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**Food & Biodiversity**

***Introduction***

Transition Kerry works to create a sustainable and resilient community and at the core of this is a strong food and biodiversity policy and good planning for our future food sovereignty.

Transition Kerry’s Food Security Group believes that the primary energy of any community is its food, and that our independence and strength as individuals and a community depends profoundly on our ability to feed ourselves, with not just calories, but good quality food that is grown or produced from within or around our own communities. We need to be able to provide the basics of a healthy diet from within Kerry, while at the same time protecting and enhancing our local biodiversity, which will ensure healthy food production and ecosystems for generations to come.

Transition Kerry’s Food Security Group will play a proactive role in the development and establishment of a food and biodiversity security/sovereignty policy for Kerry. One that not only acknowledges the threats to a secure and quality food supply, but that also builds a resilient and sustainable food supply for the generations to come.

***Aim***

* A Kerry that is Self-Reliant in Sustainable Food Production

***Objectives***

* Develop a Food & Biodiversity Road Map for Kerry by 2020
* Plant Community Fruit and Nut Orchards in 50 Communities
* A Structure, Plan and Worker for the development and increase of Community Allotments and Gardens and Community Biodiversity Training
* Develop a *Farm for the Future* Education and Information Programme (Transition Farming)
* Promote the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan and other relevant national policies
* Promote and Identify areas for Food Growth in Public Spaces
* Map and Plan for Food and Biodiversity in 30 Communities

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**Energy**

***Introduction***

Transition Kerry seeks to enable local communities in Kerry to become more resilient and self-reliant. We aim to do this by developing and supporting strategies and practical initiatives that replace dependence on fossil fuels with renewable, sustainable and affordable alternatives.

We are committed to community ownership and community participation in their own energy security. By creating networks and providing outreach, we are working towards a co-operative business model for renewable energy project development and promoting local ownership, using democratic and transparent business principles.

As a result of the previous work of Transition Kerry, the **Kerry Sustainable Energy Co-operative** is now in existence as an independent entity, working in pursuit of Transition Principles of energy security. The aims of the Co-operative are:

* To substitute our reliance on imported and non-renewable energy with locally sourced and owned energy
* To educate ourselves and the wider community on how to reduce energy wastage as we seek to fulfill the vision of a 100% renewable energy Kerry by 2030.
* To promote and help implement **Transition Kerry’s Sustainable Energy Community Road Map – An Action Plan for County Kerry’s transition to 100% Renewable Energy by 2030**

The Transition Kerry Steering Group will now work primarily to support the work of the Co-operative, while undertaking some initiatives which continue to develop awareness and an appetite for change within communities.

***Aim***

* Sustainable energy production and use in Kerry which is locally produced and owned.

***Objectives***

* Continue to support the development and delivery of the Energy Roadmap
* Embed sustainable energy in policy, such as the County Development Plan
* Support the Energy Co-op and develop the relationship
* Support Education initiatives, such as workshops on new technologies in sustainable energy
* Organise an annual gathering or event on sustainable energy
* Develop an Evaluation Process which can be used as a proofing tool
* Assist in the development of structures which can create 5 community heating systems **www.transitionkerry.org**

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**Education and Awareness Raising**

The need for Education and Awareness Raising is key to how we view the world we live in, how we use its resources and how we bring about change. Transition Kerry has recognised that there is a need for a mixture of education options for the public, from basic awareness raising to more advanced workshops.

There is also a need to revise the current training programme to be more flexible, as 4 sessions have not been enough for groups in early stages of development, while the 4th session has not been appropriate for more disparate groups who have come together from different communities solely to participate in the course.

It was also recognised that there is a need for a broad range of educational and awareness raising which provided a mixture of theory and practice, and that strategic partnerships would be key to developing course, campaigns etc.

***Aim***

* Stimulating and Creating Awareness to inspire people to think global and act local in line with Transition Principles and to incorporate the concept of lifelong learning and education.

***Objectives***

* Collaboration in developing programmes with agencies, groups and institutions such as IT Tralee, Kerry ETB, SHEP
* Review and Revise the Transition Kerry Educational Programme in its content and methodology
* Devise a more advanced course from the PowerDown course
* Deliver a Training for Trainers/Group Facilitators Programme which includes a Practice module
* Have 3-4 Awareness Raising Talks/Films per year
* Stage Transition Villages as Awareness Raising Events at 2 key events annually
* Develop a Local Climate Action Plan with Kerry County Council
* Monthly Newsletter providing Information and Events by email to members
* Quarterly newsletter to local papers and advertisers
* Update Website with Resources
* Create a skills network database on our website and promote it through our work

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**Water**

***Introduction***

Transition Kerry recognises the importance of policies, strategies and activities to manage fresh water as a sustainable resource, to protect the water environment, and to meet current and future needs. Factors such as climate change have dramatically increased pressures on natural water resources.

There is a need to ensure the availability of water for future generations where the withdrawal of fresh water from an ecosystem does not exceed its natural replacement rate. In addition, water has a significant impact on energy conservation as water pumping, delivery and waste water treatment facilities consume a significant amount of energy.

In addition, it is essential to ensure habitat conservation, where minimising human water use helps to preserve freshwater habitats for local wildlife and migrating waterfowl and ensure good water quality.

