

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

EU Just Transition Fund

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AUGUST 2024



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach

Co-funded by the
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Tionól Réigiúnach an
Oirthir agus Lár Tíre
Eastern and Midland
Regional Assembly





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Introduction

Climate change and environmental degradation are among the gravest threats to our collective existence. The centrepiece of the European Union's project to make the continent climate neutral, the European Green Deal strives to cut carbon emissions, decouple the economy from fossil fuels, and improve the wellbeing, health and opportunities of current citizens and future generations. A specific fund called the EU Just Transition Fund (JTF) was created to alleviate the socio-economic impacts of this new economic environment and to ensure no-one is left behind.

The EU JTF is a funding programme running from 2021 to 2027. This programme was created to support regions throughout Europe that are experiencing negative impacts from the transition away from fossil fuel-intensive industries.

The funding programme in Ireland is supporting the areas in the wider Midlands where communities have been negatively affected by the closure of peat production and peat-fired energy generation facilities.

Co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union, up to €169 million will be available over the duration of the fund. The investment is targeted to support the diversification of local economies and the creation of new opportunities that complement the assets of the Territory. The fund will also restore degraded peatlands and regenerate industrial heritage assets, as well as invest in smart and sustainable local mobility so that local communities are able to benefit from the economic opportunities and amenities.

The EU JTF is just one element of a larger package of programmes called the Just Transition Mechanism which also includes supports for private and public sector entities through a series of grants and loan programmes. These work together to achieve a green transition for us all.

August 2024



What is the EU JTF?

EU Just Transition Fund (EUJTF) is a new fund created under the 2021–2027 EU programming round to help communities across Europe meet the challenges posed by the transition to a zero-carbon economy. It aims to support regions and communities most negatively affected by the transition to climate neutrality by addressing employment, economic, social and environmental issues to ensure the transition is fair and just, and nobody is left behind.

The fund is being made available across the EU up to 2027 and is targeting specific communities and regions that have suffered direct impacts from the transition. In Ireland, where the National Climate Action Plan aims to achieve a climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral economy by 2050, the EU JTF is focused on the wider Midlands region which has been impacted by the move away from peat production and electricity generation from peat.



A Mechanism and a Plan

I have heard about a Just Transition Mechanism and a Territorial Just Transition Plan. What are these and how does it relate to the EU JTF?

Just Transition Mechanism

The EU Just Transition Fund is one of three pillars of the Just Transition Mechanism under the European Green Deal. Investments under the Just Transition Fund may be complemented by a combination of grants and loans to private sector entities from the EU's **InvestEU** instrument (Pillar 2) or through a specific **Public Sector Loan Facility** managed by the European Investment Bank (Pillar 3). Investments in larger projects may be better suited to seeking support from Pillars 2 and 3.

Read more about the **Just Transition Mechanism** on the European Commission website.

Territorial Just Transition Plan

This Territorial JT Plan is a document that provides an overarching strategy and parameters within which the EU JTF programme will operate in Ireland. The Territorial Just Transition Plan also sets out sectors and thematic areas envisaged to be supported under the three pillars of the Just Transition Mechanism described above.

