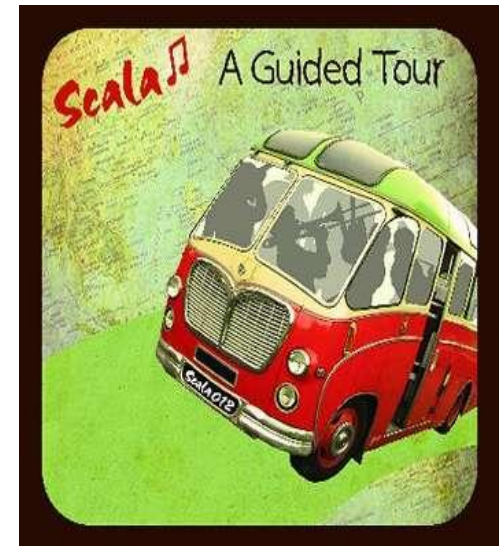


Towards Climate Justice (CWC 2012)

'A Guided Tour'



'Towards Climate Justice'

*Presentation given at the launch of
a strategy guide for the
community sector on climate
change*

June 26th 2012

Dublin



Section One – *Introduction and Methodology*

- Introduction – overall context
- **Methodology**
- 1. Desk Research
 - Environmental sociology/politics/social policy/ethics
 - SD literature – National, European/International policy; Academic commentaries
 - Social Pillar of SD (Limited)
 - Community Sector and CC (Limited)

Section One – *Introduction and Methodology*

- 2. Participative Workshops
 - Organisation of three workshops around Ireland – Dublin, Cork and Galway
 - Eliciting views of stakeholders
 - Identifying key themes

Section Two – *Scenarios and Workshop Discussions*

- Participants given **4 future scenarios** regarding how Ireland in 2050 as a result of 4 different sets of socio-economic and environmental conditions



- **Key themes emerged** from these discussions

Section Two – *Scenarios and Workshop Discussions*

- **Contradictions and decision making**
 - Business as usual approach (*ecological modernisation*) at odds with environmental realities
- **Awareness and Community Sector Involvement**
 - Message needs to be de-mystified to allow the community sector to transmit the message
 - Community sector needs to ‘upskill’

Section Two – *Scenarios and Workshop Discussions*

- **Impact on the Disadvantaged**
 - Poorest people have contributed least but will suffer the most
- **Policy and Participation**
 - If marginalised groups do not have a strong voice at decision making for their concerns will be ignored

Section Two – *Scenarios and Workshop Discussions*

- **Other issues**
 - Extra challenges faced by rural communities
 - Calls for establishment of collectives and community ownership of assets

Section Three – *Climate Change and The Community Sector*

- **Impacts and consequences**
 - Heat-waves
 - Flooding
 - Extreme weather events
 - Diseases
 - Insurance costs
 - Food supply
 - Energy prices (Peak Oil)

Section Three – *Climate Change and The Community Sector*

- **Three Reasons** Why the Community Sector should engage with Climate Change
 - 1) Those represented by the Community Sector are most vulnerable to the effects of CC:**
 - a) those in poverty are more likely to live in high-risk areas such as flood plains

Section Three – *Climate Change and The Community Sector*

- b) Those living in poverty have **less resources to protect themselves** when extreme weather events occur –
E.g. Hurricane Katrina (New Orleans)

- c) Those in poverty are the least well equipped to absorb regressive ***eco-taxes*** such as carbon taxes and water taxes

- d) ***Increased fuel prices*** will particularly affect ***the rural poor*** who are car dependant

Section Three – *Climate Change and The Community Sector*

- e) Public funds may be directed away from welfare programmes towards adaption programmes – again affecting the poor the most

- f) Rising energy prices means **increased fuel poverty**

- g) Rising energy prices means **increased food poverty**

Section Three – *Climate Change and The Community Sector*

- h) Older people and those with pre-existing health conditions are most susceptible to effects of heat-waves
 - Aprox 40, 000 people died across Europe in the heat-waves of 2003

Section Three – *Climate Change and The Community Sector*

- 2.) Community Sector is well placed to communicate with local communities on the ground**
- Transmitting the message to the community
 - Understanding how policy affects people on the ground

Section Three – *Climate Change and The Community Sector*

3). Benefits in creating common strategic ground Green Movement and the Community Sector

