

Just Transition Fund Strand 1 Projects

Ballycommon Telework & Training Centre

Tullamore Offaly

TRAINING WORKSHOP

Priority 2 - Training Supports

Created by: Deirdre Arnold - BTTC Manager 2021

About Us

- Ballycommon Telework & Training Centre is a community owned Rural Social Enterprise located 11km from Tullamore in the heart of the Midlands
- BTTC delivers IT and Safety Training as well as essential community services to the wider Midlands area.
- BTTC is established since 1999 . We are also a trusted provider of certified training in Offaly. We have two computer training rooms and a large meeting room with touch screen smart TV.
- Project will operate in and be aimed at Offaly, Westmeath, Kildare, Laois

Project Need

- Emphasis on those directly/indirectly affected by the phasing out of peat extraction and peat-fired power generation.
- We are a community based Training Centre located in the heart of Bord Na Mona territory here in rural Offaly so are very suitably located to serve the needs of people affected by the phasing out of peat extraction and peat-fired power generation.
- The project will focus on traditional softskills with new regulations upskilling and new technologies in line with NZEB
- The well known impact the closure of services with BnaM and the impact on jobs that will have in our local area is the driving force for our expansion.

Outcomes

- BnaM announced plans to lay off up to 230 workers including permanent seasonal workers by the end of (May 2020) most of these workers live in the Offaly/Midlands area.
- We would like to help re-train these people to gain employment in areas like retrofit for homes in the midlands, or renewable energy assets, without the need for them to travel long distances for training
- The specialised retraining needs of older people who will be losing their jobs is our focus, as soft skills, IT, CV Building & Interview skills combined with upskilling and personal development retraining is essential

Outcomes

- We have a holistic approach in this regard as we are mindful that it can be very difficult and daunting as an adult to change career later in life especially in the age of new technology.
- New courses will require new qualified tutors and transferable skills will be worked on to upskill participants to be able to compete in the job market
- The project will be involved in the retraining of new skills in the area of horticulture, automation, robotics, home improvements & repairs, solar energy for beginners and abrasive wheel

Impact

- We have identified Solar Energy, Robotics, Systems and Networks and Retrofit as skills shortages at present along with automation and soft skills training for the labour market.
- We are certain that this projects will contribute to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of Offaly and the Midlands which will be one of the most affected areas by the transition away from fossil fuels or greenhouse-gas-intensive industrial processes.
- The project involves retraining people and will have no large impact on the environment

Building Regional Strengths

- Just Transition was included in the 2020 budget, focusing on jobs and re-training opportunities to adjust workers from BnaM to a low carbon transition
- We would hope to help achieve these goals by providing re-training in skills which would support these objectives, with a suitable workshop we could look at solar energy, and horticulture to help to colonise the boglands again with flora and fauna plants, and home retrofits.

Project Plan

- The project will have a project manager
- Stage 1 Groundworks
- Stage 2 Installation of workshop
- Stage 3 Installation of Utilities/Fixtures & Fittings
- Stage 4 Design & Delivery of Training

Project Plan

- As the project is small the milestones will be the completion of the above stages. The workshop will be purchased as a unit and we will utilise local qualified trade people to complete all stages.
- BTTC will have responsibility for the financial and administration of the full project in collaboration with the board and stakeholders
- It is an expansion to our already extensive repertoire of courses and we are responding to the changing needs of the workforce in line with the current government and European objectives.

Project Financial Plan

- We intend to have the workshop as a self sustainable green energy building as much as possible and will endeavor to have 33% of our overall footprint as green.
- We are a not for profit organisation part funded by Pobal
- The financial risk was securing the 15% match funding however as we are experienced in grant applications and support over the last 21 years we deem this risk as minimal.

Total Funding Cost - €70,415

JT Funding Sought (€):	€59,852.75
As % of Total Project Cost:	85%
Match Funding Amount (€):	€10,562.25

Progress

- This is a 3 year (Plan 2021 – 2023) delayed due to Covid
- Stage 1 Groundworks completed April 2022
- Stage 2 Construction of Workshop completed April 2022
- Stage 3 Utilities/Fixtures & Fittings completed in the coming months
- Stage 4 We plan to have training courses up and running in the new workshop by 2022/23 Some of the funding will be used to design and deliver the new suite of training courses

Conclusion

- We expect that this project will not only contribute to up skilling a large cohort of newly unemployed BnaM workers but will also benefit the wider community such as early school leavers, women returning to the workforce and marginalized groups.
- The project will also assist in securing the future of BTTC viability as a social enterprise providing quality assessable, affordable training

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Ground Works – Stage 1

Just Transition Project 2022

Completed Work Shop Construction – Stage 2