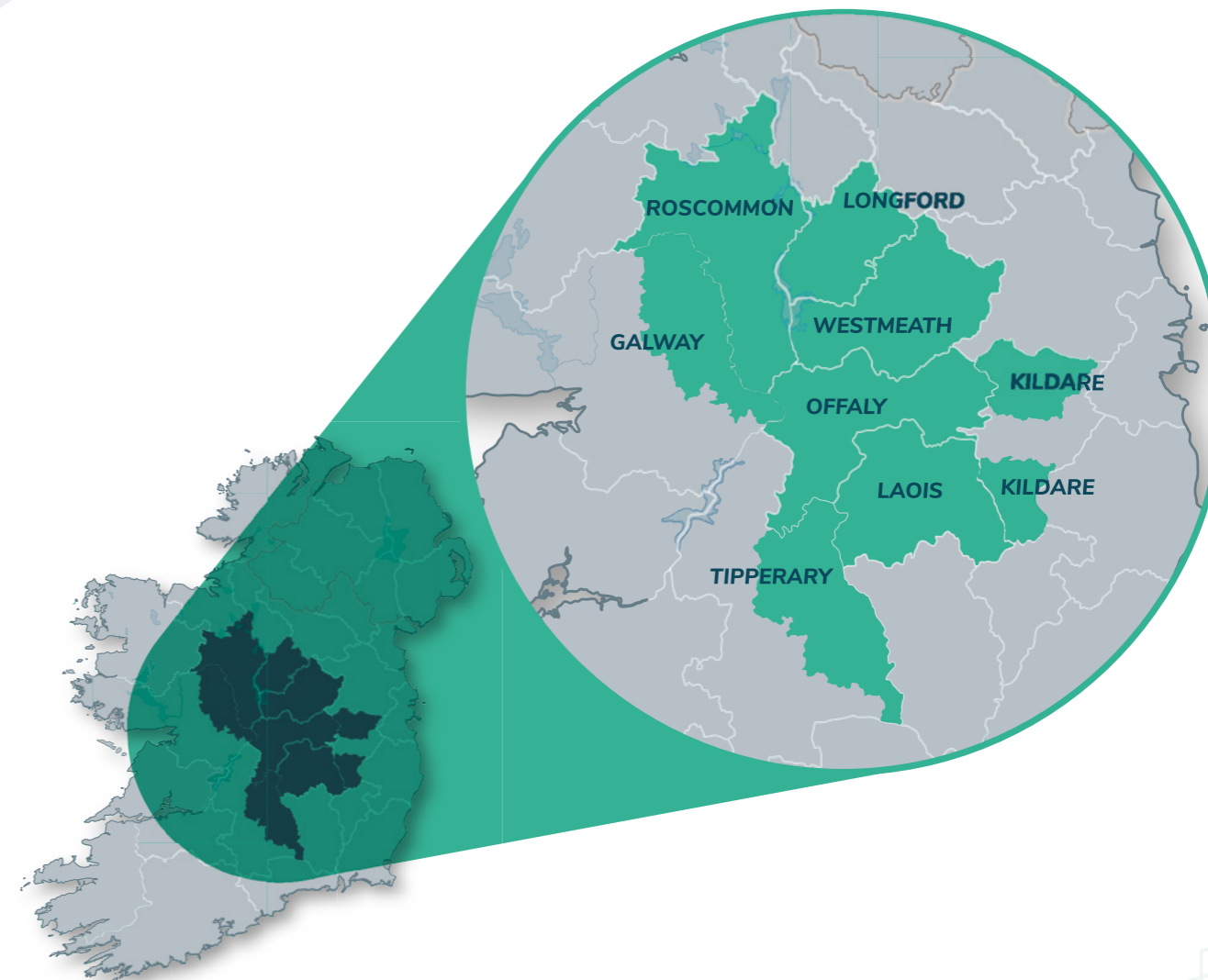


EU JTF focus - counties covered in EU JTF

In Ireland the fund is targeting counties and municipal districts in the wider Midlands because evidence-based assessments revealed that the closure of peat-reliant power stations had a significant negative affect on the region.

The full counties of Laois, Westmeath, Offaly, Longford and Roscommon and the municipal districts of Ballinasloe in Galway, Carrick-on-Suir and Thurles in Tipperary, and Athy and Clane in Kildare are covered by the fund.

County	Municipal districts covered
Laois	All
Westmeath	All
Offaly	All
Longford	All
Roscommon	All
Galway	Ballinasloe
Tipperary	Carrick-on-Suir Thurles
Kildare	Athy Clane - Maynooth



This map shows the territory where the EU JTF supports activities.



What does the EU JTF support?




The EU JTF focuses on three priority areas of investment.

PRIORITY 1 – Generating employment for former peat communities by investing in the diversification of the local economy – €87m

What?	Delivery partners	Expected results
Support the economic diversification of the local economy through the development of the regenerative Tourism sector		→ 453 Enterprises supported
Support the implementation of local and regional economic strategies		→ 5 Local Economic and Community Plans/ Regional Enterprise Plans implemented
Support research, development and innovation in the bioeconomy sector		→ 16 Enterprises cooperating with Research Performing Organisations







This priority focuses on supporting the modernisation and diversification of the local economy to create new employment opportunities.

PRIORITY 2 – Supporting the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded peatlands and regeneration and repurposing of industrial heritage assets – €57m

What?	Delivery partners	Expected results
Support the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded peatlands	 An tSeirbhís Páircanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra National Parks and Wildlife Service	→ 12,530 Ha of land Rehabilitated/Restored
Research, knowledge transfer and monitoring activities on rewetting measures for farmed peat soils	 An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	
Regeneration and repurposing of industrial heritage assets		

By supporting the restoration of degraded peatlands and the repurposing of industrial heritage assets, this priority supports the transition towards climate-neutrality and addresses the biodiversity crisis while facilitating the diversification of the economy of the Territory.

PRIORITY 3 – Providing former peat communities with smart and sustainable mobility options to enable them to benefit directly from the green transition – €18m

What?	Delivery partners	Expected results
Decarbonisation of public local bus route(s)	 An Roinn Iompair Department of Transport  NTA Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair National Transport Authority	→ 27.5 Tonnes CO ₂ eq./year gone → 12 Enterprises supported
Support decarbonisation of fleet for private bus operators	 An Roinn Iompair Department of Transport  NTA Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair National Transport Authority	→ 62 Recharging Points
Installation of publicly available charge point infrastructure at community centre sites	 An Roinn Iompair Department of Transport  zevi Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland	

This priority provides the communities affected by the transition away from peat with smart and sustainable connections by supporting actions aimed at enhancing sustainable and clean mobility in the Territory.

Who is getting support?

Who administers the fund?

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) is responsible for the implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of the fund with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) looking after governance and oversight. EMRA is working closely with DECC and delivery partners to manage and execute activities under the fund.

Who is receiving funding?

Up to 2027, a range of initiatives are being supported. Beneficiaries of the fund include but is not limited to:

- Micro-enterprises
- SMEs
- Research institutions
- Local authorities
- Community organisations
- Semi State companies

For an updated list of beneficiaries of funding see our website www.emra.ie/eu-jtf/beneficiaries

How do I get updates?

The best way to stay informed on new funding opportunities and project updates is to follow us on social media or visit our website www.emra.ie.



Next steps

Contacts

EMRA will be able to help with any queries you may have.

Email us your questions at: **eujtf@emra.ie**

Phone number (EMRA office): **+353 (0) 1 8074482**

Follow us on X/Twitter: **[@EUJTF_ie](https://twitter.com/EUJTF_ie)**


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Other resources

This booklet is a summary of the full programme which is available here: **www.emra.ie/eu-jtf/**





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