representative of the Environment Department, Parks Department and a resident indicated that more substantial aid would be welcome. In the course of discussions it was mentioned that on previous occasions when the Council planted flowers at the entrance to the estate the local children pulled them out shortly afterwards. There was also a major problem with graffiti on walls and shrubbery that needed to be cut back to discourage anti-social behaviour. It was decided that instead of the Council carrying out the work which would be quickly undone by others, the residents would receive the plants and shrubs and encourage community participation in planting them and deciding on future needs.

Achievement:

A further visit to the estate three weeks later showed a significant improvement in its appearance and there was evidence that the project had snowballed and now there was a substantial interest in the estate. The main eyesore at this stage was the graffiti and the residents were again encouraged to participate when the Council provided paint, brushes, rollers etc. to carry out the work. After just a few months of work the estate went on to win second prize in the "Most Improved Estate" category of the Tidy Districts Competition. In November, 1999 the residents group organised a Prizegiving Ceremony in the Community Centre so that the participants in the

community was palpable and one just had to take a look outside to see that their work had paid off handsomely and that they were prepared to keep up the high standards they set for themselves.

In another instance a resident from a local authority housing estate asked for assistance in getting a clean-up underway in their area. The Council provided assistance by way of bags, gloves, skips and litter pickers. The local residents got involved in spray painting the graffiti, planting of shrubs as well as keeping the area clean. Their efforts were rewarded when they won 1st Prize in the "Best New Entry" category of the Tidy Districts Competition. The judges remarked:-

"The residents obviously take a great deal of pride in their area which is reflected in its neat and pleasing appearance. Grass areas are exceptionally well maintained with no weeds evident. Nice planting around the base of trees adds colour and interest. Gardens are kept to a high standard. The Community are to be highly commended and are an excellent role model for neighbouring estates".

Budget:

The Council funded the project entirely in the case of Local Authority housing and provided bags, gloves and litter pickers and 50% of the cost of hiring a skip in the case of private estates.

Review:

While it is difficult to quantify its success in monetary terms, the benefit to the community was enormous particularly as it created a sense of pride and ownership in the environment.

LOCAL AUTHORITY: ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Estate Management Innovations

Project Objectives:

Develop social and infrastructural facilities in Council Housing Estates

Contact:

Mary Mullins
Housing Section
Roscommon County Council,
Courthouse,
Roscommon.

Tel: (0903) 37209
Fax: (0903) 37108

General Description of Project:

Roscommon County Council is working in estate management in Lisnamult, Roscommon and Church View, Boyle. A member of staff (Mary Mullins) has been assigned to support residents in each case in the social and infrastructural development of their respective areas. Examples (Social) – Homework Clubs, Women’s Groups, Youth Clubs, Summer Clubs, Training Courses. Examples (infrastructural) – Football pitch, Playground, exterior of estates.

Target Audience:

Local Authority Tenants.

LOCAL AUTHORITY: DUBLIN CORPORATION

Project Title:

Sunflower Recycling

Project Objectives:

To set up a recycling facility to serve the North Inner City of Dublin, to employ and train long term unemployed people from the inner city, to work with the local business community and community sector to raise awareness of good environmental practice in relation to waste management and to work towards sustainable employment in the field of environmental work.

Contact:

Maggie Foynes – Dublin Corporation – (01) 4114359

Bernie Walsh – Sunflower – (01) 8560251

General Description of Project:

Sunflower Recycling is a social economy initiative, which create training and employment opportunities. It is representative of the various skills required in such an enterprise. In addition to recycling glass, textiles, paper and cans, it provides training and employment opportunities for local people.

Budget:

£0.36m/€0.46m in 1999

Funding:

Mainly derived from State Grants. Premises, vehicles and equipment were received from Partners/Sponsors.

Target Audience:

Local offices, community groups, households, local unemployed people.

Community Environment

LOCAL AUTHORITY: CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Green Town 2000 (5 Projects)

Project Objectives:

- To encourage the ongoing transformation of towns and villages through environmental improvements
- Enhance the visual aspect of towns and villages
- Motivate and encourage community participation and development
- Develop a partnership between Council and Community/Development Groups

Contact:

Bernard Duff
Carlow County Council
County Offices,
Athy Road,
Carlow.

Tel: (0503) 36207

Fax: (0503) 41503

E-mail: bduff@carlowcoco.ie

General Description of Project/Budget:

1. Millennium Garden	£40,000	≈51,000
2. Planting Programme/Environmental Awareness	£15,000	≈19,000
3. Millennium Oak Grove at Royal Oak	£15,000	≈19,000
4. Restoration/Renovation of old Pig House/ Development along River Slaney	£ 6,500	≈ 8,300
5. Conservation/Restoration of Old Ward cottage	£12,000	≈15,000

Target Audience:

Community Development Groups
Children
General Public
Local Authority Employees

Community Pride

LOCAL AUTHORITY: ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Urban Tidy Towns
Tidy Towns Competition
Tidy Estates Competition
Tidy Burial Grounds Competition

Project Objectives:

Encourage communities to clean-up their local areas.

Contact:

Brian Duffy
Environment Section
Roscommon County Council
Courthouse,
Roscommon.

Tel: (0903) 37261
Fax: (0903) 37262

General Description of Project/Budget:

County Roscommon Tidy Towns Competition

The County Roscommon Tidy Towns Competition is run by the Council and is based on the marking system used in the National Tidy Towns Competition. Prizes are awarded for the best entry and the entry achieving the highest mark for tidiness and overall development approach in each electoral area.

Tidy Estate Competition

The Tidy Towns Committee throughout the County are asked to encourage entries from local Residents Associations for a Tidy Estates Competition. The adjudication takes into account local difficulties that may have been overcome and activities undertaken during the year. Special emphasis is placed on efforts to deter litter problems. Marks are awarded for effort, tidiness, landscaping and overall appearance.

Target Audience:

Tidy Towns Committees, Residents Associations, Tidy Burial Ground Committees.