- Both critical of current socio-economic model which leads to stark inequalities and CC.
- Both increasingly question the assumed link between wellbeing and income
- Evidence suggests that commitment to welfare can dovetail with commitment to tackling CC

Section Four – *International and National SD Policy Context*

- **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**
- **Kyoto Protocol**
- **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**
- **EU White Paper on Adaptation**
- **Local Agenda 21**

Section Four – *International and National SD Policy Context*

- **The National Sustainable Development Strategy**
- **The Aarhus Convention**
- **National Climate Change Strategy (2007-2012)**

Highlighting the gap between the environmental and social

Section 5 – *Strategies and Recommendations*

- **Recommendations** (6) aimed at the Community Sector as a whole
- **Strategies** (7) aimed at individual Community Groups

Recommendations for the Community Sector:

- 1. To carry out a study of climate change related social vulnerability in Ireland.*

Recommendations

- 2. Ensure that vulnerability is a key concern in policy development*
- 3. Supporting the community sector to develop awareness and responses to climate change*
- 4. Developing and using suitable scenarios.*
- 5. Put climate justice on the agenda.*

Strategies for Community Groups

- 1. Begin the process of education and awareness raising of climate change, sustainable development and climate justice within communities***
 - Explore resources that can be used to begin the process of community education in relation to climate change and sustainable development
 - Film nights
 - Putting on related plays
 - Presentations in local schools
 - Invited speakers
 - Facilitate a discussion and create linkages with group(s) in your community

Strategies for Community Groups

2. Begin to develop strategies to respond to extreme events (e.g, flooding, storms)

- Assess + document the impact of recent weather/CC events on the community
- Develop immediate prevention and response strategies, as well as medium-term and long-term strategies for increasing self-sufficiency and resilience
- Develop alliances with other local groups and organisations to this end

Strategies for Community Groups

3. Position the community sector to take a proactive role in empowering communities to actively shape the State's response to climate change based on principle 10 of the Rio Declaration that states that 'environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens...'

Strategies for Community Groups

- Include CC/SD dimensions during development of all policy positions.
- Engage with stakeholder consultations by the Dept. of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, the EPA + other appropriate organisations and local authorities
- Lobby to ensure that no policy will have an exacerbating effect on those already experiencing poverty, social exclusion or inequality.
- Create arenas whereby local communities, and in particular marginalised communities, can contribute to the development of environmental policy

Strategies for Community Groups

4. To explore and develop community-based resilience strategies

- **Explore** the potential of community-owned energy production
- **Explore** the potential of community-owned food production
- **Explore** services useful to marginalised groups e.g. retro-fitting services for homes in poorer areas

Strategies for Community Groups

5. Develop local linkages and networks

- **Make contact** with local and national **environmental organisations** and seek to build strategic alliances for social and environmental justice.
- **Explore** whether there is a **Transition Town** in your area and establish contact

Strategies for Community Groups

6. Contribute to relevant policy

- Contribute to policy making process by making submissions on particular CC/SD proposals
- Ensure C+V representation on all bodies which have relevance to CC/SD policy issues

Strategies for Community Groups

7. Networking

- Seek to use the national structures and networks in which you are involved to raise the issue of climate justice
- At Community Platform and Community and Voluntary Pillar level, seek to make contacts and develop links based on issues of common concern with organisations engaged in environmental work, particularly those concerned with climate justice.

Strategies for Community Groups

- Linkages should be developed with FEASTA, the Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability. Joint seminars on issues of mutual concern could be explored.

Appendices

- Examples of community owned food-production and distribution groups from the UK
- Examples of community owned energy production in Ireland
- Explanation of Transition Towns and examples of TTs in Ireland

Appendices

- Irish Traveller Movement –
Environmental/Sustainability policy
 - Waste management
 - Energy consumption
 - Staff Transportation
 - Staff pensions
 - Payslips

Appendices

- **Advice** on Energy efficiency
 - Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI)
- **Funding**
 - LA21 Environmental Partnership Fund
 - The Green Communities Programme (An Taisce)
 - Dublin City Community Grants
 - ‘Pride of Place’ awards

Appendices

Training re: up-skilling for sustainability

- Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI)
- The Greenhouse (Dublin)
- ECOUNESCO
- Development Training and Learning at Kimmage (DTALK)
- List of films for community viewing