



Comhar Sustainable Development Media Fund

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Outline of Presentation

- Policy context and timeline for SD
- What is Comhar SDC
- Thematic areas
- Further info



Timeline for Sustainable Development in Ireland

- Agenda 21 - UNCED Rio de Janeiro 1992
- EPA established 1993
- ***Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland, 1997***
- Amsterdam treaty, 1997 - SD, a core task for EU
- Conclusions Gothenburg EC 2001 - EU SDS
- ***Comhar established 1999***
- ***DOELG Guidelines on LA 21, 2001***
- ***Making Ireland's Development Sustainable 2002***
- WSSD - Johannesburg 2002
- UN Decade for ESD begins 2005
- Revised EU SDS in 2006
- **Revision of Ireland's SDS in 2008**



What is Sustainable Development?

- Brundtland definition:

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”



Key elements in SD

- ◆ Environmental protection & natural resources
- ◆ Social & economic development
- ◆ Consumption & production
- ◆ Citizenship, democracy & human rights
- ◆ Poverty alleviation, health
- ◆ Gender equity & cultural diversity



Principles for Sustainable Development

- 12 principles built around 7 themes
 - ◆ Satisfaction of human needs by the efficient use of resources
 - ◆ Equity between generations
 - ◆ Respect for ecological integrity and biodiversity
 - ◆ Equity between countries and regions
 - ◆ Social equity
 - ◆ Respect for cultural heritage/ diversity
 - ◆ Good decision making



Comhar SDC: Who we are



- Established by government in 1999 building on experience of social partnership
- Mandate from Minister for Environment
- Independent chairman and 25 members representing stakeholders from 5 pillars:
 - ◆ Environmental
 - ◆ Community
 - ◆ Economic
 - ◆ Professional/ academic
 - ◆ State.
- Working Groups on key thematic issues:
 - ◆ Biodiversity
 - ◆ Climate Change
 - ◆ Transport
 - ◆ Education & Awareness
- Evidence based policy analysis informs Council recommendations
- Outreach: Publications, workshops and events, website, Chairman's commentary

Thematic areas for Media Awards

- Climate Change and Clean Energy
- Building Sustainable Communities
- Building the Green Economy
- Biodiversity and Natural Resources

Climate Change and Clean Energy

- ◆ Addressing how Ireland could meet its target under the Kyoto Protocol and contribute to the overall EU target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to at least 20 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020.
- ◆ Raising awareness of climate change and helping to mobilise different societal actors to address the problem and highlight their role in addressing it.
- ◆ Identifying the key areas where Ireland can provide credible leadership in regard to addressing climate change and low carbon energy.
- ◆ Examining policies and actions which help Ireland adapt to climate change.

Building Sustainable Communities

- ◆ Best practice and innovative actions in local communities aimed at achieving sustainable development.
- ◆ Examining the role of local community groups in promoting sustainable living, civic responsibility and well-being.
- ◆ Governance and structures: the role of local and regional authorities in promoting sustainable communities.

Building the Green Economy

- Examining policies and actions which address the economic recession and environmental problems simultaneously, thus leading to improvements in the overall wellbeing of the population.

Biodiversity and Natural Resources

- ◆ Examining policy and actions to strengthen the protection of native species of plants and animals.
- ◆ Examining the drivers of biodiversity loss – such as habitat destruction, invasive species and climate change – and highlighting the programmes and practical actions which can be taken by government, communities and individuals to combat biodiversity loss.
- ◆ Examining policy and actions to enhance the protection of landscapes, including coastal zones.

What type of projects

- Print, broadcast, photographic and new media projects are acceptable
- Collaboration of crossover between, or the integration of, a number of different media outlets
- Innovation in approach
- Value for money

Carbon counting

- Applicants invited to measure carbon emissions
- Comhar SDC can offer advice
- Carbon calculators
 - ◆ <http://www.change.ie/calculator/>
 - ◆ http://www.repak.ie/Carbon_Footprint_Caluclator.html
 - ◆ <http://www.bestfootforward.com>

Further information

- www.comharsdc.ie
- www.environ.ie
- www.enfo.ie
- <http://ec.europa.eu/sustainable/>