LOCAL AUTHORITY: CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Clare in Bloom

Project Objectives:

To encourage community bodies, tidy town committees etc to enhance the visual impact of their settlements by means of flower, tree and shrub planting.

Contact:

Tina Knox-Fleming
Staff Officer
Environment Section
Clare County Council
New Road,
Ennis.

Tel: (065) 6846387
Fax: (065) 6821915
Email: tknox-fleming@clare.coco.ie

General Description of Project/Budget:

This project encourages the applicants to create as broad a spectrum of colour as possible. Judging takes place from mid-July to mid-August and takes account of such factors as colour, size, variety and location of the various planting schemes.

A prize fund of £6,000/€7,600 exists which is co-funded by Aer Rianta, Shannon Development and Clare Co. Council.

Target Audience:

The people of Clare

This project is 'county-wide based', and any town or village may become involved.

Local Agenda 21 Partnership

DUBLIN CITY 21 CITIZENS NETWORK

The Dublin City 21 Citizens' Network brings together individuals and groups interested in Local Agenda 21 to promote Local Agenda 21, to raise awareness and to develop and implement projects around the key identified areas of transport, waste and housing in the city.

The Network has carried out a range of activities to raise awareness of the initiative in the city and beyond. It has worked with Dublin Corporation and the Department of the Environment and Local Government to ensure that information on Local Agenda 21 and environment issues is simple, easy to understand and accessible to as wide a range of the population as possible.

Contact:

Emer Ó Siochru
Dubliners Agenda 21,
159 Lr. Rathmines Road,
Dublin 6.

Tel: (01) 4913579

Fax: (01) 4912203

E-mail: dubliners.agenda21@ireland.com

KELLS ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP & MEATH SHELTERED WORKSHOP

Kells Environmental Group was established in the town by Global Action Plan, as a Local Agenda 21 Initiative under the Environmental Partnership Fund and being co-funded by Meath County Council and the Department of the Environment & Local Government. One of the main environmental concerns arising from their first meetings was the issue of plastic bags, both as litter and as waste. The group's first project therefore has been the creation of a reusable cotton shopping bag. Having received financial support from a local company and Meath County Council, the group organised a poster competition in the local schools, from which they chose the design for the bags. The funds raised from the sale of these bags will go towards their next project and also to the can recycling project being operated by the Kells Association of the Meath Sheltered Workshop. The trainees in the workshop collect cans from local businesses, schools, etc. and crush them before sending them off for recycling.

Cost:

£9,000	≈11,400	Co-funded by Meath County Council & DOELG
£ 250	≈ 315	Local corporate sponsorship
£ 150	≈ 190	MCC competition sponsorship

Contact:

Bernadine Carry
Environment Section
Meath County Council
County Hall
Navan,
Co. Meath.

Tel: (046) 21581

Fax: (046) 21463

E-mail: bcarry@meathcoco.ie

BANTRY BAY CHARTER

The Bantry Bay Charter is a pilot project under the EU Life II Demonstration Programme.

Project Objectives:

The Development of a Consensus Based Coastal Management Strategy for Bantry Bay.

General Description of Project :

The project which has been running since 1997 involves a partnership between Cork County Council, the Coastal Resources Centre at the National University of Ireland, Cork, the Nautical Enterprise Centre at Cork Institute of Technology and the people of the Bantry area. The project is one of 8 throughout the EU that deals with Coastal Zone Management.

The distinguishing feature of this project is the extent of community involvement. Over 100 stakeholders representing the diversity of life and opinion in the Bantry Bay area have been directly involved in the development of the Charter and its proposals. These proposals relate to a range of issues including marine issues, coastal development, planning and tourism. A major success for the project has been the recent agreement by the stakeholders of the Charters proposals. The project represents an example of practical partnership between local communities and regulatory bodies.

Contact:

Eileen O'Donnell
Bantry Bay Charter,
The Courthouse,
Skibbereen,
Co. Cork

Tel: (028) 21299

Fax: (028) 21995

E-mail: skibbplan@eircom.net

GLOUNTHAUNE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Formed in the mid 1970's Glounthaune Community Association has contributed in a consistent way towards the improvement and maintenance of Glounthaune. In view of the pending preparation of the Cork County Development Plan, the Community Association in the autumn of 1999 set up a Development Group as a sub-committee to plan for practical interaction with Cork County Council. Their task was to prepare a plan by reference to a "bottom-up" consultative process and have it completed and presented within a six month time frame.

The Group participated with East Cork Area Development Limited and the County Council in training sessions which helped in preparing a planning strategy. Committees were set up to study and report on the thirteen subjects as set out in Agenda 21. A series of public meetings were held and extensive surveys were undertaken as part of the Group's consultative approach. In all, over 100 people involved themselves in the project.

The Glounthaune Development Plan was launched in May 2000 and represents a major input from the community to develop the locality over the next seven years.

Further information:

E-mail: glounthaune@eircom.net

<http://homepage.eircom.net/~glounthaune>

CORK ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Cork Environmental Forum was established under the auspices of Local Agenda 21, where all parties seek to care for the environment in partnership. It was set up by Cork County Council almost five years ago by the (then) County Manager Noel Dillon. Its main objective is "To foster, promote and implement sustainable development within the Cork Region". Meetings and workshops take place about every 6 weeks at various locations around the county. They are open to all interested parties. Representation is from all sectors of the community.

The Forum is currently developing a series of 'position papers' on key environmental issues. These 'position papers' will lead to the setting of achievable targets for environmental improvement in Cork

Contact:

Jacqueline Hodgson

Tel/Fax. (028) 37400

E-mail: jacqi.h@corkenviroforum.com

www.corkenviroforum.com

SRUNA – Sustainable Recreational Use of Natural Assets

Approved by the European Union under its Terra programme in 1998, the SRUNA project aims to assist local and regional authorities around the EU in co-operating on spatial planning initiatives through the application of Local Agenda 21. The project recognises recreational natural assets such as coastal, scenic landscapes and riverine assets.

