

**Submission on behalf of Offaly Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
In response to the draft Territorial Just Transition Plan for Ireland
February 2022**

Offaly Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) welcomes Ireland's draft Territorial Just Transition Plan (dTJTP) for the Midland Region and makes the following submission.

1. Utilising the LEADER/CLLD model to implement the Just Transition Fund

**Action 9- draft Territorial Just Transition Plan
Community Support Fund for microenterprise, Active Mobility and Circular Economy.**
A Community Support Fund to enable Local Action Groups to support employment and economic development through micro-enterprises, active mobility and the circular economy. Targeted at supporting small enterprise. Could play a beneficial role in terms of creating direct employment opportunities for displaced workers.

Offaly LCDC notes and concurs with the submission made by the Department of Rural and Community Development on LEADER/Community led Local Development to the consultation process in May 2021 (p92 EnvEcon 'Challenges' Report).

That submission states that using the LEADER/CLLD model for the implementation of the Just Transition Fund would enable communities to support the JTF via a bottom-up approach, thereby providing a sense of ownership and commitment to assist communities to meet the challenges of the green transition. The core aim of LEADER is to strengthen the rural economy and to improve the quality of life in rural areas. LEADER remains as the rural arm of community led approaches, programmed under the CLLD to deliver rural development interventions supported by a Local Development Strategy (LDS) and implemented at a local level by Local Action Groups.

Offaly LCDC would welcome prioritisation of this approach in JTF implementation and seeks further engagement with Department of Environment, Climate Action and Communications, the Department of Rural and Community Development and the East and Midlands Regional Assembly on the potential to support the JTF through the LEADER/CLLD model.

2. The Territory Most Affected

Offaly LCDC notes the finding of the EnvEcon research that concludes that Offaly is the county most affected by the transition. This committee believes that the NUTS 3 Midland region should be the designated Territory for the duration of the implementation of the Territorial Plan. Also critically important, the weighting which ranks the impact on each county should transfer to the disbursement of the JT Fund and supports.

3. Development Needs and Actions

This committee believes that supports for tourism, arts and culture, microgeneration of renewable energy, community capacity building, biodiversity, the greening of agriculture and provision of social infrastructure should be included in the Territorial plan. The achievement of gender equality should also be an objective.

We express our thanks to the EU Commission, the Department of Environment, Climate Action and Communications and the East and Midlands Regional Assembly for their efforts in researching, consulting and publishing their reports and this draft TJTP. We look forward to working closely with them to deliver the benefits envisaged for the individuals, families, companies and communities most affected by accelerated decarbonisation in our county.



Chief Officer
On Behalf of Offaly Local Community Development Committee
February 10th 2022