***Aim***

* Protection and Conservation of Water and Prevention of Waste of Water

***Objectives***

* Promote Water Harvesting at all levels
* Link with other organisations and agencies, such as River Trusts, Kerry County Council, Local Authority Community Water Offiecers, etc.
* Raise Awareness of Water Management and Quality
* Raise Awareness of Water Waste, including monitoring usage
* Investigate the possibilities to introduce Appropriate Ecological Sanitation technology into tourist sites around Kerry (Wild Atlantic Way Route)

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**Waste**

**Introduction**

Disposing of waste has huge environmental impacts and can cause serious problems. In Ireland much of our waste is buried in landfill. Some waste will eventually rot but not all, and in the process it may smell or generate methane gas, which contributes to the greenhouse effect.

Incinerating waste also causes problems, because plastics produce toxic substances, such as dioxins, when they are burnt. Gases from incineration cause air pollution, while the ash from incinerators may contain heavy metals and other toxins. Because of these problems there are active campaigns against waste incineration.

However, recycling waste can generate energy and there are examples of biomass and energy from waste recycling projects. Throwing away things wastes resources. It wastes the raw materials and energy used in making the items. Reducing waste means less environmental impact, less resources and energy used. Transition Kerry recognises that Waste impacts all other areas, and our emphasis will have a mostly educational focus with some small projects delivered.

**Aim**

* Reducing the amount of waste arising and challenging current consumerism

**Objectives**

* Team up with current initiatives in this area and raise awareness about and promote them through TK platform (eg. WEEE collections)
* Work with local festivals, communtiy initiatives, businesess to use compostable and reyclable catering products (made in Ireland) for their events
* Provide education and awareness raising on the following waste
  + Food
  + Household hazardous waste and alternative cleaning agents
  + Electrical
  + Coffee Cups
  + Clothes
  + Packaging
  + Bio-mass digestion/composting
  + Recycling/upcycling and consumerism
* Establish projects in the following areas
  + Recycling information guide
  + Repair café (find out about insurance issues)
  + Reuse of waste paint
  + Reusable cups
  + Repair directory
  + Charity shop window dressing
  + Recycling unwanted Christmas gifts
  + Swap/free pick up yard for recyclables
  + Link to other projects such as Revamp

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**Transport**

**Introduction**

The environmental impact of Transport is significant because it is a major user of energy and burns most of the world's petroleum. This creates air pollution, including nitrous oxides and is a significant contributor to global warming through emission of carbon dioxide,

Transition Kerry is aware that Transport had an impact on all the other themes in its Strategic Plan and that it cuts into everything else. In the past, the focus for Transition Kerry had been mostly on cycling as an environmentally friendly mode of transport. We have recognised that in order for a more comprehensive approach to be adopted, there needs to be a dedicated working group to work on the area of Transport.

There is therefore a need to animate a group around the broad issue of Transport. In the meantime there would be a need to continue to raise awareness and keep the issue of Transport on the agenda while waiting on a group to emerge.

**Aim**

* Raise awareness of the cost, environmental and social impacts of all current transport systems.

**Objectives**

* Actively seek to establish a Transition Kerry Transport Group
* Include transport in all other themed activities and projects
* Conduct a Research / Analysis project on the percentage of Transport costs, and then highlight the results
* Lobby on the issue of Transport and ensure input into local authority plans etc.
* Actively promote existing initiatives

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**Local Economy**

**Introduction**

Strong local economies are more resilient to external factors, build local ownership and pride, create more jobs, retain local resources and have a higher rate of community wellbeing and satisfaction.

Transition Kerry will adopt the **REconomy model, which** is a model for creating local, low-carbon economies that foster and support community resilience in the face of economic instability, resource scarcity, and climate change.

REconomy equips local economic stakeholders to design, map, and implement a new economic vision, identifying opportunities to cultivate local, low carbon businesses and supply chains to meet community needs, reducing the community’s carbon footprint and keeping wealth in the community.

The focus for Transition Kerry will be on an economy of livelihood and community, and encouraging people to make better economic choices.

**Aim**

* A community based, resilient and sustainable economy, with increased local production and process.

**Objectives**

* Add a Local Economy Section to the Education Programme for Education and Awareness Raising on the Global Economy versus the Local Economy
* Lobby at a local level for sustainable economic models
* Upskilling and awareness raising in REconomy for a targeted audience, including Transition Kerry Committee, affiliates and wider community

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**Personal and Community Transition**

**Introduction**

Transition Kerry believes that societal change must begin at the individual and community level. In order for a society to change its attitudes and behaviours in relation to the world we live in, it is first necessary for individuals and communities to make a conscious choice to change.

**Aim**

* A community of people empowered with structures that support ethical choices and encourage personal responsibility and that there is interconnected-ness between people, communities and the environment.

**Objectives**

* Workshops that give people tasters and experiences that examine motivation and the impact of actions, and which can be a trigger for personal and community change.
* Encourage people to slow down, reflect and make connections by creating space for it.
* Ensure that there is celebration and affirmation in Transition Kerry events.
* Work towards having a Transition Column in the local newspaper.
* Develop leaflets and brochures that encourage personal and community transition.
* Include Personal and Community Transition in the Transition Proofing Tool.
* Stage Personal and Community Transition events to look at values and lifestyle, so as to have the conversation, analyse the present and look at alternatives.

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