SRUNA is a partnership of Irish and Swedish local and regional authorities. The project leader is the Dublin Regional Authority in partnership with the Mid-East Regional Authority, Dublin Corporation, South Dublin, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, Fingal, Meath, Wicklow, and Kildare County Councils. Coillte Teoranta, the Irish Forestry Board, is also a pilot project partner in Ireland. The European partner is Kommunförbundet Skåne, an association of local authorities in Skåne, South Sweden.

Further information is available at:

<http://www.dra.ie/sruna.htm>

SEMPA

SEMPA is a Participatory Approach to Suburban Environmental Management, which aims to achieve more sustainable methods of planning and development by producing integrated, relevant and practicable local solutions to local environmental issues. The two main elements of the SEMPA model are an environmental forum and Local Planning Groups.

The environmental forum will consist of community groups, a public transport agency (Irish Rail), Fingal County Council and Dublin Corporation. Due to its make-up, the forum will have responsibility for resolving conflicts of interest and for effective liaison with local and central government. The Local Planning Groups will consist of 8-20 selected groups of local people and experts who will be responsible for devising and overseeing the detailed implementation of programmes targeted at specific issues. In addition the groups will research and formulate policies and produce action plans and programmes.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.fingalcoco.ie/projects/SEMPA/SEMPA.HTM>

Local Authority Staff LA 21 Awareness

LOCAL AUTHORITY: KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Staff Training and Awareness on Local Agenda 21

Project Objectives:

To minimise the consumption of energy and to reduce the production of waste by staff within Kerry County Council.

Contact:

Ooanagh O'Connor
Environmental Section
Kerry County Council
County Buildings,
Tralee,
Co. Kerry.

Tel: (066) 7183628
Fax: (066) 7120927
E-mail: ooconnor@kerrycoco.ie

General Description of Project/Budget:

Presentation to staff on Energy Awareness and Efficiency, informing them of results of energy audit on County Buildings and how we can cut down on energy consumption.

Presentation to staff on use of office paper, photocopying and how to cut down on waste within the County Council. Presentation on results of Survey on Waste from County Buildings.

Target Audience:

Staff of Kerry County Council publicise results to the general public and the business sector.

Conservation Awareness

LOCAL AUTHORITY: LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Conservation Training

Project Objectives:

To identify buildings throughout the County worthy of preservation.

Contact:

Mr. Tom Cassidy
Conservation Officer
County Buildings
Limerick County Council,
O'Connell Street,
Limerick.

Tel: (061) 318477 / 462310
Fax: (061) 318478
E-mail: tcassidy@limerickcoco.ie

General Description of Project/Budget:

All areas of the county were surveyed and buildings considered worthy of protection were identified. 1200 buildings were selected to be of particular architectural importance and suitable for protection. The occupants of these buildings were visited in person and advised on conservation matters. Each occupant was provided with an information pack on conservation methodologies. Following a public consultation process the protected structures were listed in the County Development Plan, 1999 by the County Council. Experience with this project would suggest that both the owners and the occupants of such buildings be engaged early in the process.

Target Audience:

Owners of protected structures and the public in general.

Eco-Tourism

LOCAL AUTHORITY: ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

ECO Tourism Initiative
Green Heartlands Cycle Route
Miners Way/Historical Trail
An Tain Cycle Route

Project Objectives:

Promote cycling/walking holidays in County Roscommon

Contact:

Brian Duffy S.O.
Environment Section
Roscommon County Council
Courthouse,
Roscommon.

Tel: (0903) 37261
Fax: (0903) 37262

General Description of Project/Budget:

Green Heartlands Route

The Mid-South Roscommon Leader Company in conjunction with Roscommon County Council developed a 137.2 mile long cycle route around south Roscommon in order to promote tourism and to highlight some sites of interest around the area. The route is split over seven days with an average of 19 miles covered per day.

Miners Way/Historical Trail

The planning and construction of the 110.5 mile long Miners Way/Historical Trail walk route, 39 miles which are in County Roscommon was carried out under the co-ordination of a committee comprised of representatives from Leitrim, Roscommon and Sligo County Councils and a number of voluntary bodies in the catchment area of the route. The walk forms part of the Cospoir approved national network of long distance walking routes. The route covers the coal mining area of Arigna and the route taken by the Red Earl in the ninth century.

An Tain Cycle Route

Midlands-East Tourism proposed the development of a cycle route through counties Roscommon, Longford, Westmeath, Meath & Louth. It follows the legendary route of the Tain Bo Cuailgne or Cattle Raid of Cooley. Roscommon County Council recognised the tourist potential of the cycle route and is in the process of erecting signs and markers along the route.

Target Audience:

The local community and tourists to the area.

EAST CORK AREA DEVELOPMENT LTD

Name of Project:

East Cork Eco-Trail

Project Objectives:

To open up the environment of East Cork without damaging the habitat, thus giving direct benefits to the communities of East Cork by creating a social and educational amenity & attracting eco-tourists – a growing segment of the tourist market worldwide.

Contact:

Ms. Aoife McCormack
Community Development Officer
East Cork Area Development Ltd.
96 Main Street,
Middleton,
Co. Cork.

Tel: (021) 4613432
Fax: (021) 4613808
E-mail: ecad@eircom.net

General Description of Project/Budget:

A driving trail was developed linking 19 sites from Youghal to Glounthaune that will give access to natural resources through the provision of walkways and hides. The trail also includes colourful display-boards and maps illustrating the birds and habitat at each site. Information on local heritage and culture collected by local community groups is also displayed. A high quality, comprehensive brochure *Birdwatching in East Cork* (available from ECAD or at most tourist information points) has been published giving the visitor additional information about the birds/sites and details of local facilities and services.

This project was made possible through the support of the EU LEADER II programme (£0.1m/€0.13m) along with matching sponsorship from local industries.

