

DISCUSSION GROUPS SUMMARY



EVENT CONTEXT

The Partnering for Engaged Research: Environment and Climate Action event on 29 March was the first in The Wheel's event series aiming to bring researchers and civil society organisations together to discuss shared interests with a view to future project partnerships. Delivered in collaboration with University College Cork's Civic and Community Engagement department, participants had the opportunity to network and learn about how to access funding together for engaged research projects. Participants also engaged in group discussions around the following themes:

- Circular Economy and Quality of Life
- Clean Energy Transition
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- Nature and Biodiversity

Each group discussed the same topics and their thoughts and recommendations are summarised below.

WHAT ARE THE COMMUNITY NEEDS IN THIS SPACE THAT COULD BENEFIT FROM RESEARCH?

- Access to nature
- Inclusivity and safety
- Wild nature
- Access to water

- Rebalancing nature
- Communication about biodiversity
- Making use of small spaces
- Housing estates
- Assessing people's relationship with nature
- People's values
- Water conservation
- Solar panels and how to use them
- Kettles vs lights
- Energy usage awareness and education
- Emotional awareness
- Social systems and cultural shifts
- Recycling and reuse
- Furniture recycling – becoming vintage
- Circular economy
- Food waste and the food cloud
- Slow food, slow science
- Climate action and effect on mental and physical health
- Mental health and biodiversity

ARE THERE SOME GOOD EXAMPLES OF ALREADY EXISTING COLLABORATIONS?

- [Freedom of city](#)
- [MiniStor](#)
- [ACCEPT](#)
- [FREE HYDROCELLS](#)
- [Imagining2050](#)
- [Dingle Peninsula 2030](#)
- [TASC – The People's Transition](#)
- [Connswater Community Greenway](#)
- [Global Brain Health Institute](#)
- [Climate KIC](#)

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN TO FACILITATE MORE OF THESE PROJECTS?

- **Funding**
 - Long-term
 - Siloed
 - Awareness and knowledge of funding options

- **Stakeholder Interaction and Engagement**

- Community capacity
- Incentivise mass participation
- Facilitated co-creation process
- Cannot be tokenistic
- Needs should be relevant to real life
- Engaged from the very beginning
- Voluntary in nature
- Place-based
- Linkages with decision makers and policymakers
- Stakeholder analysis
- A voice (power)
- Shared endeavour
- Protecting work-life balance
- Organisation and planning
- Time management – block time
- Maintain institutional knowledge: both within communities and the companies/ governmental organisations that work with them
- Active industrial engagement
- Use nature

- **Communication and Awareness Raising**

- Information/media
- Knowledge access, exchange, and dissemination
- Grey literature
- Demystify concepts
- Bidirectional engagement
- Networking

- **Training and Skills Development**

- Developing skillsets
- Effectively dealing with conflicting priorities
- Learning how to overcome fear/manage change
- Capacity building
- Key aspects to being a leader
- Devising creative solutions
- How to communicate with different communities/communicate inclusively
- Informed facilitation
- Impact toolkit
- Creating sustainable structures

ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN PARTICIPANTS IN THIS GROUP?

- UCC bringing together civil society groups and researchers
- Creation of a shared knowledge forum or portal
- Use the Public Participation Networks