ECAD and DELTA 2000 have formed a transnational partnership under the LEADER II Programme to share expertise in the further development of eco-tourism, environmental education and conservation practices in East Cork and the Po Delta in northern Italy.

Target Audience:

Communities of East Cork
Eco-Tourists

Environmental Awareness (Business)

LOCAL AUTHORITY: LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Design Guidelines for the Countryside

Project Objectives:

To produce a booklet to encourage better design principles for one-off housing in the countryside.

Contact:

Mary Hughes
Executive Planner
Limerick County Council
Limerick.

Tel: (061) 318477
Fax: (061) 318478
E-mail: mhughes@limerickcoco.ie

General Description of Project/Budget:

An interim document has been produced to date in consultation with the elected representatives and senior officials in Limerick County Council. The guide looks at right and wrong ways of designing and building houses in the countryside and at the sustainable use of materials.

Costs:

The design guidelines were prepared in-house.

Target Audience:

General public, architects, house builders, technicians and other people involved in making planning applications.

Environmental Awareness (Elected Representatives)

LOCAL AUTHORITY: DUBLIN CORPORATION

Name of Project:

City Update Newsletter

Contact:

Press Office
Block 3
Civic Offices,
Wood Quay,
Dublin 8.

Tel: (01) 6722170

E-mail: press@dublincorp.ie

General Description of Project /Budget:

5 editions of City News are published per year which provide information to policy makers (incl. elected representatives) and the business community about ongoing environmental improvements across the city and to inform them regarding proposed actions by the Local Authority.

Issues covered include urban investment plans, area development plans, initiatives on waste, water, transport.

Environmental Awareness (Community)

LOCAL AUTHORITY: DUN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Water Conservation

Project Objectives:

The idea of the project was to ascertain how much water could be saved over a six month period. The project also involved raising awareness of other water saving measures.

General Description of Project:

In order to maximise the value of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's investment in the provision of a good quality water supply, a water conservation pilot project was undertaken in 1998 in partnership with approximately 4,000 householders. The project required each household to place a half litre bottle filled with water in their toilet cisterns, thereby saving a half litre of water with every flush. Information leaflets on how to conserve water were prepared, printed and distributed to each of the participating households with an explanatory letter requesting support and participation.

While the 1998 project was carried out solely by the Council, a new project in conjunction with the Dun Laoghaire Tidy Towns Committee commenced with the distribution of 1,440 bottles on 1st May, 2000. These were distributed to residences, business premises and schools in the area.

Contact:

Deirdre Sinclair
Environmental Officer
Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
County Hall,
Dun Laoghaire,
Co. Dublin.

Tel: (01) 2054700

Achievement:

It is estimated that the project resulted in a reduced consumption of 186,000 litres of water per week. While that is not of major significance in the overall consumption of water in the county, the scheme was deemed to be worthwhile and would result in

significant saving when carried out over a large scale. The level of awareness raised also prompted consumers to make savings in other areas of water usage.

Cost of Project:

The cost associated with the project is as follows based on a population of 4,000 approx:-

Information Leaflets:

Design and Printing Costs - Glossy colour leaflets	- £1,400	≈1,700
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Bottles:

Purchase of plastic bottles with special caps	- £2,000	≈2,500
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Distribution of Bottles	- £1,000	≈1,270
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LOCAL AUTHORITY: MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Environment Newsletter

Project Objectives:

To promote environmental initiatives and facilities for everyone living and working in County Meath.

Contact:

Bernadine Carry,
Environment Section,
Meath County Council,
County Hall,
Navan,
Co. Meath.

Tel: (046) 21581
Fax: (046) 21463
Email: bcarry@meathcoco.ie

General Description of Project/Budget:

A quarterly publication detailing environmental initiatives implemented by Meath County Council including waste management, water quality and management and litter pollution. All school and community competitions are covered as are further initiatives in which groups can become involved.

The annual budget for this initiative is £15,000/€19,000. In total, 35,000 newsletters are distributed, the majority being delivered to every address in the County by An Post.

Target Audience:

Everyone living and working in County Meath.

Environmental Awareness (Schools)

Green Schools

Green Schools is a Europe-wide project designed to encourage and acknowledge whole-school action for the environment. It is a flexible programme and different schools will find different routes to achieving Green Schools Status. The award takes the form of a Green Flag, which can be flown outside the school.

The Green Schools programme offers schools:

- an opportunity to take environmental issues from the curriculum and influence the life of the school and its impact on the environment,
- an opportunity to help develop children's decision making skills,
- curriculum materials and ideas for projects and events,
- access to a network of support agencies,
- links with other schools in Ireland and Europe,
- a prestigious award,
- opportunities for local and national publicity, and
- potential for financial savings.

The Green Schools programme is managed by An Taisce – The National Trust for Ireland, Tailors Hall, Back Lane, Dublin 8.

Tel: (01) 4541819 Fax: (01) 4541802

Email : greenschools@antaisce.org

Website : www.antaisce.org

The Programme is promoted at local level by the Local Authority. Schools are visited by the Environmental Awareness Officer and information is presented on the Green Schools concept in addition to Litter Prevention, Waste Minimisation, Recycling and General Environment Awareness. The schools are given assistance in relation to the organisation of the green schools committee. Following on from this, targets are set for various tasks in the school. Follow-up visits from the Environment Awareness Officer are an integral part of the success of the Green Schools project in any school.

Following are examples of Green Schools based projects undertaken by Kerry, Galway and Meath County Councils -

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Schools Awareness Campaigns

Project Objectives:

Increase awareness on Environmental issues in Primary and Secondary schools

To offer practical ideas for Reducing Waste

Increase the number of Schools participating in the Green Schools Award Scheme

Contact:

Michael O'Coileain
Environment Section
Kerry County Council
County Buildings,
Tralee,
Co. Kerry.

Tel: (066) 7183628

Fax: (066) 7120927

Email: mocoilea@kerrycoco.ie

General Description of Project/Budget:

1000 copies of a "Teacher Information Pack" were distributed to all teachers in the county. The Pack, which was published in both English and Irish, addresses, *inter alia*, Waste Management/Bird-life/Tree Planting/Composting etc.

Each school registering with the Green School Award Scheme was given a free wormery for Composting at School.

On going school visits and presentations on cutting down on the school waste.

Target Audience:

School children and leaders and hopefully parents when the good habits are brought home.

LOCAL AUTHORITY: GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Schools Awareness Campaign

Project Objectives:

To introduce the concept of waste management and litter control to schools.

Contact:

Sinead Ni Mhainnin
Galway County Council
Prospect Hill,
Galway.

Tel: (091) 509000
Fax: (091) 509033
Email: snimhain@galwaycoco.ie

General Description of Project/Budget:

Waste reduction and recycling initiatives are promoted in schools in addition to the litter control and general environmental information. This is achieved through videos, posters, bookmarks, brochures and discussion.

Target Audience:

Schools.

LOCAL AUTHORITY: MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Environmental Achievement Awards Programme for Schools

In 1998, the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., launched Meath County Council's ongoing Green Flag Programme for Schools, since renamed as the Environmental Achievement Awards Programme for Schools. Since then, over 40 primary and secondary schools have registered on the programme and sixteen schools received the first of these awards on 2nd June 2000. The Chairman of Meath County Council, Councillor Brian Fitzgerald, and Meath County Football Manager, Mr. Sean Boylan presented the awards. These awards were made in recognition of the efforts of and achievements made by each school in reducing the amount of waste created by the school, in maximising the reuse and recycling of waste materials and in increasing awareness of waste management amongst students and staff. In many cases, the message was successfully transferred into the home, as parents became involved in the many projects initiated.

Examples of the environmental projects carried out include St. Anne's Loreto in Navan, the students of which raised funds through a recycling sale of work and an environmental play in order to purchase a paper shredder for the reuse of newspaper as animal bedding, to create a herb and wildlife garden and also to transform an outbuilding into an environmental art gallery. Kentstown N.S. planted 250 trees. St. Finian's N.S., Clonard initiated a School Garden Project and installed a Racoo pottery kiln on the school grounds. St. Peter's College, Dunboyne conducted an environmental survey throughout the local community, hosted Earth Week and raised funds for the Irish Seal Sanctuary. Ashbourne Community School manufactured and marketed paperweights made from aluminium cans, fire blocks from pulped paper, and key fobs and garden containers from waste plastic.

Contact:

Bernadine Carry
Environment Section
Meath County Council
County Hall,
Navan,
Co. Meath.
Tel: (046) 21581 Fax: (046) 21463 Email: bcarry@meathcoco.ie

Cost:

£100/€127 per school award;
One compost unit for each participating school;
£1,000/€1,270 per year membership of An Taisce's *Green-Schools Programme*;
Other miscellaneous costs associated with programme.

Funded by:

Meath County Council

LOCAL AUTHORITY: KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of project:

Schools Battery Recycling Project

Project Objectives:

To improve battery recycling rate in the County and educate young people

Name/Address of Project Officer:

John Shannon
Staff Officer
Environment Section
Kildare County Council
St. Mary's,
Naas,
Co. Kildare.

Tel: (045) 873838

Fax: (045) 873848

E-mail: environ@kildarecoco.ie

General Description of Project/Budget:

This project targets all the schools in County Kildare. A battery recycling box is installed in every school that requests one. As well as increasing the recycling rate for domestic or primary batteries, there is also an opportunity to educate young people on the issues involved in something as *apparently* harmless as a battery.

The cost for this project is approximately £200/€250 for each participating school.

This initiative forms part of a wider Schools Education Programme consisting of visits to raise awareness of litter and recycling and support for the Green Schools Programme through the provision of advice, free composting bins, litter pickers and ring stands for can recycling.

Home & School Composting

LOCAL AUTHORITY: TIPPERARY NORTH RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Home Composting Project

Project Objectives:

To promote source separation of waste

To promote the diversion of green waste from landfill by encouraging home composting of garden and some kitchen wastes.

Contact:

Deirdre Cox
The Courthouse
Nenagh,
Co. Tipperary.

Tel: (067) 31771

Fax: (067) 33134

Email: dcox@northtippcoco.ie

General Description of Project/Budget:

In 1999 households in 3 specific urban areas were made aware of the Home Composting Project through media and the local waste contractors. Only those who contacted the Council were supplied with a composter and bin, for which the council charged £10/£12.70 – (actual cost £30/£38). Summer students delivered the composter units together with a “Tips and information” leaflet to the households. Other summer students then visited each customer to observe the use and success of the units in action. All composters were in use at this time with garden waste and grass in particular being the major type of organic waste being composted, possibly due to the fact that this scheme was carried out through the summer months. Only minor problems regarding flies were reported. A second scheme commenced in 2000. While this scheme focused on the same specific urban areas, where people from other areas contacted the council they were also supplied with composter units.

Target Audience:

In the first year of operation, the Council targeted interested people in Nenagh, Thurles and Roscrea. Urban areas were initially targeted, in order that house to house monitoring would be possible. In the second year, those who requested bins from other areas were also serviced.

LOCAL AUTHORITY: CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Home Composting Scheme

Project Objectives:

To increase public awareness of waste management issues and reduce waste generation by composting organic waste at home.

Contact:

Orla Gleeson (Asst. Engineer)
Community & Environment Department
Carlow County Council
Athy Road,
Carlow.

Tel: (0503) 36201
Fax: (0503) 41503
E-mail: ogleeson@carlowcoco.ie

General Description of Project/Budget:

Preparation of composting guidelines, users manual, provision of 100 home composting bins at a subsidised rate. Monitoring of 50 participants and reporting. Provision of support and information to all those interested in composting. Publicity campaign. Trials of community based composting and schools composting (budget limited).

Target Audience:

1. General Public – to increase awareness of waste problems
2. Likely audience for purchase of bins would be keen gardeners etc. who produce greater quantities of green and organic waste.
3. Schools and local community groups.

Waste Minimisation & Awareness

LOCAL AUTHORITY: CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Re-Usable Shopping Bags

Project Objectives:

Reduction in plastic going to landfill

Contact:

Katherine Walshe
Cork County Council
County Hall,
Cork.

Tel: (021) 285327
Fax: (021) 342098
E-mail: kwalshe@corkcoco.ie

General Description of Project/Budget:

20/20 Vision is a waste management strategy for the Cork region, developed jointly by Cork County Council and Cork Corporation and is based on the three 'Rs' – Reduce, Re-use and Recycle. Some 500 million plastic bags are used in Ireland every year and the 20/20 Vision campaign is seeking to promote re-usable shopping bags.

Target Audience:

Shops
Householder
Schools

Litter Awareness – Schools, Community & Tourism

LOCAL AUTHORITY: ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Schools Awareness Campaign
Litter Video

Project Objectives:

Promote anti-litter message among national school children

Contact:

Brian Duffy S.O.
Environment Section
Roscommon County Council
Courthouse,
Roscommon.

Tel: (0903) 37261
Fax: (0903) 37262

General Description of Project/Budget:

Roscommon County Council commissioned the production of a professional video to promote anti-litter awareness from a local perspective for use in schools. The video features children from schools in County Roscommon who won the Green Flag award. It will be distributed to all primary schools in the County.

Target Audience:

School Children.

LOCAL AUTHORITY: KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Green Towns Initiative

Project Objectives:

Partnership Project involving Kerry County Council and the Kenmare tidy Towns Committee to establish Kenmare as the first litter-free town in County Kerry

Contact:

Maria West
A/Senior Staff Officer
Environmental Services

Tel: (066) 7183411
Fax: (066) 7120927
E-mail: mwest@kerrycoco.ie

General Description of Project/Budget:

Management Committee representative of Tidy Towns Committee, Garda Siochana, Chamber of Commerce, Local Schools and Environment Committee and Kerry County Council established.

Project Area sub-divided and each member of the management committee delegated responsibility for a certain area.

Litter Survey Form circulated to all households, commercial premises etc.

Management Plan put in place on the basis of the Survey results.

Target Audience:

The People of Kenmare.

LOCAL AUTHORITY: CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Tackling Litter in Partnership with Local Communities
Individual Litter Management Plans for each town and village in County Carlow

Project Objectives:

- Local Communities to take ownership of litter problem in their areas
- Raise public awareness with a view to eliminating litter
- Prevention and control of litter
- Forge an alliance with more proactive local communities

Contact:

Bernard Duff
Community & Environment Department
Carlow County Council
County Offices
Athy Road,
Carlow.

Tel: (0503) 36207
Fax: (0503) 41503
Email: bduff@carlowcoco.ie

General Description of Project/Budget:

- 22 Tidy Town/Community Development Groups participated in a more meaningful approach in tackling the litter problem
- Plans are in the form of a contract between the community and the Local Authority.
- Consultation/public meetings were held and suggestions and recommendations voiced by the public were included in the plans.
- Plans suitably adapted to local needs and actions implemented by the local communities in partnership with the Council.
- Budget £20,000/€25,000.

Target Audience:

Community Development Groups/Tidy Towns
General Public
School Children

LOCAL AUTHORITY: DUBLIN CORPORATION

Name of Project:

“Name and Shame Campaign”

Project Objectives:

To increase public awareness of the consequences of non-compliance with the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, by highlighting convictions procured in the Courts.

Contact:

Kevin O’Sullivan

Tel: (01) 4114243

Fax: (01) 4544830

Email: kevin.osullivan@dublincorp.ie

General Description of Project/Budget:

Dublin Corporation places advertisements in the national press listing those convicted, in the District Court, under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997. The intention is to highlight the consequences of non-payment of on-the-spot fines and to show the level of penalty imposed by the courts.

Target Audience:

General Public

Litter Louts

LOCAL AUTHORITY: TIPPERARY NORTH RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL

Name of Project:

Litter and Tourism Project (Litter Management Plan – Innovative Actions)

Project Objectives:

Reduce litter and thereby enhance tourism by working with local communities in six pilot sites.

Promote a better understanding of the effect of litter on the environment through projects, and awareness - raising integrated plans for specific areas.

Contact:

Brian Clancy
The Courthouse
Nenagh,
Co. Tipperary.

Tel: (067) 31771

Fax: (067) 32260

Email: bclancy@northtippcoco.ie

General Description of Project/Budget:

This pilot project aims to create awareness of the negative impacts of litter on the community, in particular on tourism in County Tipperary. A steering group was set up comprising of the project partners (the two County Councils, LEADER Company, An Taisce and Tipperary Rural Business Development Institute (TRBDI)) who work with the pilot sites to address the objectives. (A baseline survey was carried out initially by An Taisce).

Target Audience:

County Tipperary as a whole thorough media coverage

6 pilot areas in particular throughout County Tipperary were targeted, (small, medium and large town in each Council area). Specific target groups in the pilot areas:-

- (1) Schools (CSPE – Whose waste is it anyway?), Primary – Drama on the theme of litter and tourism
- (2) Community Activity – through community groups, action days, festivals and sporting events.
- (3) Fast Food Outlets
- (4) Tourist sites – development, interpretation, clean up and visitors.

APPENDIX 1

CHAPTER OUTLINE OF AGENDA 21

Chapter 1: Preamble

Section 1: Social and Economic Dimensions

Chapter 2: International co-operation to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries and related domestic policies.

Chapter 3: Combating poverty

Chapter 4: Changing consumption patterns

Chapter 5: Demographic dynamics and sustainability

Chapter 6: Protecting and promoting human health

Chapter 7: Promoting sustainable human settlement development

Chapter 8: Integrating environment and development decision-making

Section 2: Conservation and Management of Resources for Development

Chapter 9: Protection of the atmosphere

Chapter 10: Integrated approach to the planning and management of land resource

Chapter 11: Combating deforestation

Chapter 12: Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought

Chapter 13: Managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development

Chapter 14: Promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development

Chapter 15: Conservation of biological diversity

Chapter 16: Environmentally sound management of biotechnology

Chapter 17: Protection of the oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources

Chapter 18: Protection of the quality and supply of fresh-water resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources

Chapter 19: Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products

Chapter 20: Environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, including prevention of illegal international traffic in hazardous wastes

Chapter 21: Environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues

Chapter 22: Safe and environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes

Section 3: Strengthening the Role of Major Groups

Chapter 23: Preamble

Chapter 24: Global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development

Chapter 25: Children and youth in sustainable development

Chapter 26: Recognising and strengthening the role of indigenous people and their communities

Chapter 27: Strengthening the role of non-government organisations: partners for sustainable development

Chapter 28: Local authorities' initiatives in support of Agenda 21

- Chapter 29: Strengthening the role of workers and their trade unions
- Chapter 30: Strengthening the role of business and industry
- Chapter 31: Scientific and technology community
- Chapter 32: Strengthening the role of farmers

Section 4: Means of Implementation

- Chapter 33: Financial resources and mechanisms
- Chapter 34: Transfer of environmentally sound technology, co-operation and capacity-building
- Chapter 35: Science for sustainable development
- Chapter 36: Promoting education, public awareness training
- Chapter 37: National mechanisms and international co-operation for capacity-building in developing countries
- Chapter 38: International institutional arrangements
- Chapter 39: International legal instruments and mechanisms
- Chapter 40: Information for decision-making

APPENDIX 2

Useful Contacts:

An Taisce,

The National Trust for Ireland,
Tailors Hall,
Back Lane,
Dublin 8.

Tel: (01) 4541786

Fax: (01) 4533255

E-mail: info@antaisce.org

Website: www.antaisce.org

Conservation Volunteers (Ireland),

The Green,
Griffith College Dublin,
South Circular Road,
Dublin 8.

Tel: (01) 4547185

Fax: (01) 4546935

E-mail: info@cvi.ie

Website: www.cvi.ie

Dúchas,

The Heritage Service,
Department of Arts, Heritage,
Gaeltacht & the Islands.
6 Ely Place,
Dublin 2.

Tel: (01) 6473000

Fax: (01) 6616764

E-mail : visits@indigo.ie

Website : www.heritageireland.ie

Institute of Public Administration

57-61 Landsdowne Rd,
Dublin 4.

Tel: 01-6686233

Fax: 01-689135

E-mail: info@ipa.ie

Website: www.ipa.ie

Department of the Environment and Local Government

Custom House,
Dublin 1.

Tel: 01-8882000

Lo-call: 1890-202021

Fax: 01 8882888

E-mail: kevin.greene@environ.irlgov.ie

Website: www.environ.ie

Comhar - The National Sustainable Development Partnership

17 St. Andrew Street,
Dublin 2.

Tel: 01-8883990

Lo-call: 1890-200327

Fax: 01-8883999

E-mail: comhar@environ.irlgov.ie

ENFO- The Environmental Information Service

17 St. Andrew Street,
Dublin 2.

Tel: 01-8882001

Lo-call: 1890-200191

Fax: 01-01-8883946

E-mail: info@enfo.ie

Website: www.enfo.ie

Government Information Service

Upper Merrion Street,
Dublin 2.

Tel: 01-6624422

Lo-Call: 1890-422622

Fax: 01-6789037

The Arts Council

70 Merrion Square,
Dublin 2.

Tel: 01-6180200

Lo-call: 1850-392492

Fax: 01-6761302

E-mail: info@artscouncil.ie

Website: www.artscouncil.ie

Combat Poverty Agency

Bridge Water Centre
Cunningham Road,
Islandbridge,
Dublin 8.

Tel: 01-6706746

Fax: 01-6706760

E-mail: info@cpa.ie

Website: www.cpa.ie

**National Economic and Social
Forum**

1st Floor,
Frederick House,
South Frederick Street,
Dublin 2.

Tel: 01-6369280

Fax: 01-6713526

E-mail: secretariat@nesf.ie

Energy Advisory Board

25 Clare Street,
Dublin 2.

Tel: 01-6041279

Fax: 01-6041274

Environmental Protection Agency

PO Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford.

Tel: 053-60600

Fax: 053-60699

Website: www.epa.ie

The Heritage Council

Kilkenny,
Co. Kilkenny.

Tel: 056-70777

Fax: 056-70788

E-mail: heritage@heritage.iol.ie

Irish Energy Centre

Glasnevin,
Dublin 9.

Tel: 01-8369080

Fax: 01-8372484

E-mail: info@irish-energy.ie

Website: www.irish-energy.ie

APPENDIX 3

References / Key Web-sites:

Janecki/Theesan (ed) Agenda 21. Responsibility for our Common Environment. Heimvolkshoch-schule Stephansstift 1997 (1st Handbook) 1998 (2nd Handbook)

Brundland Report: Our Common Future. United Nations Oxford 1987

Hewitt Nichola. European Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide- How to engage in long term environmental action planning towards sustainability, ICLEI 1995

Government of Ireland: Sustainable Development, A Strategy for Ireland, 1997

Government of Ireland: Local Authorities and Sustainable Development: Guidelines on Local Agenda 21, 1995

Government of Ireland: Better Local Government, A Programme for Change, 1996

Government of Ireland: Energy Conservation Programme for State Buildings 1995

Government of Ireland: The Green Government Guide: Promoting Environmental Management and Practice in Government, 1996

United Nations: Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), New York, 1996

United Nations: Agenda 21 Programme of Action for Sustainable Development, New York, 1993

United Nations: Economic Commission for Europe Guidelines on Sustainable Human Settlement Planning and Management, Geneva, 1996

European Environmental Agency: Towards Sustainable Development for Local Authorities: Approaches, Experiences and Sources. Copenhagen, 1997

Department of the Environment and Local Government: Tidy Towns Handbook, Dublin, 1999

International Council for Local Government Initiatives: Local Agenda 21 Model Communities Programme (Volumes 1-11), 1998

International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives: Local Agenda 21 Self-Assessment Module for Local Authorities, 1999

Department of Environment and Local Government. A Shared Vision for County/City Development Boards: Guidelines on the CDB strategies for Economic, Social and Cultural Development, Dublin, May 2000

Department of Environment and Local Government: Modernising Government. The Challenge for Local Government, Dublin May 2000

The Waste Working Group. Earthwatch & Voice: Sustainable Waste-Resource

www.cdb.ie - web page for County/City Development Boards which provides access to all local authorities, government departments and others.

www.enfo.ie – the Environmental Information Service, full text of all leaflets, library database, NGO contacts and online order form for free booklets, leaflets, video lending and travelling exhibitions service

www.iclei.org - homepage of the International Council for local environmental initiatives

www.europa.eu.int - homepage of the European Union

www.unep.ch - homepage of the United Nations Environment Programme

www.compass.ie/gap/ - homepage of the Global Action Programme dealing with Community based Local Agenda 21 programmes in Ireland.

APPENDIX 4

SUSTAINABILITY CHECKLIST

The checklist has been developed by Environ and Leicester City Council as part of a European Commission LIFE funded project called Action Towards Local Sustainability. The other partners in the project are De Montfort University, Derby City Council, Dublin Corporation, City of Espoo & Nottingham City Council.

Sectoral Issues	Impact Assessment		
	POSITIVE	NEUTRAL	NEGATIVE
1. Economy and Work			
<p>Does the proposal meet economic and employment needs of people and businesses by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reducing poverty and low pay? b) Increasing employment opportunities for local people? c) Linking local production with local consumption? d) Helping local and community based business to set up and grow? e) Improving the environment impact of local business? 			
2. Buildings, Planning and Land Use			
<p>Does the proposal make the best use of land and buildings by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Using brown field sites or vacant buildings rather than building on greenfield sites? b) Enhancing the built environment and preserving local heritage? c) Minimising resource use and ensuring buildings are designed for a long life span? d) Ensuring developments maximise security (lighting, natural surveillance, etc.)? e) Improving the vitality of the City Centre? 			
3. Housing			
<p>Does the proposal provide everybody with decent housing and local amenities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensuring housing developments are within easy walking distance of schools, shops, community and leisure facilities, surgeries, chemists and public transport? b) Helping to tackle homelessness and/or responding to other priority housing needs? c) Improving the quality and/or upkeep of the current housing stock? 			
4. Transport			
<p>Does the proposal meet people's transport needs and protect the environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Improving conditions and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists? b) Encouraging the use of public transport? c) Discouraging the use of cars and lorries? d) Improving access to facilities for those without a car? 			

Sectoral Issues	Impact Assessment		
	POSITIVE	NEUTRAL	NEGATIVE
5. Waste, Resources and Energy			
<p>Does the proposal ensure energy and resources are used by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reducing energy use through efficiency and design measures? b) Taking measures to recycle or reuse waste or avoiding unnecessary resource use? c) Using renewable sources of energy or combined heat and power (CHP)? d) Taking measures to reduce litter and dog fouling? 			
6. Pollution			
<p>Does the proposal lead to a cleaner environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Protecting water quality? b) Reducing air pollution? c) Reducing noise? 			
7. Wildlife and Open Spaces			
<p>Does the proposal meet the needs and aspirations of local people by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Creating quality green spaces which are accessible to all sections of the community? b) Protecting and enhancing trees and woodland or other wildlife habitats? c) Encouraging gardening and local production of food? 			
8. Social Needs			
<p>Does the proposal meet the needs and aspirations of local people by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Helping to reduce the fear of crime? b) Helping to reduce the occurrence of crime? c) Improving access to and the quality of health facilities? d) Reducing factors that contribute to ill health (poverty, diet, lifestyle, pollution)? e) Improving access education and training opportunities for all? f) Improving educational standards and facilities in schools, colleges and universities? g) Improving facilities and choice in the provision of social care for all? h) Improving facilities and opportunities for disabled people? i) Improving facilities, access and opportunities for children and young people? 			
9. Arts, Culture and Leisure			
<p>Does the proposal provide cultural and leisure opportunities for all by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Providing accessible sporting and leisure facilities and opportunities? b) Increasing enjoyment of and participation in arts, local culture and heritage? c) Promoting racial harmony and building on local cultural diversity? 			

Sectoral Issues	Impact Assessment		
	POSITIVE	NEUTRAL	NEGATIVE
10. Participation and Democracy			
<p>Does the proposal improve public awareness and participation by:</p> <p>a) Seeking (or having sought) local community participation in its development stages?</p> <p>b) Improving opportunities for participation in local action and decision making?</p> <p>c) Encouraging responsible behaviour by local people or improving awareness of issues, rights and opportunities?</p>			

Appraisal of most proposals against the checklist should be relatively quick. The appraiser should:

1. Consider **potential impacts and lost opportunities**, not just the direct impact of what is proposed. So for example, a plan to renovate a building that totally ignored access for disabled people should be scored as negative, even if it doesn't make access worse than before.
2. Judge a proposal over its **whole lifespan** and remember that some impacts (e.g. pollution) can be **global as well as local**.
3. Make **relative not absolute judgements** – so an energy efficient new building would score positively, even if it consumes more energy than if no building had been built.
4. Be aware that **small positive changes could be outweighed by large negative ones** (e.g. the traffic generated by a new car park may outweigh the benefits of a new bus stop next to it). Unless a weighting system is used in conjunction with the checklist, it does not allow for an overall sustainability 'score' to be produced.
5. **Note potential improvements** to the proposal being assessed on the back page of the checklist.